

The Formentera Office of Heritage is pleased to announce the start of phase two of Formentera's Underwater Archaeological Map, a project which is overseen locally by the Balearic Institute of Studies in Maritime Archaeology (IBEAM). The progress comes after Ana Juan, president of the Consell de Formentera, and Enrique Aragón Núñez, president of IBEAM, signed an agreement this August to push forward this immensely valuable scientific endeavour.

Raquel Guasch, councillor of heritage, cast the impulse to revamp the map as proof of "local government's interest in researching and safeguarding Formentera's underwater historical heritage", as well as "its commitment to disseminating this work among the local population".

On completion of phase one, the Consell renewed its collaboration with IBEAM to continue locating and documenting archaeological sites on the seabed of Formentera's inland waters, particularly deep-sea sites and those which are affected by human activities. IBEAM will also periodically inspect previously detected undersea sites and continue to collect information from existing literature and archives. Moreover, team members will incorporate newly collected data in the database and geographic information system (GIS) developed during phase one and deploy targeted preservation, safeguarding and preventive conservation measures at subaquatic archaeological sites and on specific features of those sites.

Phase two will also involve disseminating these efforts, educating islanders about undersea cultural heritage and promoting the SOS Patrimoni campaign, with the aim of making Formentera's underwater heritage more accessible to residents of the island.

Presenting findings from first mapping effort

This Friday at 7.00pm in La Savina, the Nautical Sports Centre (CENF) will host a presentation of findings from the first Underwater Archaeological Map of Formentera, which was completed between 2015 and 2020. Councillor Guasch and IBEAM project director Javier Rodríguez Pandozi will lead the presentation.

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Push to map Formentera's underwater archaeology enters phase two

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