

Nature Park “Montgrí, Medes Islands and Baix Ter”

2015

Diving Centers

New functioning of the

Strictly Protected Area of the Medes Islands

We inform you of the change in the planning and organization of the Medas Islands marine nature reserve, as of 2015 moving from a general limitation of the diving places per day to an annual limitation of the places with a different amount of places for each buoy.

We inform you of this change so that you know the new functioning and because we believe it is good that the public knows the status of the ecosystem of the Medas Islands. In this way everybody can help protect the area by diving more accurately and together, reduce our impact when we are in this marine environment.

Until now the limitation was daily, with a maximum of 396 allowed dives per day, in total for the diving centers with license to operate at the Medas.

From this year this has been reduced and changed to adjust to the results of the completed biologic studies and of future monitoring

74.224 dives / year to distribute between all the licensed centers

Why is this change? The current management model was drawn up in 2008 for a duration of 4 years extendable, considering that the planning and management of the Nature Park should continuously be reviewed to be able to adapt to the changing needs of its visitors and their relation with the natural environment of the Park.

Change how? Biological monitoring has been carried out to study the impact of scuba diving at the Medas Islands and it has been concluded that the diving affects the seabed differently according to the species that can be found and the depth.

A different regulation model is implemented changing the frequentation of the Medes Islands, passing from a homogeneous vision with daily regulation to a differentiated treatment of each dive zone in function of the type of the seabed and the fragility of the communities and species that live there, regulating the amount of simultaneous dives plus a yearly limit for each zone, with a system of annual reviewing in accordance to the results of the monitoring of the biological indicators.

How are the number established? The amount of dives authorized per year is the sum of the frequentation allowed at every buoy according to the realized studies.

Restricted Zone

High protection

Medium protection

Low protection

Boia	Protecció	Boia	Protecció	Boia	Protecció
El Guix	High protection	La Vaca	Low protection	Tascó Petit	High protection
El Salpatxot	High protection	La Reina	High protection	Ferranelles	Low protection
El Medallot	Restricted Zone	Dofí	Low protection	Ferranelles 2	Low protection
La Pedra de Déu	High protection	Tascó Gros	High protection	L'Embarcador del Francès	High protection
La Pota del Llop	High protection	Carall Bernat	High protection	El Sant Istiu	High protection

A Dive Centre ("Group A") is authorised to the following amount of dives per year:

Name	# Dives	Name	# Dives	Name	# Dives
El Guix	622	La Vaca	823	Carall Bernat	642
El Salpatxot	597	La Reina	242	Tascó Petit	593
La Pedra de Deu	554	El Dofí	831	Ferrenelles 1	535
La Pota del Llop	286	El Tascó Gros	432	Ferrenelles 2	558
L'E.del Francès	406	El Sant Istiu	406	Medallot	0

A Dive Centre ("Group B") is authorized to the following amount of dives per year:

Name	# Dives	Name	# Dives	Name	# Dives
El Guix	270	La Vaca	355	CarallBernat	277
El Salpatxot	259	La Reina	105	Tascó Petit	257
La Pedra de Deu	239	El Dofí	359	Ferrenelles 1	232
La Pota del Llop	124	El Tascó Gros	187	Ferrenelles 2	241
L'E. del Francès	175	El Sant Istiu	175	Medallot	0