The Freu de Sa Dragonera Marine Reserve of Fishing Interest covers 912 hectares. It includes: The Site of Community Importance (LIC, in Spanish), the Special Protection Site for Birds (ZEP, in Spanish) and is part of the marine environment of the Sa Dragonera Natural Park.

Soon the marine strip to the west of Sa Dragonera will also be protected, which means an extension to national waters. With this, the reserve will become part of the Spanish Marine Reserve Network.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF A MARINE RESERVE?
- Protection of fishery resources
- Support for the artisanal fishing sector
- The conservation of the marine ecosystem

HOW ARE THESE OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED?
- Continued surveillance
- Census of the vessels that can fish in it
- Regulation of fishing gear, catch sizes and calendars
- Regulation of human activities

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PROTECTING THE WATERS OF SA DRAGONERA?

Ecological benefits:
- Regeneration and balance of ecosystems: By limiting activities that damage vulnerable habitats of special value, we allow them to regenerate.
- Genetic reservoir of adaptive potential to climate change: The more abundance and diversity a MPA has, the greater chance these species will have of adapting to new circumstances, such as those brought about by climate change.
- Increase in the biomass of fish communities: In an MPA, fish will have a greater chance of growing before being caught.
- Increase in fish populations: The larger a fish, the higher its fecundity, which explains the relationship between the size and the reproductive capacity of the fish.
- Export of larvae, juveniles and adults to adjacent areas: When the population in the MPA grows, the adjacent areas also benefit.
- Seabirds: The improvement in diversity and fish populations attracts seabirds that feed and nest in or around the MPAs, enriching the entire ecosystem.
- Study the sea: MPAs offer a great possibility for science, which can take advantage of them as a place of observation, monitor a wide variety of species and compare the results with other areas.

Economic benefits:
- Professional fishing: In general, Spanish marine reserves have contributed to maintaining traditional fishing activity; greater fishing productivity over time occurs in the surrounding area.
- Tourism Sector: They attract different users: sport fishermen, divers, ornithologists, visitors, who are an engine for economic activity in the immediate environment of the reserves, although not without conflicts that must be addressed.
- Nautical: The MPA as a landscape value attracts many boats, bagging the nautical sector.
- Real Estate: People buy real estate in this area valuing the terrestrial and marine environment for its aesthetic, landscape, health and quality of life values, etc.
- Creation of new jobs/businesses in conservation, education, surveillance.

Social benefits:
- Nature as an important environment for human health.
- Space for dialogue and joint custody of work between public administrations and users of the sea.
- MPAs promote involvement and commitment in decision making, favouring the cohesion of the different groups.
- Better knowledge and valuation of the marine environment, and a greater connection and sense of belonging to the place.
- Community awareness: MPAs are ideal settings for environmental education, places from which to make known the multiple benefits of conserving the marine environment to the surrounding population and the large number of visitors they receive.

Cultural benefits:
- Artisanal fishing and direct local purchase.
- Historical heritage: buildings, spaces, tools typical of the uses and trades of the area.
- Intangible heritage: knowledge and practices, traditions, celebrations, and popular festivals linked to the area.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF A MARINE RESERVE?
- Protection of fishery resources
- Support for the artisanal fishing sector
- The conservation of the marine ecosystem

HOW ARE THESE OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED?
- Continued surveillance
- Census of the vessels that can fish in it
- Regulation of fishing gear, catch sizes and calendars
- Regulation of human activities

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT THE MPA?
- Find out about the activities and restrictions in the MPA.
- Learn about the ecological value to better understand the restrictions.
- Respect the rules.
- Report violations to the MPA surveillance service.
- Take care of your MPA from plastic contamination.
- Talk to your friends about the MPA and its benefits.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST THREATS TO AN MPA?
- Illegal fishing
- Destruction of vulnerable habitats
- Pollution: plastic, wastewater, acoustic contamination

WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE PROHIBITED OR RESTRICTED IN THE FREU DE SA DRAGONERA MARINE RESERVE?
Prohibited: Underwater fishing, extraction of flora
Restricted: Professional fishing (only artisanal fishing allowed), recreational fishing, scuba diving, scientific activities, boating/anchoring

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PROTECTING THE WATERS OF SA DRAGONERA?

Ecological benefits:
- Regeneration and balance of ecosystems: By limiting activities that damage vulnerable habitats of special value, we allow them to regenerate.
- Genetic reservoir of adaptive potential to climate change: The more abundance and diversity a MPA has, the greater chance these species will have of adapting to new circumstances, such as those brought about by climate change.
- Increase in the biomass of fish communities: In an MPA, fish will have a greater chance of growing before being caught.
- Increase in fish populations: The larger a fish, the higher its fecundity, which explains the relationship between the size and the reproductive capacity of the fish.
- Export of larvae, juveniles and adults to adjacent areas: When the population in the MPA grows, the adjacent areas also benefit.
- Seabirds: The improvement in diversity and fish populations attracts seabirds that feed and nest in or around the MPAs, enriching the entire ecosystem.
- Study the sea: MPAs offer a great possibility for science, which can take advantage of them as a place of observation, monitor a wide variety of species and compare the results with other areas.

Economic benefits:
- Professional fishing: In general, Spanish marine reserves have contributed to maintaining traditional fishing activity; greater fishing productivity over time occurs in the surrounding area.
- Tourism Sector: They attract different users: sport fishermen, divers, ornithologists, visitors, who are an engine for economic activity in the immediate environment of the reserves, although not without conflicts that must be addressed.
- Nautical: The MPA as a landscape value attracts many boats, bagging the nautical sector.
- Real Estate: People buy real estate in this area valuing the terrestrial and marine environment for its aesthetic, landscape, health and quality of life values, etc.
- Creation of new jobs/businesses in conservation, education, surveillance.

Social benefits:
- Nature as an important environment for human health.
- Space for dialogue and joint custody of work between public administrations and users of the sea.
- MPAs promote involvement and commitment in decision making, favouring the cohesion of the different groups.
- Better knowledge and valuation of the marine environment, and a greater connection and sense of belonging to the place.
- Community awareness: MPAs are ideal settings for environmental education, places from which to make known the multiple benefits of conserving the marine environment to the surrounding population and the large number of visitors they receive.

Cultural benefits:
- Artisanal fishing and direct local purchase.
- Historical heritage: buildings, spaces, tools typical of the uses and trades of the area.
- Intangible heritage: knowledge and practices, traditions, celebrations, and popular festivals linked to the area.