



**Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)**

Marine mammal with a dark gray color on the back that fades towards the lower areas, the ventral region being whitish or pink. Small dark spots may appear dotted over the body. It has a curved dorsal fin, in the center of the back, and proportionate pectoral fins.

Typical cosmopolitan species of tropical and temperate regions, although it can also live in relatively cold waters. It is characterized by having a very gregarious behavior. It has a very varied diet: hake, sea bream, mackerel, octopus, squid and shrimp, among other marine animals. It resides in the waters of the Canary archipelago throughout the year, forming small groups.

USES AND ACTIVITIES			
Maritime traffic	Professional fishing	Recreational sea fishing	Activ. adjuvant agricultural
Aquaculture	communication networks	autonomous diving	
whale watching	Installations at sea	Activ. nautical	
Activities for scientific purposes			
PRESSURES AND THREATS			
Waste	Port areas Anchoring	bycatch	Other impacts/ actv. human
	Water contamination	noise disturbance	Invasion of the environment by a species
High	Half	Half	Low
Degree of condition			

**GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS**

In order for the development of the uses and activities of the area to be compatible with the conservation objectives of the ZEC, it will be necessary to take into account the following considerations.



Is prohibited:

- Carry out any type of discharge from a boat or platform located in the sea.
- Anchor over seagrass meadows.
- The capture or collection of species that have some type of protection.
- The feeding of the species in its natural environment.
- Any activity or behavior that may cause discomfort or harm to cetaceans and sea turtles.



Whenever possible, it is recommended:

- Collect those objects or waste that are generated during the development of activities in the ZEC.
- In case of accidental capture of a protected species, it will be returned to the sea, with due precautions to cause minimal damage.
- Reduce the transit speed in the ZEC waters in order to avoid collisions with cetaceans or sea turtles, as well as minimize the noise generated by the boats. Maneuvers that may compromise the safety of these animals will be avoided.
- Adequately know the limits of protected areas, for which it is advisable to use up-to-date navigation charts.

**For more information contact**

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TIPOS DE HÁBITATS NATURALES V/O ESPECIES DE INTERÉS COMUNITARIO

Bancos de arena	Arrecifes	Cuevas marinas
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>

## SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

The space called the Teno-Rasca Marine Strip is located in the western sector of the island of Tenerife. It covers an area of 69,489.68 hectares and bathes the coastline of the municipalities of Buena Vista del Norte, Santiago del Teide, Guía de Isora, Adeje and Arona.

This space has been declared since September 2011 as a Special Conservation Zone (ZEC), a figure contained in the Natura 2000 Network whose purpose is to ensure the long-term survival of the most threatened species and natural habitats in Europe, contributing to stop the loss of biodiversity caused by the adverse impact of human activities.

The ZEC is managed in such a way as to guarantee the protection and conservation of the types of natural habitats and species of community interest present in the space, adopting the necessary conservation measures to achieve a sustainable balance between the development of the uses and activities in the area and the conservation of the natural values it contains.

## PRESENT NATURAL VALUES

This marine strip presents very varied funds and great structural complexity. It has important sandbanks without vegetation, seagrass meadows, commonly known as "sebadales", sandy bottoms with populations of garden eels (*Heteroconger longissimus*), maërl bottoms, seaweed, blanquiales areas, sea caves and structures reefs.

The fish community is represented by at least 358 species, such as the trumpet fish (*Aulostomus strigosus*), the blue rooster (*Aluterus scriptus*), the catalufa (*Heteropriacanthus cruentatus*), the spiny drum (*Chilomycterus atringa*) or the carangid . or blue horse mackerel (*Caranx crysos*).

The special conditions of warm and calm waters during a large part of the year, together with the great depths that are reached near the coast, offer unique characteristics for the presence of large and medium-sized cetaceans.

nos, recording up to 22 different species. Some of them, such as the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) or the pilot whale (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*), maintain resident populations in the area throughout the year. In addition, the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) are regularly present in its waters, as well as specimens of the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), which visit the area sporadically.

## NATURAL HABITAT TYPES AND SPECIES OF COMMUNITY INTEREST OF THE ZEC

In the Teno-Rasca marine strip, the types of natural habitat of community interest are present: 1,110 sand banks permanently covered by shallow sea water, 1,170 reefs and 8,330 submerged or semi-submerged sea caves, in addition to the species of turtle community interest. loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*).

### 1110 Sandbanks permanently covered by seawater, shallow



It includes sandy banks devoid of vegetation, or associated with different biological communities (marine phanerogams, maërl communities, etc.), always submerged. Of the species of marine phanerogams, the most representative in the Canary Islands, due to its abundance and ecological role, is the *Cymodocea nodosa* or "seba" that makes up the meadows known as "sebadales" or "spots", of great ecological importance to the provide key refuge, nursery and feeding areas for many invertebrates and fish.

### 1170 reefs



Reefs are compact and hard substrates of biogenic or geological origin that extend from the coastline (intertidal levels) to the deep bottoms (bathyal bottoms). Due to its volcanic origin, the canary archipelago is dominated by steep and rugged rocky bottoms where there are a multitude of canyons and submarine valleys.

This type of habitat can host a whole zonation of benthic communities of animal and algae species, distributed according to bathymetry, as well as other abiotic factors. Algae tend to dominate well-lit areas, with the genera *Cystoseira* or Sargassum being the most characteristic of the Macaronesian area.



### 8330 Submerged or semi-submerged sea caves

Habitat type widely represented on the bottom of the Canary Island islands, predominantly rocky and tortuous in relief. The lack of light inside prevents the development of photosynthetic organisms, relegated to the adjacent seabed, except for some species of calcareous red algae near the entrance. On the contrary, they constitute the ideal habitat for a multitude of sciaphilic sessile invertebrates (sponges, corals, sea squirts, bryozoans), representative in part of deeper ecosystems, and also for vagile fauna –which moves freely– with nocturnal habits (crustaceans, fish , etc.), who use these enclaves as refuge during the day.



**Loggerhead sea turtle** (*Caretta caretta*\*)

\*Priority species  
(in danger of disappearing in Europe)

Medium-sized marine reptile, with a slightly oval carapace with more or less serrated edges, reddish-brown on the back and lighter on the ventral area, turning yellow or cream. Cosmopolitan species of tropical and subtropical waters. It is characterized by its solitary habits and its omnivorous diet, including crustaceans, fish, mollusks, marine phanerogams and jellyfish in its diet. The Canary Islands archipelago is an important feeding and development area for juveniles of this species, coming from different American and Cape Verdean populations.



**Green sea turtle** (*Chelonia mydas*\*)

\*Priority species  
(in danger of disappearing in Europe)

Medium to large marine reptile, with a heart-shaped cape, without protruding margins, greenish or brownish in color on the back, and may be traversed by lighter drawings of various brown tones. Ventral part of the carapace whitish, tending to yellow with age. Cosmopolitan species of tropical and subtropical waters. The Canary Islands are home to young green turtles, from various nesting populations, possibly American and African. They are linked to coastal environments (less than 50 m deep) with the presence of algae and marine phanerogams on which they feed, so their presence in the Canary Islands is related to the existence of

well-developed sebadales.