The Formentera Council's department of environment is unveiling its newest drive to keep numbers of mosquitos and lake flies under control in the ses Salines nature preserve. Operations are planned at a handful of fresh water points, generally preferred sites among pests depositing their larvae, at s'Estany Pudent, s'Estany des Peix and ses Salines d'en Marroig.

Crews stepped up fumigations during the initiative's first weeks in light of heavy rainfall at the start of the year which could potentially play a part in ballooning mosquito numbers. Three day-long efforts are scheduled for next week. Later in the season the operation will be repeated once a week, though the frequency can be increased and the application area expanded if operators determine it to be necessary.

Treatment plan

Crews are using the maximum dosage allowed by law as they spray a bio agent called *Bacillus thuringiensis Israeliensis*
across parts of ses Salines. The idea is to achieve maximum ambient levels of the substance, a natural insecticide that works by acting directly on larvae growing in stagnant water.

Two operators oversee control measures, which involve special rucksacks that are filled with the insecticide and fitted with dusting equipment. Spraying the product in its pulverised state is seen as a more effective form of application. The effort is scheduled to continue through October.

Though the price tag initially placed on 2019 operations, €32,208, officials have already said they are prepared to increase this figure should inconveniences associated with the mosquitos and lake flies persist.

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Àrea de Comunicació

Formentera Council