



Yesterday, Tuesday, June 20 at 8.00pm, the Palma administration's chief of natural spaces and biodiversity presented the draft version of its “Decret de Posidònia,” or Posidonia Decree. Speaking in the conference hall of the Formentera Council, Miquel Mir gave details about the document to a crowd assembled from Formentera's nautical sector, political party operatives, members of the island's small and medium-sized business association (PIMEF) and a host of community leaders and neighbours.

Also on hand was environment councillor Daisee Aguilera, who listened to islanders and pledged to distill their opinions as the Council drafts its suggestions for the decree. Among the most pressing issues, she said, is getting detailed cartographical readings that can insure up-to-date nautical maps. “More often than not,” the councillor explained, “the harm that's being done stems from a lack of information on the part of captains”. She called for posidonia meadows to be included in global navigation devices' nautical cartography and emphasised “clearly-worded penalties for distinct watercraft” as crucial to facilitating the work of authorities as they attempt to press charges on illegal anchoring.

Attendees backed a proposal to block exemptions for boats whose crews claim a particular posidonia swath isn't visible or doesn't appear on maps. Swelling numbers of boats pulling up at Formentera's coast—a figure that can surpass one thousand in high season—were cited as an additional idea came forth: to limit authorisations for boats that seek to drop anchor. Councillor Aguilera nevertheless expressed her thanks to the Govern balear for engaging the community in shaping the decree.

The text aims to protect posidonia oceanica and marine fauna that make their home within it by regulating activities that impact the plant and its habitat.

Patrol boat

Miquel Mir highlighted the deployment of a boat to surveil and advise watercraft that anchor across Eivissa and Formentera's waters. The patrol boat will be operative until July 1, when the anchoring advisory service is scheduled to activate a six-boat brigade in Es Caló, Ses Salines nature reserve and Cala Saona.

