



**Project designation | Venus**

**Project | 0139\_VENUS\_5\_E**

**Main objective:**

The overall objective of the project is to promote the sustainable management of the natural banks of striped venus (*Chamelea gallina*) and truncate donax (*Donax trunculus*) in the Gulf of Cadiz. In this context, it is intended to know the distribution and abundance of these species, to know and improve the conservation of associated habitats and to promote mitigation measures of potential negative impacts.

**Region of intervention |** Cooperation area Alentejo-Algarve-Andaluzia

**Beneficiary entity |** Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO)

**Starting date |** 01/01/2017

**Ending date |** 31/12/2019

**Total eligible cost |** 1.303.743,58 €

**European Union financial support |** 977.807,72 €

**National / regional public financial support |** 325.935,86 €

**Objectives, activities and results expected/achieved**

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The overall objective of the project is to promote the sustainable management of the natural banks of striped venus (*Chamelea gallina*) and truncate donax (*Donax trunculus*) in the Gulf of Cadiz. In this context, it is intended to know the distribution and abundance of these species, to know and improve the conservation of associated habitats and to promote mitigation measures of potential negative impacts. In this sense, this project is an excellent opportunity for the progress and consolidation of monitoring, management and research programs in both countries (Spain and Portugal) through cross-border collaboration, given the territorial continuity of these natural resources in this geographical area.

**Activities:**

- Planning and development of sampling surveys aimed at the spatial characterization of the natural banks of bivalve mollusks and associated habitats.
- Determination of environmental and anthropogenic factors that have a major influence on the natural populations of bivalves and associated habitats.
- Analysis of the effects of environmental and fishery factors on the spatial distribution of natural bivalve populations and associated habitats in the Gulf of Cadiz.
- Development of tools and proposals leading to sustainable resource management and mitigation of possible negative impacts.

**Results:**

The predicted / expected results will contribute to improve the conservation status of the habitats where striped venus and truncate donax populations occur:

- Delimitation of the areas they occupy and determination / characterization of associated habitats.
- Identification of anthropogenic and environmental factors that affect habitats and which are their impacts.
- Proposal of measures and actions aimed at the conservation of fishing resources and habitats, in particular the elaboration of strategic evaluation plans or specific management measures.
- Proposal of protocols and measures to mitigate the effects of unfavorable events.