

## **Santa Cruz and Fundación Cepsa, commitment to the protection and conservation of the angelote in Las Teresitas**

- **A research study will reveal the concentration of breeding of this species at the capital's beach.**
- **It will allow awareness of the importance of its conservation for the marine ecosystem**

The City Council of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, through the Fundación Santa Cruz Sostenible, and in collaboration with Fundación Cepsa, will continue researching and conducting outreach and awareness-raising actions aimed at the conservation of the angelote in the beach of Las Teresitas, the most used bathing area in the world as a breeding area for this "Squatina squantina" shark species.

For this purpose, the City Council has signed a contract with the Canary Islands Foundation Technological Park of the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, under which a research study will be carried out to determine the concentration of breeding of this species on the capital beach.

In the words of the president of Santa Cruz and president of the Sustainable Santa Cruz Foundation's Board of Trustees, José Manuel Bermúdez, "it is of vital importance to carry out studies and awareness campaigns to better understand this species that is critically endangered, as well as to highlight the important role that the angelote plays in the marine ecosystem".

The head of Fundación Cepsa in the Canary Islands, Belén Machado, highlights "the importance of protecting our natural heritage, with the angelote being an emblematic species in the conservation of biodiversity in the Canary Islands." We are contributing to this study within the framework of our annual commitment to the informative and environmental awareness program of the Fundación Santa Cruz Sostenible.

On his part, the councilor of Environmental Sustainability, Carlos Tarife, explains that "Las Teresitas beach is the largest angelote breeding ground in the world, as it meets all the criteria that define these areas where they reproduce; therefore, it is necessary to carry out an assessment and implement awareness and awareness actions among beach users".

The director of the Fundación Santa Cruz Sostenible, Diego Broock, states that "this study will allow us to verify if the concentration of this species increases or decreases at the beach of Las Teresitas, as well as investigating and evaluating the causes of variations in its youth population, such as altering food availability or the impact of humans".

Additionally, educational resources generated in the project will be exhibited at the Museum of Nature and Archaeology (MUNA) to raise awareness about the species and its critical situation. In addition, an informational diptych will be created that will be hosted on digital platforms and distributed at community events, targeting both the local population and visitors, hence promoting a strong support network for the conservation of this endangered species.

As part of this project, in the months of September and October, and in collaboration with the IMAS, on-site awareness actions will also be carried out to learn how to cohabit harmoniously with the angelote at the beach of Las Teresitas.

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**Fundación Cepsa**  
[comunicacion.canarias@cepsa.com](mailto:comunicacion.canarias@cepsa.com)  
Phone: +34 922 60 27 07  
[www.fundacioncepsa.com](http://www.fundacioncepsa.com)