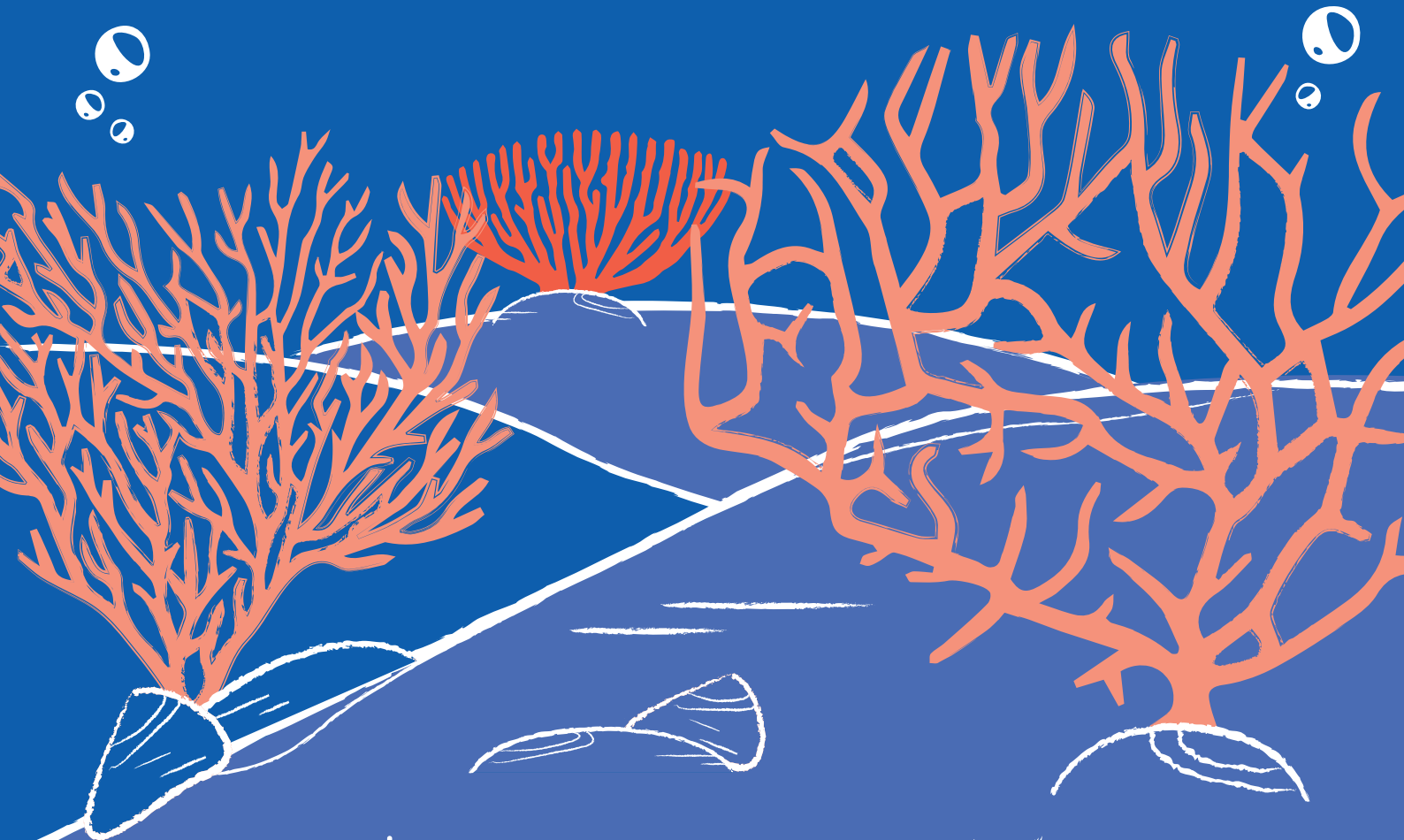


THE LIFE ECOREST PROJECT

Innovation and cooperation to
restore deep-sea habitats of Catalonia



ECOREST



Objective

To restore around **30,000 hectares of deep-sea habitats** with a high ecological value located off the coast of the provinces of Girona and Barcelona, both in Catalonia (Spain), with the active collaboration of the fishing sector.



What is marine restoration?



Marine ecosystems are home to essential habitats and species for the planet. At a time of environmental emergency like this one, with degraded sea beds and the loss of species, **marine restoration** is an ally to reverse this situation and preserve natural heritage.



Passive restoration: through the establishment of protection areas and bans, regulating fishing activity and allowing for the natural recovery of marine ecosystems.

Active restoration: through the recovery of organisms accidentally captured in fishing nets and their release back into the sea. It accelerates the process of natural recovery.

Process of active restoration



1

Fishers capture **organisms bycatch in fishing nets**, such as corals and gorgonians.



2

The species are transferred to **aquariums installed at the fishers' associations facilities (confraries)** where they are maintained and recovered.



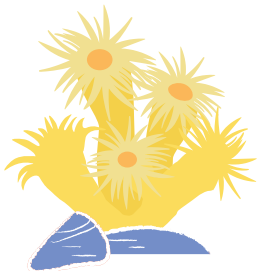
3

Recovered individual specimens are released to the sea using **the badminton method**, which consist in fixing organisms to a cobble and gently tossing them from deck. This technique allows organisms to reach the seafloor and remain in an upright position.

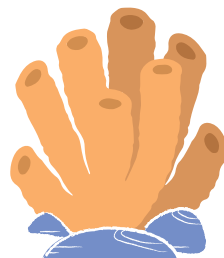
Species to restore



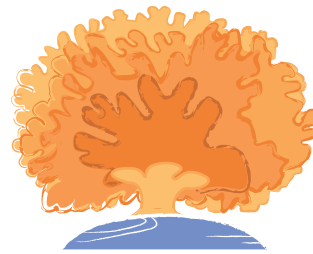
Gorgonians



Corals



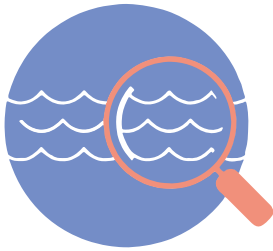
Sponges



Bryozoans

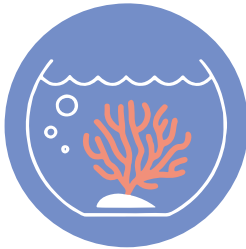
Actions

Action
period
from
2021
to
2026



Research

Studies and research campaigns.



Conservation

Recovery and ecological restoration of gorgonians, corals, sponges, and other structuring organisms captured accidentally.



Participation, capacitation and governance

Driving participative processes to integrate all the actors involved, creation of spaces for dialogue and training.



Dissemination, education and transfer of results

Activities for the local population, fishing and school communities.

Partners



With the contribution of the LIFE program of the European Union.



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Find out more

life-ecorest.eu

