

Meeting with the Seas

Bermeo Tuna World Capital, a singular project for the UN's Decade of the Oceans

Rogelio Pozo

General Director of AZTI

The Bermeo Tuna World project arose from the need for sustainable management of tuna. Rogelio Pozo, general director of AZTI, spoke of this today. "Bermeo came about for sustainable management of tuna," Pozo explained, predicting that "the pressure on tuna is going to be very great." As he explained, captures of this fish represent 20% of world fishing, with 80% of it destined to the canning industry. However, Rogelio Pozo went further and encouraged us to think about what we eat and where food we find in the supermarkets comes from, because products with low prices may come from illegal fishing (he warned that between 15 and 20% of captures come from illegal activity).

"Only knowledge makes us competitive," said the expert, who expressed his pleasure at the progress made in the project's year in existence, the fact that it has so far gained 26 members and what it aspires to achieve in the future.

He listed some of the initiatives which have already been launched such as sea bed clear-up operations, tuna marking or net recycling through the circular economy. And why Bermeo? For its fishing tradition, the financial impact of the sector and its position as a benchmark in sustainable fishing. All this effort will be endorsed by the Signing of the Universal Tuna Traceability Declaration, which many institutions, chefs, scientists and international organisms have already committed themselves to. Pozo took the opportunity to encourage further support of the initiative. "The world's health depends on the oceans," he concluded.

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For further media information:

Lucía Vaquero

lucia@grupgsr.com – 628 555 464