

Vanessa-Sarah Salvo¹, Berta Companys¹, Sonia Liñan¹, Carlos Rodero¹, Xavier Salvador¹, & Jaume Piera¹

¹ EMBIMOS, Institut de Ciències del Mar (ICM) - Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Department of Physical and Technological Oceanography, Barcelona, Spain,

Introduction

The **MINKA citizen science observatory** is a community-based platform dedicated to environmental data collection as a contribution to the SDGs achievement. Currently focusing on Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs) however, the Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs) implementation is ongoing.

MINKA is based on a Quechua concept *Collective work for the community*

MINKA, among the main database of the Mediterranean Region, gathers observations on coastal areas through geolocalized images uploaded by citizens. The observatory is an **infrastructure** to support the definition of communities of practices at the local level, contributing to the global goals.

How to get involve

The **MINKA** community embraces an interconnected ecosystem of entities capable of creating **local communities of practices**. Through **JANUS engagement model** (Liñan et al., 2022) which involve: the **participatory community** (volunteers), **mobilising community** (enablers), **facilitating community** (administration) and **academic community** (research). Citizens can get involved in the community directly or indirectly by creating their own projects or joining existing ones.



MINKA has been endorsed by EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030, is contributing to the 14, 15, 17 SDGs as well as to the 2, 7, and 10 of the Ocean Decade



Successful story

Since 2021, more than **150,000 observations** at research grade level with over **2,600 species** have been catalogued just in the Catalan coast, of which more than 90% are from the marine environment. To get this dataset, Minka is hosting the event **BioMARató**, a **friendly competitive event** monitoring marine biodiversity between Girona, Barcelona, and Tarragona.

The event aims to **census** as much biodiversity as possible by **citizen**, from April to October 2023 the **BioMARató** recorded 1,440 species of which 34 invasive, 40 included in regulations.

BIOMARATÓ

- > 94.000 observations**
- 478 citizens**
- 1941 species**
- 40 alien species**
- 50 species included in agreements or under threat**

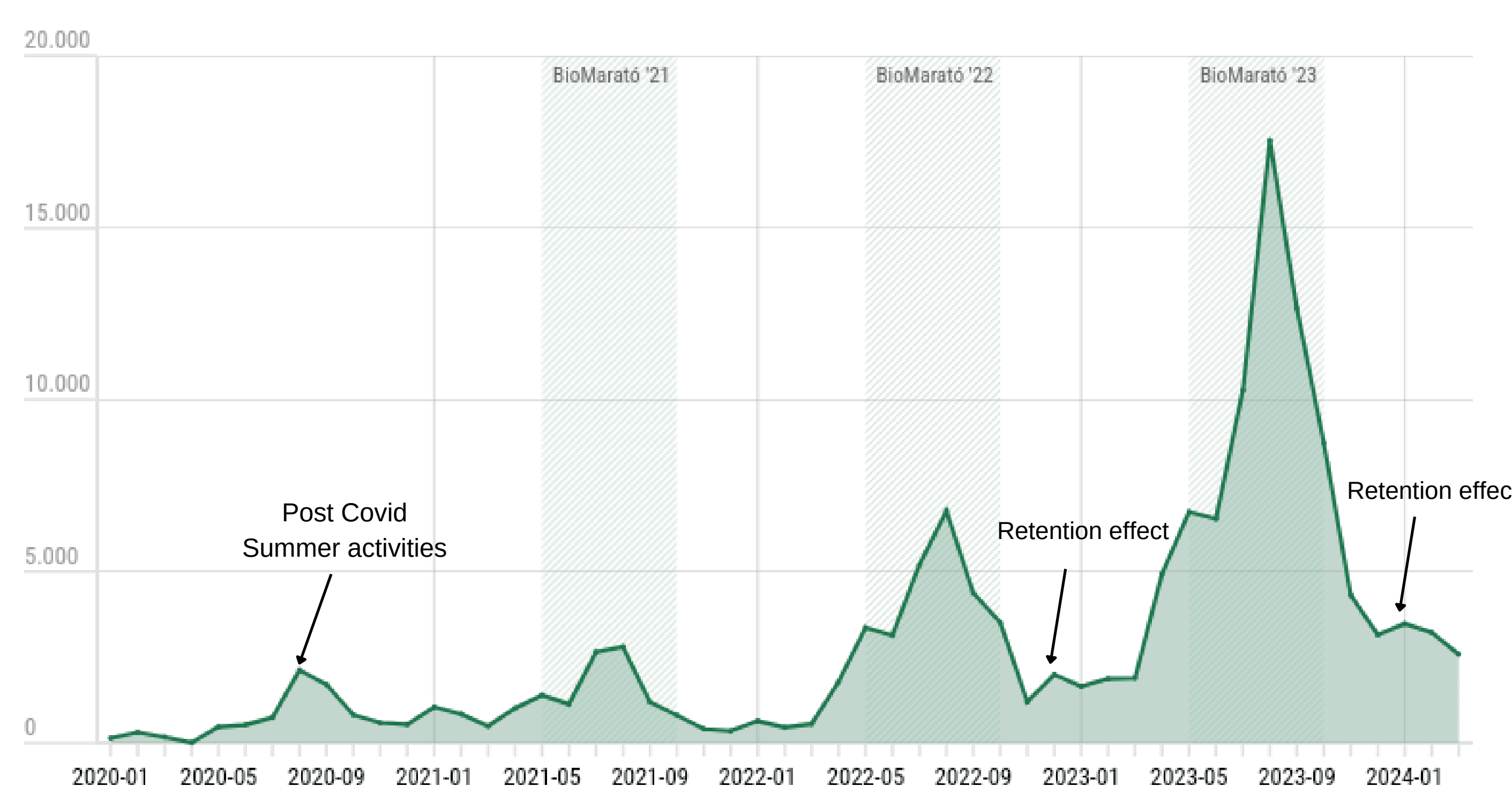
8 new first records of marine species along this 3 years of BioMARathons.



Pinctada imbricata Author: Jan Simic | *Afruca tangeri* Author: Jose Manuel Moral | *Hycleurochilus bananensis* Author: Xavier Salvador



Citizen engagement



Graphic showing the **evolution** of the **number of observations** per month in MINKA from 2020 to 2024 in the catalan marine area. The **activities post Covid** (summer 2020) was the **trigger** to implement this long-term blitz, that starts after the CNC until mid-October.

From data to decision making

The first **marine layer** included in the **biodiversity atlas** of the **Barcelona council** using the citizens observations

The first **marine participatory guide**, made with the pics of the **barcelona citizens**