

## OCEANA RIO +20 fails to make real progress towards restoring oceans



Life under the sea. PHOTO: BULLETTIN FILES

**Madrid.**—Oceana finds the final Rio +20 declaration to be a weak statement of intent, with no legally binding commitment that fails to respond to the urgent conservation and management needs of the world's oceans. Rio +20 concludes without any real progress towards a sustainable future. However, the international marine conservation organization acknowledges as a positive step, the recognition finally given to the oceans at the summit.

"The final document does not show any solid progress, only weak statements of intent which in most cases simply reiterate existing targets from other texts. For the sake of consensus, they have sacrificed the commitments that are urgently needed to restore the health of our oceans," said Xavier Pastor, Executive Director of Oceana Europe. "It only takes a little historical perspective to see that outcomes of the final Rio+20 text or having no text at all, would be the same."

This summit was held 30 years after the adoption of UNCLOS (Law of the Sea), 20 after the Earth Summit and 10 after the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development. The final text has contributed positively by emphasizing the importance of the oceans in sustainable development, but is limited to endorsing these previous agreements.

"The only relevant outcome was the importance that has finally been given to the oceans, and in particular to the need to protect deep sea areas," said Ricardo Aguilar, research director of Oceana Europe. "No real progress was made to create marine protected areas or control illegal fishing and the measures proposed to recover fish stocks were already agreed on a decade ago."

Rio +20 has called on countries to commit to urgently achieving the maximum sustainable yield by 2015 as defined at the Johannesburg Summit in 2002, that is, depleted fish stocks must recover to levels that will generate the largest possible catch over an indefinite amount of time. Moreover, it appeals for the adoption of management plans based on scientific data, including the reduction or suspension of catches.

The final declaration also recalled the commitment under the Convention on Biological Diversity to protect 10% of coastal and marine ecosystems, which has been delayed from 2012 to 2020 due to failed compliance by signatory countries. The text furthermore recognizes the importance of marine ecosystems in the high seas and the necessity of their sustainable use, stating its commitment to creating an international tool in the context of UNCLOS to tackle this.



## Pet project by Vicki McLeod Looking for a home

Above: Lotti and her puppies. PHOTO: ZARA DOUBLET Below: Luis Vidal. PHOTO: PHOENIX MEDIA MAJORCA

**T**HIS week we were back at Feliz Animal in Andratx to see seven very sweet Podenco Andalucia mix puppies and two very proud mums (Lotti and Flora). Pictured you will see Lotti with three of the four puppies that she has. Both families were rescued recently by the Feliz Animal volunteers from a finca in Solde Mallorca. The young mums were very thin and Lotti in particular was very wary of people. However they've now been at the Feliz Animal refuge for a few weeks and have settled in. The pups, as you can see are rather lovely. They are all very happy and playful whose favourite thing to do is play! The puppies were born in May and will be ready to go to new homes soon. They will grow to about knee high as their mothers are quite small. To find out more you can email [dogs@feliz-animal.org](mailto:dogs@feliz-animal.org) or call 676 366 814, or visit [www.feliz-animal.org](http://www.feliz-animal.org).

Meanwhile, down on the beach World Champion bodybuilder, Luis Vidal, showed his support for an animal welfare campaign this week when he met with campaigners in Peguera. Luis who was doing a photoshoot for his clothing brand 'Tit-bull Team' signed a petition which expresses concern about animal welfare in Majorca. Luis is now en route to compete in the Mr Universe competition in Italy this week.

If you would like to sign the petition then drop past the Clinica Veterinaria Peguera surgery (Ricardo Gigoli), Vet Palmers Clinic (beside Marine-land) or Karina Clinica Veterinaria (in front of Hotel Son Galhi). If you want to help with the petition then contact [hello@phoenixmediama-lorca.com](mailto:hello@phoenixmediama-lorca.com).



Every week we aim to re-home an animal currently living in a refuge on the island. The project is supported by professional photographers from around the island, the PR firm Phoenix Media, and The Majorca Daily Bulletin. For more information visit [www.petprojectma-lorca.com](http://www.petprojectma-lorca.com).