

**EUROPEAN  
OCEAN  
DAYS**

**subman**  
building a sustainable marine future

# **SUBMON's Collaborative Regional Approach to Marine Conservation**

**A STORY OF CONSERVATION  
IN ACTION**

**Juanita Zorrilla  
Tecla Maggioni**

# Knowledge brokers in marine conservation



## Mission Ocean Actions:



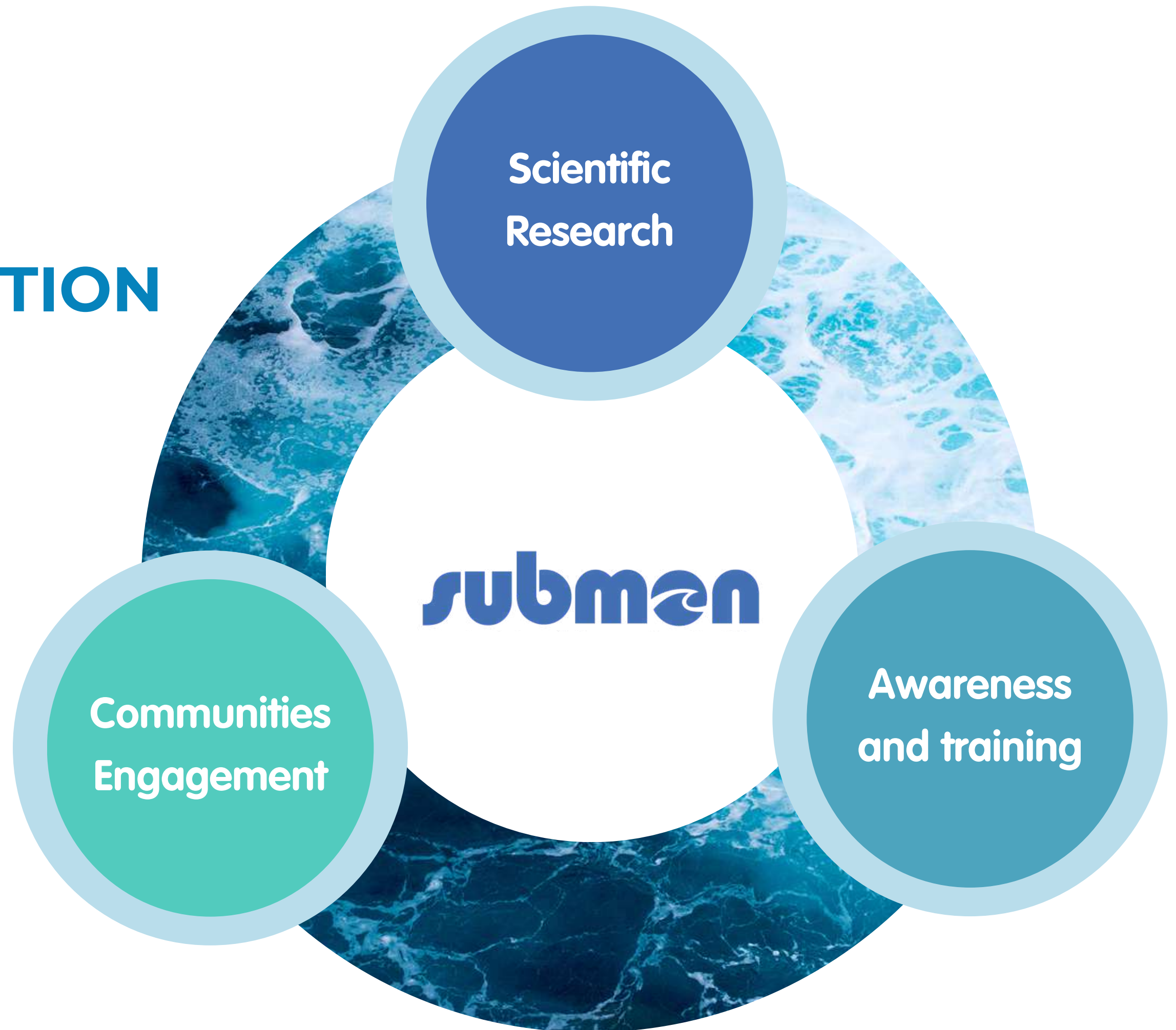
Restoration of Neptune seagrass beds

Improving fisher's practices with captured protected species

Size and distribution of cetacean populations



**Our approach  
to effective  
MARINE CONSERVATION**

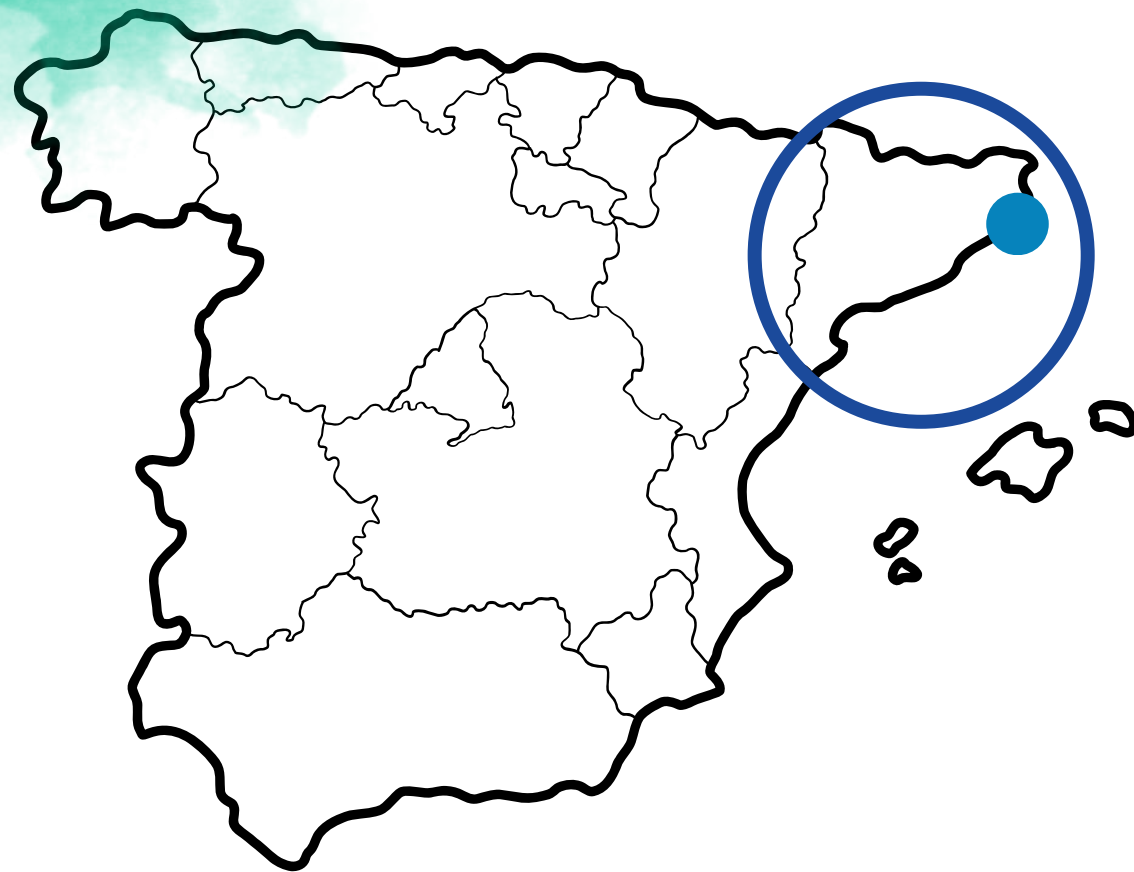




**Restoration of Neptune  
seagrass beds**

# Restoration of Neptune seagrass beds

Action Area: Natura 2000 marine site of L'Albera (ES5120014)  
Special Conservation Area (SCA)



**2021- Stewardship Agreement signed by  
the Llançà City Council, the Generalitat de Catalunya, and SUBMON.**



# Achievements (2021-2023):

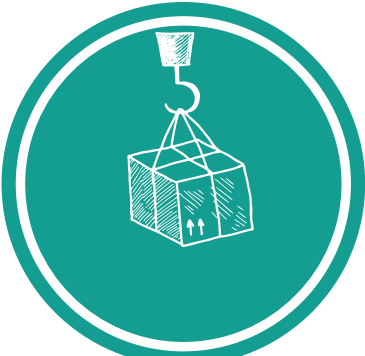


## Mapping



**30.000 m2**

## Extraction



**1.72 tons of waste**

## Restoration pilot



**237 shoots with  
78% survival rate**



## Local engagement



**+100 citizens** and entities promoting a better appreciation of the marine protected area



**Improving fishers'  
practices with captured  
protected species**

# Improving fishers' practices with captured protected species

- Defining **best practices** and **guidelines** for handling accidental captures of protected species
- **Training** on best practices for **handling** accidental captures of protected species



- Assessment of **post-release mortality** of sea turtles
- Assessment of **effects of decompression** in turtles





# Improving fishers' practices with captured protected species



## Achievements:

- **Training to over 2,150 people**, including fishers, observers, and fishery managers in 12 countries in America and Europe.
- In the Mediterranean, we've **assessed** hook injuries and **post-capture mortality** on longline vessels.
- **First research** studies on the incidence of **decompression in sea turtles** captured by trawl (100%) and related post-release mortality (25-30%) (Parga et al. 2020).





**Size and distribution of  
cetacean populations**

# Size and distribution of cetacean populations

For over **10 years**, we have studied the presence of cetacean species in protected marine areas in the Mediterranean (Spain):

- **Risso's dolphin** population for **protection designation**.

- Study of **underwater noise impact** from offshore activities through **mitigation measures**.



- Insights on distribution, behaviour, and **trawling activity influence bottlenose dolphin**.
- Researching **cetacean distribution and migration** in the Gulf of Leon and the Cetacean Corridor.



# Achievements:

- Identification on **crucial Risso's dolphin habitat** in northern Catalonia's submarine canyons

- **Recommendations**
- on **conservation strategies** to relevant Authorities



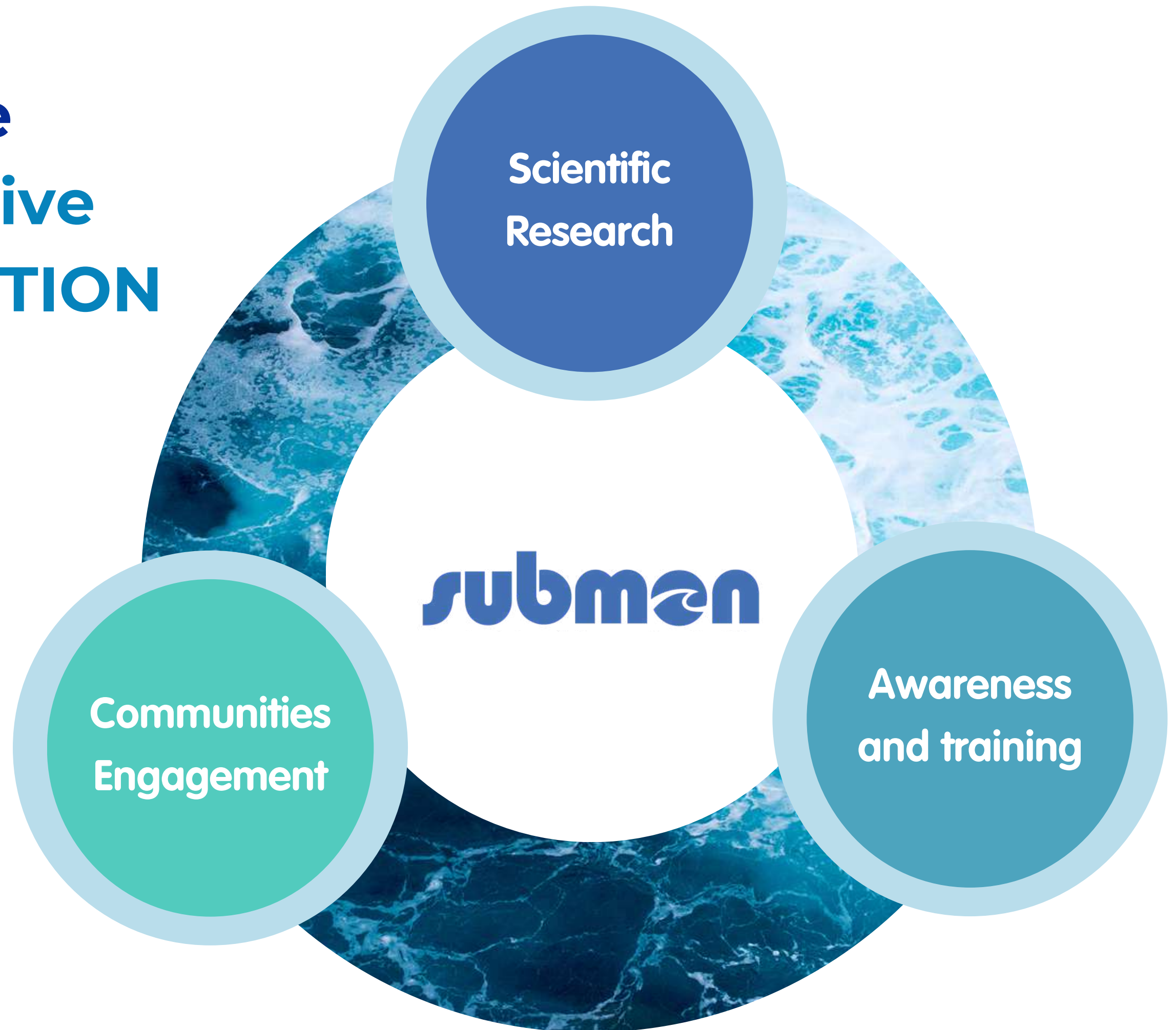
- Engaging various sectors in the study and conservation of cetaceans in the area through **citizen science** initiatives.
- **First underwater captions** of bottlenose dolphins feed during their interaction with trawls





**A successful approach  
to marine conservation**

**Our Take-Home  
message to effective  
MARINE CONSERVATION**





**EUROPEAN  
OCEAN  
DAYS**



**subman**  
building a sustainable marine future

**Join us and support our  
conservation efforts!**

[www.submon.org](http://www.submon.org)

**Juanita Zorrilla - [juanitazorrilla@submon.org](mailto:juanitazorrilla@submon.org)  
Tecla Maggioni - [teclamaggioni@submon.org](mailto:teclamaggioni@submon.org)**