

CANBIO RESEARCH PROJECT

Initial findings on CO₂ saturation of the ocean

WOMEN SHAMELESSLY ABUSED Paramedics arrested for sexual assault

Guardia Civil officers based in San Mateo, Gran Canaria, recently arrested two paramedics who have been accused of four cases of sexual abuse of patients and one case of theft. The two men, named as J.A.L.D., 63 years old and A.J.P.G., 55 years old, neither of whom had any previous convictions, had been driving together in ambulances for nine years, with the only exceptions being holiday periods. However, in mid-March, a patient who had been taken to hospital by the two filed a complaint against them. According to the defendant, at least one of the two had exploited her vulnerable condition by touching her intimately and carrying out other degrading acts. The second supposedly collaborated and covered up the assault. On investigating this complaint, the officers found a total of four women between the ages of 43 and 85 years old who had also apparently suffered the same type of abuse. In one case, the paramedic is even said to have stolen a wristwatch and €10 from a woman who, due to her age and illness, was unable to look after her personal belongings at that time. The arrests have once again highlighted the fact that some people who are in positions of trust only use them to exploit others. ■

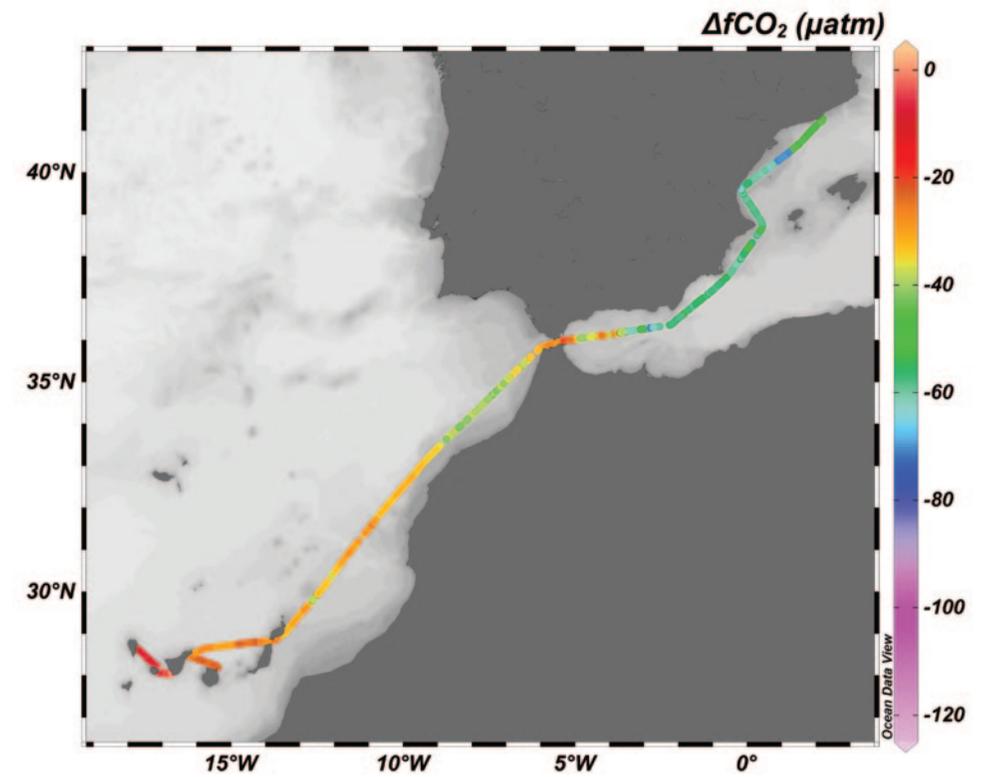


↑ Paramedics, the very people we should be able to trust, apparently took advantage of the situation of defenceless women

The CanBIO project, co-financed by Loro Parque and the Canary Island Government, in which two million euros will be invested over the next two years, has presented its first results at the International Congress of the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network, in Hangzhou, China.

The CanBIO research project is coordinated by the Loro Parque Foundation, while the universities of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and La Laguna, as well as non-profit organisations Elasmocan and AVANFUER, are also involved. Existing boats, such as the Fred Olsen Benchiijigua Express and Nisa Maritima Renate P, which regularly operate in Canarian waters, were used as research platforms for the study, being fitted with measuring instruments that provided valuable data.

The measurements of the exchange of CO₂ between the atmosphere and ocean in Canary Island waters and more northern sections of Macaronesia have highlighted the complexity of the coastal region. In a limited geographical environment, there are areas that act as a kind of seepage group for CO₂, while in others it is released into the atmosphere as gas. This highlights the importance of obtaining detailed data on coastal regions in order to improve models to combat climate change and ocean acidification and to reinforce the need for developing an integrated



↑ The difference between dissolved hydrocarbon content and the atmosphere in February 2019

→ The first interim balance was presented during the congress in China

network for monitoring global change.

The meeting of scientists from around the world provided an opportunity to gain an up-to-date overview of the acidification status of the oceans and to develop capacities to help understand the impacts and vulnerabilities that threaten the health and sustainability of marine ecosystems. Thus, Loro Parque and the Loro Parque Foundation, via CanBIO, contribute to the knowledge of international scientists by providing them with information that allows them to interpret the effects of global change



on marine organisms, in this case in Macaronesia. In this way, the region will become a reference point that will provide relevant data on climate change and that can also be transferred to other regions. The data presented were for February of this year. Negative values indicate that the ocean absorbs CO₂ (uptake) and posi-

tive values indicate that CO₂ is released into the atmosphere (source). In this case, all data were negative, meaning that the ocean absorbed excess CO₂ from the atmosphere in February. The observed differences are the main cause of the temperature change and CO₂-rich water that occurs near the coasts. ■

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