CONCLUSION OF THE CONCRETE BLOCK LAYING PROJECT

● In the Zero Tolerance Area of the vaquita porpoise protection polygon.
● Aiming to discourage the setting of gillnets for the protection of this species in its habitat.

The Secretary of the Navy in coordination with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, report on the conclusion of the Concrete Block Laying Project in the Zero Tolerance Area of the vaquita (Phocoena sinus) protection polygon, established in the September 2020 Regulatory Agreement.

Working together is and will be the most effective way to accomplish the mission. Today, after almost three months of hard work by the crews of the beacon ships "Virgo" and "Sagitario", the last of the 193 concrete blocks was symbolically placed on the seabed surface.

The main objective of the project carried out in the vicinity of San Felipe, Baja California, is to discourage the setting of gillnets for the protection of the vaquita in its habitat, through the steel hooks that were manufactured and installed in the blocks by the personnel of the Navy Shipyard No. 6, based in Guaymas, Sonora. The work was not easy, the adverse weather conditions in the area were the main obstacle, however, thanks to the commitment of the participating personnel, the established goal was achieved.

The next step is to comply in due time and form with the programs set out in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) resolution issued by the environmental authority, including the "Entangled net removal and management program", which will be implemented with the support of the members of the Intragovernmental Group on Sustainability in the Upper Gulf of California (GIS), in addition to the valuable participation of the civil society organizations Museo de la Ballena, Sea Shepherd and community groups supported by the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas.

The work continues, the federal government's efforts for the preservation of endangered species continue, the will and commitment for a healthy environment is reiterated once again.

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