

The Bouches-du-Rhône general council backs Biomarine

The Bouches-du-Rhône general council's support for the international Biomarine event is a natural step given its environmental and development policies, and the international dynamic it nurtures.

The importance of dealing with maritime issues is no longer in question: our quality of life, our health and the beauty of our natural heritage depend on it. With [282 km of coastline](#), [1750 ha of beaches](#), and [a host of remarkable sites](#) such as the Calanques and the Camargue, the Bouches-du-Rhône region boasts a rich and diverse maritime heritage.

That is why, for several years, the general council has concentrated its efforts on the [conservation of the vulnerable natural spaces](#) it is responsible for. In close collaboration with all local partners, and in particular with local associations, the council has drawn up comprehensive management plans for regional domains and the surrounding marine environment such as at La Ciotat. Within the framework of this project a [unique ecological anchorage for divers](#) has been designed and installed. Action has been taken to reduce the impact of yacht anchorage on the posidonia meadows, the primary shallow water ecosystem on the Mediterranean coast.

Management of the region's ports is also governed by the desire to conserve this exceptional environment, notably through original programmes to improve the quality of the environment and countryside.

During BioMarine, the general council will welcome the [Surfrider Foundation exhibition](#) at the Hôtel du Département.

Increased awareness of sea-related issues has also had an impact on the general council's commitments in terms of the economy: they are [a key partner for the Port of Marseille](#) with whom they collaborate on various investment projects. They have also played an active role in creating a [centre for yacht repairs at La Ciotat](#), a sign that those working on the region's coastline are capable of adapting to a new economic climate. The richness of maritime activity is embodied by the range of facilities from marinas to fishing ports, which have encouraged the emergence or development of trades such as [tourism and fishing](#).

The general council and the economic development agency Provence Promotion are organising an open day at Biomarine, which will provide the opportunity to discover some of the most successful companies and witness first-hand the vitality of the sector.

Finally, in terms of the scientific potential created by the concentration of companies and research laboratories in the region, the general council's involvement in the PACA sea cluster's governance and projects gives added impetus to our researchers' R&D programmes.