



Two divisions of the Formentera Council, the Office of Sport and the Office of Infrastructure, are together announcing the start of an effort to build Formentera's centre for *esports nàutics*, or “nautical sports”.

Designed to meet the diverse of needs of local companies in the nautical sector, the facilities will enfold a municipal sailing school as well as a space equipped for administrative and informational services and an area dedicated to education and training.

The new Centre d'Esports Nàutics is the Council's first attempt to connect islanders directly with the sea. Sports secretary Jordi Vidal put the effort in context by explaining that “whether it's about going in for a closer look, education or just having a good time, engaging with the ocean is a vital part to islanders' identity”. He framed the longstanding effort as aimed at “promoting water sports and respect for this fabulous sea we've got around us”.

A venue for nautical sports has long been a subject of interest for island residents. Now, set for completion in six months' time, construction of the €1m centre stems from a partnership between Demarcació de Costes, the administration of the regional environment ministry's ses Salines reserve and the port authorities of the Balearic Islands. Local infrastructure and mobility secretary Rafael González described the current phase as “the dawn of an initiative many years in the making” and said collaboration from an array of entities was “crucial to securing the best possible site: s'Estany des Peix”.