

# 2018 Report Black Flags



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### Área Medio Marino

Edición: **Ecologistas en Acción**  
Marqués de Leganés 12 – 28004 Madrid  
Tel.: 915312739

[www.ecologistasenaccion.org/mar](http://www.ecologistasenaccion.org/mar)

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**Coordinadora:** Clara Megías Baños



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## Bad environmental management

### "Touro Project"

Touro mine is yet another of the megamining projects in Galicia that affect not only contiguous territories but also extensive river and coastal systems. In this sense, it must be framed within the context of a policy of administrative permisiveness that has facilitated grave impacts to the Galician estuaries for decades, in which other cases such as the san Finx mine in Lousame, owned by Sacyr group, and that affects the Muros and Noia estuary, or the preceding Corcoesto gold mine project (that

had the same business leadership of the Touro project) or the collapse of the Monte Neme mining waste ponds, in both cases affecting the Costa da Morte and Bergantiños areas.



Fig. Touro Mine

Atalaya is a financial conglomerate that seeks to develop a large copper mining belt over 122 km<sup>2</sup> of mining rights in the municipalities of Touro, Pino, Boqueixón and Santiago de Compostela. In 2017 it presented a mine development project to restart open cast extractive activities in a mine that had been abandoned and dismantled by Rio Tinto 30 years ago and that has since represented a significant environmental problem over the past decades due to the permissivity and lack of control of the administration. This first development phase involves more than 700 hectares destroying the local agricultural economy and threatening drinking water supplies. It will also become a launching platform for exploiting the rest of the copper mining belt that surrounds Galicia's capital city in the heart of the Way of Santiago, an area which is already being subjected to intense geomining prospection.

Historically, the previous developments of Rio Tinto was a considerable source of heavy metal pollution in the río Ulla river system, which is a Site of Community Importance, as well as the Arousa estuary were it leads to, which is the most rich and productive of all Galician estuaries. The restarting of extractive activities and the risks associated to the deficiencies of the project has activated intense mobilizations in sectors such as

fishing, mussel gathering, mussel production and other social and economic sectors in the Arousa estuary, that consider the project a threat to their future. The majority of the municipalities in the basin have passed resolutions rejecting the mining project, seconded by all kinds of organizations.



Fig. Mobilizations against the Touro mining project