

PERSONAL INFORMATION

JAVIER FRANCO SAN SEBASTIÁN



Location: AZTI, Marine and Coastal Environmental Management . Herrera Kaia Portualdea, z/g, 20110 Pasaia (Gipuzkoa) SPAIN
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Sex: Male | **Date of birth:** 16/02/1966 | **Nationality:** Spanish

WORK EXPERIENCE

From: 2001 to: present

Head of Project. Coordinator of Marine Environment Management Area (2004-2016)

AZTI, Pasaia, Gipuzkoa (Spain) www.azti.es

Coordination and management of research and consultancy projects. Elaboration of Science Plans at medium-term (Strategic Plan) and short-term (Annual Management Plans) temporal scales. Elaboration of Financial Plans. Marketing and Commercial Strategic Planning. Leadership of scientific work teams (15 people). Team Management. Supervision of PhD and Master students
Business or sector: Research and consultancy on Marine Environment

From: 1998 to: 2001

Senior Researcher

AZTI, Pasaia, Gipuzkoa (Spain) www.azti.es

Participation, coordination and management of research and consultancy projects. Elaboration of technical proposals. Supervision of PhD and Master students
Business or sector: Research and consultancy on Marine Environment

From: 1995 to: 1998

Junior Researcher

AZTI, Pasaia, Gipuzkoa (Spain) www.azti.es

Participation in research projects. Collaboration in technical proposals
Business or sector: Research and consultancy on Marine Environment

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

From: 1989 to: 1994

PhD in Biological Sciences

EQF level 8

University of the Basque Country, Spain

Title of the project: "Spatial and temporal variability of phytoplankton biomass and production in the Urdaibai estuary".

From: 1984 to: 1989

Bachelor in Biological Sciences

EQF level 6

University of the Basque Country, Spain

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): Spanish

Other language(s):

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C1 Proficient user	C1 Proficient user	C1 Proficient user	C1 Proficient user	C1 Proficient user
French	A2 Basic user	A2 Basic user			
Basque	B1 Independent user	B1 Independent user	B1 Independent user	B1 Independent user	B1 Independent user

Levels: A1/A2: Basic user - B1/B2: Independent user - C1/C2 Proficient user
[Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](http://www.cedefop.europa.eu)

Communication skills:

Good communication skills gained through experience in scientific symposiums, technical working

groups, courses given in Master of Science in several Universities, more than 90 talks to the general public, more than 70 interventions in media, etc.

Organisational / managerial skills

Leadership (responsible for a team of 15 people between 2004 and 2016). Sense of organisation; Coordinator of Marine Environment Management Area in AZTI, carrying out financial and funding monitoring, marketing and commercial plans, strategic science plans, training plans, investment plans, participation in strategic and management committees. Good skills in team management: good experience gained by the coordination of several multidisciplinary projects.

Job-related skills

Technical skills in Monitoring and assessment of quality status and impacts in the marine environment: design and implementation of sampling strategies, data processing and interpretation, development of methodologies and indicators of ecosystem health, Environment Impact Studies in coastal and estuarine areas, Marine Biodiversity, Marine Protected Areas, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, etc.

Digital competence

SELF-ASSESSMENT				
Information processing	Communication	Content creation	Safety	Problem solving
Independent user	Proficient user	Proficient user	Independent user	Proficient user

Levels: Basic user - Independent user - Proficient user
[Digital competences - Self-assessment grid](#)

Good command of Microsoft Office tools (Word, Excel and PowerPoint)
 Good skills in statistical packages (Statgraphics, CANOCO package)

Other skills

Photography: good skills and some local awards in nature photography competitions. Good skills in nature interpretation, especially bird identification and study, gained through membership in regional and national ornithological associations and participation in projects. Experience in nature conservation and management initiatives and projects gained through membership in NGOs (www.lurgaia.org)

Driving licence

B1

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Recent publications

Publication over 100 papers, books, chapters and technical documents on his expertise topics (around 65 in SCI journals). Reviewer of papers in several scientific journals. Editor of "Revista de Investigación Marina" (edited by AZTI). H-index: 27. Research Gate Score: 34. Some relevant recent publications:

Viñes, M. et al., 2025. Morphodynamic predictions based on Machine Learning. Performance and limits for pocket beaches near the Bilbao port. *Frontiers in Environmental Science* 13. DOI: 10.3389/fenvs.2025.1600473.

Iglesias, B. et al., 2025. Identifying Bottlenecks to Energy Circulation in the Bay of Biscay Pelagic Food Web: Key Species Under the Spotlight. *Ecosystems* 28(4). DOI: 10.1007/s10021-025-00990-9.

Borja et al., 2025. Marine biodiversity and environmental data: an AI-ready, open dataset from the long term (1995–2023) Basque Country monitoring network. *Frontiers in Ocean Sustainability* 3 DOI: 10.3389/focsu.2024.1528837.

Mandiola, G. et al., 2025. Projections of intertidal estuarine seagrass distribution under climate change scenarios using a Bayesian network approach. *Estuarine Coastal and Shelf Science* 313(12):109093. DOI: 10.1016/j.ecss.2024.109093.

- Jayachandran, P. R. et al., 2024. Unveiling the ecological status of the Arabian Gulf's marine ecosystem: Insights from benthic community analysis. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 205:116571. DOI: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2024.116571.
- Galparsoro et al., 2024. Research priorities and roadmap for deep-sea ecology in the Bay of Biscay (Northeast Atlantic). *Deep Sea Research Part I: Oceanographic Research Papers*. Volume 208, 104324.
- Bilbao, J., Pavlouidi, C., Blanco-Rayón, E., Franco, J., Madariaga, I., Seoane, S. 2023. Phytoplankton community composition in relation to environmental variability in the Urdaibai estuary (SE Bay of Biscay): Microscopy and eDNA metabarcoding. *Marine Environmental Research* 191(7):106175.
- Zamora-Marín, J. M. et al. 2023. A multi-taxa assessment of aquatic non-indigenous species introduced into Iberian freshwater and transitional waters. *Neobiota* 89: 17-44.
- Bilbao, J., Larreta, J. Franco, J. Seoane, S. 2022. Immediate effect of sewerage improvement on the phytoplankton and physicochemical conditions in the Urdaibai estuary (southeastern Bay of Biscay). *Regional Studies in Marine Science* 56:102707.
- Menchaca, I., Borja, A., Galparsoro, I., Franco, J., Uyarra, M. C., Uriarte, A., Chust, G, Ibaibarriaga, L., Bald, J. 2021. Multi-source and multi-scale data integration for the assessment of the marine environmental status of the Basque Coast (SE Bay of Biscay). 2022. *Estuarine Coastal and Shelf Science* 277(5):108055.
- Borja, A., Menchaca, M., Garmendia, J. M., Franco, Larreta, J., Sagarminaga, Y., Schembri, Y., González, R., Rocío, R., Micallef, T., Camilleri, S., Solaun, O., Uriarte, A., Uyarra, M. C. Big Insights From a Small Country: The Added Value of Integrated Assessment in the Marine Environmental Status Evaluation of Malta. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, April 2021.
- Garmendia, J. M., Valle, M. Borja, A., Chust, G., Rodríguez, J. G., Franco, J., 2021. Estimated footprint of shellfishing activities in *Zostera noltei* meadows in a northern Spain estuary: Lessons for management. *Estuarine Coastal and Shelf Science* 254(5):107320.
- Muñiz O, Rodriguez J. G., Revilla M., Laza-Martínez A., Seoane S., Franco J, 2020. Inhomogeneity detection in phytoplankton time series using multivariate analyses. *Oceanologia* 62 (3): 243-254.
- Briaudeau T, Zorita I, Cuevas N, Franco J, Marigómez I, Izagirre U, 2019. Multi-annual survey of health status disturbance in the Bilbao estuary (Bay of Biscay) based on sediment chemistry and juvenile sole (*Solea* spp.) histopathology. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 145: 126-137.
- Franco J, Fort J, García-Barón I, Loubat P, Louzao M, Del Puerto O, Zorita I, 2019. Incidence of plastic ingestion in seabirds from the Bay of Biscay (southwestern Europe). *Mar Pollut Bull.*, 146:387-392.
- Rabaoui, L., Lin, Y. J., Roa-Ureta, R. H., Dagoy, J., Joydas, T. V., Borja, A., Muxika, I., Franco, J., Al-Abdulkader, K., Loughland, R., Alnazry, H., Qurban, M. A. 2019. Recovery of benthic communities from small-scale shrimp trawling: Evidence from using ecological indices over a short temporal scale. *Ecological Indicators*, 99: 299-309.
- Muñiz, O., J. G. Rodríguez, M. Revilla, A. Laza-Martínez, S. Seoane, J. Franco. 2018. Seasonal variations of phytoplankton community in relation to environmental factors in an oligotrophic area of the European Atlantic coast (southeastern Bay of Biscay). *Regional Studies in Marine Science*, 17: 59-72.

Conferences

Participation in more than 130 communications for International Scientific Symposiums and Congresses, being the speaker of more than 45 oral presentations.

Projects

Participation in more than 70 national and international projects (I+D Programmes of the European Union, Interreg Programme, I+D Spanish National Science Programme, regional administrations, private companies, etc.). Some selected projects:

Coordinated strategy for the assessment, monitoring and management of cetaceans in the Bay of Biscay and Iberian coast subregion (CetAMBICion). European Commission's DG ENV/MSFD 2020 (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) call. Duration: 2021-2023.

Environmental monitoring and surveillance of sand extractions in the North Sector of the Area II of the Bilbao Port (N. Spain). Bilbao Port Authority. Duration: 2016-2022. Role in the Project: coordinator.

Assembly and dissemination of marine data for seabed mapping: Lot 7 human activities (Emodnet II). European Commission. Duration: 2013-2016. Role in the Project: participant.

Offshore Monitoring Programm of the Arabian Waters in the Arabian Gulf. Saudi Aramco-King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals. Duration: 2014 - 2020. Role in the Project: coordinator.

Ecosystem Approach to making Space for Sustainable Aquaculture (AQUASPACE). European Commission, DG Research (H2020 Programme). Duration 2015-2017. Role in the Project: participant.

Teacher in three Postgraduate Masters of the University of the Basque Country: MSC European Master in Marine Environment and Resources; MSC Master in Environmental Contamination and Toxicology; MSC Master in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning and Management.

Others

He has participated in international working groups (ICES: Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Study Group on Eutrophication, Integrated Monitoring of Contaminants and their Effects in Coastal and Open-Sea Area; working groups for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive; working groups for the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Descriptor 1, Biodiversity; Descriptor 5, Eutrophication).