

The Formentera Department of Interior reports that island law enforcement launched a special operation yesterday in a bid to tackle illegal vending on several beaches near Ses Salines Nature Reserve. With help from four plain-clothes and three uniformed officers, the drone-assisted effort resulted in 12 citations for the illicit sale of fruit, drinks and clothing.

The team sought to penetrate an organisational scheme wherein vendors alert one another and hide when patrolling officers are spotted entering the reserve.

Forty-one citations have been written this summer for unlawful itinerant vending in Ses Salines, Migjorn and Cala Saona. Besides constituting a source of unfair competition for hometown businesses, street vendors aren't submitted to health and safety controls — an added risk factor particularly amid rising cases of Covid-19.

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