



# ACCELERATING OFFSHORE WIND & NATURE PROTECTION



Country profile

## FRANCE

### CHALLENGES

Reaching our climate targets requires deploying wind turbines in European seas.



Today, France has **1.5 GW** of offshore wind energy (approx. 212 turbines). The ambitions: **4 GW by 2030, 18 GW by 2035** and **45 GW by 2050**.



To reach our nature targets and conserve the **ecosystem services** we depend upon, it is imperative to protect marine nature. Strong regulations for both offshore wind and nature are necessary to support these goals.

### EFFECTIVE PLANNING

#### On the Atlantic, Channel and Mediterranean facades



1,5% of mainland seas will be needed to reach the 2050 targets. Planning for overseas territories is done separately.



In shallow waters, turbines are bottom-fixed, a commercially used technology with better known impacts.



In deeper waters, floating turbines are installed, an innovative technology but still at a pre-commercial stage.

### ENGAGING WITH SOCIETY



French authorities organised an extensive public debate to feed into the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) process:



21 043 individual persons attended



375 events, covering all facades of mainland France



20 088 written contributions were received in total



**Job creation**



8 000 jobs **today**



20 000 jobs estimated **in 2035**



4 out of 12 European production sites for offshore wind nacelles and blades are in France

## In the French mainland seas:



**Current status:**  
Good Environmental Status  
(clean, healthy & productive  
sea) **not achieved**



**337** Endangered or  
vulnerable species  
**64** Non-indigenous  
species



**Ambition:**  
**5 %** of the sea strongly  
protected by **2030** to give  
space for nature to recover

## France reduces the impacts of infrastructure by:



Using **sensitivity mapping** when siting  
offshore wind and grid infrastructure.



Using **anti-fouling paint** that does not  
contain biocides.



When cable protection by covering is  
necessary, **using inert materials** that do  
not undergo any **dangerous chemical  
modification**.



Placing **scour protection** around  
foundations in soft sediment areas, to  
avoid sediment resuspension which can  
affect benthic communities and plankton.

## To support marine nature in France:



To protect birds and bats in the Gulf of Lion,  
a **biodiversity hotspot** in the Mediterra-  
nean Sea where offshore wind farms are  
planned, a data acquisition project aims to **fill  
knowledge gaps**.



To improve **understanding of offshore wind  
farms effects** on the marine environment, a  
project aims to provide **advanced monitoring  
methods** for better environmental impact  
assessments.

Ecological and social  
criteria in auctions

The use of specific **non-price criteria** in offshore  
wind auctions can improve the ecological and  
social standards of projects.

In its last three auctions, France has applied two  
sets of non-price criteria. One set focused on  
**social and territorial development**, while the  
other addressed **environmental considerations**.  
In all cases, non-price criteria accounted for **30%  
of the total evaluation**, with the remaining 70%  
based on price. The same parameters were used  
across all auctions, with **floating offshore projects**  
incorporating two **additional environmental  
non-price criteria** specific to each area. France  
employs Contracts for Difference in all auctions.