



RÉPUBLIQUE
FRANÇAISE

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Cerema
CLIMAT & TERRITOIRES DE DEMAIN

FOCUS ON MITIGATION IN MSP

Presentation of the French example

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THE FRENCH MSP CONTEXT (1/2)

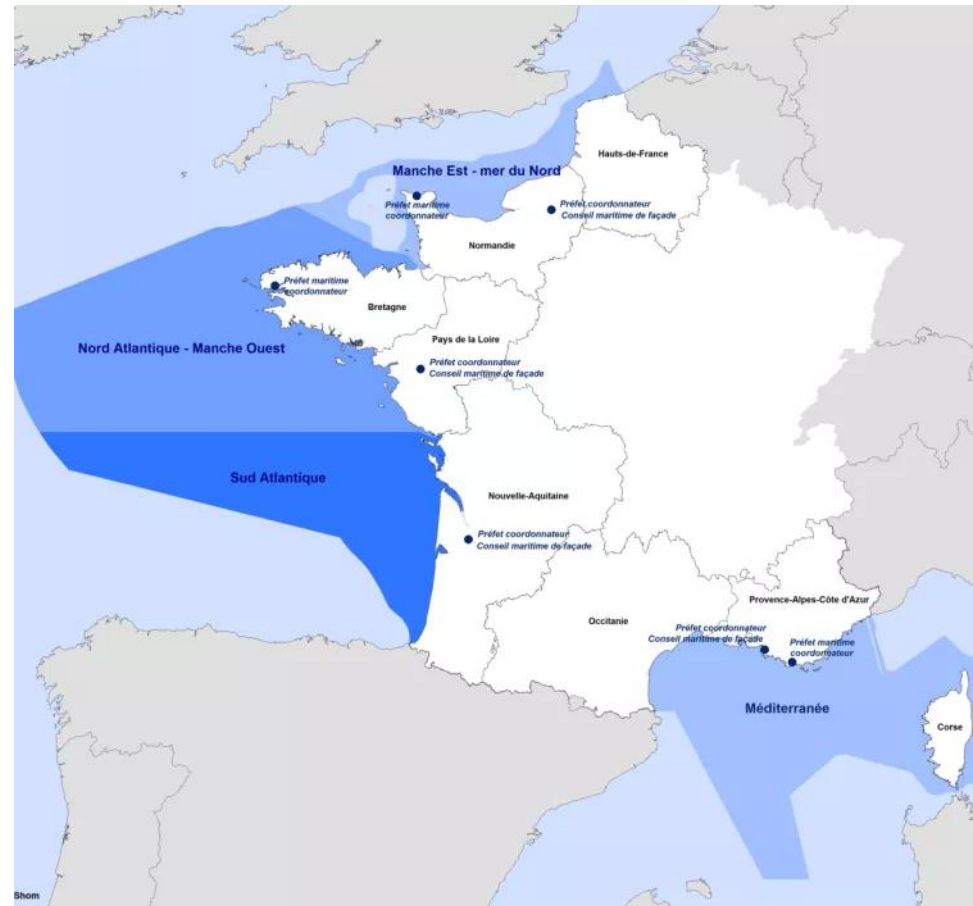
At national level

The National Strategy for seas and coastline is the overall framework for a French integrated maritime policy (current version 2024-2030)

At administrative sea basin level

4 documents are elaborated for Mainland France to implement the national strategy and adapt it to territorial challenges and issues.

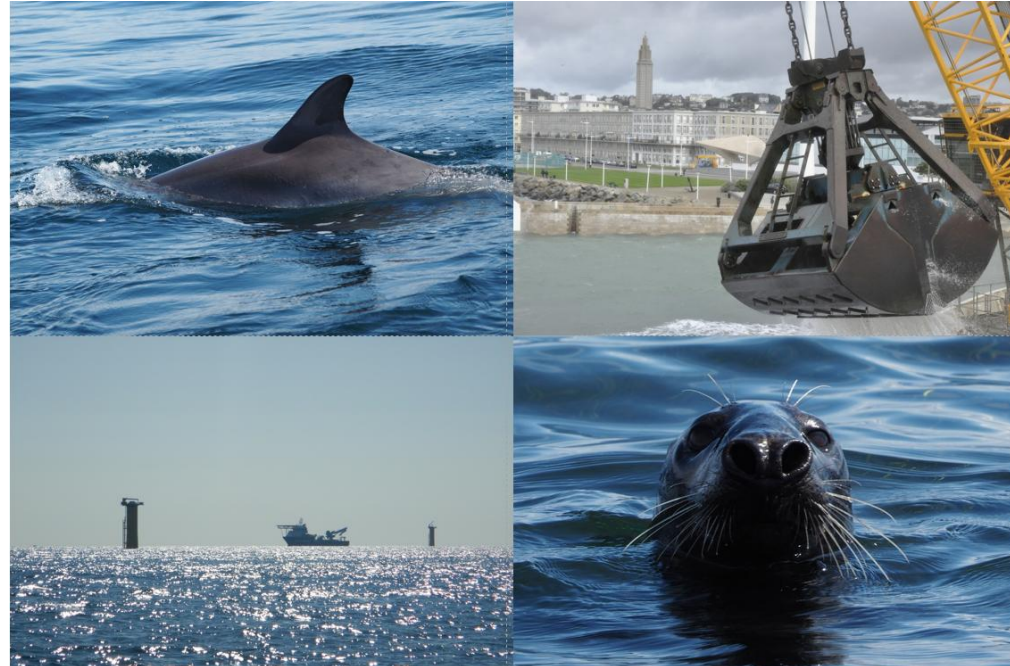
These documents are adopted sequentially, for a period of 6 years : first the strategic part (current state, objectives and vocation map – last version adopted in 2025) and then the operational part (action plan and monitoring plan – to be updated in 2027).



THE FRENCH MSP CONTEXT (2/2)

The strategic documents (DSF) answer the requirements from both the Marine strategy framework (MSFD) and the Marine spatial planning (MSPD) directives.

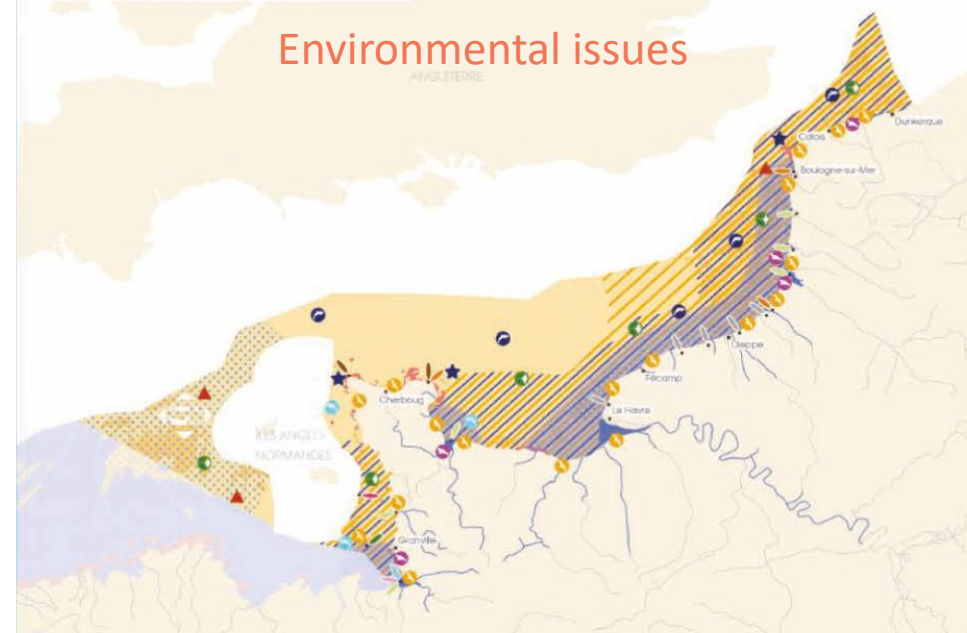
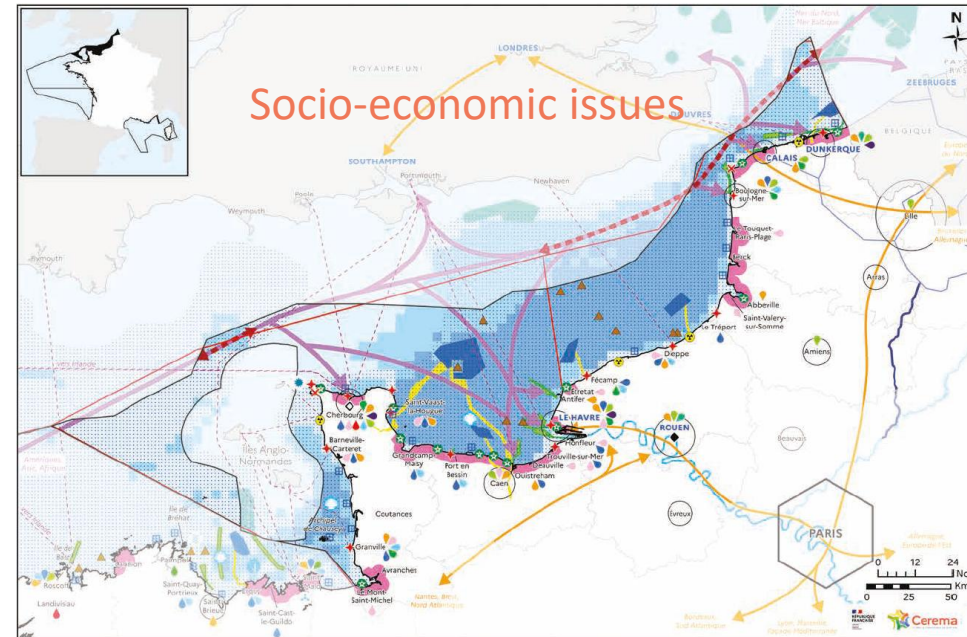
DSF thus have a dual objective: to achieve or maintain **good environmental status of marine waters**/conserve the functions and diversity of marine ecosystems, while promoting and **planning the sustainable development of maritime activities**.



ZOOM ON THE FRENCH EASTERN CHANNEL- NORTH SEA BASIN

The French Eastern Channel – North Sea basin presents numerous challenges within a limited maritime area, in a significant transboundary context:

- More than 700 fishing vessels, representing 17% of the French metropolitan fleet;
- 25% of global maritime transport;
- 2/3 of French port traffic;
- More than 50% of the national offshore wind energy projects;
- 20% of marine aggregate extraction;
- Nearly 40% of the waters are designated as marine protected areas.



DSF INCORPORATE ZONING PROCESSES THAT INTEGRATE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Offshore wind energy

Consideration of priority areas selected for offshore wind development, after a “de-risking” process including environmental issues, and a public debate common with the MSP updating process.

Marine protected areas

- Integrating marine parks as specific zonings with their own management plan
- Environmental zoning and, in particular, regulatory protections (Natura 2000 sites, biotope protection orders, nature reserves, etc.) must be mentioned in the description of the planning zones.

Strong protection areas

Designation of strong protection areas is one of the priorities of the DSF update.

Generally speaking, by integrating goals of good environmental status defined by European environmental legislation, the process tends to integrate environmental issues upstream.

ACTION PLAN: MEASURES TO MITIGATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The action plan contains mitigation measures linked to several economic sectors:

- Renewable offshore energy (including submarine cables)

Mitigation measures can be included at project level (examples : reduction of lengths of the ships, adaptation of the helicopters flight height, bird repellent transmitters, space between turbines lines, etc.)

- Aggregates extraction

Extractions are forbidden in designated strong protection areas.

- Fisheries

An action is dedicated to the identification and reduction of the risks of accidental capture for each of the species of Community interest, by testing specific techniques (visual deterrents, pingers, etc.) in pilot sites.

TO SUM UP

- French MSP is an integrated process, incorporating environmental legislations and their objectives as objectives of the plans
- In this way, DSF Seek the avoidance of impacts first
- Mitigation actions are defined for specific situations

Thank you



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