



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.