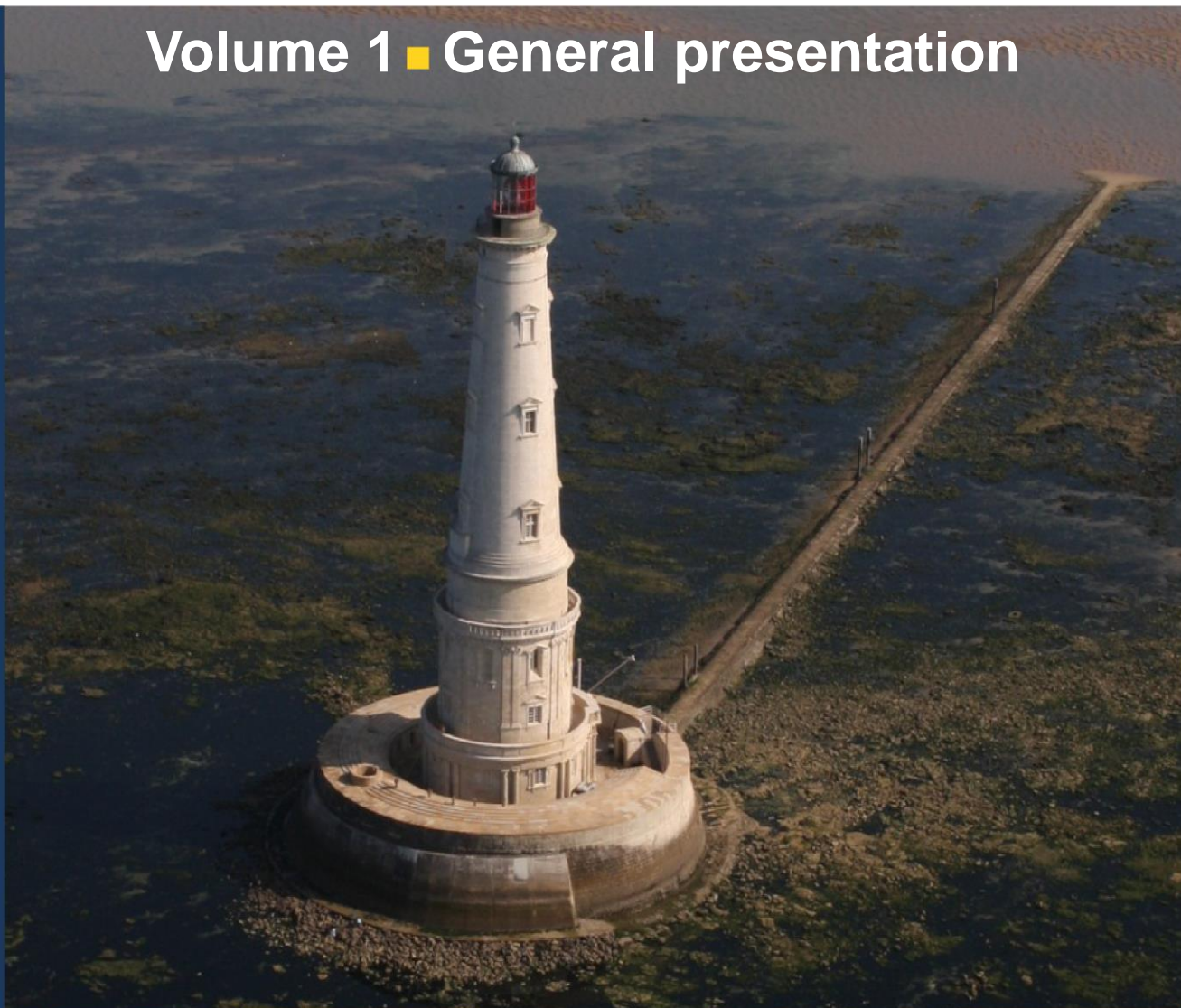


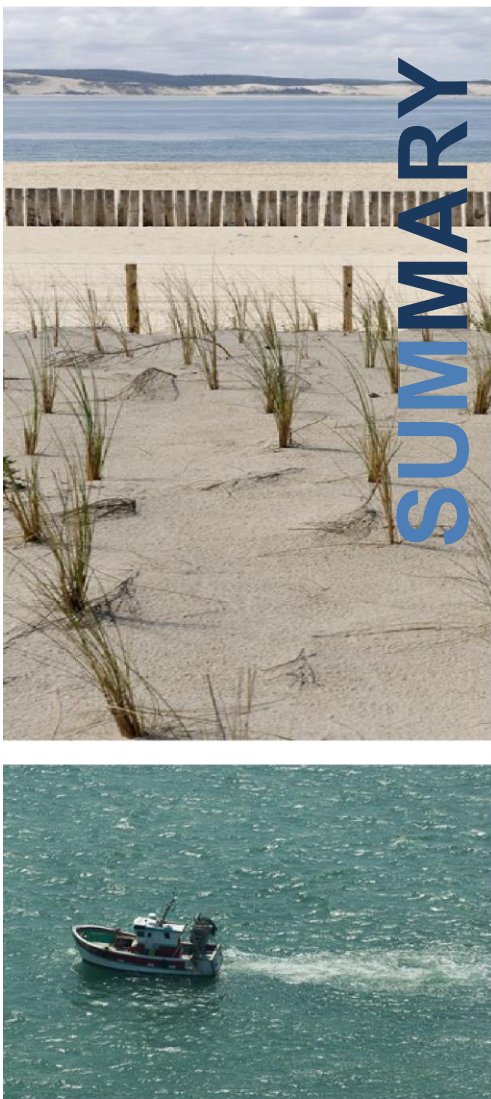
# ACTION PLAN

## Volume 1 ■ General presentation



MARITIME COASTLINE  
STRATEGIC DOCUMENT  
**SOUTH-ATLANTIC**





<b>PREAMBLE</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>MAP OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC SEA BASIN</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<hr/>	
<b>PART 1: THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF THE SEA BASIN STRATEGY DOCUMENT</b> .....	<b>5</b>
1.1. Reminder of the European and national framework .....	5
1.2. Context for the adoption of the sea basin strategy in the South Atlantic .....	7
1.3. Summary of the adopted sea basin strategy .....	8
<hr/>	
<b>PART 2: DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACTION PLAN</b> .....	<b>12</b>
2.1. Purpose of the action plan .....	12
2.2. A concerted process at local level .....	13
<hr/>	
<b>PART 3: THE ACTION PLAN</b> .....	<b>14</b>
3.1. Analysis of existing public policies and actions related to the sea and coastline .....	14
3.2. Presentation of actions in relation to the points of vision of the sea basin strategy .....	15
<hr/>	
<b>LIST OF ACRONYMS</b> .....	<b>33</b>
<b>GLOSSARY</b> .....	<b>35</b>







# PREAMBLE

---

The strategy document for the South Atlantic sea basin sets out the guidelines of the national strategy for the sea and coastline with regard to the economic, social and ecological issues specific to the coastline. It is France's response to the two framework directives "Marine Strategy" and "Maritime Spatial Planning".

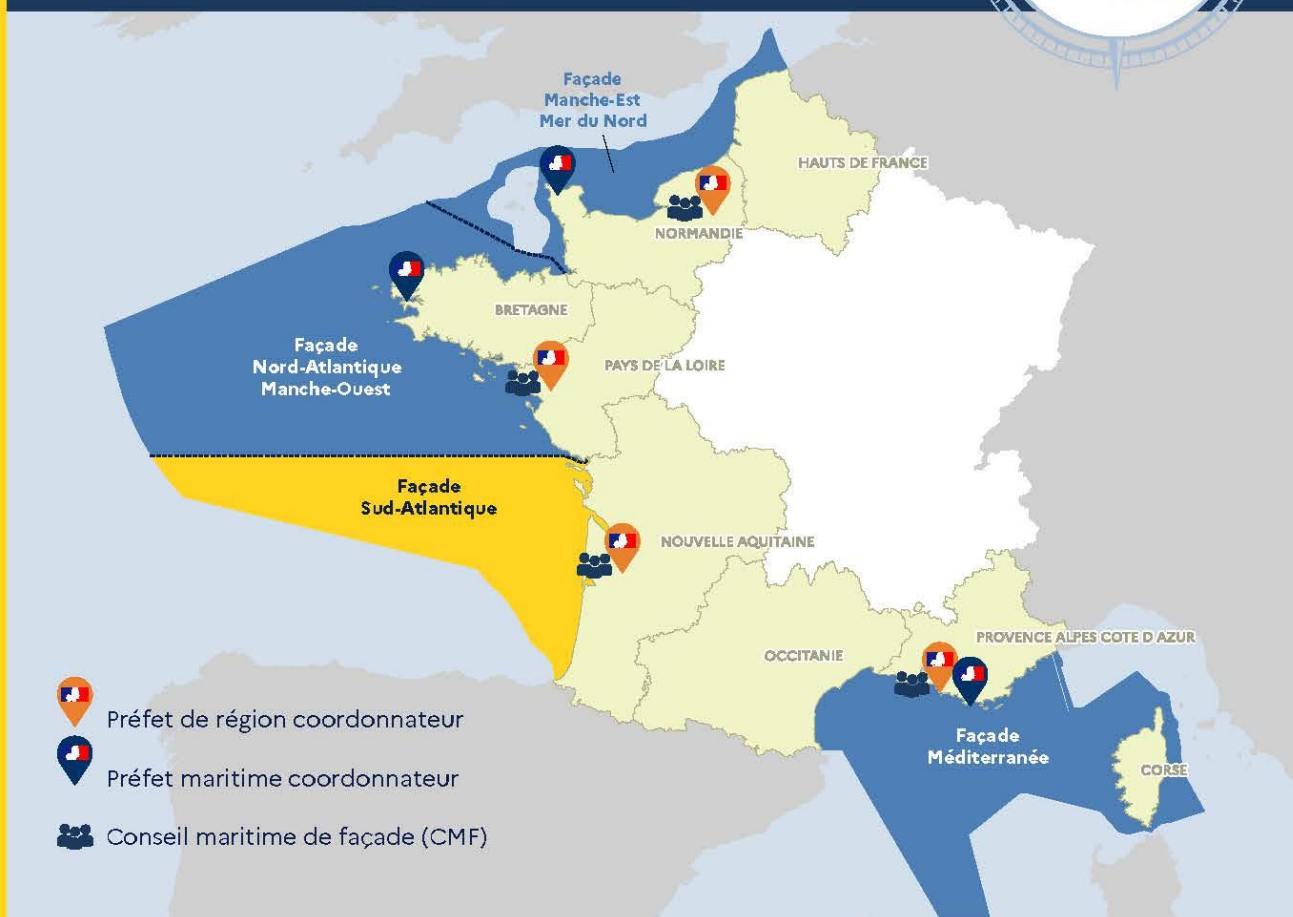
The action plan is the fourth and final element of the sea basin strategy document. It includes a set of concrete and operational actions to be implemented at national, regional and sub-regional levels to meet the strategic targets and achieve the vision for 2030, both of which are described in the strategic part of the document adopted in October 2019.

France is present in all the oceanic regions of the world thanks to its overseas territories and is sovereign and responsible for a maritime area of over 11 million square kilometres. Everywhere, French maritime areas are the source of socio-economic and environmental challenges and constitute an asset in fields as varied as nautical activities, maritime transport, tourism, fishing, aquaculture, shipbuilding, marine energy, etc. With the rise of activities and uses at sea, there are many pressures on the sea and the coastline.

It is in this context that the development of a maritime strategy at each sea basin level has broadened and directed reflections towards a planning of the maritime space which takes into account the local ecological, economic and social specificities. In this context, it is now a question of organising human activities in order to reduce their impact on the marine environment while allowing the cohabitation of uses and the preservation of natural environments and resources ■



# THE SOUTH ATLANTIC SEA BASIN IN THE MAINLAND MARITIME AREA



**723 kilometres**  
of coastline  
**90,000 km<sup>2</sup>**  
of maritime space



**65** marine  
protected areas, including  
**2** natural marine parks



**50,000** jobs in the  
maritime economy  
including **5,300**  
professional sailors

©infographie DIRM SA, sources : DIRM SA/INSEE

# PART 1

## THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF THE SEA BASIN STRATEGY DOCUMENT

### 1.1 Reminder of the European and national framework

#### ■ A European maritime policy based on two framework directives

The European Commission wanted to put a maritime policy in place that would take into account both the preservation of the marine environment and the economic development of its maritime and coastal activities in order to move towards integrated management of the waters of its Member States. Two directives came out of this approach:

##### ● the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

drives all EU Member States to take all necessary measures to reduce the impact of human activities on the marine environment in order to achieve or maintain good environmental status of marine waters and therefore preserve the marine environment. According to the directive, good environmental status of the marine environment is understood as the proper functioning of marine ecosystems from a sustainable development perspective, i.e. conserved ecological diversity and satisfactory interactions between species and their habitats for a productive ocean.

In France, this directive applies to metropolitan waters. It has been set out in a Marine Environment Action Plan (PAMM), which has already been implemented once (2016-2021) and is updated every 6 years to take into account the evolution of the situation and available knowledge.

● the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (MSPD) aims to organise uses at sea to avoid conflicts and promote blue growth and the sustainable development of maritime and coastal activities.

#### ■ National Strategy for the Sea and Coast

Thanks to a strengthened national maritime ambition in 2009 during the "Grenelle de la Mer", France is playing a leading role in implementing this European policy.

In February 2017, it decided to use its geographical position to formulate a National Strategy for the Sea and Coast (SNML) which aims to bring about a new societal model combining socio-economic progress, preservation of the marine environment, development of resources and integrated management of maritime and coastal activities. This national strategy for the sea and coast establishes a framework for action through four strategic orientations:

- encourage growth and innovation,
- develop sustainable, resilient maritime and coastal spaces,
- support and promote local initiatives,
- promote a French vision within the European Union and in international negotiations and upholding national interests.

The general guidelines of the SNML sets the course for public policies related to the sea and the coast. As they are not intended to be implemented in a uniform manner throughout the French sea basin, they are set out in the Sea Basin Strategy Documents (SBSD).

In 2016, to organise planning, while taking the preservation of the marine environment into account, France decided to integrate the PAMM into the SBSD, as its environmental part.

#### ■ Constitutive elements of the Sea Basin Strategy Documents

In accordance with Article R.219-1-7 of the French Environmental Code, this Sea Basin Strategy Document consists of the following four parts :

- the initial assessment within the perimeter of the maritime sea basin, its challenges and the vision for the coast in 2030 (part 1),
- the definition of strategic targets, defined from an economic, social and environmental perspective, together with related performance indicators and a vocation map (part 2),
- The evaluation procedure for assessing implementation of the strategy document (part 3);
- an action plan (part 4).



The Sea Basin Strategy consists of the first two parts mentioned above. On the basis of an environmental and socio-economic diagnosis, this "strategic" part identifies the vision of the future that each sea basin wants to have by 2030, sets both environmental and socio-economic strategic targets to achieve this and translates the strategic orientations into a vocation map of the different sectors of the sea basin. This vocation map identifies coherent areas established with regard to the issues present, the general objectives assigned to them and the strategic priorities for the development of activities and the marine environment.

The "operational" phase consists of the evaluation procedure for assessing marine waters and achieving environmental targets, and the action plan. The latter sets out the Sea Basin Strategy by targeting all the concrete and operational actions to put in place to meet the strategic targets and achieve this vision by 2030.

#### ■ **Necessary compatibility with the Water Development and Management Master Plans (SDAGE)**

Legislation on the management of water and aquatic environments is laid down in the Environmental Code. In particular, it includes the law of 21 April 2004 (transposition of the Water Framework Directive - WFD - of 23/10/2000), the one of 30 December 2006 (Law on water and aquatic environments), the "Grenelle" laws of 3 August 2009 and 12 July 2010 as well as the law of 8 August 2016 on the recovery of biodiversity, nature and landscapes, which sets objectives for water management.

The Water Development and Management Master Plan (SDAGE) is a strategic guidance document for the management of water and aquatic environments which:

- takes into account all surface (water courses, canals, water bodies, coastal and transitional brackish waters) and groundwater (free and confined water-bearing) environments;
- specifies the organisations and management systems to be implemented in order to achieve the European environmental targets;
- summarises the programme of measures to be implemented to achieve these targets;
- describes the monitoring networks intended to verify the state of aquatic environments and the achievement of environmental targets, in particular good water status;

- proposes guidance for the recovery of water management costs, water and service pricing, and their transparency principles;
- provides information for better governance in the water sector.

Adopted by the basin coordinating prefect, the SDAGE sets objectives for each body of water with an obligation to achieve the WFD requirements in water bodies, water courses, estuaries, coastal and transitional waters and groundwater. Achieving "good status" is one of its overall objectives. Sources of pressure on the marine environment come partly from the mainland (inputs of nutrients, organic matter, contaminants or fresh water from the catchment areas, physical disturbance of habitats, waste, etc.).

The MSFD and the WFD therefore have a common objective of achieving good water status in the waters to which they apply. In terms of geographical coverage, only coastal waters (waters within 1 nautical mile of the baseline) and territorial waters for chemical status in mainland France are covered jointly by the two directives.

Article L. 212.1 of the French Environmental Code therefore requires compatibility between the provisions of the SDAGE and the SBSD's environmental targets.

With regard to the objectives shared by the Adour-Garonne SDAGE and the South Atlantic SBSD, the action plans include actions common to both documents and build the land-sea link at sea basin level, particularly on the themes of contaminants, waste and freshwater inputs. Annex 6 presents the table of correspondence between the environmental targets of the South Atlantic SBSD and the provisions of the draft Adour-Garonne SDAGE 2022-2027.



## 1.2 Context for adopting the South Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy

The Sea Basin Strategy Document is drawn up by the State. It is led by the ministries responsible for the sea and the environment at national level. At local level, responsibility for drafting it lies with the Atlantic Maritime Prefect and the Prefect of the New Aquitaine region, who are the basin coordinating prefects and who rely on a local consultation body, the Sea Basin Council (SBC). Each part of the strategy document is subject to referral to the Environmental Authority and to consultation with the regulatory bodies and the public for a statutory period of 3 months.

### ■ Association of local stakeholders

In South Atlantic, throughout the drafting of the Sea Basin Strategy, meetings and exchanges with all local stakeholders, particularly within the commissions of the Sea Basin Council, have made it possible to define objectives that are consistent with those of other guidance plans within the coastline's scope

### ■ Prior consultation and cooperation with Member States

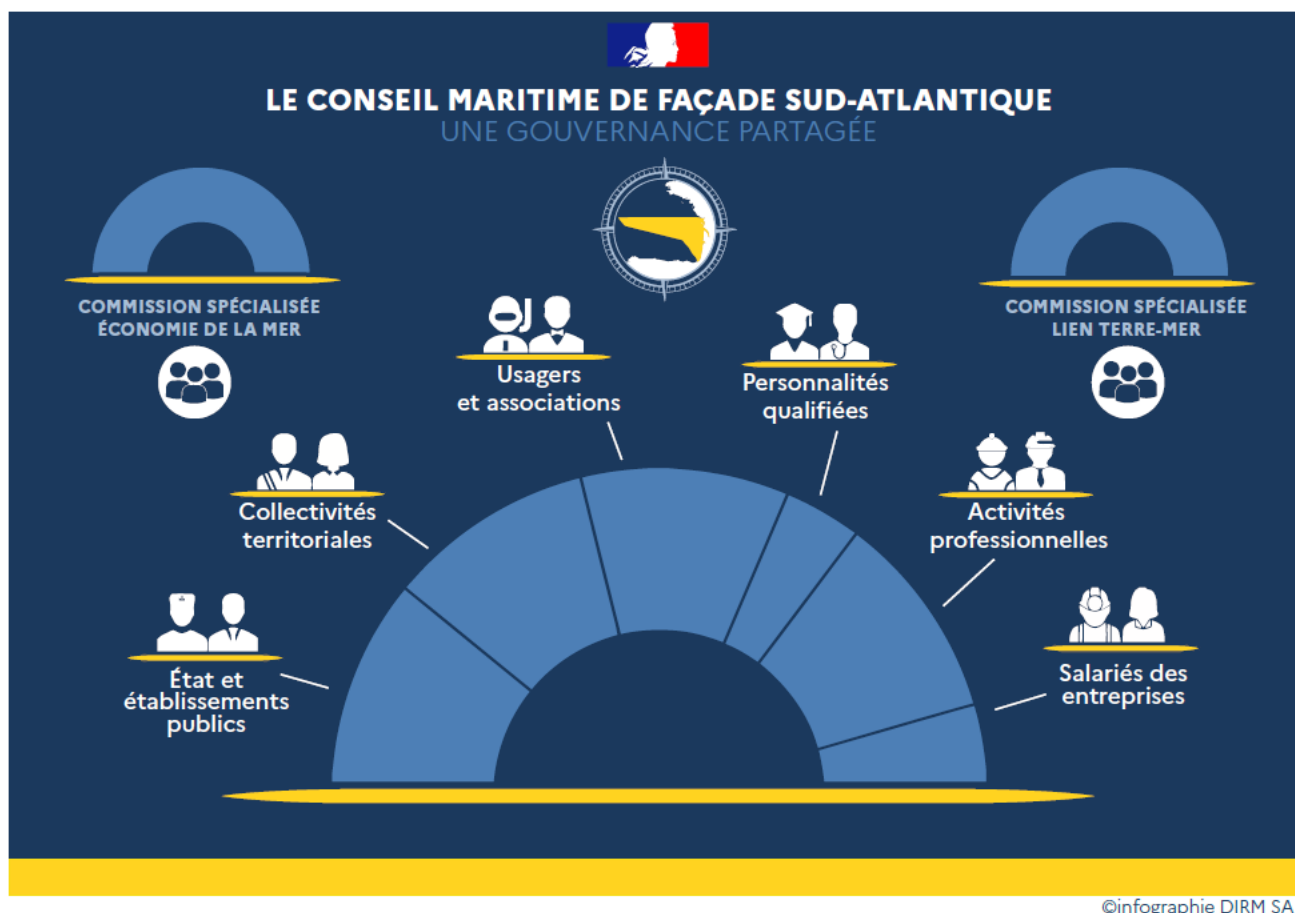
A preliminary consultation was carried out between 26 January and 25 March 2018 under the aegis of the National Commission for Public Debate. In order to allow citizens to express themselves, this consultation took two forms:

- a **participatory platform** "sea and coastline 2030",
- **citizen workshops** organised in La Rochelle, Bordeaux, Capbreton and Biarritz.

Cooperative work has also been undertaken between Member States and third countries through regular meetings of expert groups to address issues specific to cross-border areas. For the South Atlantic Sea Basin, these exchanges took place in particular with Spain on the specific issues of energy transport, and with the United Kingdom in the context of Brexit and its consequences for the fishing sector.

### ■ Regulatory consultations

In accordance with Article R. 122-10 of the French Environmental Code, SBSDs are subject to environmental assessment.



As part of this assessment, the Environmental Authority of the General Council of the Environment and Sustainable Development (CGEDD) was consulted for its opinion between November 2018 and February 2019 on each Sea Basin Strategy. It issued its opinion on 20 February 2019. The recommendations made by the Council were to be considered as "a preliminary guidance opinion for the continuation of the environmental assessment process".

From 4 March to 4 June 2019, the maritime sea basin strategy was then subject to simultaneous consultation with the public and the regulatory bodies (defined in Article R.219-1-10 of the French Environmental Code). At the end of this consultation process, all the opinions were analysed and led to adjustments to the Sea Basin Strategy. A review on all these consultations summarising the changes made was annexed to the inter-prefectoral order approving the Sea Basin Strategy.

In accordance with the commitment made by France to the European Commission and following these adjustments, the South Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy was definitively adopted on 14 October 2019 by the coordinating prefects, the Prefect of the New Aquitaine region and the Maritime Prefect of the Atlantic.

### 1.3 Summary of the adopted Sea Basin Strategy

This Sea Basin Strategy consists of a summary document which refers to a series of 9 annexes, containing a summary of the scientific and technical analyses and the constitutive elements of the strategic targets and planning of the local maritime area.

Its ambition is based on the sea basin's environmental, social and economic status.

#### ■ Summary of the environmental status of the Sea Basin

The South Atlantic coast has natural marine protected areas, rich ecosystems and a cultural heritage with a strong identity. On the coast, it is made up of a variety of coastal landscapes ranging from the rocky coast of the Basque country to the sheltered areas of the Pertuis, including the sandy coasts of the Gironde and Landes, the small inland sea of the Bay of Arcachon and the largest estuary in Europe, the Gironde estuary.

Further offshore, the continental shelf is home to several geomorphological features such as the Rochebonne shoal with its biodiversity and diversity of habitats, the Gouf de Capbreton, whose proximity to the shore remains one of the 30 unique submarine canyons, or the cold-water canyons which are rare habitats and remarkable areas of biodiversity.



The richness of these environments, which constitute special nursery and spawning areas, is conducive to the development of marine species.

The Southern Atlantic coast has a responsibility at European level for conservation of seven species of migratory fish that live alternately in freshwater and salt water, such as the Adour salmon, the lamprey and the European sea sturgeon.

The Southern Atlantic coast also plays a key role in the life cycle of many commercial species, such as sole and pelagic fish. Regarding marine mammals, the southern part of the Bay of Biscay is a major area for whales, while species of elasmobranchii are present in the sea of Pertuis and bay of Arcachon and the Rochebonne shoal. Large number of dolphins and porpoises are widely present all across the shelf.



Finally, the Southern Atlantic coast plays a leading role in maintaining sea bird populations throughout the year, with five wintering sites in the sea of Pertuis and the Bay of Arcachon, the hosting of bird colonies during the nesting period, such as the sandwich tern on the Banc d'Arguin or the pied avocets in the sea of Pertuis, and the presence of remarkable species such as the Balearic shearwater in winter, particularly in the Gouf de Capbreton.

#### ■ Summary of the socio-economic status of the coastline

This rich and exceptional natural heritage is also structuring for the economic activities and uses that take place along the coast. The maritime economy of New Aquitaine represents approximately 50,000 jobs, more than half of which are in coastal and maritime tourism and a large part of which is concentrated in seafood products, the shipbuilding and nautical industry and maritime transport.

The coast's economic and social activities are mainly structured around :

- the presence of 2 large marine ports (Bordeaux and La Rochelle), the Rochefort-Tonnay-Charente departmental port complex and the regional port of Bayonne, which handled 20 million tonnes of goods in 2016.



- predominantly small-scale, inshore and estuarine fishing,
- two large oyster growing areas (Marennes-Oléron and the bay of Arcachon) which make New Aquitaine the Europe's largest shellfish producing region.
- a shipbuilding and ship repair industry with high added value in Bordeaux, La Rochelle and Arcachon,
- the hosting of the headquarters of major companies in the surfing sector, with the south of the coastline being the home of European surfing,
- many represented nautical professions, including 5,300 active professional sailors, thanks to varied training provided by maritime education and higher education institutes, public administrative institutions (CREPS, etc.) and various nautical sports federations,
- varied and interdisciplinary programmes, carried out by different research organisations,
- the real development potential of wind, wave and tidal power,
- attractive natural sites for many tourists and water sports enthusiasts spread out over the four main sailing basins along the coast (the Charente islands and straits, the mouth of the Gironde estuary, the bay of Arcachon and the south of the Landes from the Basque country to the Spanish border) and which generate 800 million euros in turnover for water sports activities alone. Surfing is a symbolic activity in the southern coast, with a high density of spots between Hossegor and Biarritz.

Due to the concentration of populations and activities on the coastal fringe as a result of its attractiveness, the coast is subject to strong pressures and is experiencing a high rate of artificialization and significant urban sprawl to the detriment of coastal agricultural and natural and forest environments. The New Aquitaine coast is also exposed to the coastal risks of submersion and coastal erosion, particularly on the sandy coast of the Landes.

This diagnosis has made it possible for the thematic, ecological and socio-economic issues that apply to all sectors to emerge. Faced with these issues, the South Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy aims to reconcile the development of the blue economy with the preservation of marine environments and harmonised management of spaces and resources.

#### ■ A cross-cutting vision for the future set out as:

In light of this diagnosis, the local vision of the National Strategy for the Sea and the Coast (SNML), which sets out the desired future for the South Atlantic Sea Basin by 2030, is based around three main themes:



- **A requirement:** preserve exceptional coastal and marine heritage. This theme implies good water quality, which is essential in New Aquitaine for shellfish farming activities in particular, and resilience of coastal areas to coastal risks.

- **A project:** a sustainable maritime and coastal economy that respects ecological balances. This theme implies an accepted sharing of the sea, by professional sectors and attractive ports which generate local jobs, and which have succeeded in their ecological and energy transition, which allows for a harmonious coexistence between the different uses and an economical use of resources and space.

- **A lever:** developing knowledge as an innovation driver through strengthened links between scientists and professionals to better understand the sea, maintaining research, development and innovation capacities and a public interested by the sea and aware of its vulnerability and potential.

This vision for 2030 is a structuring element of the document and is broken down into two aspects:

**1st aspect:** *statement of strategic sea basin targets*

- **14 general strategic environmental targets (ETs)**, broken down into 54 specific targets and combined with indicators and targets. These ETs deal with the good environmental status of the marine environment and include, for example, marine biodiversity, exploitation of commercial species, the land-sea interface including waste, raising awareness, etc.

- **26 general strategic socio-economic targets (SETs)**, broken down into 64 specific targets, combined with indicators. They are split according to the main sectors of activity, training, development and knowledge.

**2nd aspect:** *The vocation map*

This map designates the priority use to be given to the coherent maritime sectors marked out on the coastline. The coherence of these 7 sectors was determined according to the standard issues present, whether it is an environmental unit of the area, a particular set of challenges, specific activities on this area or the designation of a preferential utility by the public authorities (natural marine parks for example). A designated use was then assigned to each of these 7 sectors corresponding to a forecast or desired evolution

of activities and the marine environment. On the Southern Atlantic coast, the 7 sectors identified are:

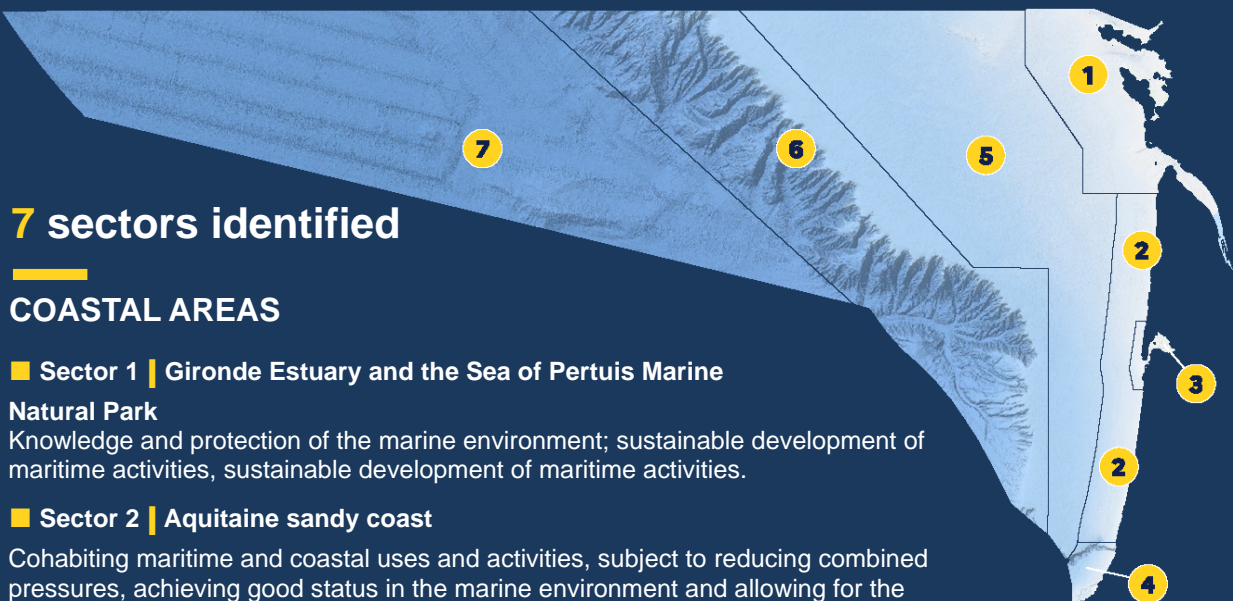
- **2 sectors on the perimeter of the marine natural parks** which are aimed at knowledge and protection of the marine environment and the sustainable development of maritime activities,

- **1 sparse coastal area on the sandy Gironde and Landes coasts** which targets good cohabitation of maritime and coastal uses and activities, taking into account the evolution of the changing coastline,

- **1 area with high density on the Basque rocky coast, the Adour estuary and the Gouf de Capbreton canyon** which favours the cohabitation of maritime and coastal uses and activities, subject to reducing combined pressures to achieve good environmental status and allowing for the changing coastline with a focus on iconic traditional activities,

- **3 areas further offshore** with, for one, priority given to sustainable commercial fishing activities cohabiting with other uses, and for the other two areas, which have few activities present, a priority focused on the sustainable exploitation of marine environment and resources which is dependent on a clearer understanding of the areas. ■

# VOCATION MAP OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC COAST



## 7 sectors identified

### COASTAL AREAS

#### ■ Sector 1 | Gironde Estuary and the Sea of Pertuis Marine

##### Natural Park

Knowledge and protection of the marine environment; sustainable development of maritime activities, sustainable development of maritime activities.

#### ■ Sector 2 | Aquitaine sandy coast

Cohabiting maritime and coastal uses and activities, subject to reducing combined pressures, achieving good status in the marine environment and allowing for the changing coastline.

#### ■ Sector 3 | Bay of Arcachon Marine Natural Park

Knowledge and protection of the marine environment; sustainable development of maritime activities.

#### ■ Sector 4 | Basque rocky coast, Adour estuary, Gouf de Capbreton canyon

Cohabiting maritime and coastal uses and activities, subject to reducing combined pressures to achieve good environmental status, and allowing the changing coastline, with a focus on iconic traditional activities (fishing, trading ports, tourism, boating and marine leisure).



### OFFSHORE SECTORS

#### ■ Sector 5 | Continental shelf

Priority to sustainable commercial fishing cohabiting with shipping, potential development of new renewable energy and marine aggregate extraction projects.

#### ■ Sector 6 | Continental slope

Sustainable use of marine resources without jeopardising habitats or species of concern.

#### ■ Sector 7 | Abyssal Plain

Use and possible development of the marine environment and resources, subject to gaining a clearer understanding of the area.

©infographie DIRM SA, sources : DIRM SA/CEREMA



# PART 2

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACTION PLAN

### 2.1 Purpose of the action plan

When the South Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy was adopted, the coordinating prefects confirmed their desire to integrate and enhance sea and coastal operators' local initiatives (ongoing or future) in the action plan, and to consider the planned development of the regions in order to turn it into a document made up of concrete and operational actions.

Various public policies (fishing, shipping transport, energy, tourism, etc.) already contribute to the protection of marine environments and the sustainable development of activities at sea. However, the Sea Basin Strategy Document proposes to go beyond these sectoral policies and to consider the development of activities at sea in an integrated, global and ecosystemic way.

Therefore, the resulting action plan aims to:

- set out the strategic targets into economic and social actions, environmental actions and so-called "mixed" actions that are the most concrete and operational,
- promote actions carried out by the State or coastline operators and which contribute to meeting the objectives of the Sea Basin Strategy,

- strengthen actions on land with regard to the specific needs of the marine environment (eutrophication, waste),
- propose a forward-looking vision that takes into account the development of the regions and maritime sectors of each coast,
- heighten synergies with sectoral policies,
- meet the expectations of local coastal authorities, particularly in terms of risks and the development of coastal activities.

As with each of the four parts of the Sea Basin Strategy Document, the action plan cannot be exhaustive and include all the actions carried out by each of the sea and coastal stakeholders. Each part of the document will therefore be updated in light of the improvement of available knowledge and will be added to in the course of subsequent revisions of the document, which are planned every 6 years. This iterative process of continuous improvement will further enhance the mobilisation and participation of all local stakeholders to the cohabitation of uses, the economic and sustainable development of activities at sea and on the coast and the protection of marine environments.



Adoption par le Conseil maritime de façade de la stratégie de façade maritime Sud-Atlantique en octobre 2019

## 2.2 A united process at local level

### ■ A great mobilisation of the State's coast services

The State departments responsible for maritime and coastal issues in New Aquitaine (DIRM, DREAL, DDTM, DIRECCTE, OFB including Marine Natural Parks, Ifremer, Water Agencies) have worked to identify courses of action. From the outset, these considerations took account of the opinions of the local stakeholders and the public expressed during the consultations carried out with a view to adopting the Sea Basin Strategy. These exchanges have gradually made it possible to adjust the initial proposals for action by comparing them with known projects carried out by the regions and sea and coastline stakeholders. National thematic workshops were held at the end of 2019-beginning of 2020 with the central government divisions of the various ministries concerned to share national or local courses of action.

At the same time, considerations were carried out on the environmental courses of action on a wider geographical scale, the Bay of Biscay marine sub-region. Thematic workshops involving the decentralised departments and the State's central government divisions took place between December 2019 and January 2020. This work made it possible to refine the drafting proposed at national level and to present additional local actions.

### ■ Local consultation from the early phase

At the end of this first phase, a consultation of local sea and coastal stakeholders was carried out in order to make the best use of existing and/or soon-implemented local initiatives. A survey based on 12 questions around the vision of the future of the coastline was sent at the end of 2019 to 89 organisations (region, departments, public establishments for intermunicipal cooperation, associations, universities, research institutes, professional sector operators, etc.) to identify the actions to be pursued or implemented to respond to the points of vision and the related strategic targets.

This work continued in mid-January 2020 with the organisation of four workshops in each department of New Aquitaine. With between 16 and 24 participants in three of the four workshops (members of the professional sectors, local authorities, State departments or environmental protection users/associations), these workshops provided an opportunity for local discussion of the main priorities for action by coastline stakeholders.



At the end of these participatory workshops, local proposals for action were solidified in the action plan.

### ■ The association of the Sea Basin Council

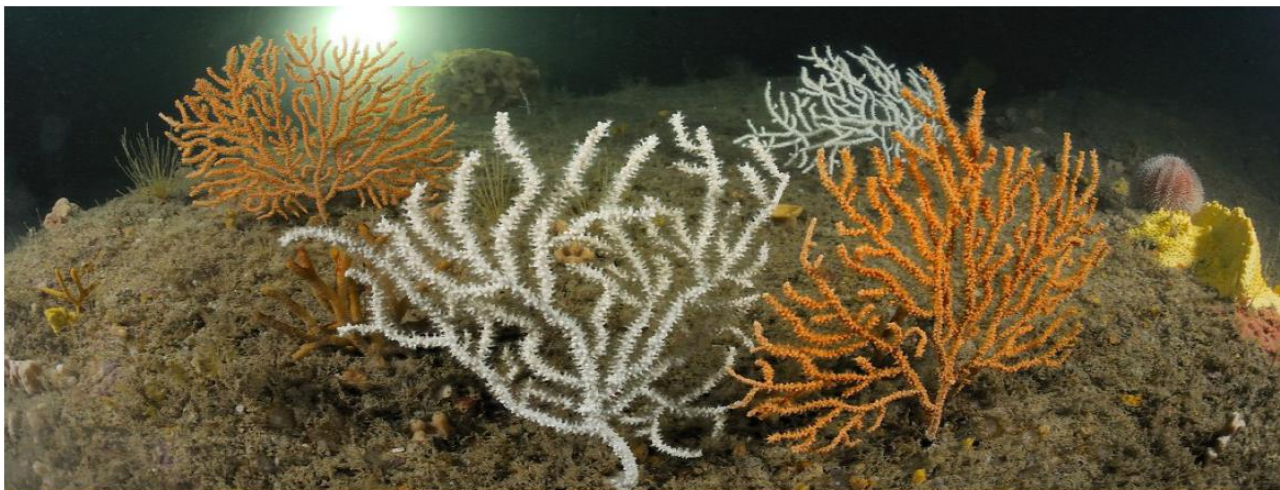
Throughout the process, these courses of action were shared with the members of the Sea Basin Council, in particular through its committees' meetings (Standing Committee, "Economy of the Sea" and "Land-sea link" Specialised Commissions). For each theme, the courses of action were examined and supplemented by actions of which the members were aware.

Bilateral meetings were held in 2020 with the various stakeholders (ports, New Aquitaine Region, GIP littoral, UNICEM, FIN, etc.) in order to refine the sub-actions (pilots, sources of funding, local projects underway to be developed, difficulties in actual implementation, etc.). This work then made it possible to prioritise the actions to be kept as part of the final decision on the action plan.

On the basis of these various projects, an action plan, comprising of 46 environmental actions and 43 economic and social actions, was presented to the members of the Sea Basin Council on 14 December 2020. ■

# PART 3

## THE ACTION PLAN



Sites profonds aux abords des têtes de roches du Plateau de Rochebonne.  
La constitution d'une protection forte sur cet espace naturel particulièrement sensible est une action portée par l'État  
© Office Français de la Biodiversité

### 3.1 Analysis of existing public policies and actions related to the sea and coastline

#### ■ Public policies and actions related to the environmental part

The Marine Environment Action Plan (PAMM) is the environmental part of the Sea Basin Strategy Document. It aims to address the various maritime issues in a more coherent manner and to strengthen coordination between the various public policies that interact with the marine environment. To this end, the environmental part of the action plan of the Sea Basin Strategy Document takes into account the environmental measures resulting from international, national, sub-regional or local public policies.

An analysis of the sufficiency of current public policies aimed at protecting the marine environment was therefore carried out. At the sea basin scale, this work was structured around a situational analysis of existing measures for each of the descriptors of the Marine Environment Action Plan. This situational analysis, carried out on each of the sea basins, was then harmonised at national level to identify their contribution in achieving good environmental status in the marine environment.

#### ■ Public policies and actions related to maritime and coastal activities

France's ambition in the joint implementation of the two framework directives ("Marine Strategy" and "Maritime Spatial Planning") lies in strengthening coordination between the various policies that interact with the marine environment, whether environmental (water, biodiversity, waste, etc.) or sectoral (ports, fishing, shipping transport, etc.).

In order to draw up a global action plan that complements existing sectoral policies, the action plan is first made up of an inventory of existing actions under other environmental public policies (Water Framework Directive, Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, etc.) or sectoral policies (fishing, shipping transport, aquaculture, etc.), carried out within an international, European, national or sub-regional framework. This referencing presents the context, the regulatory framework and the issues specific to each of these sectoral policies.

This situational analysis also includes management plans (Marine Natural Park, water management and development master plans, etc.). In view of their contribution to achieving the strategic targets (both environmental, social and economic ones) set by the strategic part of the Sea Basin Strategy Document, other actions are proposed.





La filière des pêches professionnelles maritimes a généré en 2019 un chiffre d'affaires de 78 millions d'euros pour les 5 halles à marée de la façade Sud-Atlantique.

© Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine

Annex 7 presents, in more detail, the analysis of existing public policies and actions related to the sea and coastline.

Ultimately, this integrated action plan proposes both existing measures that deserve to be pursued in order to meet the strategic targets and new measures that are national or local in scope. The presented actions mobilize not only the State services at all territorial levels and the local authorities, but also the sea and coastline stakeholders and scientists. These actions directly concern coastal and marine environments, aiming at their protection, the achievement or maintenance of their good environmental status, the sustainable use of marine resources and the integrated and concerted management of the activities which are carried out there, but also the training of sailors and the safety and security of maritime navigation.

### **3.2 Presentation of the actions in relation to the 2030 vision of the Sea Basin Strategy**

The tables on the following pages show how the actions respond to this vision.

**46 ACTIONS ENVIRONNEMENTALES**  
**43 ACTIONS SOCIO-ÉCONOMIQUES**



**TALUS CONTINENTAL DU GOLFE DE GASCOGNE**

17 ENVIRONNEMENTALES  
12 SOCIO-ÉCONOMIQUES

➔ [Liste des actions du secteur](#)

**34 ACTIONS**

**PLATEAU CONTINENTAL DU GOLFE DE GASCOGNE**

20 ENVIRONNEMENTALES  
14 SOCIO-ÉCONOMIQUES

➔ [Liste des actions du secteur](#)

**PARC NATUREL MARIN DE L'ESTUAIRE DE LA GIRONDE ET DE LA MER DES PERTUIS**

45 ENVIRONNEMENTALES  
42 SOCIO-ÉCONOMIQUES

➔ [Liste des actions du secteur](#)

**87 ACTIONS**

**29 ACTIONS**

**PLAINE ABYSSALE**

11 ENVIRONNEMENTALES  
11 SOCIO-ÉCONOMIQUES

➔ [Liste des actions du secteur](#)

**22 ACTIONS**

**PARC NATUREL MARIN DU BASSIN D'ARCACHON**

44 ENVIRONNEMENTALES  
37 SOCIO-ÉCONOMIQUES

➔ [Liste des actions du secteur](#)

**81 ACTIONS**



**CÔTE ROCHEUSE BASQUE, ESTUAIRE DE L'ADOUR ET GOUF DE CAPBRETON**

43 ENVIRONNEMENTALES  
40 SOCIO-ÉCONOMIQUES

➔ [Liste des actions du secteur](#)

**83 ACTIONS**

**CÔTE SABLEUSE AQUITAINE**


43 ENVIRONNEMENTALES  
32 SOCIO-ÉCONOMIQUES

➔ [Liste des actions du secteur](#)

**75 ACTIONS**

Nota : la carte est interactive, cliquez sur les liens pour télécharger les listes d'actions définies pour chaque secteur

©infographie DIRM SA, sources DIRM SA/CEREMA



The action plan of the sea basin strategy document has been drawn up in the light of the vision for the future up to 2030. The table below illustrates the links between this vision and the actions.

**1.**  
**REQUIREMENT: PRESERVE EXCEPTIONAL COASTAL  
AND MARINE HERITAGE**

**1.1**  
**Good water quality for all stakeholders**

---

The quality of fresh water exiting rivers in the Adour-Garonne and Loire catchment basins directly impacts the good environmental status of the Southern Atlantic coast's marine environment. Additionally, water extraction upstream in rivers affects the volumes of fresh water reaching the coast. Such activities directly affect fish nurseries and environmentally dependent activities such as oyster and mussel growing. This dependence on water quality has prompted the creation of monitoring networks and measures to help keep water bodies in good condition. High quality sea water is also essential for seaside bathing activities.

The public authorities have addressed the issue of preserving the marine environment, and an action plan for the marine environment was introduced in 2016. The scale of the financial and other resources that must be marshalled in order to implement this action plan requires constant, long-term cooperation between upstream and downstream components, as well as enhanced synergies with stakeholders in the Adour-Garonne and Loire-Bretagne basins and with Water Authorities (agences de l'eau), via their respective works programmes.



## 1.2

### **Achieving good environmental status, helps to preserve France's outstanding marine and coastal environments**

---

The Southern Atlantic sea basin is home to a remarkable coastal and marine natural and cultural heritage. Approximately 60 marine protected areas have been created, with various legal statuses (national reserves, marine natural parks, Natura 2000 sites, etc.), and this rich heritage is reflected in the high number of listed sites. This heritage is a crucial factor in Nouvelle-Aquitaine's appeal, while also directly or indirectly supporting numerous economic activities, including tourism, water sports and underwater activities, sea fishing and aquaculture. As pressure on these marine areas increases, organisations tasked with their governance have no choice but to introduce management plans and produce strategy documents identifying relevant objectives. In addition to the effect on the marine environment, sustainable management at local level is a powerful tool for reducing conflicts of use.

### 1.3

## Coastal areas resilient to coastal risks

---

Preventing coastal risks is crucial for the safety of our fellow citizens and the development of activities based along the coast. At the northern end of the South Atlantic coast, in Charente-Maritime, the coastline is highly vulnerable to the risk of storm surges, and multiple countermeasures have been implemented accordingly. Further south, severe erosion of Aquitaine's sandy coast has prompted a combined response by the French State and local authorities. The Nouvelle-Aquitaine region has taken the lead regarding coastal risk management and the resilience of coastal communities and must continue this effort in response to the growing risks associated with climate change.

## 2

# OUR PROJECT: A SUSTAINABLE MARITIME AND COASTAL ECONOMY

### 2.1

## A maritime industry adopting the ecological and energy transition

---

The Southern Atlantic coast hosts many maritime and coastal activities and benefits from the jobs that they create. These activities, and in particular the renewal of the fishing fleet, are fully integrated into the ecological and energy transition; this in turn helps to consolidate the region's socioeconomic fabric, drive employment and maintain a dynamic demographic profile.



## 2.2

### **Nouvelle-Aquitaine actively committed to achieving national energy production targets**

---

The region's potential in the area of marine renewable energy has been confirmed. This activity is expected to contribute to achieving national energy transition objectives, via projects such as the offshore wind farm near Oléron Island, the France-Spain energy transfer line, as well as wave power and estuarine tidal energy projects.

## 2.3

### **A strong maritime economy that generates local jobs**

---

The coast offers significant employment opportunities, particularly in its flagship industries - shipbuilding, shipping, raw material extraction, recreational boating and seaside tourism - and in Nouvelle-Aquitaine's iconic primary production businesses: oyster growing and fishing. Regional government agencies naturally strive to support and encourage these industries. The Nouvelle-Aquitaine regional council's ambition to "make the ocean our future" is entirely consistent with the coastline strategy to promote the blue economy; this aim is translated into practice via the various spatial planning schemes. In any case, when considering the development potential of all maritime activities, allowance must be made for the French defence procurement agency's military zone off the Southern Atlantic sea basin.

## 2.4

### **Attractive ports serving the wider regional economy**

---

The major seaports in La Rochelle and Bordeaux, the trading ports of Rochefort – Tonnay-Charente and Bayonne, and the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region's seven largest fishing ports together form the logistics backbone supporting the blue economy's growth. They provide the foundation for structural and innovative projects and are vectors for industrial densification. The vision for 2030 set out by State agencies in the region is based on stepping up efforts to generate synergies between the Atlantic ports and improving links (especially rail links) to their respective hinterlands, via an integrated approach to flow and project management.



## 2.5

### **Activities that coexist harmoniously and make sparing use of resources and space**

---

Sustainability must be the watchword for the blue economy in Nouvelle-Aquitaine. The marine environment and coast are subject to contradictory challenges and multiple pressures. Increasing risks, demographic pressure along the coastal fringe, the drive for economic development and jobs and the effects of climate change all take their toll on natural resources. The rollout of the blue economy must give proper consideration to the capacity of the host communities and must promote energy efficiency and sustainable use of resources.

### 3.

## A LEVER: DEVELOPING KNOWLEDGE AS AN INNOVATION DRIVER

#### 3.1

### Better understanding the sea

---

The well-meshed network of university and scientific institutions spanning the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region is a major asset in terms of enhancing our understanding of marine environments and new technologies. These institutions (joint research units of the CNRS and the Universities of Bordeaux and La Rochelle, Pau and the Pays de l'Adour, IFREMER, IRSTEA, INRA, etc.) run varied, interdisciplinary research programmes in a collaborative approach, addressing the major challenges facing coastal areas. Much about the sea nevertheless remains to be explored, and our understanding of marine environments and how they operate is incomplete. Understanding the operation of remarkable ecosystems, hydrodynamics and sediment dynamics, and appraising the combined impacts of pressures applied to environments appear to be crucial prerequisites for addressing the link between land and sea and assessing the consequences of human activity on marine environments.

### 3.2

#### **Forging closer relationships between the scientific community, civil society and the industrial world to enhance our shared knowledge of the sea and the coast**

---

The emergence of synergies between scientific partners and civil society (maritime professionals, non-profit organisations, sports clubs, etc.) centring on sharing and enhancing knowledge is a useful asset that should be harnessed. Closer bonds are needed between the scientific community and industry.

### 3.3

#### **Maintaining research and development capabilities and develop conditions conducive to innovation in emerging sectors**

---

Innovations in the maritime sphere will support traditional industries as they shift to environmentally-friendly activities (via ship refitting and replacement, deconstruction, recycling and the digital transformation). Regional technical centres in Nouvelle-Aquitaine are already helping the shellfish farming and fishing industries to consolidate their activities and providing them with development and adaptation tools. The Southern Atlantic coast must also defend its status as a leader in research and development for the boating and surfing industry



### 3.4

#### **Public awareness of the vulnerability and potential of the sea**

---

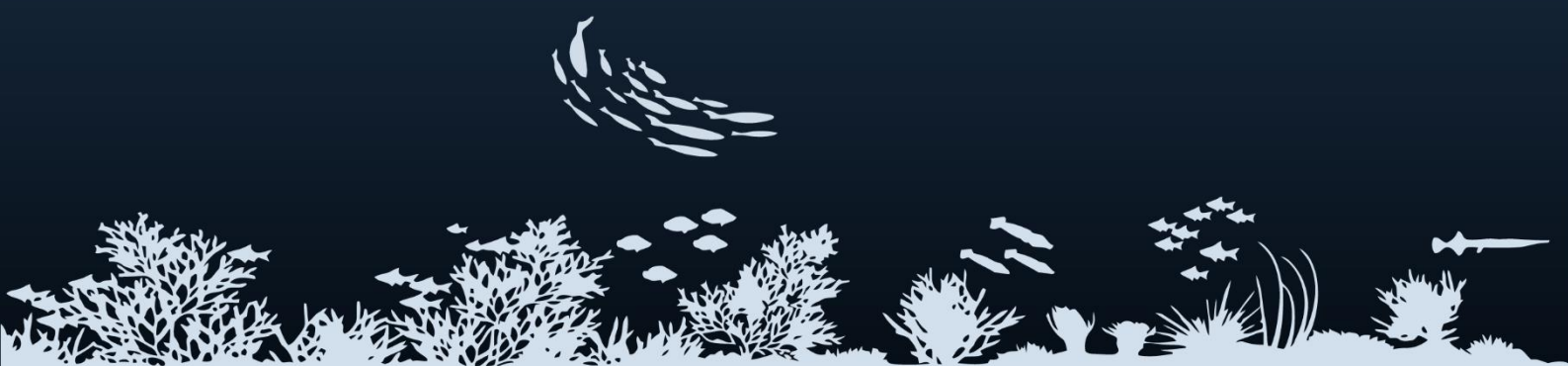
Stakeholders from across the spectrum have organised educational and cultural events to raise public awareness and inform citizens, from an early age, about issues relating to the sea and coast.

### 3.5

#### **Attractive maritime professions**

---

The establishment of new industries, particularly in the areas of biotechnology and marine renewable energy (including wind, wave and tidal power) is a major challenge for the sea basin. These new sectors are providing opportunities to introduce suitable training to support local employment. Improvements in working conditions (labour relations, modernised vessels, etc.) are also helping to enhance the appeal of maritime professions.



Graphic design and production: Coordination mission of maritime and coastal public policies/ Interregional Directorate for the South Atlantic Sea (MCPPLM/DIRM SA) ■ Cover photo: Cordouan lighthouse and plateau, Marine Nature Park of the Gironde Estuary and Pertuis Sea © Joint Association for Sustainable Development of the Gironde Estuary (SMIDDEST) ■ Data sources for the maps (produced by the South Atlantic DIRM) > p. 4 sea basin delimitations: © DIRM SA/CEREMA 2019 - coordinate system: Pseudo Mercator EPSG 3857 > p. 12 Vocation map: © DIRM SA/CEREMA 2019 - bathymetry © EMODNet - coordinate system: Pseudo Mercator EPSG 3857 > p31 actions map: © DIRM SA/CEREMA 2020 - bathymetry © EMODNet - coordinate system: Pseudo Mercator EPSG 3857 ■ Edition: April 2021 ■ All rights reserved ■ Printed on PEFC certified paper.



Follow the news #MerLittoral2030  
[www.merlittoral2030.gouv.fr](http://www.merlittoral2030.gouv.fr)



[www.dirm.sud-atlantique.developpement-durable.gouv.fr](http://www.dirm.sud-atlantique.developpement-durable.gouv.fr)



Interregional Directorate for the Sea  
South Atlantic

1-3, rue Fondaudège CS 21227  
33074 Bordeaux Cedex  
Tel: +33 (0) 5 56 00 83 00  
[dirm-sa@developpement-durable.gouv.fr](mailto:dirm-sa@developpement-durable.gouv.fr)

