

The French MSFD marine mammals monitoring programme for the NE Atlantic

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Introduction

Marine Strategy Framework Directive 1st cycle : Good Ecological State (2010) / Initial assessment (2012) / Environmental objectives (2012) / Monitoring programme (2015 → 2021) / Programme of measures (2016).

Monitoring programme : 11 themes, with one dedicated to marine mammals
→ scientific pilot = PELAGIS (J. Spitz), technical coordination = AFB (B. Guichard).



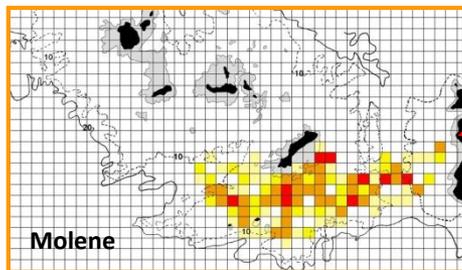
French marine mammals monitoring programme divided in 5 sub-programmes:

- SP1 = coastal cetacean populations
- SP2 = coastal seal populations
- SP3 = offshore populations
- SP4 = strandings
- SP5 = interactions with human activities

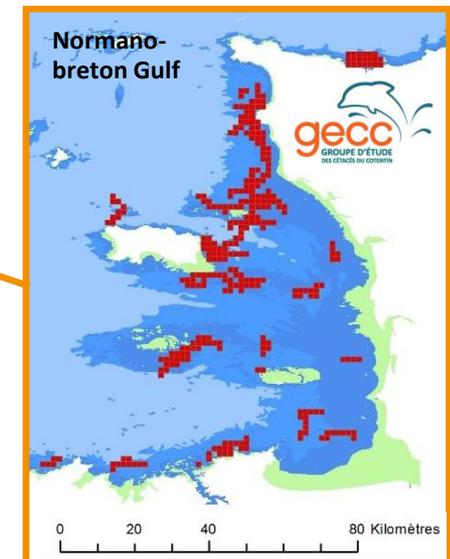
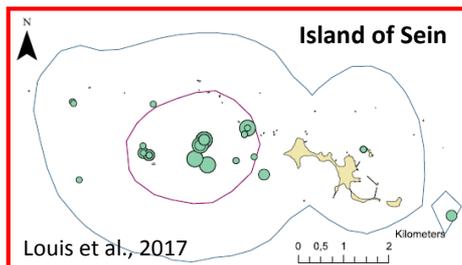
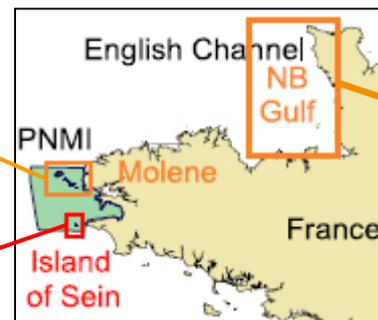
SP1: coastal cetacean populations

Aims:

- Monitor coastal groups of bottlenose dolphins with visual surveys from small boats, using photo-identification and biopsies
- Carry on feasibility studies to monitor porpoises populations with passive acoustics
- Estimate human pressures on coastal dolphins and porpoises



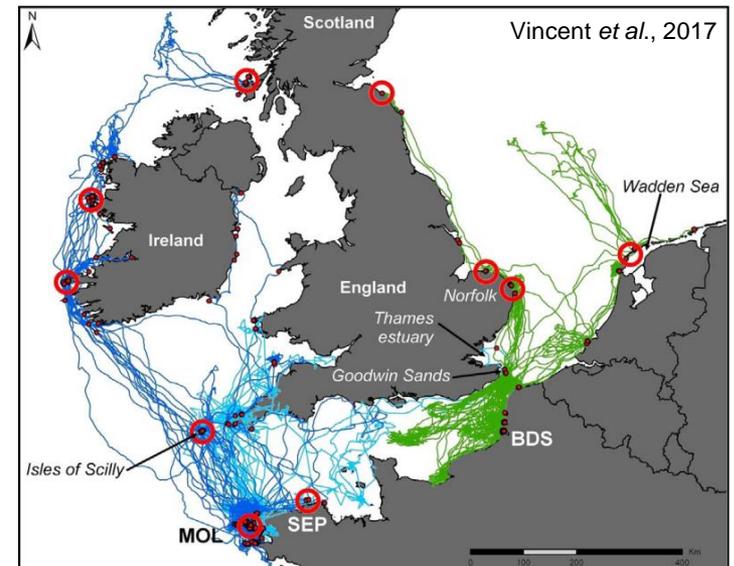
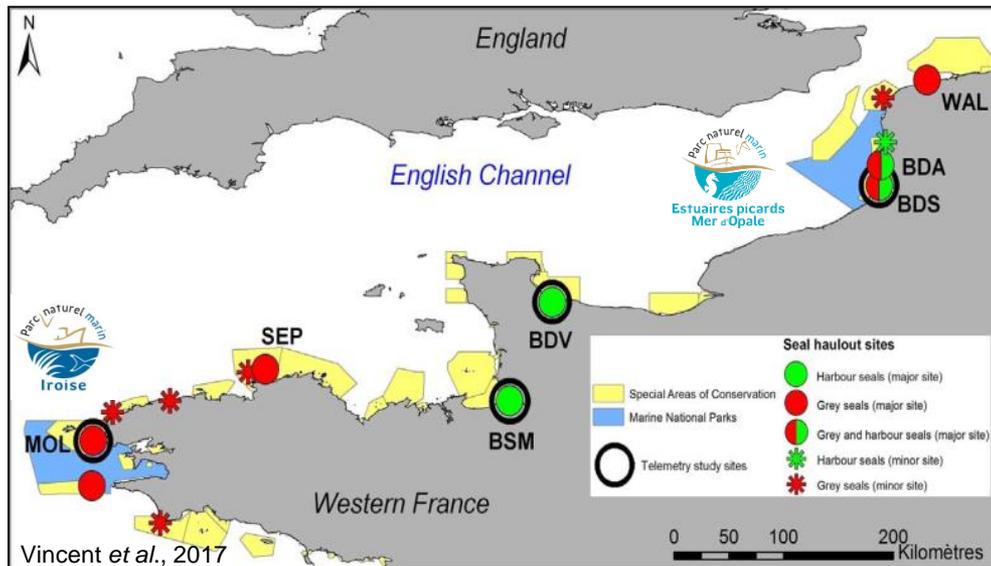
**YOU ARE
HERE!**



SP2: coastal seal populations

Aims:

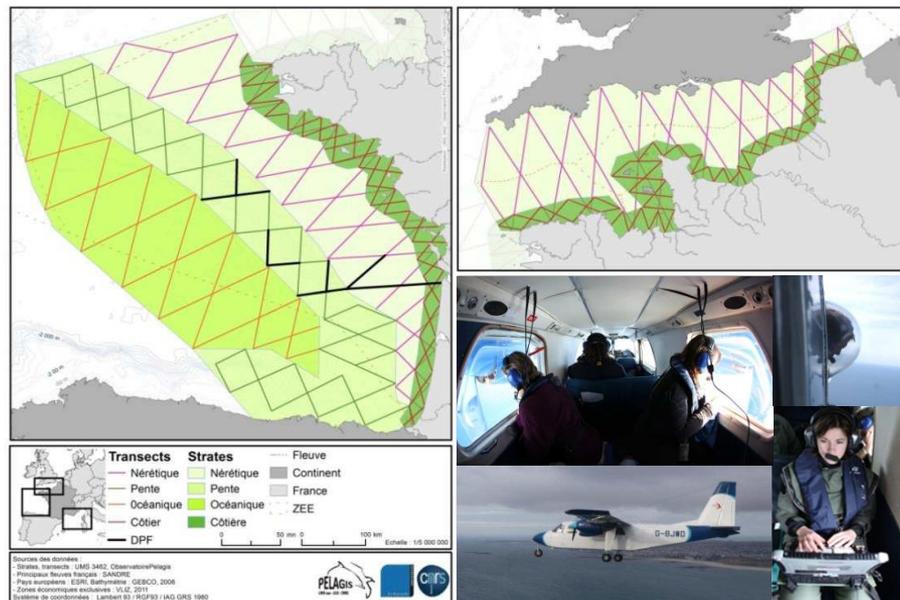
- Monitor the ecological state of grey seal and harbour seal colonies, using visual surveys, photo-identification, biopsies and telemetry
- Assess seal habitats and trophic level
- Estimate human pressures on grey and harbour seals



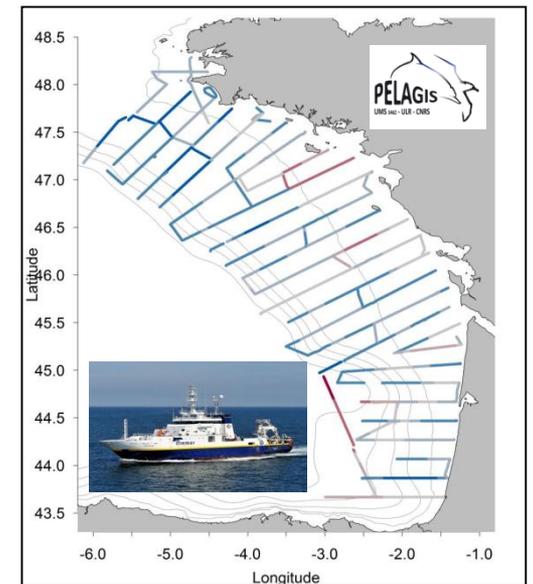
SP3: offshore populations

Aims:

- Monitor abundance and density of offshore cetaceans with aerial and boat surveys
- Assess geographical distribution and species range/pattern
- Estimate human pressures on offshore cetacean populations



SAMM aerial survey (2012)

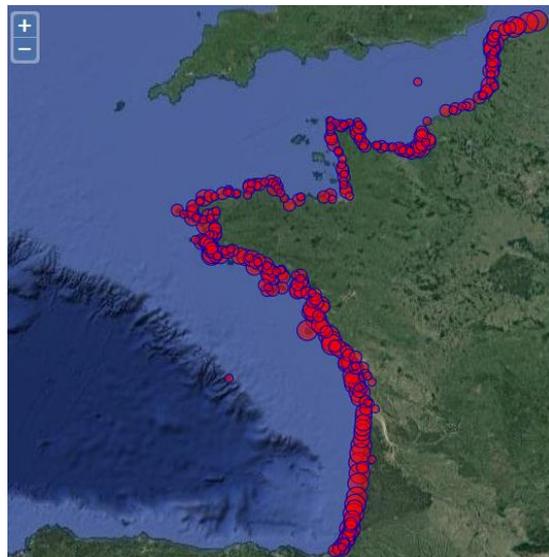


PELGAS annual boat survey

SP4: strandings

Aims:

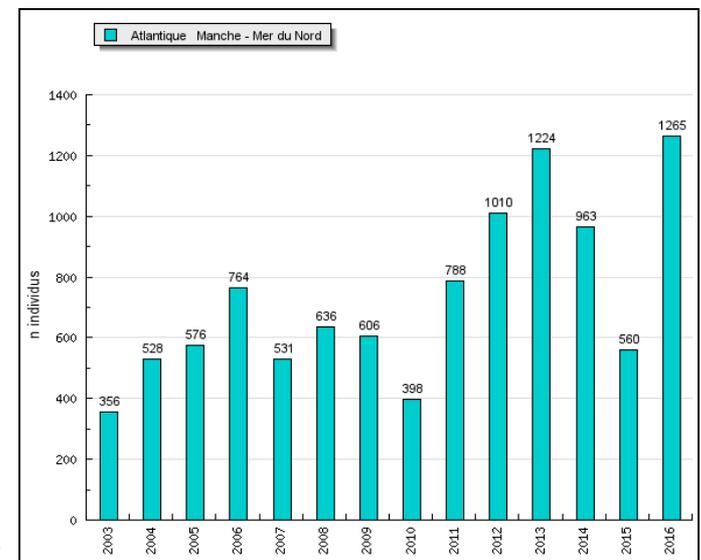
- Evaluate the ecological state and trophic levels of marine mammals
- Study the effects of human pressures: bycatch, debris ingestion, collisions, noise and contaminants
- Inform on presence, distribution and relative abundance of species



Cetacean stranding locations
in 2016 (n = 1265)



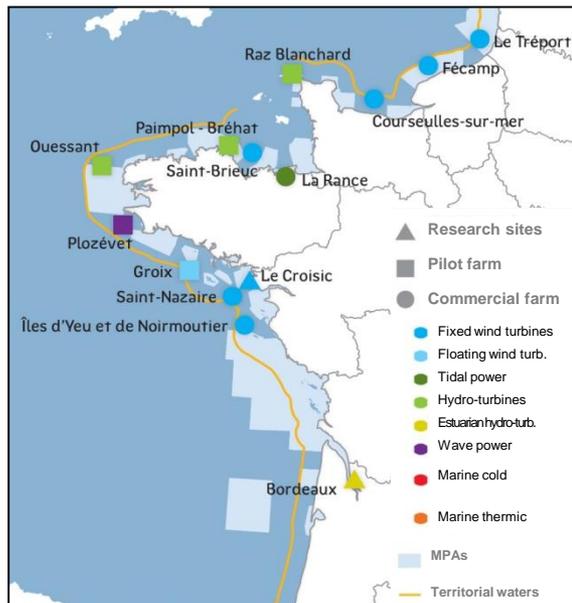
Cetaceans strandings 2003-2016



SP4: interactions with human activities

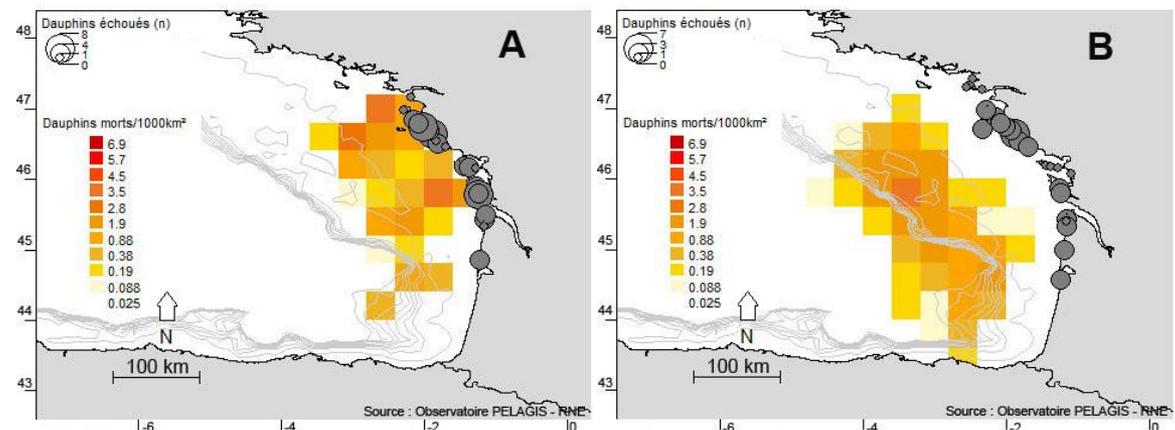
Aims:

- Monitor interactions from direct observations (e.g. bycatch observers) or analyses of the cause of death of stranded animals
- Collect data from impact studies and ecological monitoring of activities subject to authorization (extraction, marine renewable energies...)



MRE projects in French Atlantic waters

Bycatch areas calculated from reverse drift analysis of fresh (A) and putrified (B) common dolphins stranded in February 2017



Conclusion

To assess the marine mammal status in 2018, France will use OSPAR common indicators on cetaceans abundance, and develop additional national indicators to document the abundance and distribution of cetaceans, the recurrence of extreme mortality events for harbor porpoises, common and striped dolphins as well as mortality rates from collision and bycatch.



Based on 2018 status assessment, a new monitoring programme will be set up for 2022-2028.

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Thank you for your attention !

