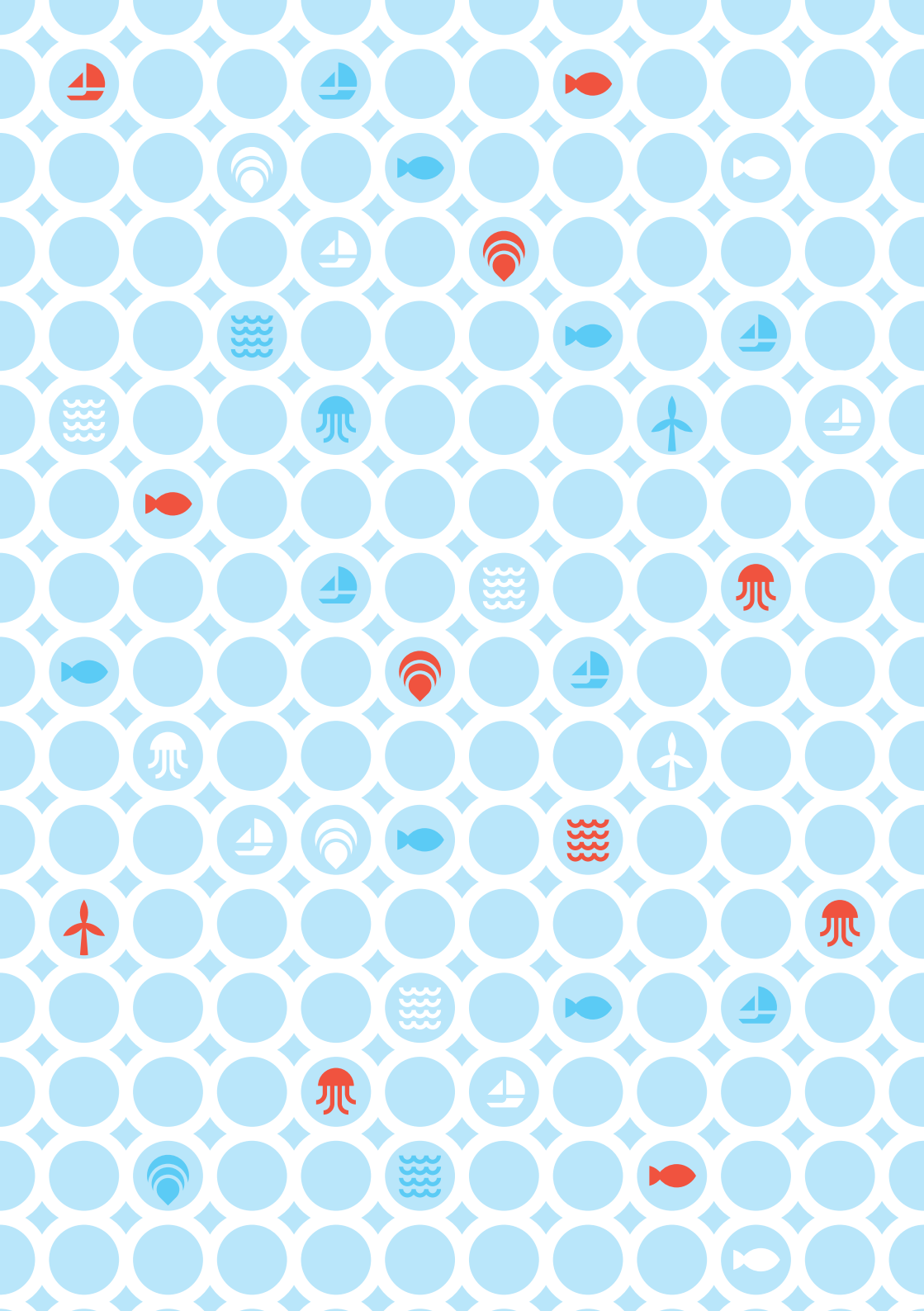


M U L T I  
F R A M E

# MULTI-USE BLUEPRINT

Offshore Wind and Fishing  
in Loire-Atlantique, France



## Location



The “Banc de Guérande” offshore wind park is located on the French Atlantic Coast, 15 km West of Saint-Nazaire city (Loire-Atlantique, France). Developed under the first offshore wind call to tender, it was put into service in late 2022 and became the first operational wind park at sea in France. It is composed of 80 Haliade-150 monopile wind turbines distributed within an area covering 78 km<sup>2</sup>. The park is expected to produce a maximum of 480 MW, which represents about 20% of the total electric consumption of Loire-Atlantique. The Banc de Guérande is situated off the Loire estuary, a coastal zone home to numerous and diversified activities. It is frequented by local smallscale fishers although most of their catches are from further offshore. It is also located on commercial shipping routes from and to Saint-Nazaire, one of the major ports of France. Finally, as the park is not very far from the seashore, it may interact with coastal activities such as shellfish farming, tourism or sailing. The Banc de Guérande project therefore poses challenges regarding the co-existence of offshore wind production and other sea uses.

## Description

The development of the Banc de Guérande wind farm generated, like other similar projects, tensions with established sea users, especially with fishers. In fact, navigation and fishing activities will be limited within the park due to safety issues. However, wind developers, fishers and other stakeholders succeeded in reaching agreements to ensure their co-existence. The park was designed based on a distance of 1 km between each turbine so navigation will still be possible. Its construction and connection to the electrical grid were staggered to reduce socio-economic impacts in space and time. Fishers using passive gears will be allowed within the park and those using active gears will receive financial compensations. These agreements cannot really be considered as multi-use since they don't generate synergies between activities. Nevertheless, they correspond to the minimal definition of multi-use: the joint use of resources in close geographic proximity by multiple users. In this respect, the Banc de Guérande project is considered a success story in France since many offshore wind projects are delayed or even stopped due to conflicts with sea users and coastal communities.

## Enabling conditions and tools

### Favorable historical and geographical context

The Banc Guérande offshore wind park is often considered a specific case, the success of which resulted from favorable historical and geographical contextual factors. First, the existence of previous marine renewable energy projects involving the same developer (EDF-R) facilitated its development. Second, as the project progressed faster than elsewhere, fishers obtained generous mitigation and compensation measures compared to other projects. Third, not only is the park located in a minor fishing zone, but fishers using passive gears will be allowed to keep fishing within the park. Fourth, local fishers are less resistant to the wind industry since there are (still) fewer projects in the Atlantic than the English Channel, where fishers are heavily impacted by Brexit. Fifth, the construction, operation and maintenance of the offshore wind park partly benefits Saint-Nazaire city and its shipbuilding industry.

### Discussions between stakeholders within planning arenas

The constructive dialogue between the energy developer, fishers' representatives and other sea users was also critical to the success of the Banc de Guérande project. For more than a decade, they actively discussed within Maritime Spatial Planning and ad hoc arenas about the location, design, construction, and operation of the wind farm. This is how they agreed upon navigation and safety rules, as well as measures aiming at avoiding, limiting and compensating the impacts of wind energy production on fishing activities and other sea uses.

### Impacts and positive changes

Beyond local specifics, the Banc de Guérande project proves that offshore wind energy can co-exist, or at least reach a middle ground, with other activities at sea, especially with commercial fishing. Through this project, fishers gained experience and became partners for future marine renewable energy projects in the Atlantic and other maritime spaces.

### Links

- **Benoît Figarède – EDF-R:**  
*benoit.figarede@edf-re.fr*
- **Project presentation**  
*<https://parc-eolien-en-mer-de-saint-nazaire.fr/le-parc-eolien-en-mer/presentation-projet>*



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## Imprint

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