



# Yeu-Noirmoutier offshore wind farm

EMYN announces the commissioning  
of its Yeu-Noirmoutier offshore wind farm

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# EMYN announces the installation of its final wind turbine and the commissioning of the wind farm

A key local player in renewable marine energy and the energy transition in Vendée, EMYN (Éoliennes en Mer Îles d'Yeu et de Noirmoutier) was awarded, in 2014, the French State's tender for the development, construction and operation of an offshore wind farm located between the islands of Yeu and Noirmoutier. After more than two years of offshore construction work, the project, which has been under construction since July 2023, reached a major milestone with the installation of its 61st and final wind turbine on 27 April 2026, marking the completion of offshore construction activities. Earlier in April, Jan De Nul's installation vessel Vole-au-vent completed its final round trip to the Port of Saint-Nazaire, where the wind turbine components were stored (towers, nacelles and blades).

With a total capacity of 500 MW, the wind farm will generate enough renewable electricity to supply nearly 800,000 people, equivalent to the population of Vendée. Now completed, the project has contributed to local economic vitality by mobilising a wide range of regional stakeholders throughout the construction phase.

## Around one hundred regional companies mobilised

From design through to operation, an offshore wind farm relies on a wide range of expertise and skills. Now completed, the Yeu and Noirmoutier offshore wind farm has involved more than 200 companies from the Pays de la Loire region.

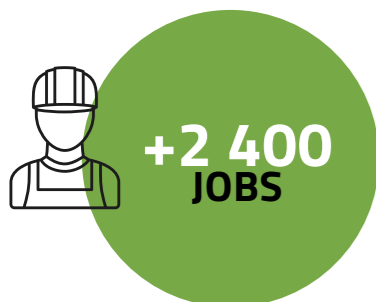
*"Several contracts have been awarded to local companies across a variety of sectors, including offshore geophysical and geotechnical surveys, scientific expertise, environmental studies, fisheries and avifauna monitoring campaigns, logistics and handling services, maritime transport, as well as communications services. We work closely with local economic stakeholders to keep businesses informed about upcoming tenders and to support their skills development, enabling them to become part of the wind farm's supply chain,"* explains Yannick RAYMOND, EMYN's Director of Territorial Affairs and Environment.



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## 80 direct jobs for the operation and maintenance of the wind farm

*"Once operational, the wind farm will generate 80 long-term direct jobs, including 66 positions based on the Île d'Yeu for operation and maintenance activities,"* adds Yannick RAYMOND, EMYN's Director of Territorial Affairs and Environment.



- + 2 400 direct and indirect jobs generated during the wind farm construction phase.
- 80 long-term direct jobs, including 66 positions based on the Île d'Yeu.
- + 30 tendering procedures launched, supporting strong local anchoring.
- + 250 000 hours of work integration completed.
- Nearly 200 companies from the Pays de la Loire region already involved.

## Renovation of the former fish auction hall in Port-Joinville

Commenced in March 2024, the renovation works on the Centre de Marée have now been completed, giving way to the offshore wind farm's operations and maintenance base.

This new facility, located on the site of the former fish auction hall in Port-Joinville, will host the teams responsible for ensuring the smooth operation of the offshore wind farm and maximising its electricity production.



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## A crowdfunding campaign involving 902 contributors

A crowdfunding initiative was launched by EMYN in spring 2019, in response to requests from local stakeholders during the public debate.

One million euros was raised from more than 900 eco-participants, enabling the funding of an underwater archaeological survey, carried out in collaboration with DRASSM (the French Department for Underwater and Submarine Archaeological Research) of the Ministry of Culture, within the project area.

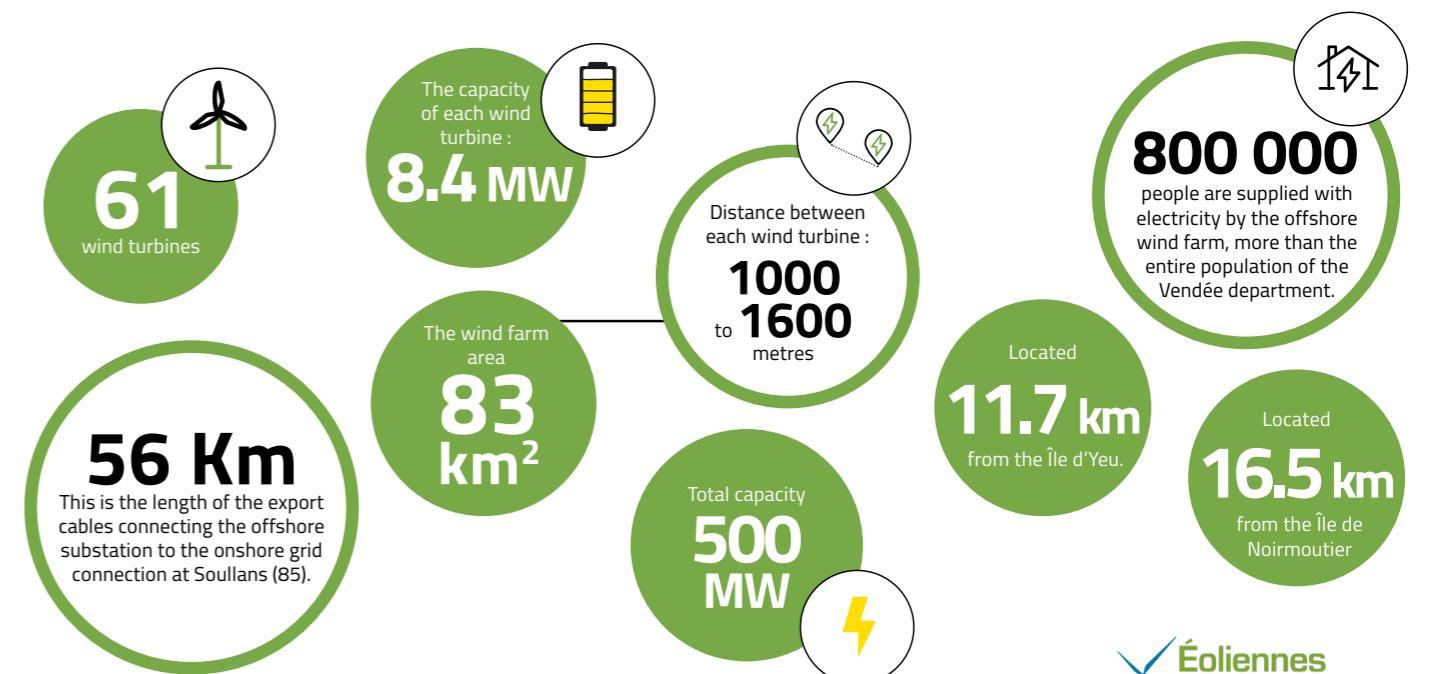
A number of maritime cultural assets were discovered, including an ancient anchor dating from the late 16th to early 17th century, which was recovered in July 2022.

## Ongoing dialogue with local stakeholders

Since the beginning of the project, the development of the wind farm has been accompanied by ongoing dialogue with the various stakeholders involved. Government authorities, elected representatives from local communities, maritime users (including fishing professionals, port stakeholders, and recreational boating representatives), socio-economic actors, and environmental associations have all been regular interlocutors throughout the project.

During the development phase, a public debate and a public inquiry provided opportunities to consult citizens and local residents. Throughout the construction phase, engagement with the local community continued, notably through events organised to meet residents, explain the project, and provide updates on the progress of the wind farm installation.

Public meetings, participation in sporting and cultural events, local partnerships, Public Information Days, and attendance at local markets all served as valuable opportunities for project teams to engage with residents and answer their questions.



# The construction of the wind farm contributes to the economic vitality of the local regions

After 10 years in development, the EMYN wind farm has reached a major milestone with the completion of its installation. Since the start of the construction phase, the wind turbines have been progressively installed, culminating in the full completion of the wind farm. These works have made a significant contribution to the economic vitality of the region, engaging numerous local stakeholders throughout the construction period. Take a closer look at the key milestones in the construction process.

## 1. July to December 2023, completion of the preparatory works.

These initial offshore works prepared the site for the arrival of the construction vessels required for the different phases of the project. Using geophysical surveys, the technical teams verified that the seabed was sufficiently even to accommodate the foundations of the wind turbines and the offshore substation. Seabed levelling and rock-trimming operations were then carried out to even out rocky outcrops, ensuring a stable base for the drilling and installation vessels.

## 2. December 2023, installation of the offshore substation foundation piles.

The 4 piles designed to support the jacket foundation of the offshore substation were installed.

## 3. February 2024, installation of the construction base in Saint-Nazaire.

This temporary facility, located in the Port of Saint-Nazaire and supplied by Cougnaud, was delivered on 28 February to serve as the operational hub for the teams involved in the construction of the offshore wind farm. Maritime coordinators, maintenance technicians, HSE (Health, Safety and Environment) teams, and managers used the base to launch the construction phase and now monitor offshore operations from there around the clock, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## 4. March 2024 to June 2025, construction of the maintenance base in Port-Joinville.

In summer 2025, the base welcomed the teams responsible for ensuring the offshore wind farm operates efficiently and maximising its electricity production. The works, which began in March 2024 and were completed in April 2025, included :

- the renovation of part of the Tide Centre building, from March 2024 to April 2025,
- the construction of a dedicated pontoon and quay within the harbour, from March 2024 to November 2024.

## 5. June 2024 to May 2025, installation of the wind turbines' monopile foundations.

A total of 61 foundations were installed offshore to support the wind turbines, which began to be installed from May 2025 onwards. The monopiles were transported and installed by DEME. Each monopile has a diameter of 7 metres, while their lengths range from 45 to 68 metres to accommodate the varying water depths across the wind farm site. The foundations were installed using a self-elevating drilling vessel in three stages: drilling, installation of the monopile, and placement of the transition piece. Around thirty round trips to the Port of La Rochelle were required to install all 61 foundations.

## 6. June 2024, installation of the offshore electrical substation.

Inaugurated at the Port of Saint-Nazaire on 2 May, the offshore electrical substation was installed by DEME on 12 June, mobilising more than 300 people to ensure a safe and efficient installation. Its main function is to collect the electricity generated by the 61 wind turbines in the wind farm, step up the voltage, and transfer it to the onshore grid connection point, where it is then injected into the terrestrial electricity network. It also gathers all operational data from the wind farm and transmits it back to shore, enabling the remote monitoring and control of the installation and ensuring its optimal performance. The substation weighs approximately 2,500 tonnes and measures 39 metres in length, 25.5 metres in width, and 18 metres in height. Its construction required a total of around 600,000 work hours. It was designed and built by Atlantique Offshore Energy, the dedicated Marine Energy division of Chantiers de l'Atlantique. In preparation for the full commissioning of the EMYN wind farm in April 2026, a maintenance period has been scheduled for the substation, including technical inspections, functional tests, repairs and adjustments, and safety checks.



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## 7. September 2024 to June 2025, installation of inter-array cables.

Installation of the inter-array cables began on 1 September 2024, during an initial three-month campaign, followed by a second campaign from 1 March to 22 June 2025. A total of 90 km of inter-array cables were laid on the seabed by Louis Dreyfus Travocean. Manufactured by Prysmian at its Montereau-Fault-Yonne (Seine-et-Marne, France) facility, these cables ensure the transfer of electricity between the wind turbines and the offshore substation. Of the 61 inter-array cable links, 8 connect a turbine foundation directly to the offshore substation, while the remaining 53 link two turbine foundations together. The cables are protected by cast-iron half-shells manufactured by AFC

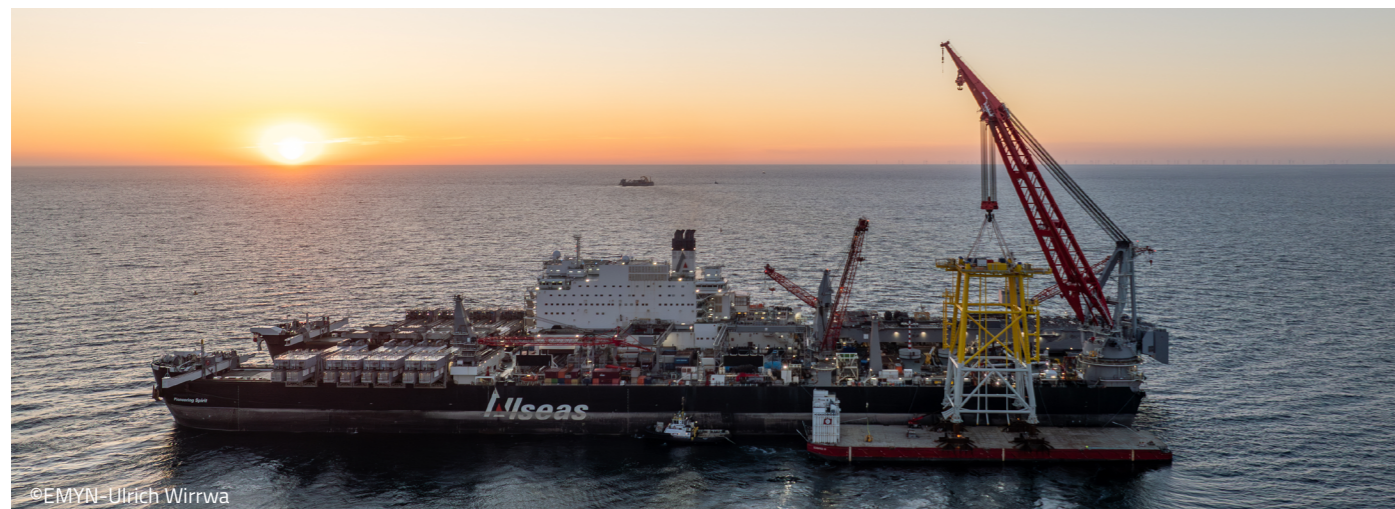
Redon (Ille-et-Vilaine, France). Rock bags sourced from quarries in the Vendée region and valorised by CMGO were subsequently placed to stabilise the system. All components were stored and loaded at the Port of Saint-Nazaire. Cable pull-in into the foundations was followed by electrical connection works. The cables were then tested to ensure their integrity prior to commissioning.

## 8. April 2026, installation of 61 wind turbines completed.

After the pre-assembly of the towers at the Port of Saint-Nazaire, the first wind turbine was installed on 9 May 2025 by the vessel Vole au Vent, operated by Jan De Nul. Equipped with a high-capacity lifting crane, the installation vessel carried out the operation in three stages: tower installation, nacelle installation, and installation of the three blades. The last wind turbine was installed on 27 April 2026, marking the completion of the wind farm installation. The SG 8 MW turbine reaches a tip height of 202 metres, has a total weight of approximately 1,500 tonnes, and can generate electricity in wind speeds ranging from 10 to 100 km/h.

The installation of the final turbine represents a major milestone for the region, for France's energy transition, and for achieving national offshore wind development targets.

Following a period of testing and commissioning of all components, the wind farm will be fully operational, supplying green electricity to 800,000 people, equivalent to the population of the Vendée region.



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# Continuous dialogue with fisheries representatives

Professional fishing is a traditional and emblematic activity in the Pays de la Loire region. Since the earliest stages of the project, professional fishermen have been involved in the process. During the definition of the tender area, marine users, including the professional fishing sector, were able to express their views and provide feedback on the proposed zone, with the aim of ensuring the best possible coexistence between the various maritime activities.



From the outset, EMYN has engaged with marine users to facilitate future coexistence. Discussions with professional fishermen led EMYN to adapt certain characteristics of the project. In particular, the layout of the cables and wind turbines was revised to better accommodate fishing activities within the wind farm area.

Fishing activities were mainly affected during the construction phase. In consultation with fishermen, EMYN committed to keeping at least 30% of the wind farm area open in order to maintain fishing activities. In addition, EMYN has committed to fully compensating any proven impacts.

Beyond commercial fishing, recreational fishing, whose representative associations were also consulted, takes place close to the coastline and, in some cases, beyond six nautical miles with an offshore fishing licence. Several recreational fishing areas are located near the wind farm, including along the coastline between La Barre-de-Monts and L'Herbaudière, as well as around the Plateau des Bœufs.



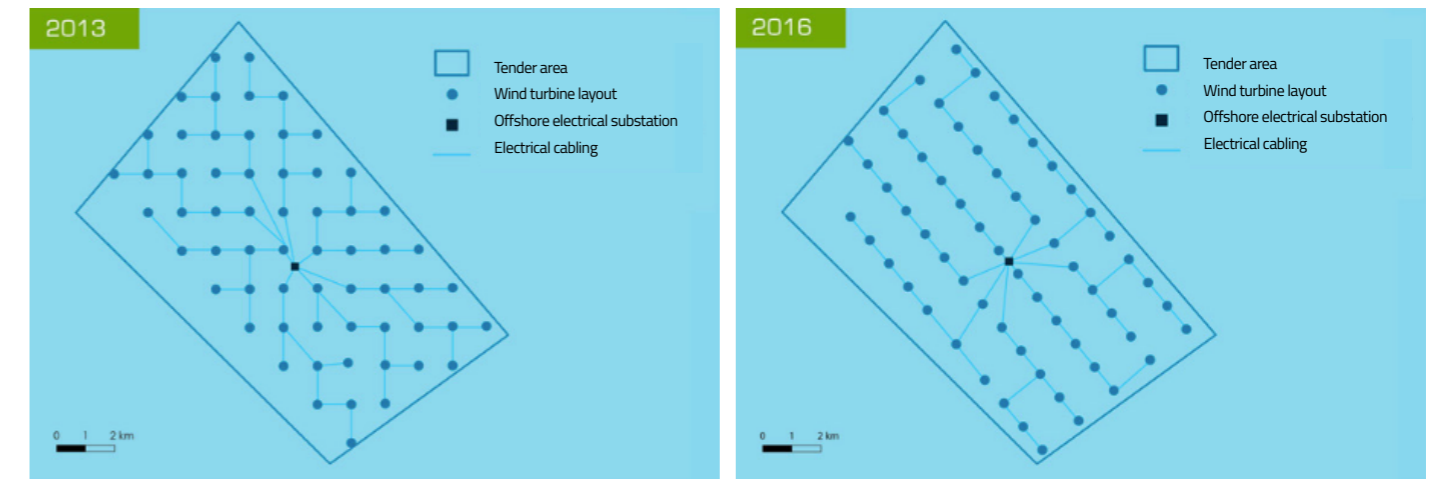
# Balancing wind energy development and the marine environment

Like all urban development projects, the installation of the EMYN wind farm was "subject to an environmental impact" assessment, which made it possible to define the biodiversity protection measures required to minimise the project's environmental footprint. Since the project was awarded in 2014, EMYN has carried out studies and worked with independent consultancy firms to analyse and anticipate the wind farm's impact on the environment, marine and terrestrial biodiversity, water quality, and soil conditions. Governed by the Environmental Code, the Avoid, Reduce, Compensate and Monitor approach has been used to assess the overall effects of the EMYN wind farm in order to anticipate potential disturbances and implement the necessary mitigation measures where required.

## Concrete actions to reduce and offset impacts on biodiversity

The studies carried out during the environmental impact assessment phase made it possible to analyse and anticipate the wind farm's effects on the marine environment. This work demonstrated that, given the distance from the coastline (11.7 km at its closest point), the offshore wind farm will have no impact on sediment dynamics and will not cause any coastal erosion. EMYN relies on the latest technological innovations to prevent the release of metals into the

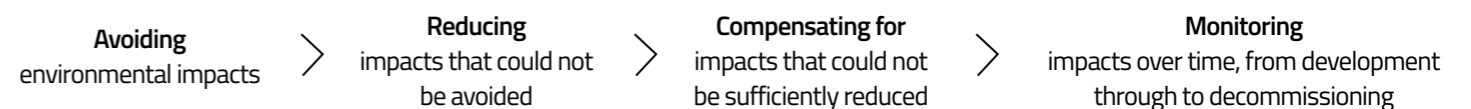
sea, through a cathodic protection system using impressed current corrosion protection. These measures help to avoid, reduce, and offset potential impacts on marine fauna, while protecting and preserving biodiversity. EMYN has also adapted the wind farm layout to ensure sufficient spacing between turbine rows and to align the project with prevailing currents and the main bird migration routes.



More powerful wind turbines were also selected as early as the bid submission to the French State, in order to reduce their overall number. In the same effort to minimise environmental impacts, aerial and acoustic monitoring programmes have been deployed to track population trends and assess any potential disturbances.

## Protecting marine and terrestrial biodiversity

EMYN is committed to protecting biodiversity by reducing the wind farm's environmental impact. Birds, marine mammals, and fish have been studied by biodiversity specialists throughout the entire lifecycle of the project, enabling the implementation of a range of measures at each stage. These measures are designed to avoid, reduce, offset, and monitor impacts on species and their habitats.



# Reducing and offsetting impacts on biodiversity

The environmental measures implemented by EMYN help reduce and offset potential impacts on marine fauna, while protecting and preserving biodiversity. EMYN has also adapted the wind farm layout to ensure sufficient spacing between turbine rows and to align the project with prevailing currents and the main bird flight paths. More powerful wind turbines were selected in order to reduce their overall number. In the same effort to minimise environmental impacts, aerial, acoustic, and vessel-based monitoring programmes have been deployed to identify and count birds and marine mammals, providing valuable data on population trends. The extensive environmental datasets collected, both already available and continuously being gathered, form an unprecedented scientific knowledge base at sea, which the wind farm shares with the State and the scientific community.



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## Two key protection measures were implemented during the construction of the wind farm

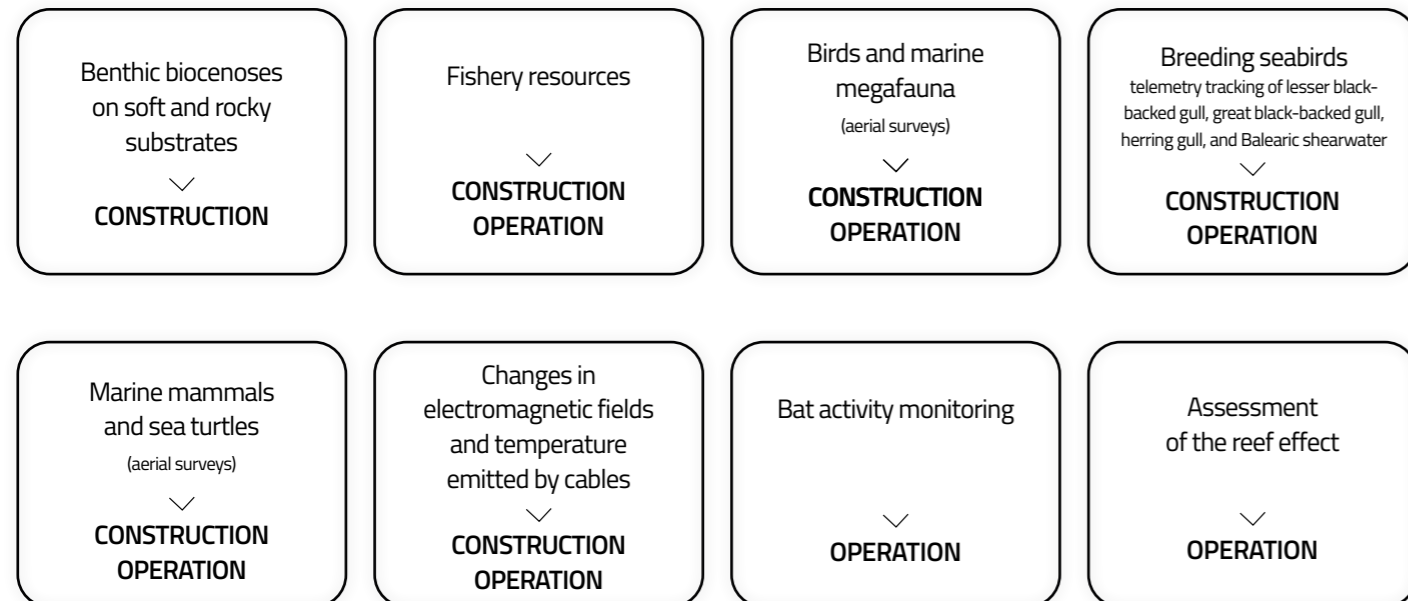
### 1. Monitoring measure

Controlling the increase in suspended particles in the water. In addition to these spot checks, continuous turbidity monitoring is carried out throughout the seabed preparation and drilling operations. Three measuring buoys transmit turbidity data from the wind farm area in real time via satellite.

### 2. Mitigation measure

Limiting the exposure of marine mammals to drilling noise. Acoustic monitoring using the SmartPAM QuietOcean® system, operated by teams onboard the support vessel, enables the detection of harbour porpoises within a 300-metre radius and dolphins within a 1,000 metre radius. Visual monitoring using thermal binoculars allows marine mammals to be detected up to 3,000 metres away in clear weather conditions.

## Environmental monitoring programmes



## An active contribution to meaningful and measurable environmental research

The EMYN Scientific Interest Group (GIS – Groupement d'Intérêt Scientifique) was created in 2021 to improve knowledge of the interactions between wind turbines and their environment, and to share this knowledge with the general public and the scientific community.

This collaborative research network brings together the various stakeholders involved in offshore wind energy and its environment. It is composed of a Steering Committee and a Scientific Council, including researchers, scientists, association representatives, and institutional stakeholders.

The network works on a project basis to advance several topics, including the protection of marine areas, the enhancement of seabed knowledge, the monitoring of regulatory milestones, and the implementation of follow-up protocols. By establishing a baseline assessment of the marine environment prior to the wind farm's installation, experts study the ecosystem, seabed conditions, water quality, and the overall environment in order to support and monitor the project's impacts. Thanks to independent and neutral scientific expertise, knowledge of the marine environment is strengthened, enabling the monitoring, and therefore the reduction, of potential impacts from the wind farm.

## 9 environmental projects supported by the GIS

Since its creation, the GIS has launched 2 calls for projects aimed at expanding knowledge of the marine environment and supporting innovation in offshore wind farm monitoring. 4 projects were funded at 50 K€ each during the first call in 2023, followed by 5 additional projects in June of the following year, supported with funding of up to 100 K€ on a tiered basis.

*"The objective of the EMYN GIS is to expand knowledge of the marine environment and share it within the scientific community and with the general public,"* explains Christelle Céleste, EMYN External Relations Director. *"For example, the supported projects are seed projects, typically lasting 2 to 3 years. The goal is to explore a topic and then develop a methodology that can be applied in the field. This funding helps validate projects, enabling their leaders to subsequently secure more substantial financing, which clearly reflects the GIS's ambition to go beyond the sole interest of the wind farm."*



# Speeches at the inauguration of the Yeu and Noirmoutier offshore wind farm

*"The Yeu–Noirmoutier wind farm demonstrates that offshore wind power is now an industrial reality: a renewable energy source, produced on a large scale, which concretely contributes to France's energy future. Seeing this ambition become reality today is a great source of pride for Ocean Winds and for all our partners."* **Craig Windram, CEO of Ocean Winds**

*"The inauguration of Yeu–Noirmoutier represents a major milestone in France's energy transition. With an investment of 2.5 billion euros and the mobilization of local and European industrial networks, this offshore wind farm demonstrates that renewable energies are a true economic driver for territories, creating value and essential for the country's energy sovereignty. This wind farm, of which ENGIE is particularly proud, illustrates the Group's ability to deliver large-scale projects that ensure abundant, local, and decarbonized production—essential to support the ongoing electrification momentum !"* **Catherine MacGregor, CEO of ENGIE**

*"The inauguration of the offshore wind farm off the coast of Noirmoutier marks an important step in our country's energy transition. As a long-term investor, the Banque des Territoires is proud to support this exemplary project, which combines renewable energy production, territorial development, and energy sovereignty. With more than 2 billion euros invested in renewable energy and a portfolio of 10 GW installed capacity, we continue our commitment to supporting sustainable and low-carbon growth."* **Antoine Saintoyant, Director of the Banque des Territoires**

*"The inauguration of the Yeu and Noirmoutier offshore wind farm marks an important milestone for marine renewable energy in France. RTE delivered the grid connection on time and within budget, as it has done for all projects under the first Multiannual Energy Programme (PPE1). This achievement is the result of a long-standing partnership with EMYN and close collaboration with elected representatives and local stakeholders, who have been fully engaged alongside us since the project's inception. We successfully addressed major technical and environmental challenges while creating value for the local area, notably through significant economic benefits for the region. More than 60 companies from the Vendée region, representing a wide range of trades and expertise, contributed to the construction of the grid connection over the three years of works. In addition, 12,000 hours of social inclusion employment were carried out by people facing barriers to employment, thanks to our partnership with the Vendée Department. The experience gained here, built on constructive dialogue with local elected representatives, regional stakeholders, public authorities and industry partners, is preparing us to meet the challenges of the energy transition along France's Atlantic coast."* **Khalid Abdallaoui, Director of Maritime Projects and Interconnections at RTE.**

*"I have often spoken about what this wind farm represents in Vendée's history, and I have often said that agreeing to this project in 2011 was a courageous political decision. At the time, the need for the energy transition was not the broad consensus it has become today. Yet I had responsibilities towards this territory, which had been deeply affected by the tragedies of the Erika oil spill and Storm Xynthia. We therefore supported this project, but on our own terms: we did not want simply to have a wind farm imposed on local residents without any benefits in return. We did everything we could to ensure that this project became part of our territory and reflected our values. For us, integration meant economic integration: this wind farm had to be visible in our local businesses, in their order books and in the jobs it created. At times, this proved challenging. But I believe that all of us, local elected representatives, industrial partners and project developers alike, shared a common interest in ensuring that the energy transition took concrete shape within our communities and businesses, and became part of the daily lives of the people of Vendée. After all these years, we can take pride in how far we have come and in the work that has been accomplished. Today, we see abundant, renewable and low-carbon energy being produced in Vendée, for Vendée and, ultimately, in no small part by Vendée itself!"* **Alain Leboeuf, President of the Vendée Departmental Council and Vendée Énergie.**

## FOCUS ON EMYN

### Yeu-Noirmoutier offshore wind farm

Eoliennes en Mer des Îles d'Yeu et de Noirmoutier (EMYN) won the 2014 government tender for the development of an offshore wind farm off the coast of the islands of Yeu and Noirmoutier. In October 2018, EMYN obtained the necessary administrative permits for the construction and operation of the wind farm.

EMYN is a wind farm owned by Ocean Winds, the offshore wind joint venture created by ENGIE and EDPR, Sumitomo Corporation, Allianz GI, La Banque des Territoires, and Vendée Énergie.



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