

Implementing the EU Biodiversity Strategy – France's
approach to the challenges of protecting the marine
environment

*3rd Natura 2000 marine biogeographical seminar for the Mediterranean and Black
Sea regions – 12 March 2024, Marseille*

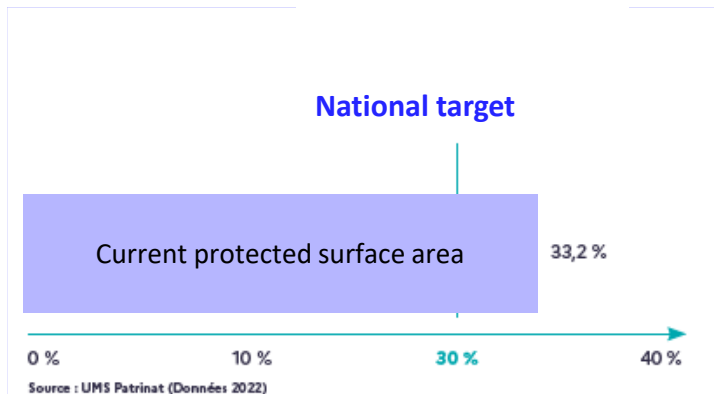
Protected areas targets in national strategies



- **Protect 30%** of national territory
- **Highly protect 10%** of national territory
- Increase **financial means** and **quality of MPA management**

Where are we today ?

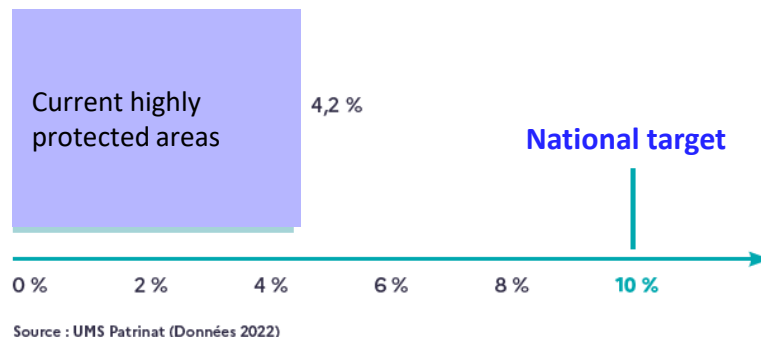
Protected areas



- 33,4% of MPAs

*Mainland France : 366
MPAs covering 44,8% of
marine waters*

Highly protected areas



- 4,1% of marine HPA

*Mainland France : 0,1% of
marine waters are highly
protected*

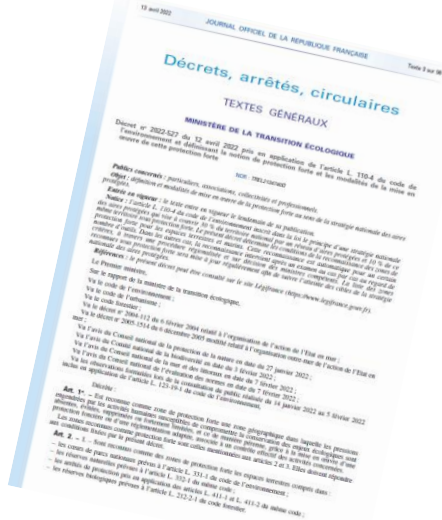
Strict and high protection

Strict protection : natural processes “left essentially undisturbed”

Highly protected areas are “geographical areas in which the pressures generated by human activities that might compromise the conservation of the ecological features are eliminated or significantly reduced, in the long term, through the implementation of protection through property or an adapted regulation, associated with an **effective control** of these activities”

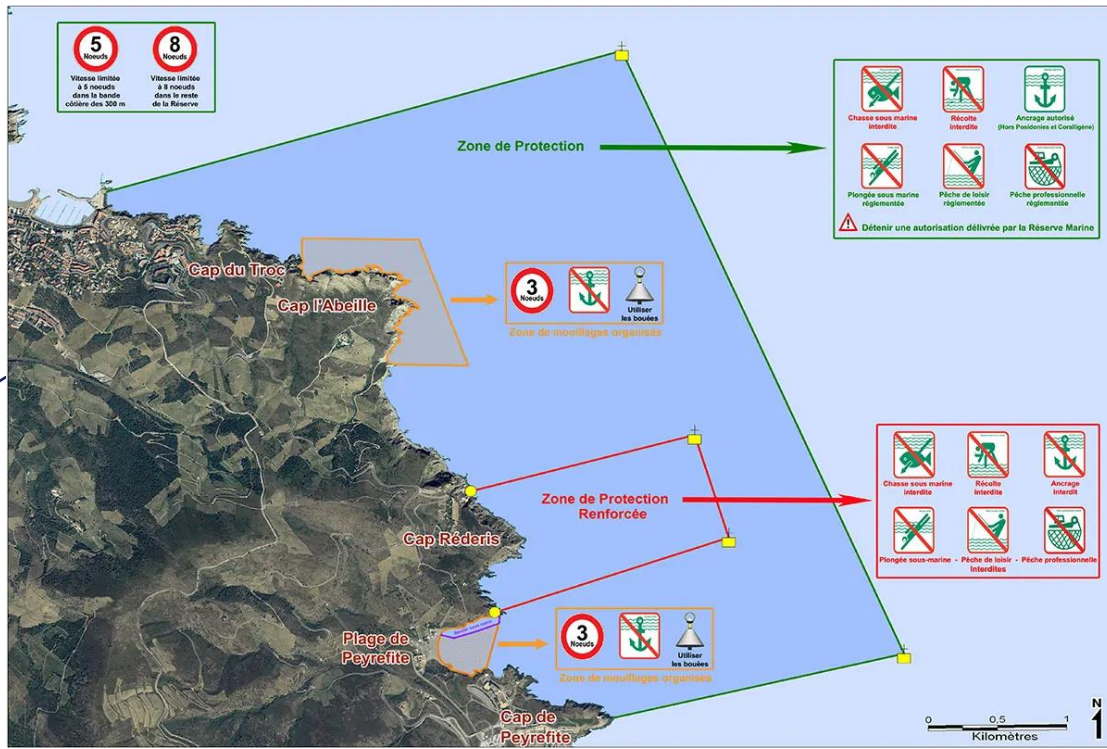


National decree n°527-2022
defining high protection and the way to implement it



Highly protected areas

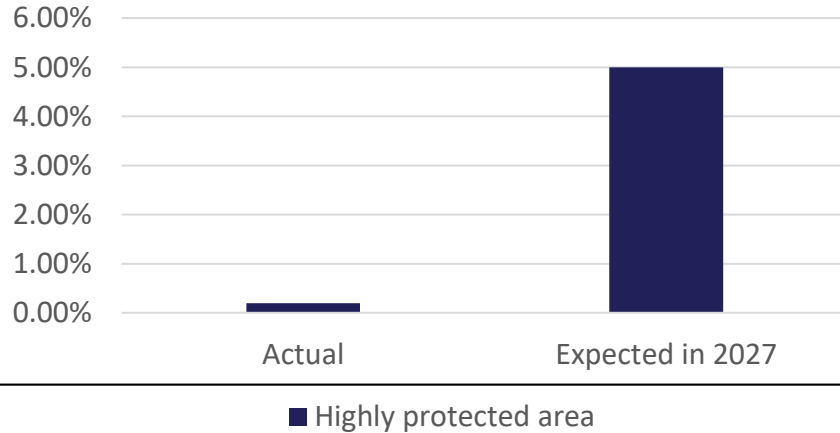
National Reserve of Cerbère-Banyuls



Where are we going ?

- No new major MPA's – except for N2000 depending on sufficiency analysis
- No development of the OECM concept
- Efforts focused on developing HPAs :

Highly protected areas in
Mediterranean sea



**100% of threatened
seagrass bed under high
protection in 2030**

**5% of MED waters highly
protected in 2027**

Mainland France - highly protected areas targets

Targets per Sea Basin - 2027

Mediterranean => 5%

South Atlantic => 3%

North Atlantic => 3%

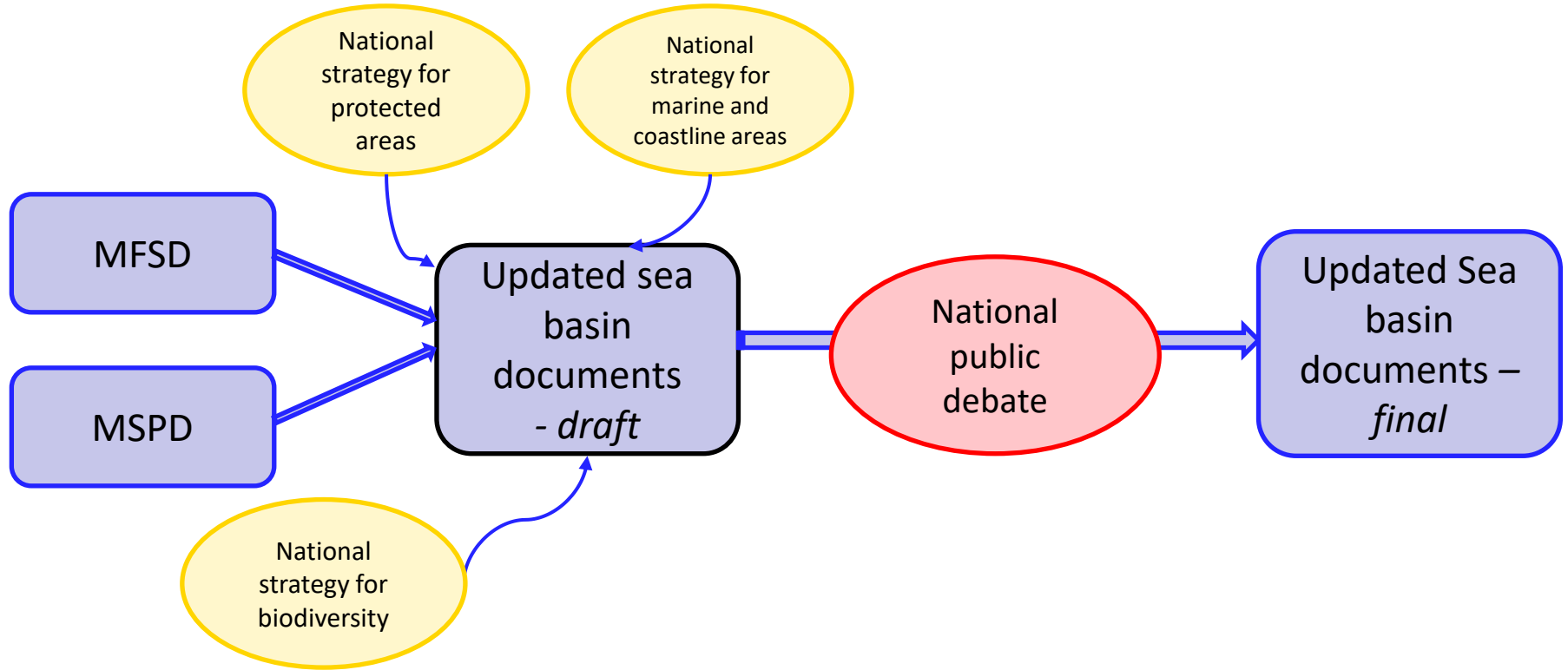
North Sea => 1%

Target for mainland – 2030










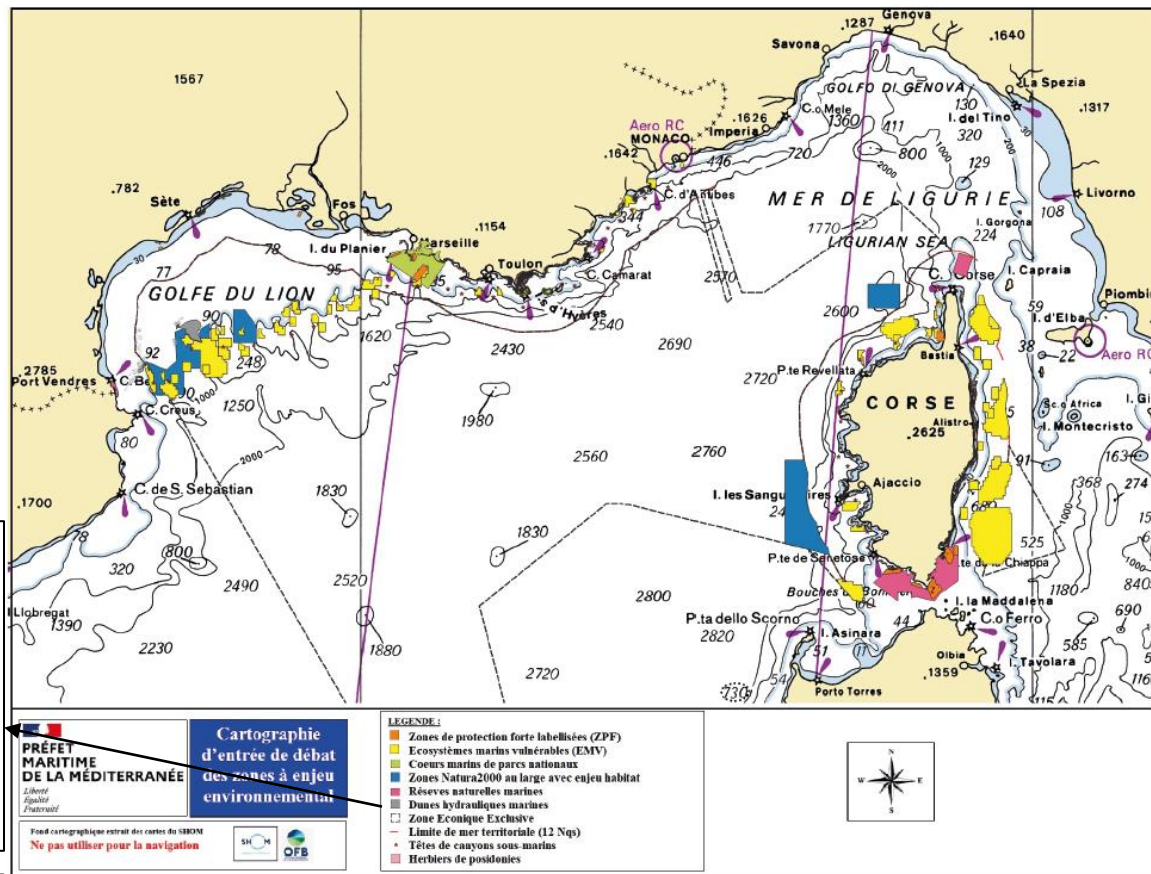
5%

Governance in the HPA creation process



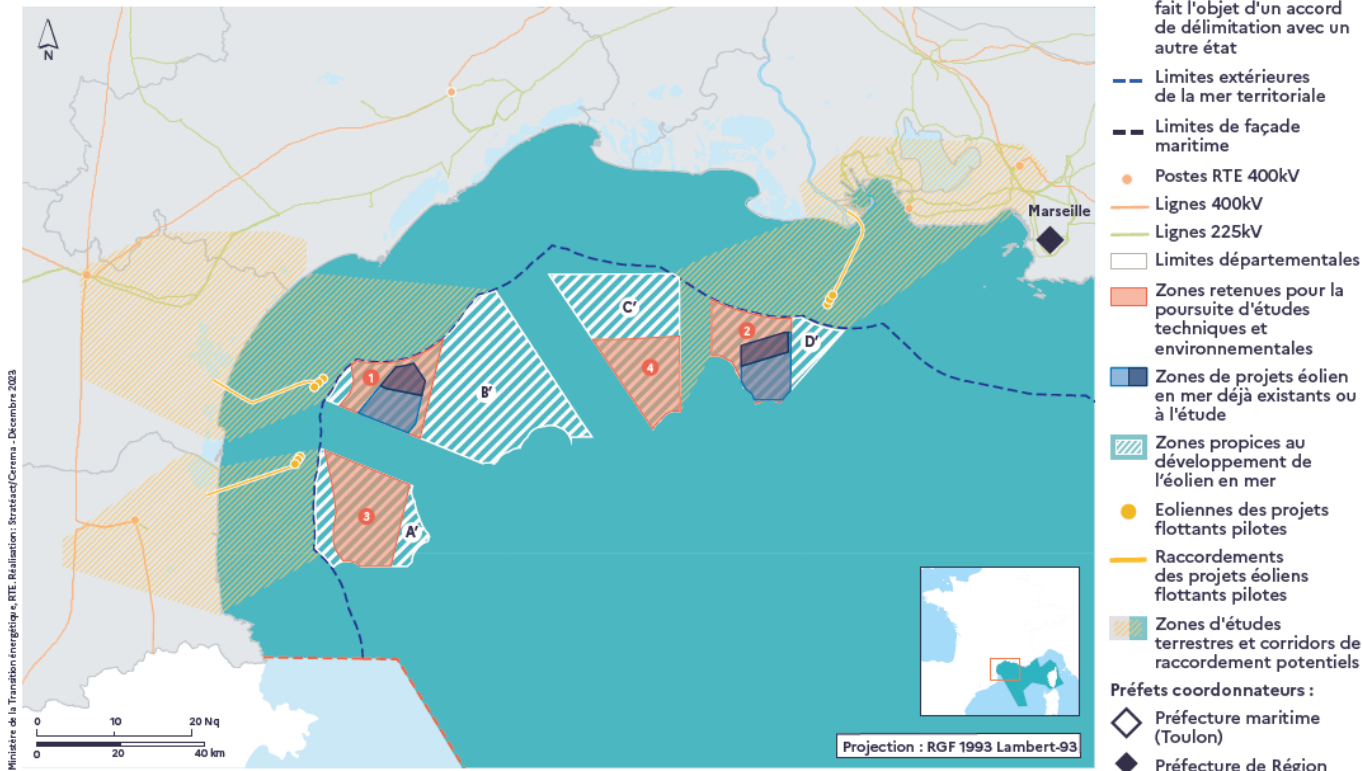
Ecological features of interest for the high protection

-  Existing high protected areas
-  Vulnerable Marine ecosystems
-  Core of National Parks
-  Ashore N2000 sites designated for habitats
-  National reserves
-  Sub-aqueous dunes
-  Seagrass bed



Areas of interest for windfarming development

Zones propices au développement de l'éolien en mer à horizon 10 ans et à horizon 2050 / Méditerranée



Sources : ADMIN EXPRESS (©IGN 2022) ; EuroGlobalMap (©EuroGeographics 2022) ; SHOM

Thank you for your attention

