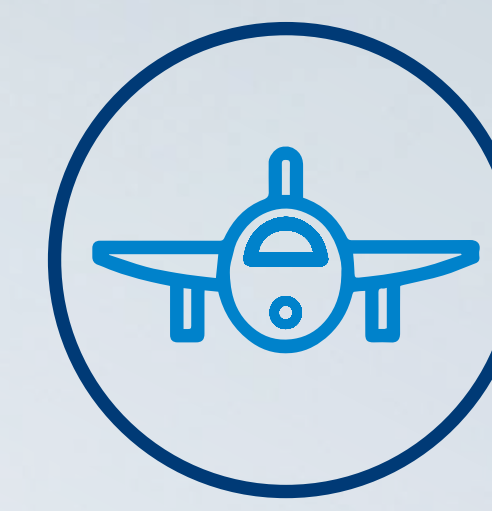


MIGRATLANE

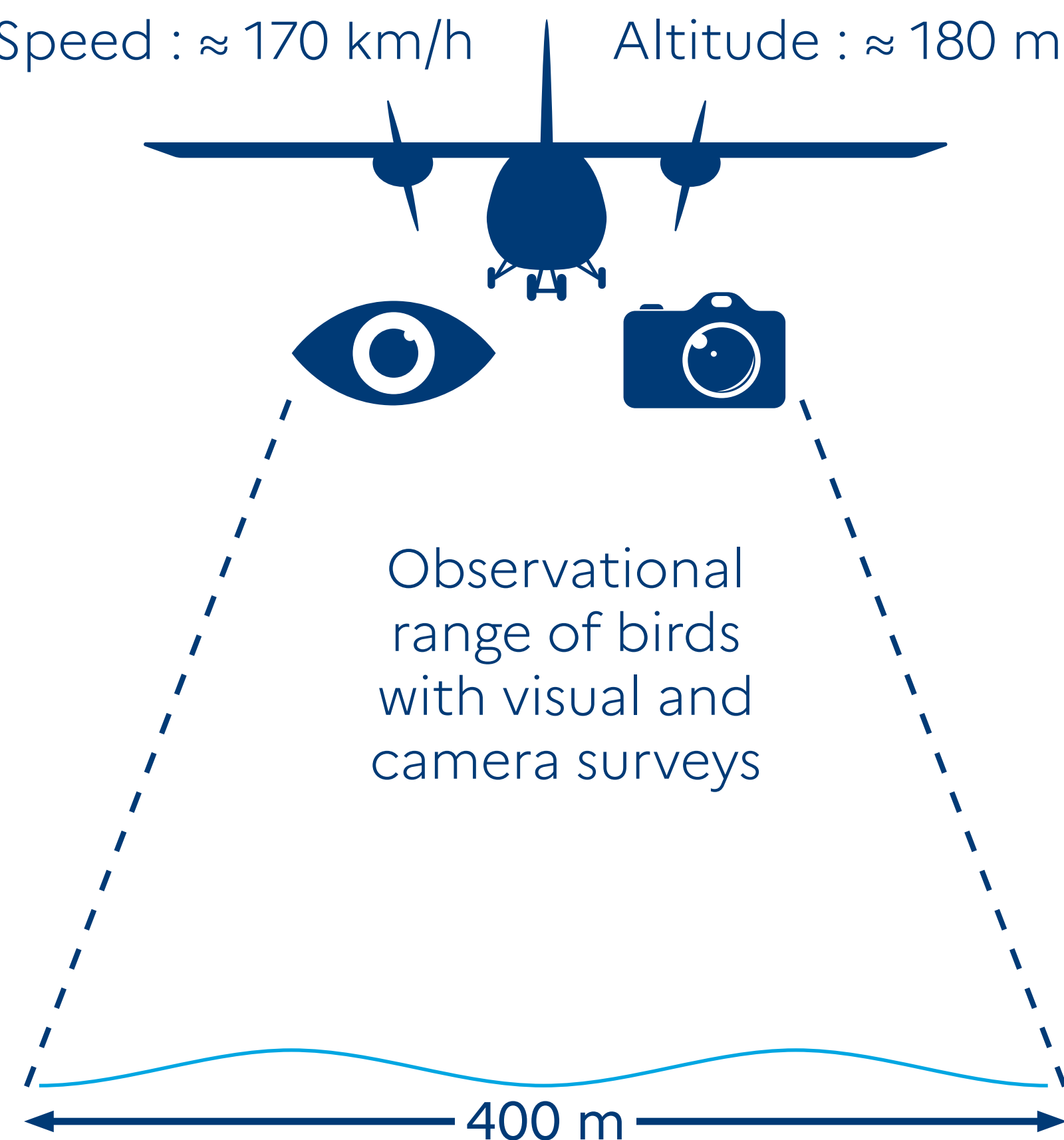


Monitoring of birds in the French Atlantic arc using aerial surveys

The **MIGRATLANE** program (2023-2027) aims at acquiring knowledge on flying fauna in the French Atlantic arc (English Channel/Southern North Sea, Atlantic) in a context of interactions with human activities, especially as offshore wind farms projects are set to be largely developed in this area. Aerial surveys are one of the methods used to monitor marine megafauna, including avifauna. They allow to identify feeding and resting areas of seabirds, to count wintering birds, but also to collect data on marine mammals, sea turtles and large pelagic fish.

Aerial survey of marine megafauna: two complementary methods

Speed : ≈ 170 km/h Altitude : ≈ 180 m



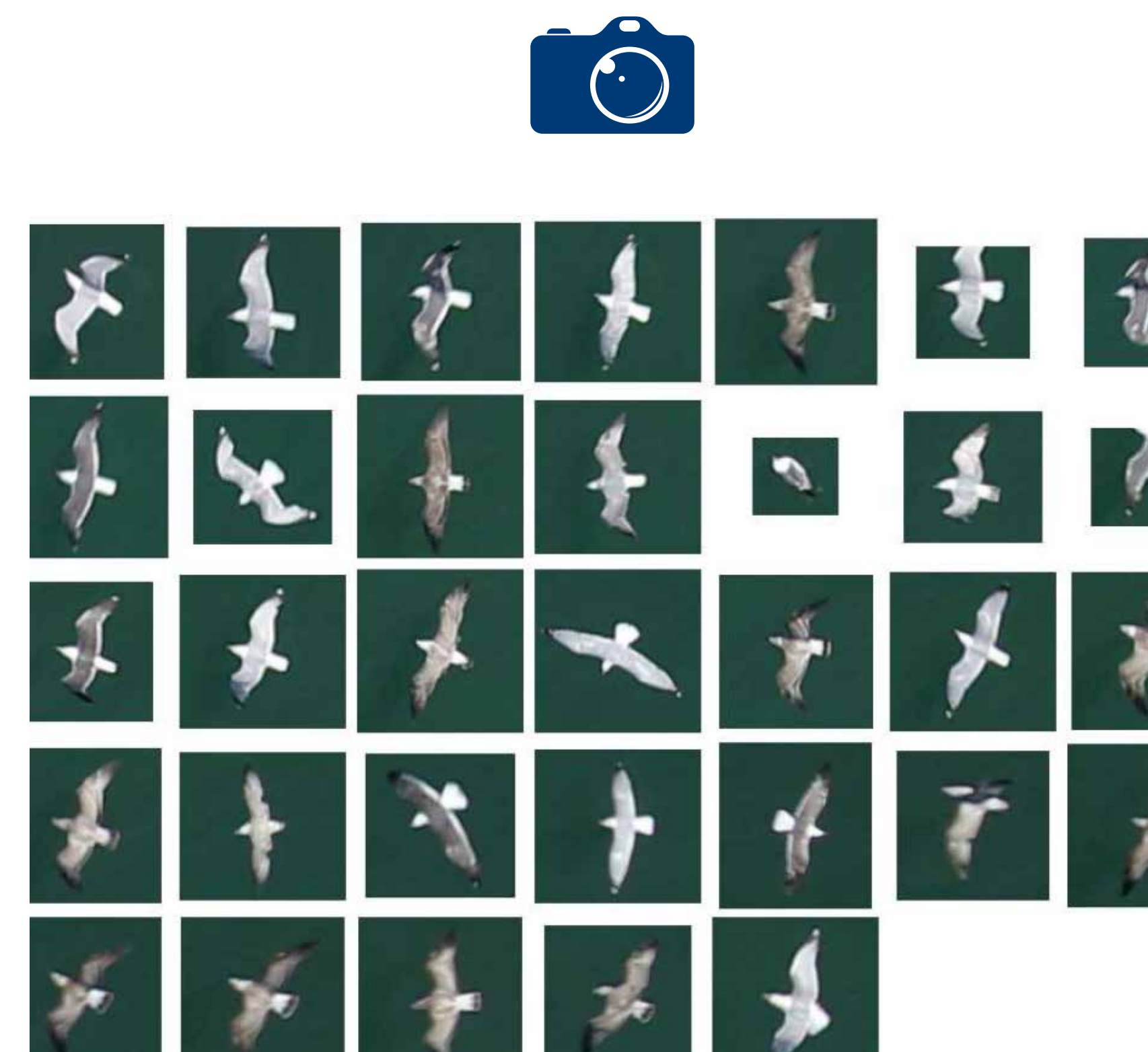
A plane flies at a low altitude over specific study areas at sea. Observed animals are inventoried via human observers and via automated image collecting devices (cameras).

Visual surveys



Conducted by human observers onboard.

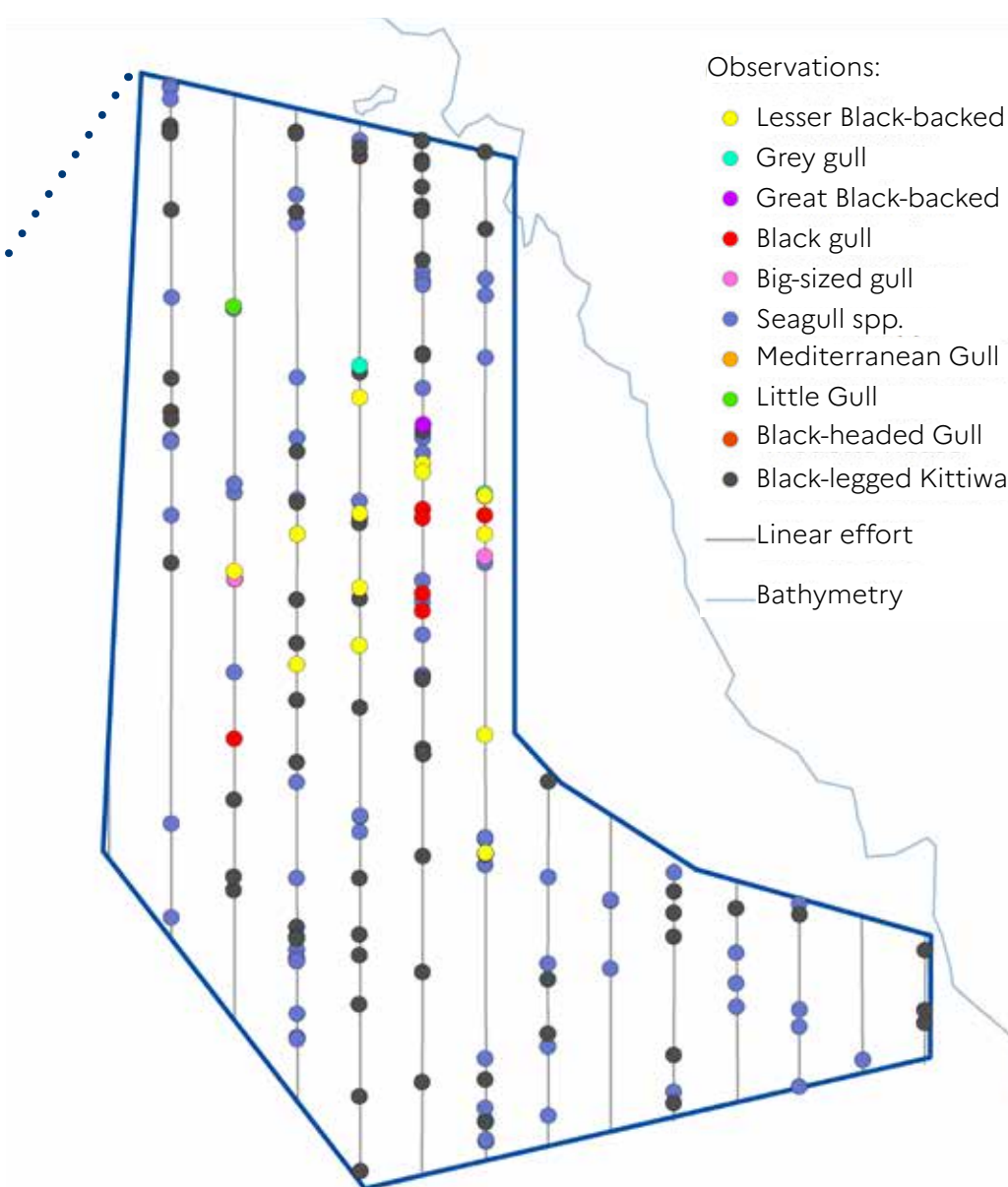
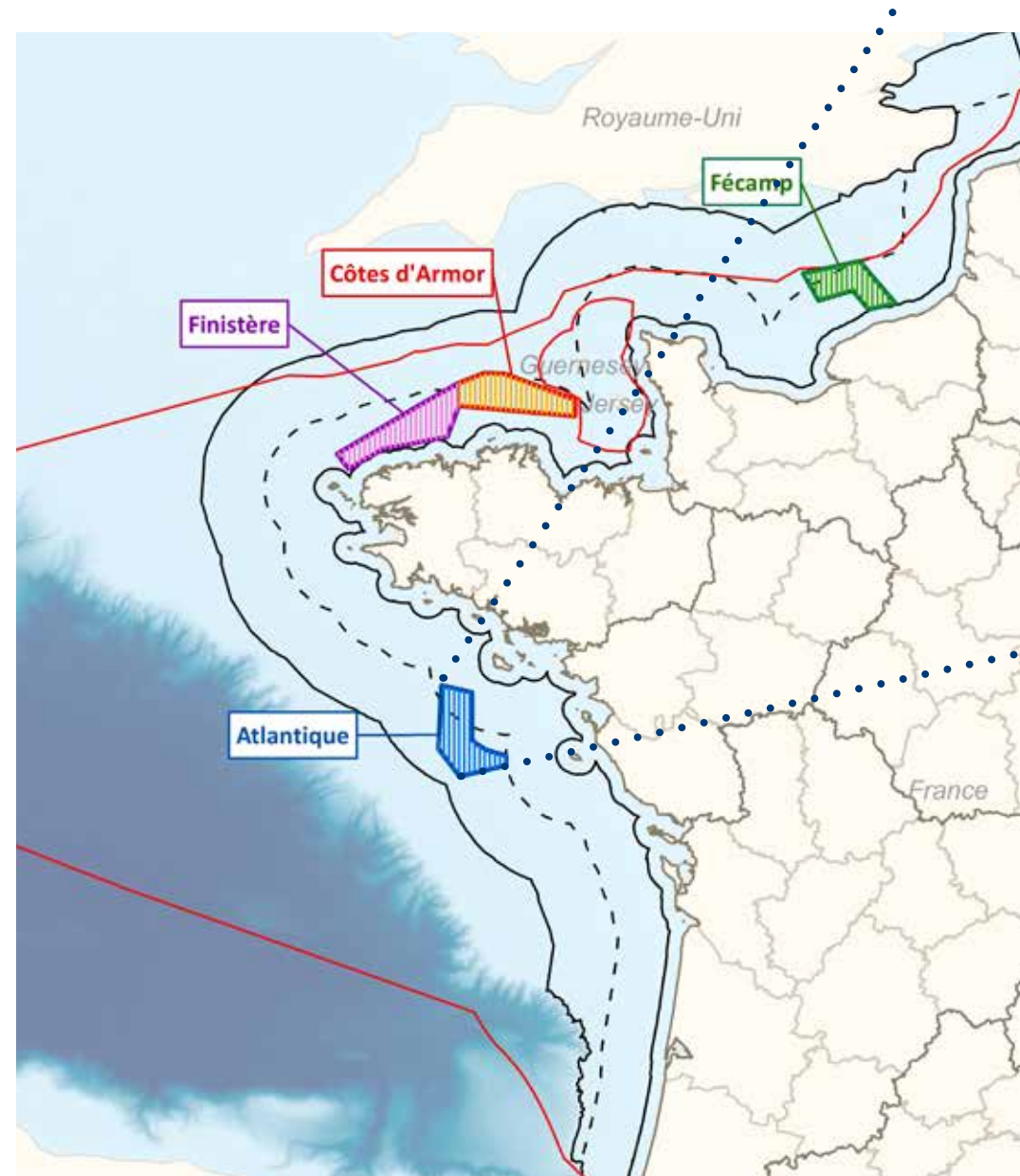
Digital surveys



Automated acquisition of images from cameras (set under the plane) in complement.

Where and when?

Aerial surveys are carried out during winter (December-January) and during the reproduction period (May-June) over three following years. Areas where historical data is lacking and where the development of offshore windfarms is anticipated are surveyed in priority.



Example of visual observation results obtained from a flight over one of the "Atlantic" study area in December 2023.

Expected results

The aim of this monitoring is to map the distribution of species at sea, taking seasonal variations into account. This will provide a better understanding of the areas and periods with the highest densities, which will be useful for maritime wind farm planning.

Research program financed by the French National Observatory of offshore wind energy.

Steering committee

Coordination

Scientific partners

Learn more

