



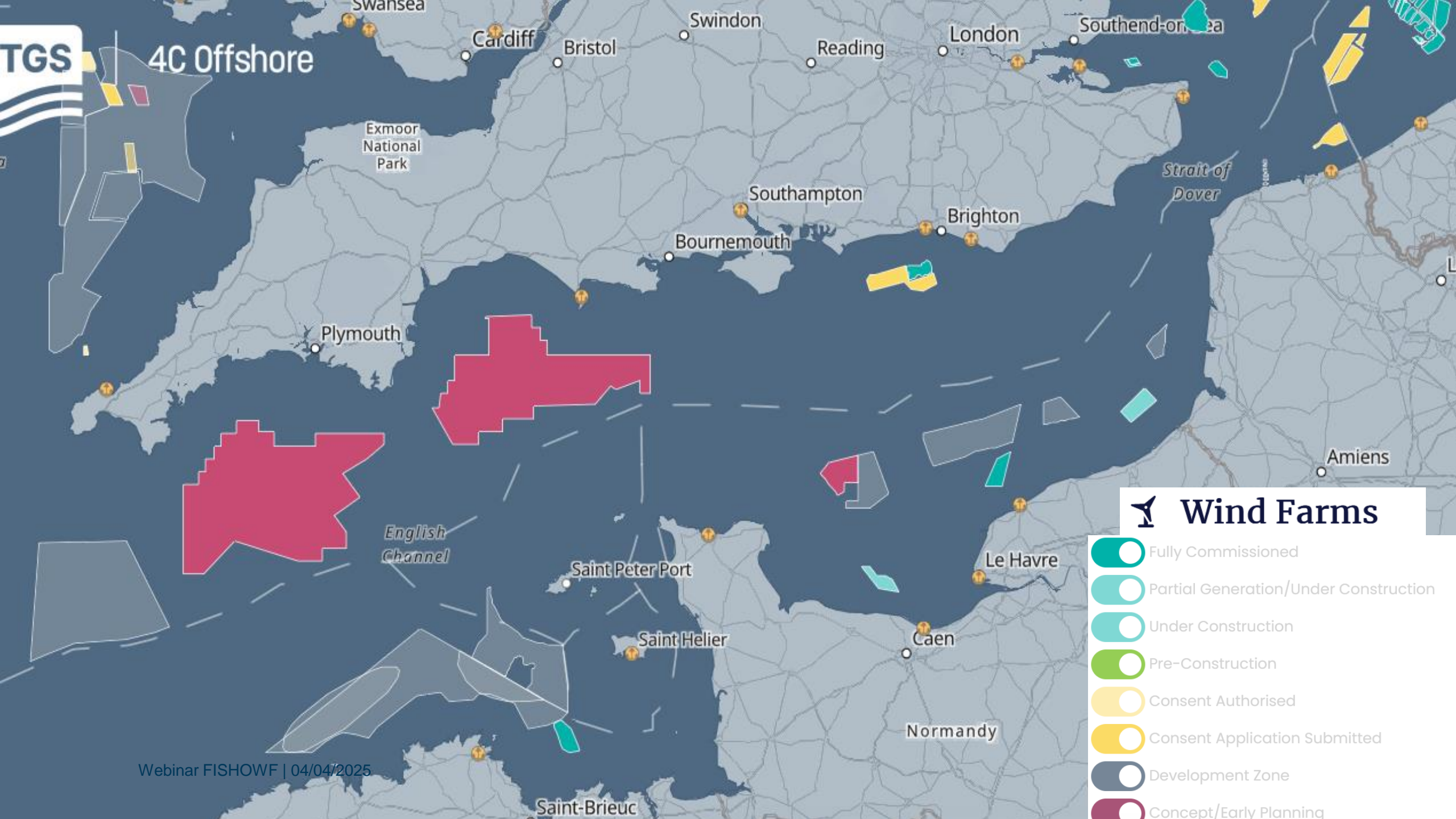
# Acoustic telemetry to track fish movements at EU scale in a context of OWF development

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Jan Reubens, VLIZ



4C Offshore



## Wind Farms

- Fully Commissioned
- Partial Generation/Under Construction
- Under Construction
- Pre-Construction
- Consent Authorised
- Consent Application Submitted
- Development Zone
- Concept/Early Planning

## Key facts



©AdobeStock/artjazz

# 23%

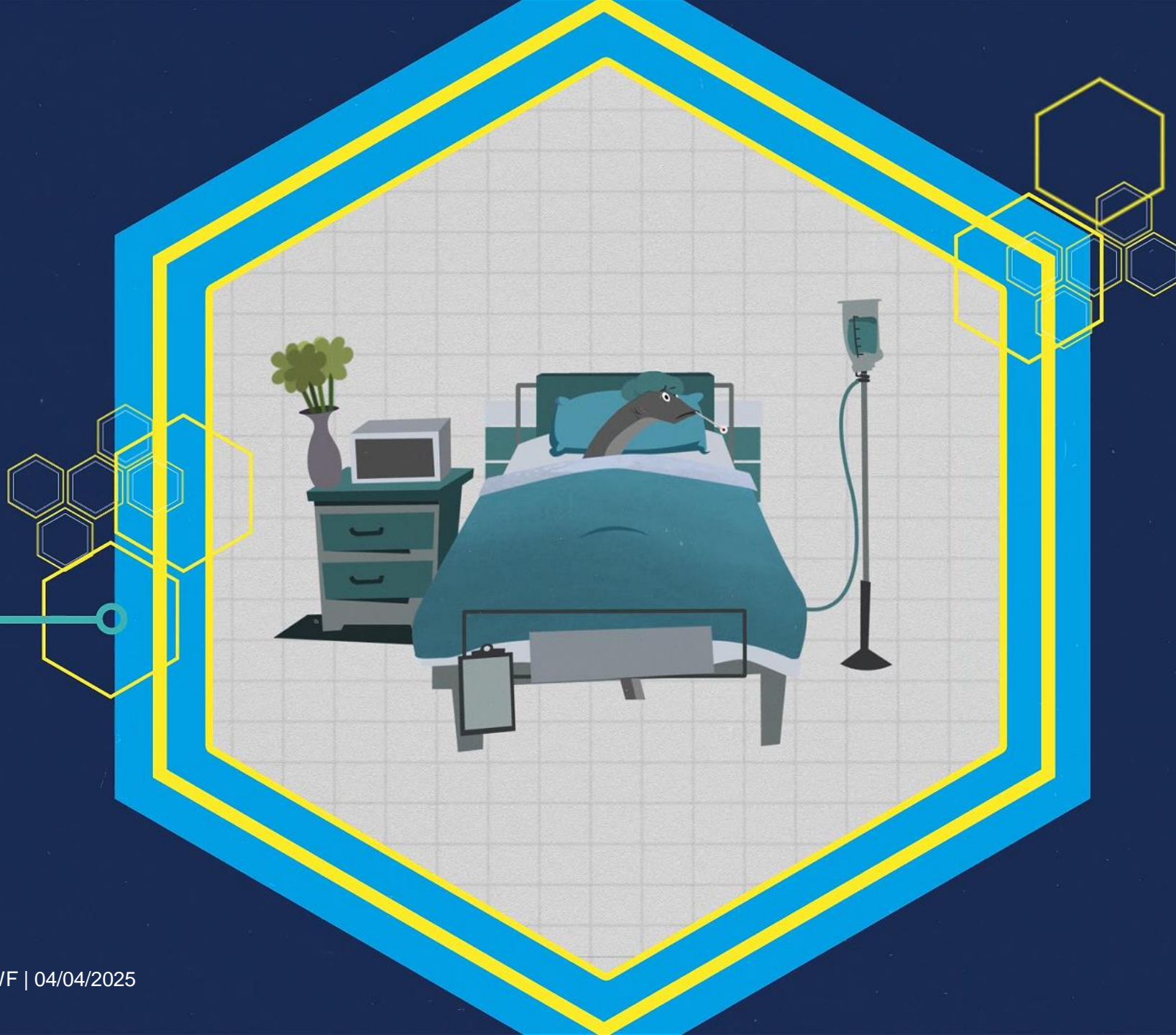
share of renewables in  
EU energy consumption  
2022

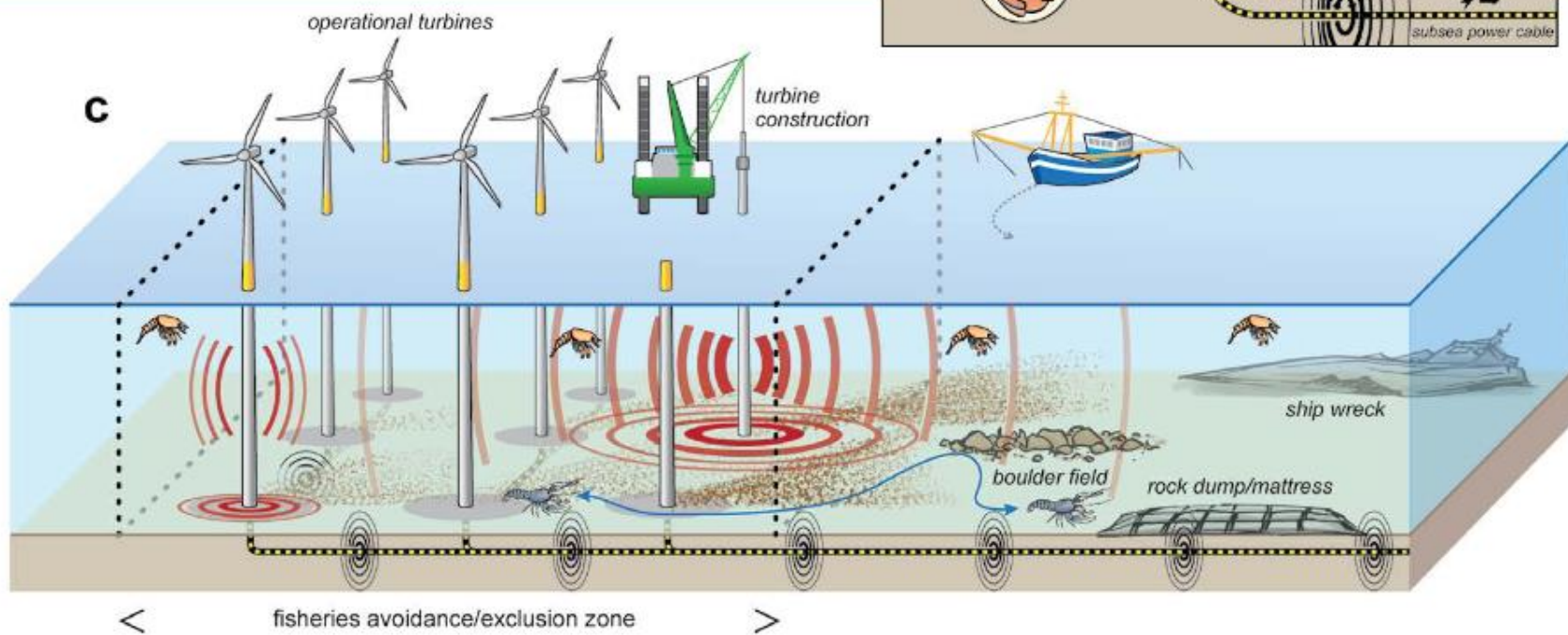
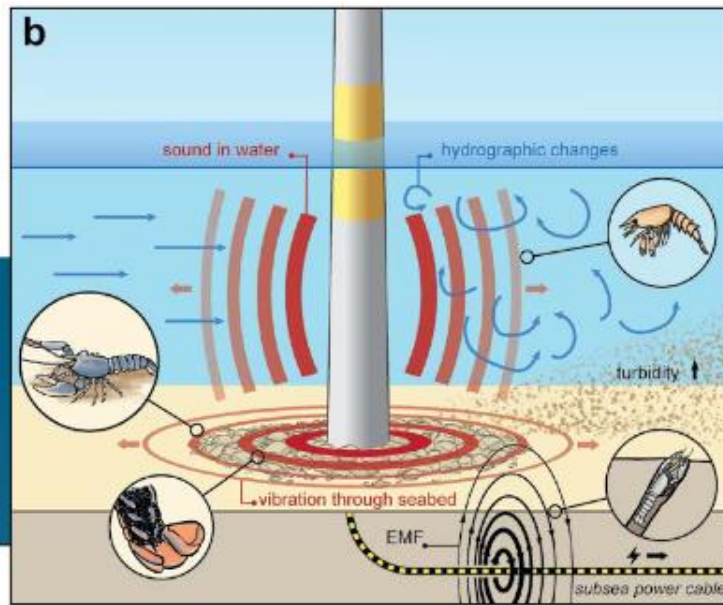
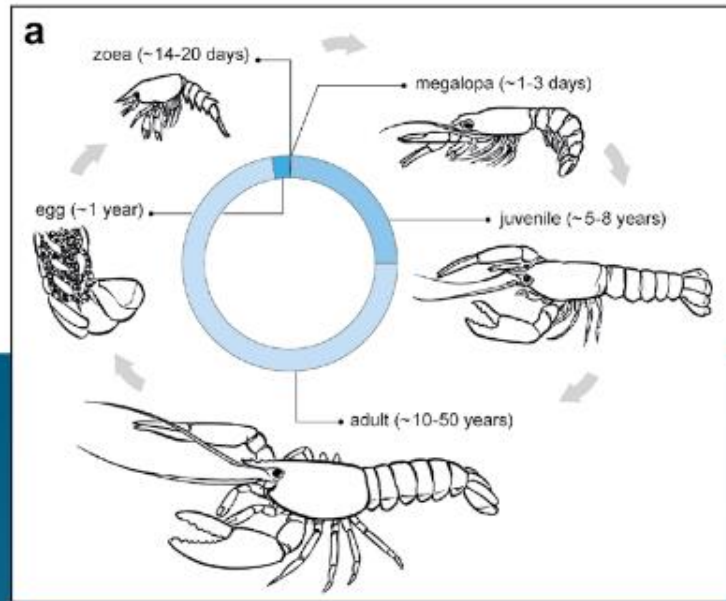
# 32%

2030 target set in 2018

# at least 42.5%

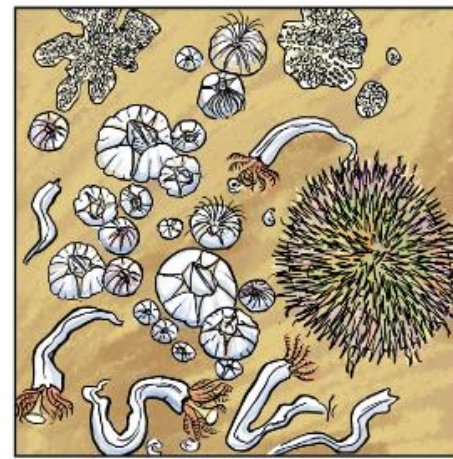
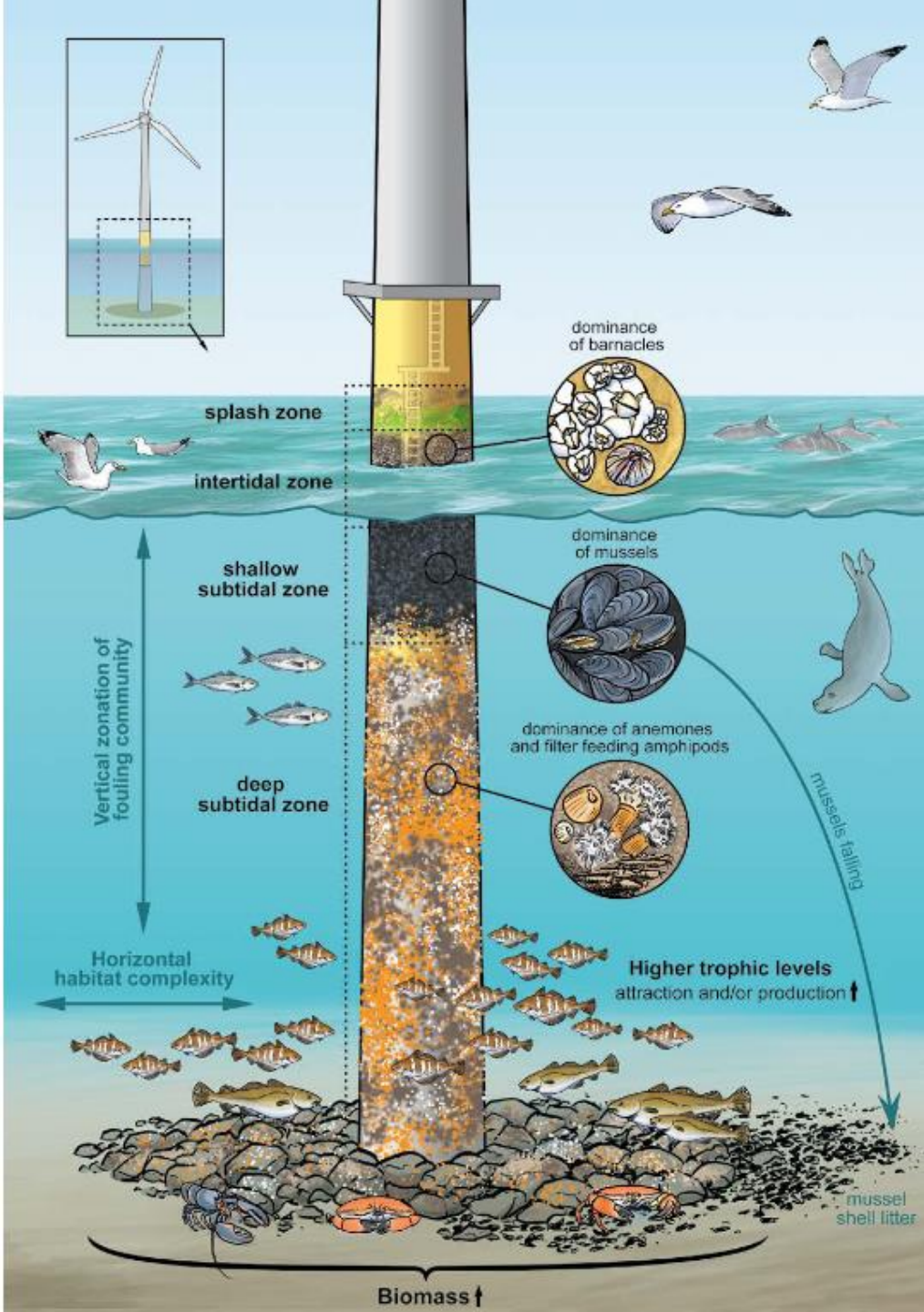
new binding target for  
2030, but aiming for  
45%





	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning
Artificial Reef Effect		X	(X)
Fisheries Exclusion Effect	X	X	(X)
Fisheries Displacement Effect	X	X	(X)
Energy Landscape Effects*	X	X	X

Gill et al. 2020. Setting the context for offshore wind development effects on fish and fisheries. *Oceanography* 33(4):118–127



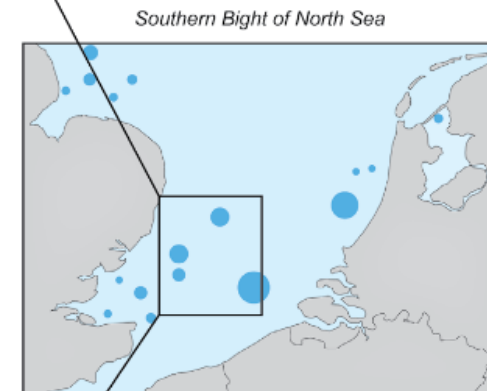
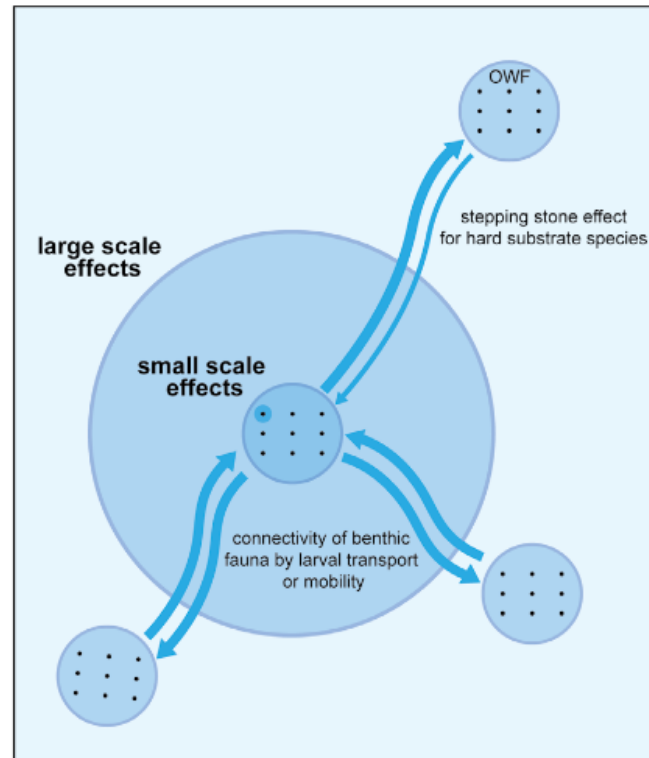
Pioneer stage  
0-2 years



Intermediate stage  
3-5 years



Climax stage  
6+ years

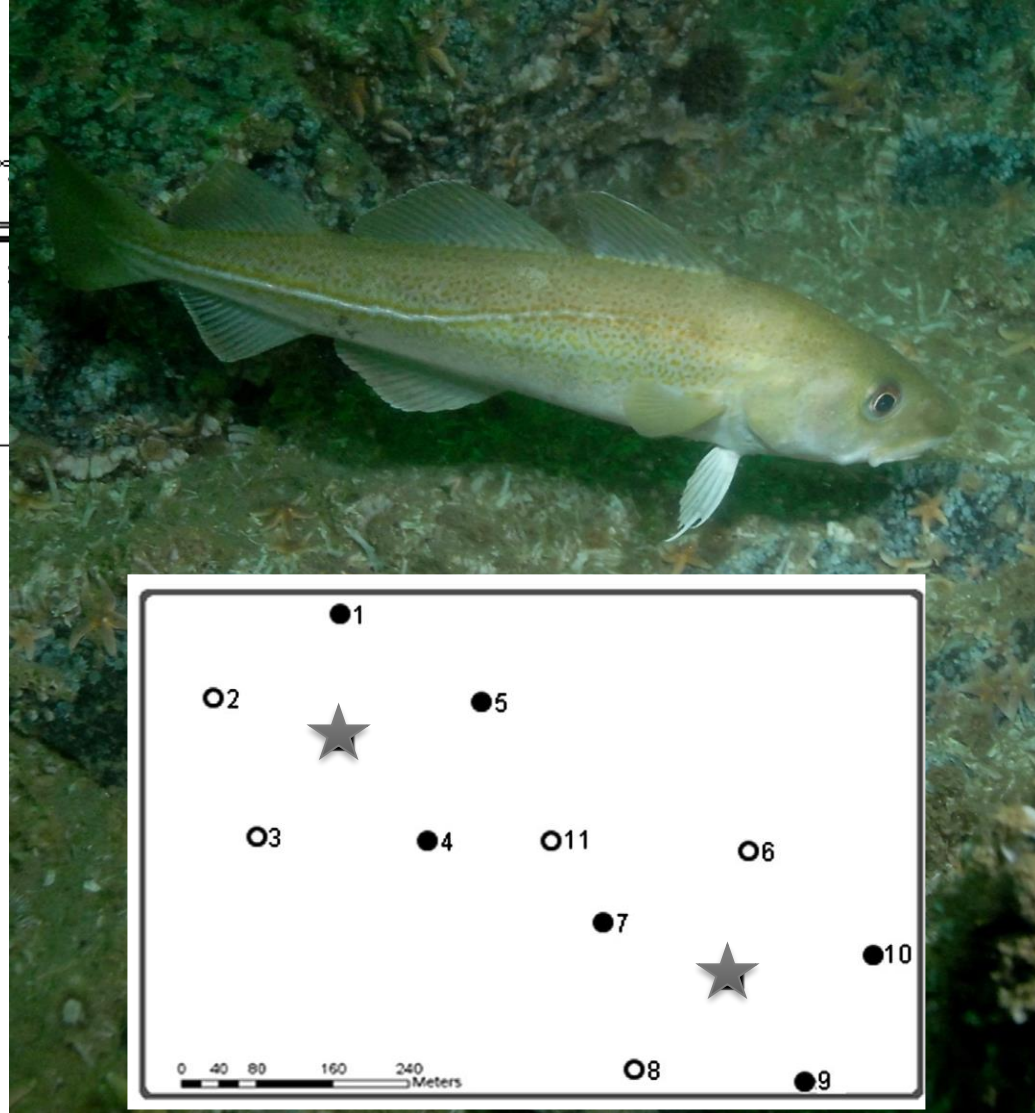
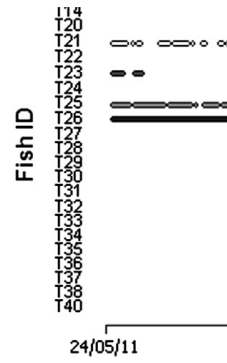




# Some background...



Webinar FISHOWE | 04/04/2025



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OPEN SCIENCE

royalsocietypublishing.org/journal/rsos



Research



**Cite this article:** Berges BJP, Knaap Iv, van Keeken OA, Reubens J, Winter HV. 2024 Strong site fidelity, residency and local behaviour of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) at two types of

## Strong site fidelity, residency and local behaviour of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) at two types of artificial reefs in an offshore wind farm

B. J. P. Berges<sup>1</sup>, I. van der Knaap<sup>2</sup>, O. A. van Keeken<sup>1</sup>, J. Reubens<sup>3</sup> and H. V. Winter<sup>1,4</sup>

ICES Journal of Marine Science, 2023, 0, 1–13  
DOI: 10.1093/icesjms/ftsad179  
Original Article



## European plaice movements show evidence of high residency, site fidelity, and feeding around hard substrates within an offshore wind farm

Jolien Buyse<sup>1,\*</sup>, Jan Reubens<sup>2</sup>, Kris Hostens<sup>1</sup>, Steven Degraer<sup>3,4</sup>, Jolien Goossens<sup>4</sup>, and Annelies De Backer<sup>1</sup>



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Environmental Pollution

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/envpol](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/envpol)



Effects of pile driving sound on local movement of free-ranging Atlantic cod in the Belgian North Sea<sup>☆</sup>

Inge van der Knaap<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Hans Slabbekoorn<sup>a</sup>, Tom Moens<sup>b</sup>, Dries Van den Eynde<sup>c</sup>, Jan Reubens<sup>d</sup>



Current Biology

CellPress

## Report Effects of a seismic survey on movement of free-ranging Atlantic cod

Inge van der Knaap<sup>1,2,8,\*</sup>, Jan Reubens<sup>3</sup>, Len Thomas<sup>4</sup>, Michael A. Ainslie<sup>5</sup>, Hendrik V. Winter<sup>7</sup>, Jeroen Hubert<sup>1</sup>, Bruce Martin<sup>5,6</sup> and Hans Slabbekoorn<sup>1</sup>



Our mission is to track aquatic animals across Europe to better understand, protect and manage them



# EU scale investigations



Kim Birnie-Gauvin - Communications Manager



Robert Lennox - Funding



Claudia Meneses - Data Management



Jan Reubens - Chair



David Villegas-Rios - Theoretical & Applied Research



David Abecasis - Theoretical & Applied Research



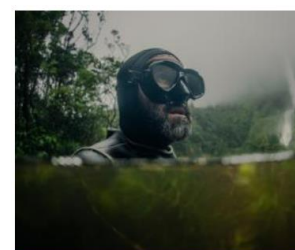
Josep Alós - Theoretical & Applied Research



Danielle Orrell - Integration & Embedding



Inge van der Knaap - Integration & Embedding



Pedro Afonso - Integration & Embedding



Kim Aarestrup - Infrastructure & Tech Development



Ross McGill - Infrastructure

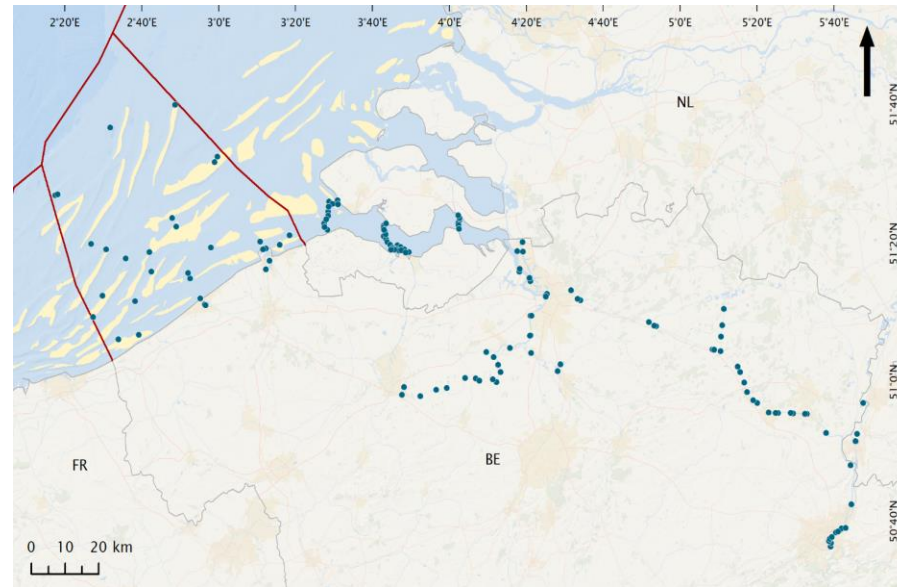
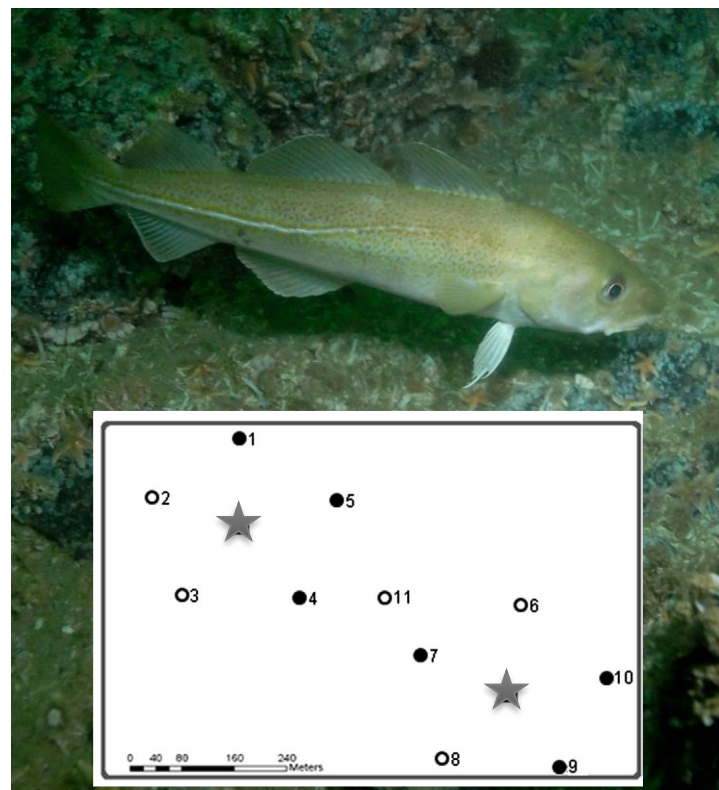


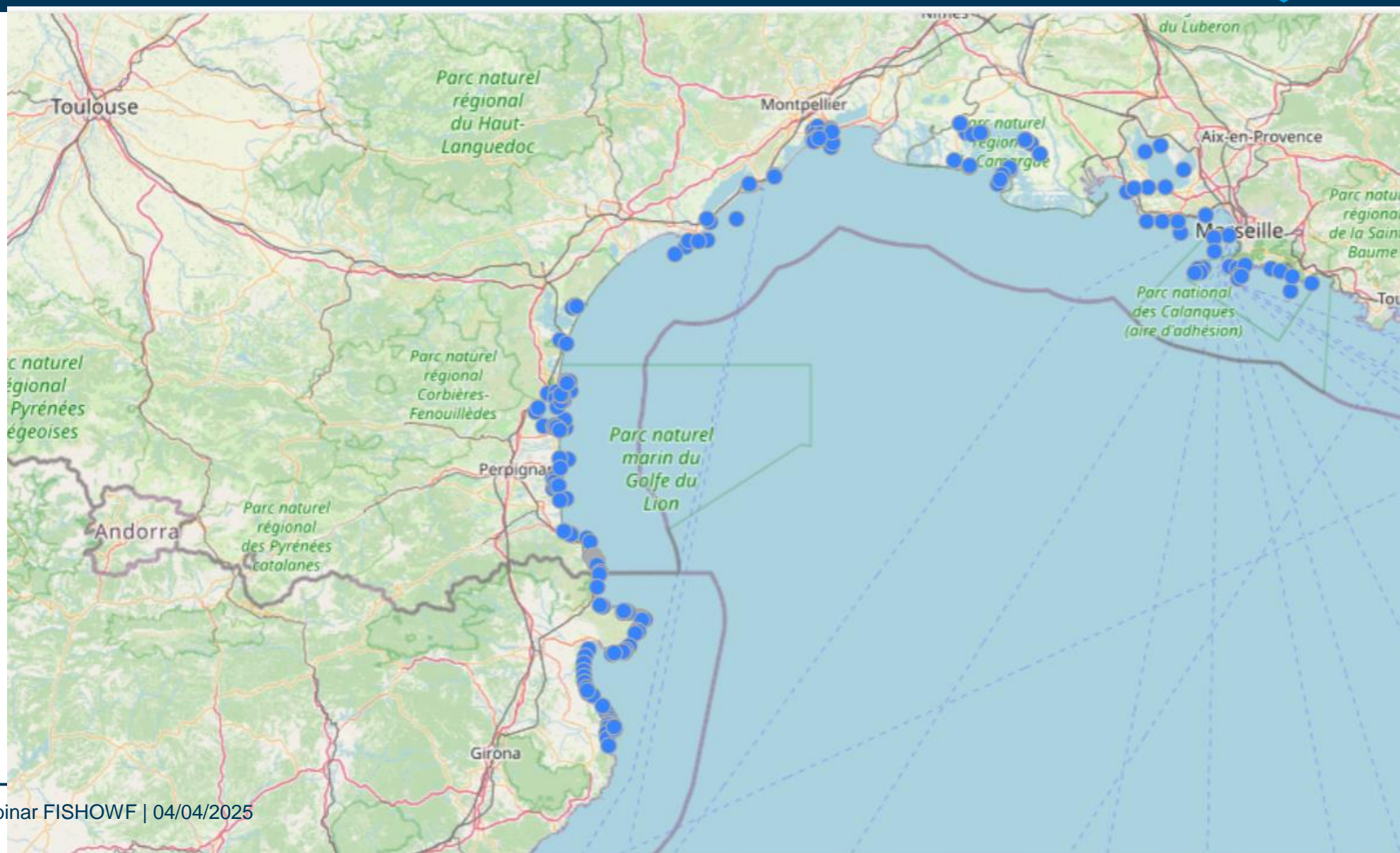
## Main Objective

Development of a pan-European telemetry network to track aquatic animals across Europe to better understand, protect and manage them, in support of

- 1) *European policy priorities and initiatives in relation to biodiversity, nature conservation/restoration, food security and blue economy*
- 2) *breakthrough science and cutting-edge technological innovation.*

# Evolution in monitoring networks







**Fig. 2** Identification of six key sites as part of the European Telemetry Network's research infrastructure. 1 represents the Strait of Gibraltar, 2 the English Channel, 3 the Danish Straits, 4 Malin Head, 5 the Bosphorus Strait, and 6 the Strait of Messina

Abecasis et al. 2018

## STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE FOR IMPROVED ANIMAL TRACKING IN EUROPEAN SEAS



we're instrumenting all four corners of Europe to track the underwater world

### SEAMONITOR

#### ARRAY

April 2024



### DANISH STRAITS

#### since 2018



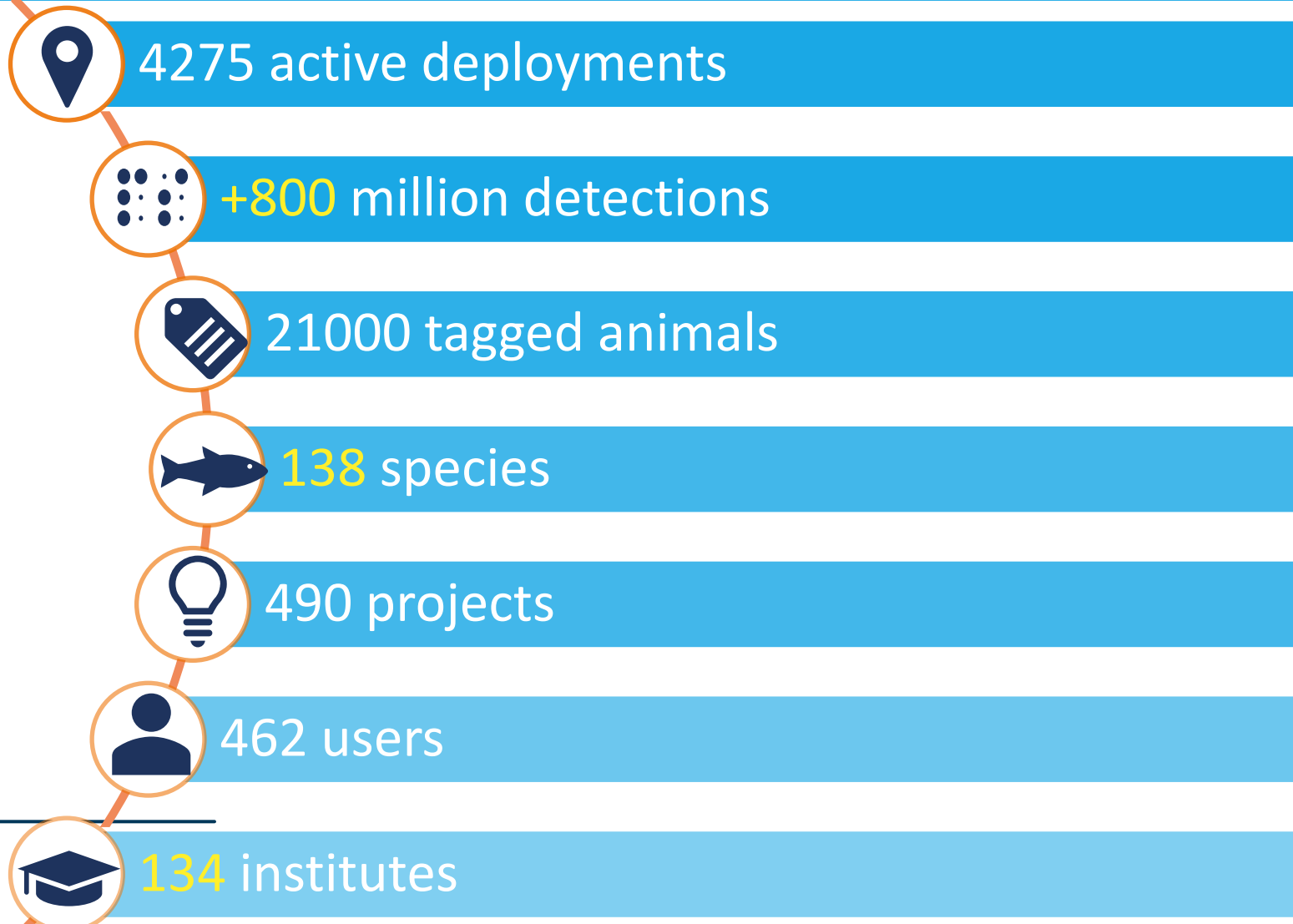
### STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR

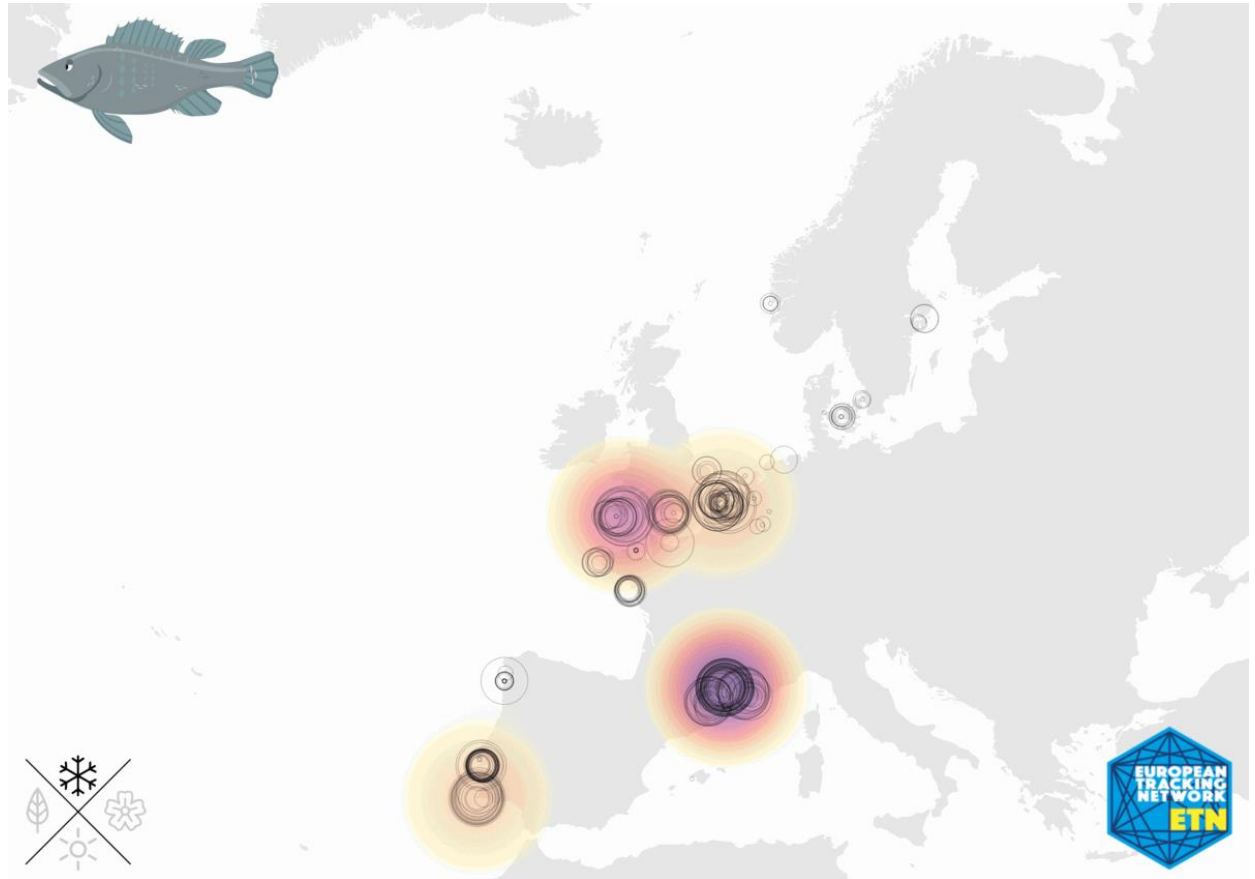
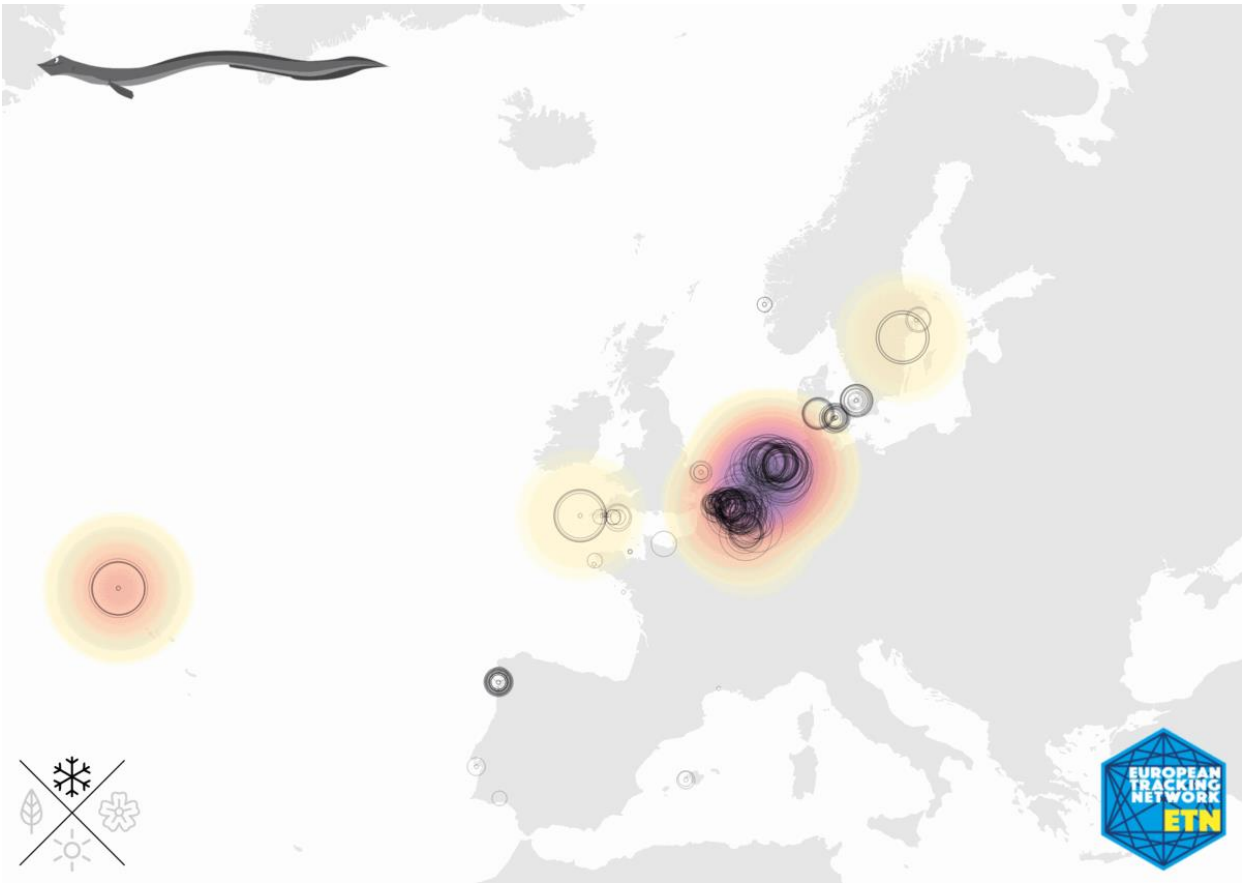
December 2023

### TURKISH STRAITS

August 2023

# Some Statistics of ETN





# HOW DOES ETN WORK?



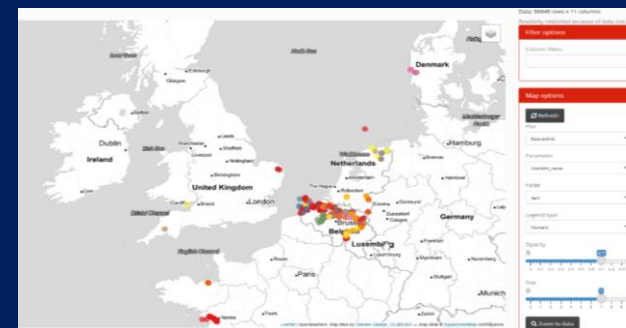
## CREATE AN ETN PROJECT

### DATA IMPORT



Into ETN platform  
CSV Templates

## DATA VISUALIZATION



LifeWatch data explorer

### DATA STORAGE



Marine  
Data  
Archive

### DATA ANALYSIS



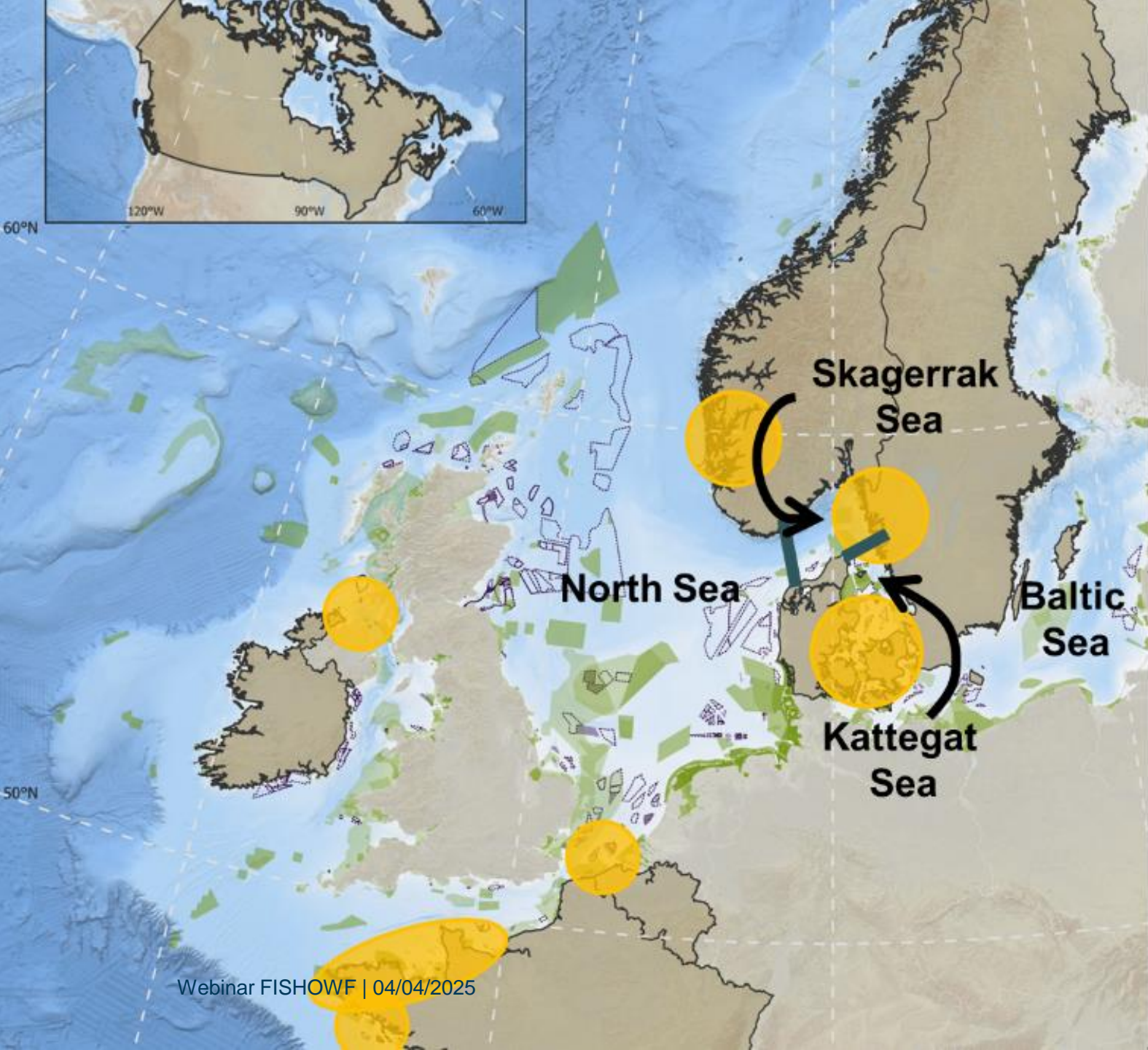
Rstudio  
server



ETN R  
package



## UPLOAD DATA & METADATA



# NorTrack

The Northeast Atlantic Marine Tracking Network  
January 2024 – December 2026

	LA	DTU	SLU	NORCE	VLIZ	FEM	IFREMER
Atlantic cod		■	■	■	■		■
Mackerel		■		■			■
Thornback ray		■	■	■	■	■	
Starry smooth hound			■			■	
Spiny dogfish		■		■		■	
Twaite shad		■			■		
Seabass					■		■
Atlantic salmon	■	■		■			
European eel	■	■			■		
Porbeagle						■	

# Making waves for biodiversity monitoring in the North

1. When and where are essential habitats & biodiversity hotspots in the NEA?
2. How are aquatic animals in the NEA responding to climate change?
3. How can animal movement data be adapted to stakeholder needs?



**the Northeast Atlantic  
Marine Tracking  
Network**



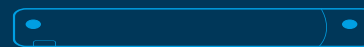
# NorTrack – animal tagging WGs

Because you kinda need to have tags in the water...

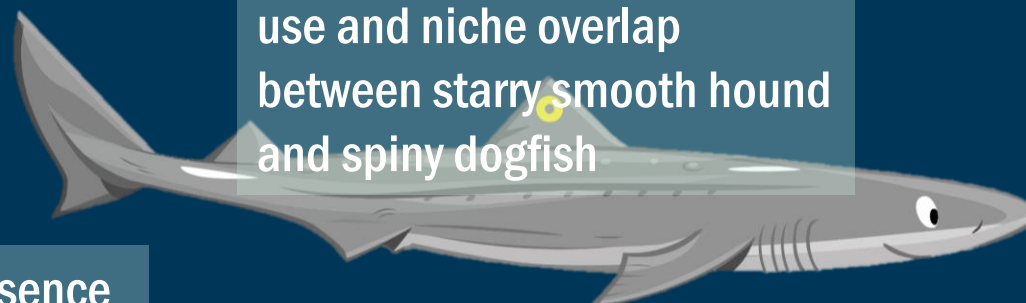
ARCHIVAL TAG



ACOUSTIC TAG



Mapping mating/pupping areas for thornback rays in the North Sea




Comparative study on habitat use and niche overlap between starry smooth hound and spiny dogfish



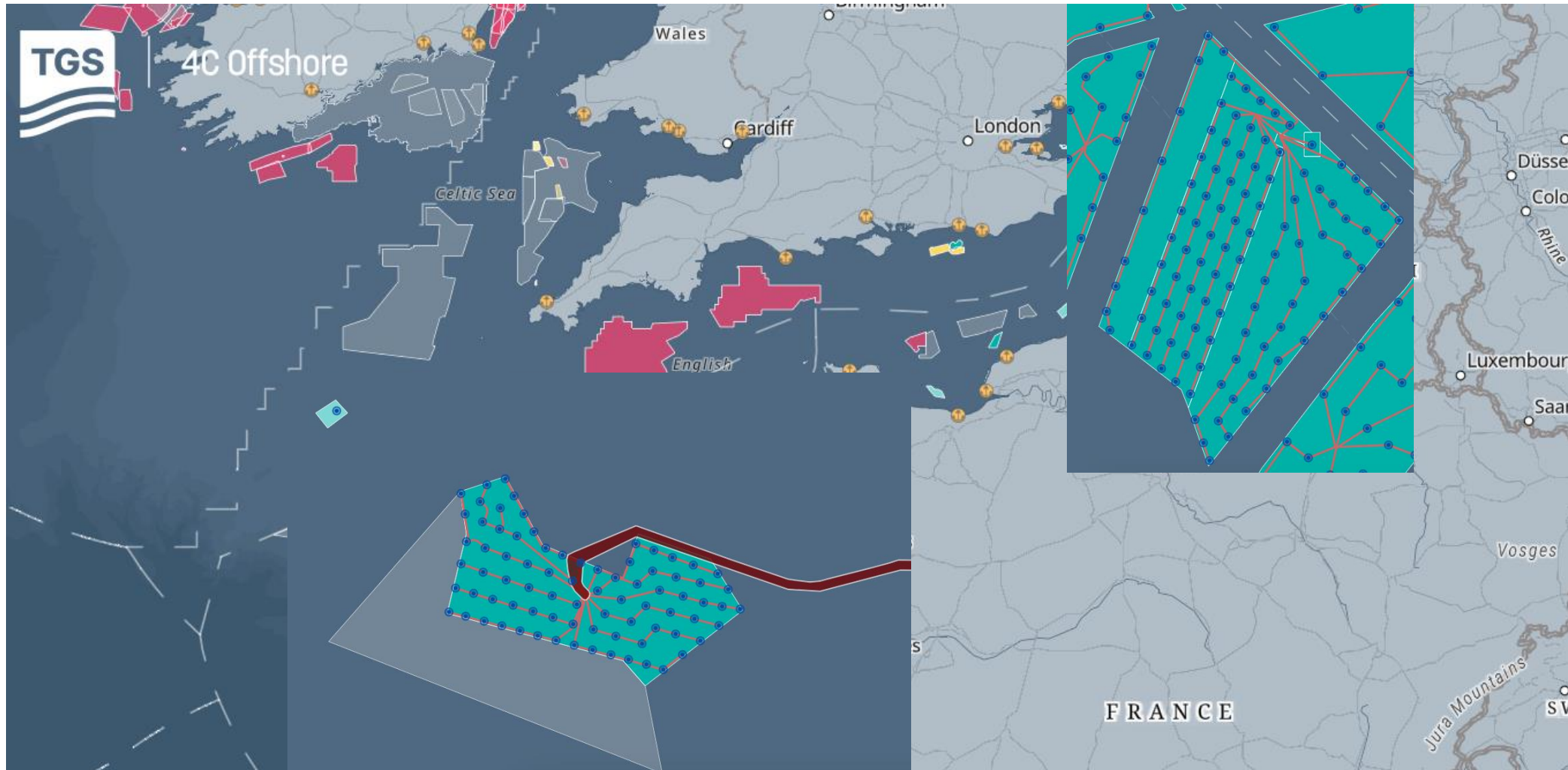
Spatio-temporal presence and movement behaviour of NEA mackerel in the North Sea basin

Comparative analysis of geolocation trajectories of atlantic cod across the North Sea

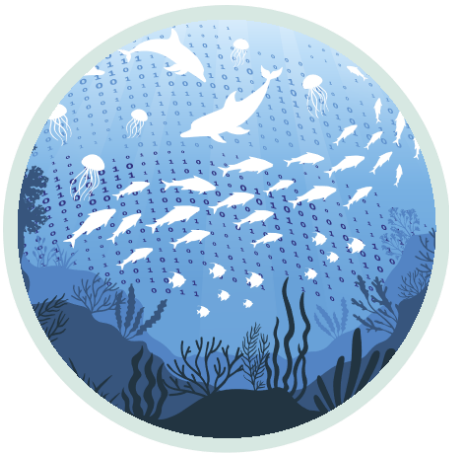


Replicated analysis in offshore wind farms of shark/ray species exposure to electromagnetic fields

# Collaborative studies





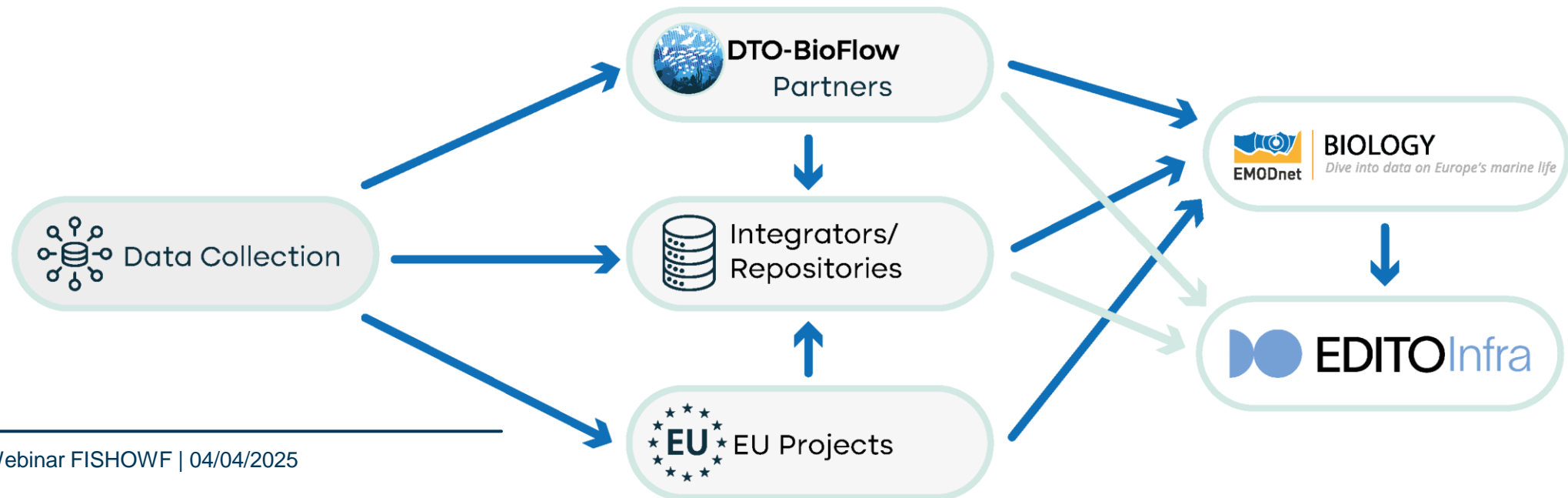


# DTO-BioFlow

Integration of biodiversity monitoring data into the Digital Twin Ocean



## GENERAL



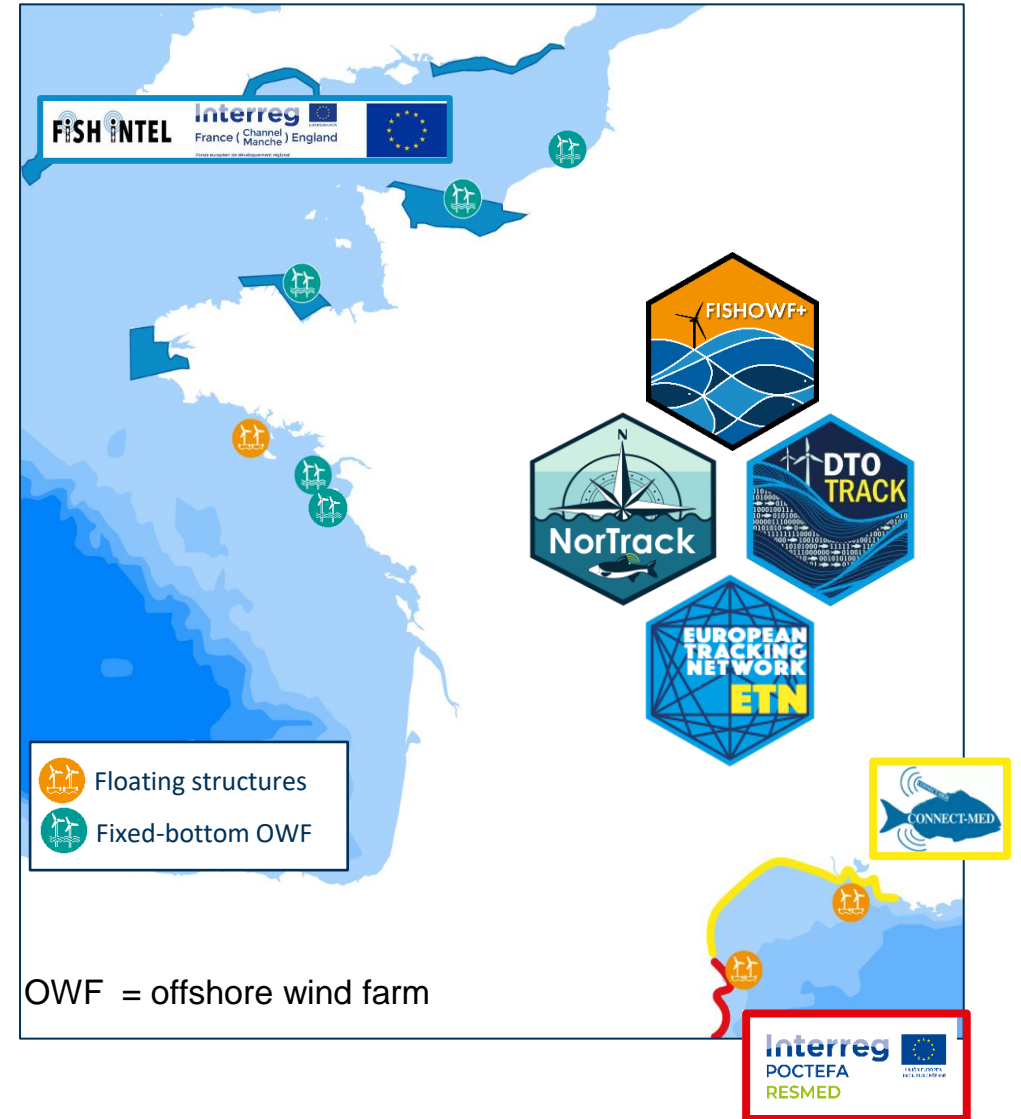
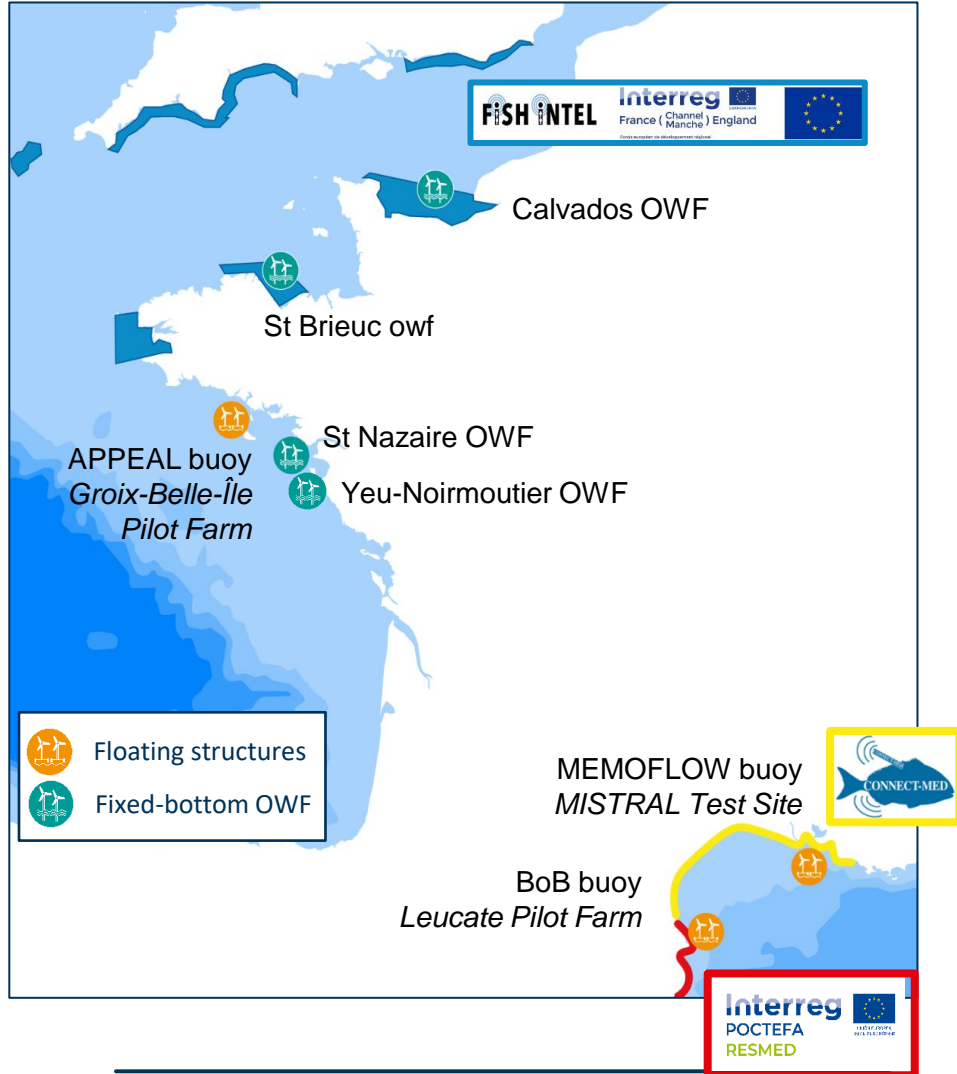


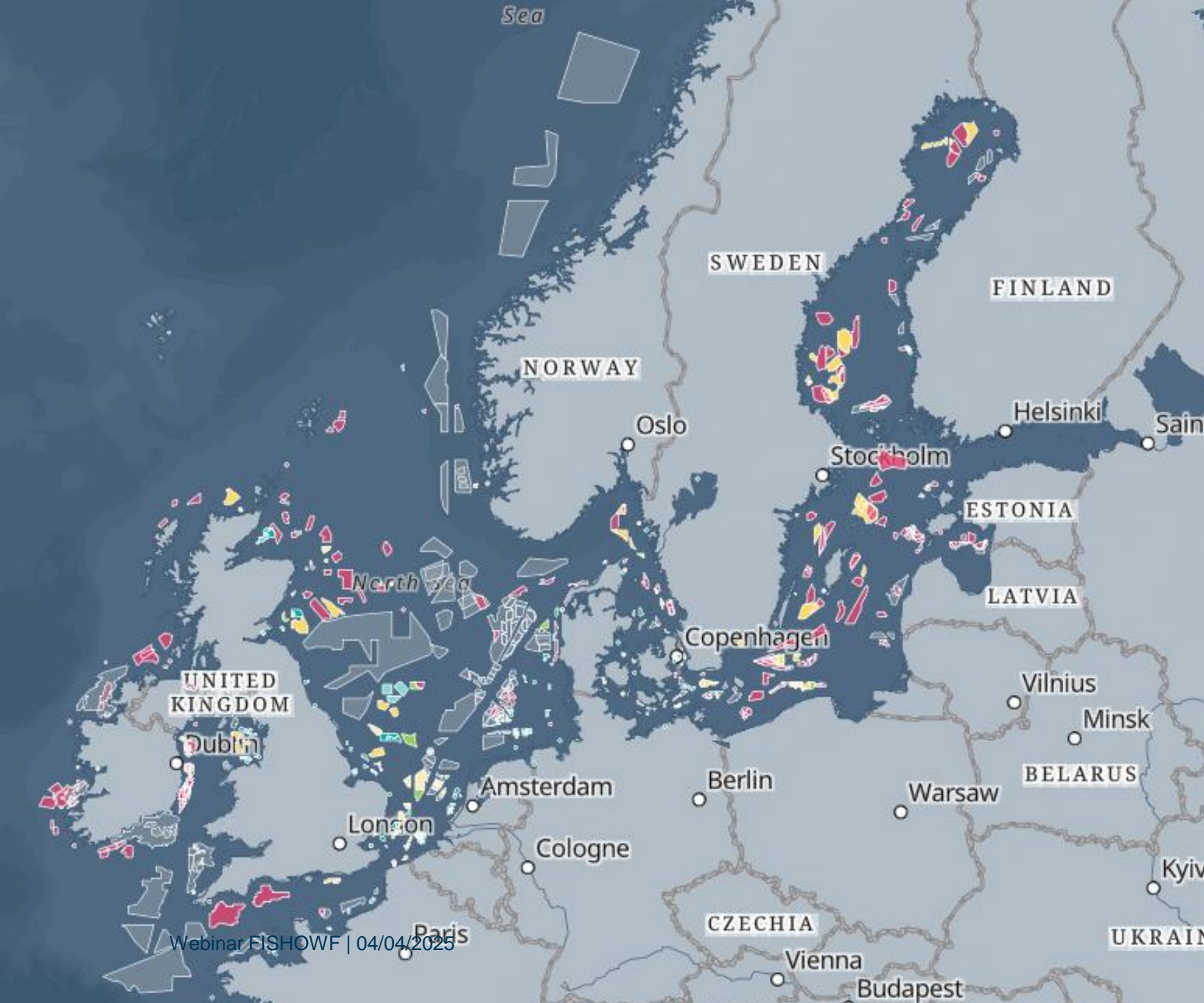
## Digital Twin of the Ocean ANIMAL TRACKING

Webinar FISHOWF | 04/04/2025

1. Coordinate tracking efforts for highly migratory species to understand drivers of inter-basin movements in the North Sea;
2. Map the movements of species & ocean developments (e.g., oil rigs, wind farms, fish farms) in the North Sea;
3. Develop tools & methods to operationalize animal movement in the North Sea as a digital twin.















**42.5%**  
by 2030

©AdobeStock/artjazz

## Wind Farms

-  Fully Commissioned
-  Partial Generation/Under Construction
-  Under Construction
-  Pre-Construction
-  Consent Authorised
-  Consent Application Submitted
-  Development Zone
-  Concept/Early Planning

Thank you for your attention!

