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COME3T, an original and effective approach to rank environmental issues of ORE

An original approach

Since 2018, COME3T brings together a group of French ORE stakeholders to address environmental issues to a panel of neutral and independent experts. Initiatives similar in some aspects also exist abroad: Ocean Energy Systems (OES) Environmental at the international level, Offshore Renewables Joint Industry Programme (ORJIP) in the United Kingdom or Scottish Marine Energy Research (ScotMER) in Scotland. In the case of COME3T, the issues dealt with are based on the challenges identified by the sector and on public questions concerning the integration of these new energies in the French context. It is this strong connection between the concerns of the various stakeholders that makes the approach original.

A ranking of environmental issues

France Energies Marines has set up and coordinates the COME3T approach by positioning itself at the interface between a steering committee and the panel of experts. This steering committee, which brings together industrialists, engineering consultancy firms, universities and regions, prioritises the issues to be addressed. These issues are forwarded by France Energies Marines to the neutral scientific expert panel, which examines them in greater depth. It then classifies them according to the associated environmental issues, according to three categories:

- **No environmental issue** identified,
- **Environmental issue identified** but sufficient level of knowledge to address it,
- **Potential environmental issue** and insufficient level of knowledge, requiring the launching of new studies.

Syntheses are written for each of the questions, providing scientific justification for this ranking. These syntheses are supported by scientific references.

Two bulletins already available

The syntheses resulting from the feedback from the expert panel serve as a basis for the elaboration of didactic and richly illustrated bulletins. Two of these have already been published:

- No. 1 | **Can bottom-fixed offshore wind farms generate dangerous waves?** > Answer: no environmental issue identified.
- No. 2 | **Does the colonisation of ORE farms facilitate the introduction and spread of non-native species?** > Answer: limited environmental issue and recommendation to gain more knowledge.

These bulletins are freely downloadable from the France Energies Marines website. Associated educational videos will soon be available on our YouTube channel.

COME3T is continuing with 6 new issues soon to be defined and the enlargement of the steering committee to include environmental associations and French government departments.

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