

# DRACCAR-MMERMAID

Monitoring **marine megafauna** off Fécamp's coasts  
in an offshore wind farm context



Marine birds



Migratory birds



bats



marine mammals



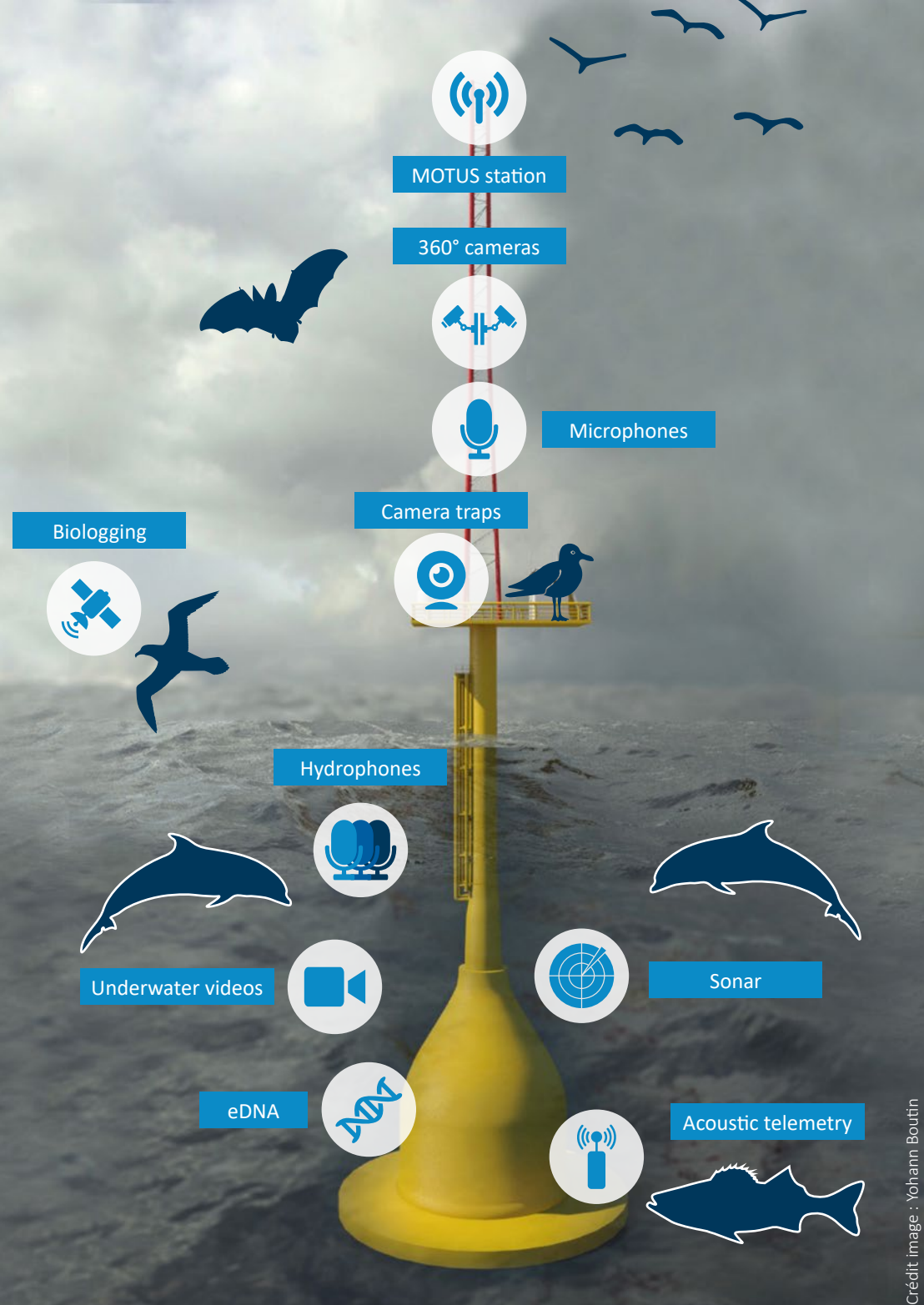
fish

Project led by:



FRANCE  
ÉNERGIES  
MARINES





Crédit image : Yohann Boutin

## What is DRACCAR-MMERMAID?

It is a research project led by France Energies Marines involving 21 partners to simultaneously study the different compartments of the marine megafauna: marine mammals, fish, birds, but also bats that may be found at sea.

## Why this project?

1. Because the development of offshore wind farms is raising questions about their potential impact on the functioning of the marine ecosystem.
2. Because the wind farms will increasingly be installed further offshore, where it is more difficult to collect data on marine megafauna.

It is therefore necessary to develop tools and methods for monitoring marine megafauna on a long-term and continuous basis. These are essential for identifying and understanding the environmental mechanisms and those linked to human activities that can lead to changes in the way ecosystems function.

## What is the purpose of the met mast off Fécamp?

It is used as an offshore research platform. A range of complementary instruments is deployed to study the different compartments of the marine megafauna. The aim is to find out which species are present, in what quantities and how they use the habitat, and to understand the links between the different compartments of the ecosystem.

## Which instruments to track which animals?

	Marine mammals	Fish	Marine birds	Migratory birds	Bats
				X	X
	X		X	X	
				X	X
			X	X	
			X		
	X				
	X	X			
	X	X			
		X			



**2024**

**Spring-summer**  
deployment of instruments

**Autumn**  
First data



Instruments in the water for 2 years

For enquiries, please contact Karine Heerah, scientific manager of the project:

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# Sonar and marine mammals?

Sonars emit sounds to gather information about the marine environment. The Seapix sonar designed by Exail and used as part of the project (photo on the right) will provide crucial information on the biomass of fish around the mast. Any exogenous sound emitted into the water can have an attractive or repulsive effect on nearby species. Here, the sonar can be heard by marine mammals present in the area. Particular care has therefore been taken to ensure that local wildlife is not disturbed:



- ✓ The noise level has been lowered below the recommendation threshold set by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the leading ocean research organisation. It is emitted in a localised area around the mast.
- ✓ Emission time is limited to 2 min/h.
- ✓ A hydrophone is deployed to monitor the absence of effects on marine mammals in the area.

## Learn more about the project:

Webinar



Interview



Project page



## Partners

