

The essentials

ANNUAL REPORT **2022**

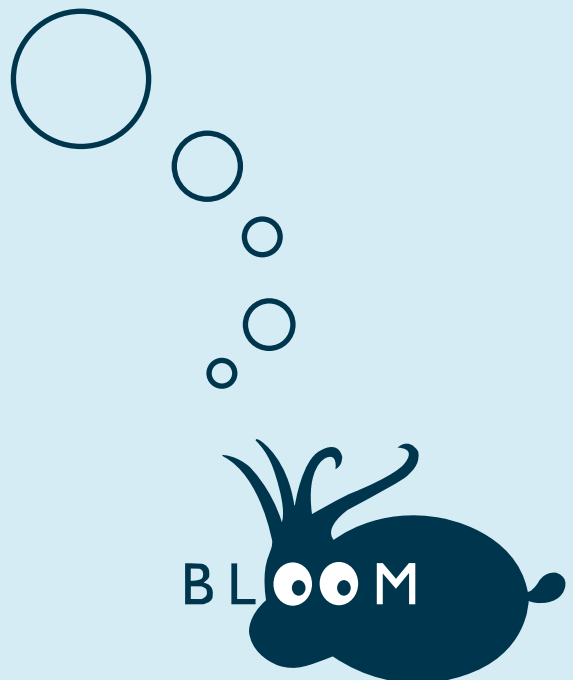


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Foreword



2022 was another intense year for the protection of the ocean and artisanal fisheries.

Several victories have rewarded the unrelenting action of the BLOOM team, led by its founder Claire Nouvian and supported by 13,000 donors and 16 foundations in France and abroad. After more than a decade of research and advocacy, we welcome the historic World Trade Organization Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. We are also pleased with the European Commission's decision to protect 16,000 km² of vulnerable marine ecosystems and relieved that President Emmanuel Macron has officially opposed deep-sea mining. These results allow us to dispel the prevailing fatalism and give us the strength to continue our campaigns to protect our greatest common good, the ocean, against the constant onslaught of destructive industrial fisheries.

Our work is extensive. Over the course of 2022, we have redoubled our efforts to protect (supposedly protected) marine protected areas, unite artisanal fishers against demersal seining, prosecute fraudsters, combat the plundering of European fleets in the Indian Ocean, and prevent TotalEnergies from unleashing a new climate bomb in South African waters.

I would like to thank our supporters, both individual donors and professional foundations, for their trust and commitment to us. These supporters are growing and we need them in order to carry out our strategy. Thanks to them, we are free to lead ambitious campaigns, guided by irrefutable scientific data, until we achieve concrete results for the ocean.

The road is long and full of pitfalls, but we will obtain the systemic changes that are essential to the preservation of the ocean, its biodiversity, and the ecosystem services it provides to regulate the climate and ensure the livelihoods of artisanal fishers. In this time of social and environmental crises, we have no choice: we must mobilize to ensure a fairer future for the ocean and those who live off it. Our future depends on it.

With this activity report, we close a chapter and begin a new page in BLOOM's history, and we are more determined than ever.

Happy reading!

Flavien Kulawik
Board Chair of BLOOM



Our victories



A HISTORIC WTO AGREEMENT ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES

On 17 June, after more than 20 years of negotiations, the World Trade Organization (WTO) finally reached a multilateral agreement on the issue of financial support to the global fisheries sector. **BLOOM co-authored the most recent global assessment of government support to the fisheries sector**, 'The Global Fisheries Subsidies Divide Between Small and Large-Scale Fisheries', published in *Frontiers in Marine Science* in September 2020. It revealed that \$35.4 billion of public money had been allocated to the fishing sector globally (reference year 2018), of which more than 80% went to industrial fishing, and only 19% to artisanal fisheries.

In 2008, our association, alongside OCEANA, was present at the WTO headquarters to advocate for the prohibition of harmful public subsidies. In 2017 in Buenos Aires, with the NGO The Varda Group, we were close to having the agreement we have today. **It took a huge campaign orchestrated by the Pew Charitable Trusts bringing together more than 180 NGOs, including BLOOM, and the sustained**

pressure of Ambassador Peter Thomson, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for the Ocean, for the States to regain the motivation to reach a first agreement. We congratulate the States that were the crucial architects of the agreement: Colombia, New Zealand and the Pacific Island States, including Fiji, for their tireless work and the course they have maintained for years to reach this major agreement.

THE PROTECTION OF 16,000 KM2 OF VULNERABLE MARINE AREAS

On 15 September, the European Commission closed access to all bottom-contact fishing gear beyond 400m depth in 87 areas (16,000 km²) hosting vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) in the Atlantic off the coasts of Ireland, France, Portugal and Spain. **These areas should have been closed since 2018, that is, two years after the adoption of the EU deep-sea fishing regulation that we fought long and hard to win in 2016.**

The 2016 regulation imposed an immediate ban on bottom trawling beyond a depth of 800m and a closure to all bottom-contact fishing gear (e.g., longlines) within two years, i.e., 2018, in Northeast Atlantic VMEs.

If the European Commission had received the necessary scientific data, it could have preserved areas spectacularly rich in biodiversity, such as coral or cold-water sponge fields, as early as 2018. But France and Spain played for time and delayed sending their scientific data to identify the areas to be protected from the devastation of deep-sea fishing. It was therefore only on 15 September 2022 that the Commission was finally able to decree the closure of the areas.

Spain immediately announced that it was attacking the European Commission's decision, even though the European Commission was only implementing a regulatory obligation to which Spain had already subscribed by adopting the deep-sea fishing regulation in 2016!

The Spanish government had said that it would take the Commission to the Court of Justice of the European Union if it 'dared' to close these areas of remarkable diversity to its trawlers. In November, Spain followed through with its threat. BLOOM thus joined forces with several NGOs to denounce and counteract Spain and its political accomplices' outrageous pressure on the European standard.

FRANCE'S SUPPORT FOR THE DEEP-SEA MINING BAN

On 7 November, President Emmanuel Macron officially announced France's support for a ban on deep-sea mining. From Lisbon, where the UN Ocean Conference was taking place, BLOOM denounced the disastrous impacts of this practice on social media, a practice supported at the time by France. Within hours, our Instagram post went viral, with over 200,000 'likes' and 10 million views. Under monumental public pressure, Emmanuel Macron held a 'private' meeting with NGOs at the Lisbon Aquarium during which he began preparing laying the groundwork for

withdrawing his support for deep-sea mining. This was a giant step, but the unequivocal official announcement would come later, from Egypt, at COP27.

By choosing to remove any ambiguity surrounding the French position and making a big deal of it at COP27, President Macron made a shrewd calculation: he silenced vocal critics of the government's climate inaction by garnering applause from NGOs over the renunciation of deep-sea mineral extraction.

Rather suspicious of the government's political manoeuvring, NGOs are still waiting to see French diplomacy swing into action in order to obtain an international moratorium on mining.

ALERTE CITOYENNE

Un drame climatique se prépare





claire_nouvian
Lisbonne

...

claire_nouvian 🚩 Alerte citoyenne : un drame climatique se prépare.

@emmanuelmacron porte un projet qui va détruire l'océan, les animaux marins et le climat, mais il se fait passer pour un champion de la planète à la conférence « Océan » de l'ONU à Lisbonne.

Lisez, il y a urgence.
Nous avons besoin de vous.

Lisez tout le post puis 1/ tagguez @emmanuelmacron en commentaire 2/partagez ce post autour de vous, rendez le visible, parlez-en, il y a urgence 3/soutenez notre combat en suivant le compte de @bloom_association 🙌

Emmanuel Macron a décidé de satisfaire la cupidité des lobbies climaticides plutôt que de protéger notre avenir, plutôt que de faire le strict minimum pour respecter les limites de la biosphère.

On ne va pas le laisser faire. Et on l'attend de pied ferme demain à Lisbonne.

Mais nous avons aussi besoin de votre aide et de votre mobilisation dès maintenant.
Vous pouvez faire la différence.
Je compte sur vous.

Claire









Aimé par jasminaperi et 202 408 autres personnes

JUIN 29, 2022

PROGRAM

For truly 'protected' marine areas

Marine Protected Areas are the solution to fight against the destruction of the climate and the collapse of marine biodiversity.

Year after year, scientific studies mount in number and continue to describe the collapse of marine biodiversity under the blows of industrial fishing.

Since 1950, industrial fisheries have reduced the populations of large fish such as cod, halibut, sharks, groupers, tuna, swordfish or marlin by 90%. According to the latest report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture*, more than a third of the world's fish populations are overexploited. This is three times more than in the seventies.

Industrial fishing is the leading cause of destruction of marine ecosystems and threatens the ocean's role as a climate regulator and biodiversity reservoir. Fishing techniques that rake the seabed – such as bottom trawling, dredging and demersal seining – or those that catch huge volumes of fish (such as pelagic trawlers, sometimes reaching up to 140 meters in length) – do enormous damage. These techniques destroy seagrass beds and marine forests, release CO₂ trapped in marine sediments, and indiscriminately remove a large biomass of fish, compromising the capacity of marine fauna to fully play its role in absorbing and storing carbon.

The path on which our society is set is disastrous, but our political leaders refuse to implement the solutions that would allow us to change course while there is still time. The experts of the intergovernmental panels on climate change and biodiversity from the IPCC (the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and IPBES (the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) are however unequivocal. **In order to limit the effects of global warming and slow the collapse of marine biodiversity, they all stress the importance of one measure: the development of a coherent network of Marine Protected Areas.**

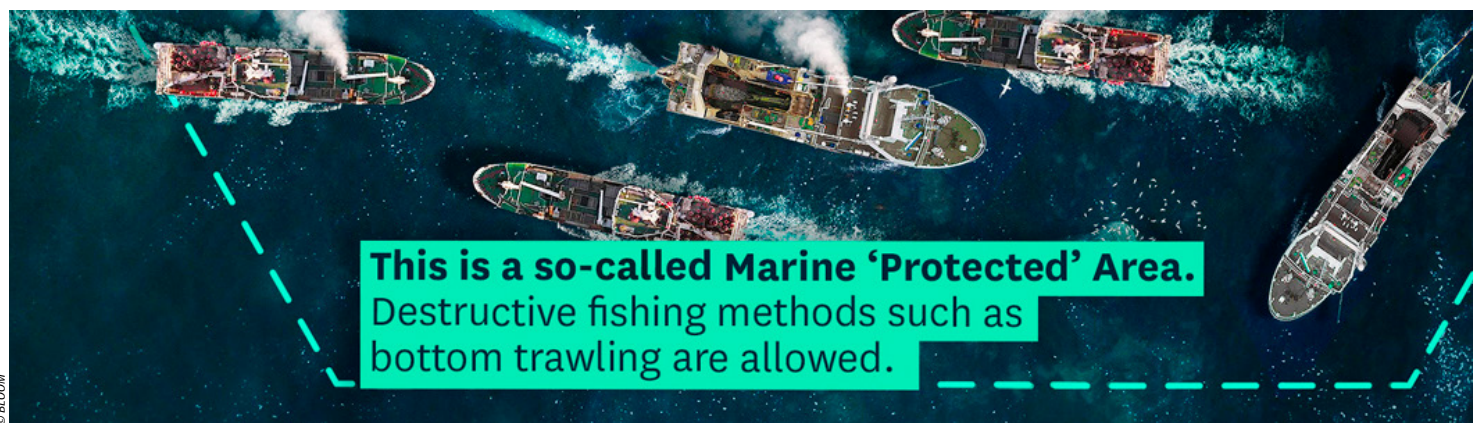
What is a Marine Protected Area?

A Marine Protected Area (MPA) is a 'clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values'.¹ According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), **an MPA cannot be considered 'protected' if industrial extractive activities are conducted there** or if industrial infrastructure is developed. These MPAs fall into several categories, the two main ones being:

Categories	Criteria
MARINE PROTECTED AREA	Prohibition of industrial activities, notably industrial fishing (qualified by the IUCN as fishing practiced by vessels of more than 12 meters in length and 6 meters in width, or those using dragging gears). Authorization of artisanal fishing.
MARINE PROTECTED AREA UNDER 'STRICT' PROTECTION	Prohibition of all human extractive activities.

Under 'strict' protection, Marine Protected Areas allow a spectacular regeneration of marine ecosystems and species. Fish biomasses are on average 670% higher than in the surrounding unprotected waters! This regeneration creates a spillover phenomenon: marine animals spread outside the protected area and contribute to the global reconstitution of biodiversity and marine ecosystems.

¹ - See the IUCN's document '[Guidelines for applying the IUCN protected area management categories to marine protected areas](#)'



BEHIND THE GRAND DECLARATIONS...

In 2020, the European Union adopted the principles of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and adopted its *Biodiversity Strategy for 2030*, in which it set the objective of achieving 30% of Marine Protected Areas by 2030 and 10% under ‘strict’ protection. France, which bears a major responsibility for achieving this European objective as the leading European maritime power and the second largest in the world in terms of economic exclusive zone (EEZ), has made similar commitments, which are included in the *National Strategy for Protected Areas* adopted in January 2021 and ratified in Article L.110-4 of the Environmental Code.

On paper, our government seemed to have taken the measure of the problem. In February 2022, it organized the One Ocean Summit, during which French President Emmanuel Macron announced that he had ‘*created the second largest Marine Protected Area in the world*’ and ‘*surpassed the objective of 30% of French maritime and terrestrial spaces in protected areas*’ – up to 33% – by extending the national nature reserve in the Southern Territories. According to him, France had thus made a meaningful contribution ‘*to the objective of placing symbolic areas under strong protection*’. However, this impressive figure does not stand up to scrutiny. Worse still, **this speech introduces the concept of ‘strong’ protection, a Machiavellian French invention corresponding to protection standards well below the minimum recommendations from the IUCN.** Indeed, the French ‘strong’ protection allows industrial fishing to continue operating in so-called ‘protected’ areas. Its generalization in France would be a disastrous signal for marine protection at a global level.

...AN ALARMING REALITY IN FRANCE AND EUROPE

According to international standards of environmental protection, France is indeed lagging behind, far below the 30% of protection currently claimed by the French government. Although our country is the second largest maritime power in the world, more or less on the same level as the United States, we are ranked 17th internationally in terms of our ratio of Marine Protected Areas.

- Unlike the United States, which protects 23% of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), or the United Kingdom, which has protected 39% of its waters, **France protects less than 4%.** These protected areas are mostly located in remote areas of the Southern Ocean, largely unfrequented by industrial fishing vessels.
- In metropolitan France, the percentage of protection falls to an almost non-existent level: **only 0.005% of the Channel, Atlantic and North Sea coast and 0.094% of the Mediterranean coast are totally protected.**

In 2020, the European Commission warned that **less than 1% of European waters were strictly and effectively protected.** Similarly, the EU Court of Auditors pointed out that ‘*EU Marine Protected Areas offer little protection in practice*’. Thus, although MPAs are indispensable solutions for restoring marine biodiversity, marine habitats and the planet’s climate, it is clear that their implementation in France and Europe is a failure: the vast majority of so-called Marine ‘Protected’ Areas today in Europe are not protected at all. **They are simply ‘paper parks’.**

BLOOM HAS ANALYZED THIS PROTECTION 'À LA FRANÇAISE'

In order to understand the strategy of protection 'à la française', BLOOM quantified the industrial fishing effort within the so-called Marine 'Protected' Areas in France, studied twenty years of public marine protection policy, and analyzed the location choices of our MPAs between metropolitan France and the entire French EEZ. Based on this extensive research, BLOOM has shown that not only were the quantitative objectives not achieved, but that the administrative maze of protection 'à la française' and its 'strong' protection masked total hollowness.

Our three reports published in 2022 highlight a very significant divergence between what France considers 'protected' and the measures that enable real restoration of marine ecosystems:

— 7 October

The report 'The assault of industrial fishing on French so-called Marine Protected Areas'

This analysis proves that destructive industrial activities constantly occur in MPAs. In metropolitan France, 47% of the fishing effort takes place within Marine Protected Areas. This means that industrial fishing vessels spend as much time inside Marine Protected Areas as they do outside.

— 24 November

The report 'Zero ambition: Marine Protected Areas that protect inaccessible and unexploited areas'

Moreover, when protecting its waters, France's first objective is not to restore nature by protecting areas subject to intense pressure from industrial fishing, but to reach its numeric objectives by protecting remote and little frequented areas, where industrial fishing pressure is low or non-existent. The report shows that the layout of the MPAs in the Southern Territories – the famous largest Marine Protected Area in the world according to the government – systematically avoids the routes of the few industrial boats that operate there. Thus, the very few marine areas under 'strict' protection are set up in such a way as to never interfere with the economic interests of the industrial sector.

— 5 December

The report 'Much ado about nothing'

Finally, our third report 'Much ado about

nothing: fake marine protected areas, a real endorsement of industrial fishing' reveals the underside of the French maritime protection policy. It looks back at the strategies used by France to achieve the current standards of maritime protection – which are almost non-existent.

- While international bodies such as the IUCN have clearly defined levels of protection, France prefers to invent its own rules, prioritizing the demands of industrial lobbies over those of scientists. It thus categorizes under the term 'strong' protection areas that do not even meet the minimal and basic definition of a marine protected area.
- In order to legitimize its own maritime protection policy at an international level, France is trying to substitute a 10% objective of 'strong' protection – which protects nothing – for the European objective of 10% of 'strict' protection, which equates to the absence of human activity.

Our reports have shown that the divergence of the French government from international standards of protection are neither fortuitous nor trivial. **They are part of a deliberate historical choice to protect, not marine ecosystems, but the presence of industrial fishing in all French waters.** This strategy is not new, but the current government is pushing it to its paroxysm by using the concept of 'strong' protection as a smokescreen. Thanks to a semantic shift that has serious consequences, France avoids the need to really restore ecosystems that have been depleted by decades of overfishing and high-impact methods such as trawling and dredging.

BLOOM DENOUNCED THE IMPOSTURE OF FRENCH MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

During the entire year, our objective was to raise public awareness of the importance of Marine Protected Areas and to call on the government to adopt the scientific standards of marine protection defined by the IUCN.

Faced with the unprecedented collapse of marine biodiversity, we demand that France align its words and actions by taking a stand on the European and international stage for a ban on industrial fishing in at least 30% of the ocean, and for 'strict' protection (i.e. without any human activity) in at least 10% of its waters.

However, far from trying to remedy the failures

of its current protection system, in 2022 France has not stopped reinforcing its detrimental rules to propagate them abroad, while boasting of its greenwashing in international forums. This tragedy in three acts was intended to confirm a disastrous reality: industrial fishing ploughs the seabed, empties the ecosystems of all life, including the spaces that we all thought were protected.

ACTE 1 THE GOVERNMENT ENSHRINES THE CONCEPT OF 'STRONG' PROTECTION IN FRENCH LAW

In France, **BLOOM discovered that the French government took advantage of the turmoil between the two rounds of presidential elections to surreptitiously pass a highly pernicious decree, published on 12 April.** This 'strong' protection decree leaves the door open to the practice of industrial activities in Marine Protected Areas. Instead of a categorical and total ban on human practices, not only industrial ones, as specified in the IUCN definition of 'strict' protection, the text provides for 'avoidance' or 'significant limitation' of impacting human activities. The 10% target for 'strict' protection – the most effective for biodiversity restoration – is thus deliberately omitted in favor of 'strong protection,' a French invention that BLOOM had already noted in the President's speech at the One Ocean Summit.

The stakes of this decree are high: it defines the standard that will serve as a reference for the management of Marine Protected Areas in the future and therefore set the cursor of our ambition to restore the health of the ocean and of small-scale French fishing, destroyed by decades of unfair competition with industrial fisheries.

To counter this dangerous government maneuver, BLOOM first filed an appeal against this decree on 8 June. In the absence of a response from the administration, **we decided to attack it before the Council of State on 7 October to obtain its cancellation.**

ACTE 2 IN EUROPE, FRANCE DEFENDS THE PRESENCE OF INDUSTRIAL FISHING IN MARINE AREAS THAT ARE SIMPLY 'PROTECTED' AND QUESTIONS 'STRICT' PROTECTION

In order to promote real progress in the protection of Marine Protected Areas in Europe, in April BLOOM supported amendments tabled in the framework of the own-initiative report of the Portuguese socialist MEP Isabel Carvalhais, 'Towards a sustainable blue economy' through the 'MEPs for MPAs' campaign. The report included, among other things, **an amendment by French Green MEP Caroline Roose to ban bottom trawling in all marine protected areas**, as recommended by the IUCN.

Our campaign was aimed at both MEPs and the general public. We called on Members of Parliament to be transparent by making their voting intentions known on social networks and to justify their position. In this way, our campaign drew attention to the importance of MPAs by bringing scientific arguments for their preservation into the public sphere. Our petition 'For truly protected marine areas' has gathered more than 55,000 signatures. A group of 300 scientists led by the Spanish academic Enric Sala also joined the mobilization by calling for a ban on all industrial activity in Marine Protected Areas.

Despite the public pressure generated by our campaign, Caroline Roose's amendment was replaced by a counter-amendment from Renaissance MEP Pierre Karleskind. His amendment proposed the prohibition of 'harmful' fishing methods in 'strictly' protected marine areas, the only place in the ocean where they should by definition already be prohibited, since all human activities are theoretically banned there! In contrast, this counter-amendment implied that harmful methods had a place in 'non-strictly protected' Marine Protected Areas. This situation clearly illustrates the strategy of the presidential party to lower the standards of marine protection: an obvious protection measure for any type of MPA according to the IUCN definition is reintroduced as an exception only for strictly protected areas.

In the Karleskind amendment in the European Parliament, as in the French decree that we have challenged before the Council of State, the same logic applies: **France wants to replace a very clear notion (the 'strict' protection), by a much more lax notion (the 'strong' protection), which is only strong in name.**

- The creation of Marine Protected Areas under 'strict' protection would be replaced by marine areas under 'strong' protection. Instead of banning all human activity, industrial fishing deemed not harmful (according to vague, subjective and dangerous criteria) would continue to be authorized.
- The other Marine Protected Areas, where only artisanal fishing should be allowed, could suffer the onslaught of the most destructive industrial fisheries, as if there were no MPAs present at all. This is already the existing situation in metropolitan France. France is thus trying to align international norms with its own laxity.

The own-initiative report and MEP Karleskind's counter-amendment were adopted on 3 May.

In the face of these blatant attempts to weaken the very notion of protection, BLOOM called on the European Commission to ensure that the legislative proposal is in line with international standards.

ACTE 3 THE SABOTAGE OF 'STRICT' PROTECTION AT COP15

Appeal to Emmanuel Macron in *Le Monde*

On December 4, on the eve of the Convention on Biological Biodiversity (COP15) in Montreal, BLOOM published a full-page ad in the national French newspaper, *Le Monde*. The text, entitled '*Mr. Macron, have you lost your memory?*', called on the French President to implement the European injunction to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030 and 10% in 'strict' protection. BLOOM's fear was that the French representatives would go to COP15 to defend the same ineffective Marine Protected Areas and the same 'policy of numbers' that the State defends in France.

Our fears were well founded because that is exactly what happened.

Appeal to the French Court of Auditors

The European Court of Auditors highlighted in 2020 the failure of the European network of Marine Protected Areas, as it has been constituted over the last 20 years, to provide real protection for the marine environment. Today, **86% of the so-called 'protected' European waters are intensively trawled.**

Faced with this staggering fact, BLOOM has turned to the French

Court of Auditors' new citizen platform – allowing civil society to submit and participate in the choice of topics for investigation –, in order to put an end to the opacity around public aid to fisheries.

On April 7, **BLOOM called for an investigation into the millions of euros sunk into the creation of these 'paper parks'**, asking in particular for an investigation

into the use of funding from the French Office for Biodiversity (*Office Français de la Biodiversité*, OFB). Our request was supported by more than 1,200 internet users, reaching first place among the votes. In the end it was not retained, contradicting the promises made by the Court of Auditors to respect the public vote.

Le Monde

DIMANCHE 4 DÉCEMBRE 2022

M. MACRON, VOUS AVEZ PERDU LA MÉMOIRE?

Vous n'êtes pas le seul. Nous souffrons tous d'amnésie collective. Nous avons oublié ce qu'était la nature avant qu'on ne la détruise de façon déterminée, jour après jour, pendant des siècles.

Nous avons oublié qu'il y a quelques décennies, les pêcheurs de Bretagne capturaient des cabillauds de plus d'un mètre de longueur, que les eaux du globe étaient sillonnées par des dizaines de millions de baleines, de dauphins, de tortues, que les fonds marins étaient recouverts de forêts animales... Oui, de véritables forêts marines constituées d'animaux : de gorgones, de coraux d'eau froide et d'éponges qui servaient de nids, de garde-manger et de protection à une diversité biologique époustouflante. Nous avons oublié que la nature était saine, complexe et belle. Que nous avons retourné contre l'océan et les animaux la technologie militaire inventée pour anéantir les vies humaines. Armés de GPS, de radars, de sonars, de filets incassables en nylon, les navires de pêche ont mené une guerre contre la vie océanique et ont exterminé plus de 90% des grands poissons tels que les espadons, les thons, les mérus, les raies et les requins depuis 1950. Dans la Manche, les poissons de plus de quatre kilogrammes ont reculé de plus de 97% depuis la fin du XIX^e siècle. Au total, la pêche industrielle exploite une surface quatre fois supérieure à celle de l'agriculture alors que les poissons représentent moins de 10% des protéines animales mondiales. La déforestation sous-marine et le dépeuplement de l'océan sont en passe de transformer 70% de notre planète en monde du silence.

M. Macron, vous êtes comme nous, vous avez oublié ce que fut la beauté du monde.

Mais vous n'avez pas oublié votre engagement de Brest en février 2022 de mettre en œuvre l'injonction européenne de protéger 30% de l'océan d'ici 2030, dont un tiers en « protection stricte », sachant que la protection intégrale des écosystèmes marins permet leur restauration spectaculaire : en cinq à dix ans, les biomasses de poissons bondissent de 670%, la diversité d'espèces de 20%, les habitats marins retrouvent structure, complexité et richesse.

Aujourd'hui en France, les aires marines dites « protégées » ne le sont aucunement. Il est possible d'y pêcher avec de redoutables engins industriels qui raclent les fonds, comme la senne démersale ou le chalut de fond, l'une des méthodes de pêche les plus destructrices et les moins sélectives. Les zones réellement protégées interdisant les activités industrielles ne représentent que 0.005% de notre façade Manche, Mer du Nord et Atlantique et 0.094% de notre façade méditerranéenne. Un ratio si faible fait honte à la France qui devrait être exemplaire en matière de protection marine puisque nous formons la première puissance maritime européenne et la deuxième mondiale par la taille de notre zone économique exclusive.

Monsieur le Président,

Il est minuit moins une pour la planète.

Le vivant a besoin de se réparer. La nature a besoin de souffler. Les humains de respirer.

L'océan produit la moitié de l'oxygène sur Terre : c'est notre poumon et le berceau de la vie sur notre planète. Protéger l'océan, c'est nous protéger collectivement.

Montrez au reste du monde qu'en France aussi, « protéger » signifie « mettre à l'abri, défendre, sauvegarder » et non pas « chaluter, extraire et exploiter ».

Avant la COP15 sur la diversité biologique qui se tiendra à Montréal à partir du 7 décembre, annoncez que la France se met en conformité avec la définition internationale d'une « aire marine protégée » : annoncez l'interdiction des activités industrielles, dont le chalutage de fond, dans toutes les aires marines protégées françaises ainsi que la protection « stricte » de 10% de nos eaux.

Plus de 300 chercheurs internationaux et des centaines de milliers d'Européens le demandent.



BLOOM est une association à but non lucratif fondée en 2005 par Claire Nouvian, lauréate du Prix Goldman pour l'Environnement. BLOOM a pour objet d'œuvrer pour le bien commun et a pour mission de protéger l'océan et les équilibres sociaux qui en dépendent, de restaurer la richesse biologique et les habitats marins et de lutter contre le changement climatique et l'effondrement de la biodiversité. BLOOM a une très forte culture de l'efficacité, des résultats et de la persévérance. Nos objectifs se déploient selon quatre axes d'action stratégique : la recherche scientifique, la sensibilisation et la pédagogie, le plaidoyer et les actions en justice. Nos campagnes ont par exemple mené à l'interdiction en Europe du chalutage en eaux profondes en 2016 et de la pêche électrique en 2019.

Soutenez-nous : www.bloomassociation.org



ClientEarth⁺



GREENPEACE



OCEANA



SEAS AT RISK

SHARK PROJECT





France torpedoed the ambition of COP15 for Biodiversity

In the absence of the United States, France had the privilege of representing the world's leading maritime power in the negotiations. Unfortunately, it did not use this position to set an example. **For months, our country has been torpedoing European attempts to include ambitious ocean protection objectives in the EU negotiating mandate.** As we revealed in the report 'Much ado about nothing', France joined forces with the Netherlands, against Belgium in particular, so that the EU would abandon the 10% objective of 'strict' protection at COP15, and only retain the overall objective of 30% of Marine Protected Areas.

A global agreement that falls short of the mark

A product of the COP15 negotiations, the Kunming-Montreal agreement and its spectacular '30 by 30' goal – to protect 30% of land and sea areas by 2030 – is simply a case of smoke and mirrors. In fact, the text does not contain the slightest indication of what 'protect' means, leaving the door wide open for industrial activities in Marine Protected Areas, as is the case in France. **The agreement that is supposed to stop the collapse of life completely abandons the proposal of 10% strict protection, although this is the most effective measure to regenerate marine life.**

Just another greenwashing operation

To top it all off, **France has instrumentalized the 'High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People'.** Launched in January 2021 at the One Planet Summit, it brings together more than 100 countries that, in theory, have the objective of protecting 30% of the world's land and sea by 2030. However, under the influence of France, the coalition refuses to defend IUCN's protection standards in international forums. This is all the more regrettable since Costa Rica, which co-leads the coalition with France, has effectively respected these standards and protects 30% of its waters.

France: an ecocidal nation

In summary, in Europe and on a global level, France has systematically worked to lower the standards of protection in Marine Protected Areas. **France contributes to maintaining the status quo of an overexploited ocean, under the sway of industrial fisheries,** when we need the lungs of the Earth to be able to absorb our excess carbon most.

Our fight continues in 2023

In 2022, our investigations and positions on Marine Protected Areas were cited in nearly 200 press articles, adding nuance to the self-congratulation of public authorities at the end of the One Ocean Summit and COP15.

BLOOM has tirelessly countered the discourse of protection 'à la française' and will continue to do so in 2023, notably by following through with legal action before the French Council of State against the decree of 12 April. Faced with the deception of the French government, it will also be necessary to educate artisanal fishers, to whom the government would have them believe that banning industrial fishing in MPAs also means the end of artisanal fishing in these same areas.

Because 'paper parks' will not allow us to protect nature, climate stability and marine animal survival, **we will continue to ask for:**

➡ An ambitious marine protection policy:

France must speak out on the European and international stage for a ban on industrial fishing in at least 30% of the ocean and 'strict' protection in at least 10% of waters.

➡ A coherent French network of marine protected areas that is representative of ecosystems:

the objectives of 30% of marine protection and 10% of 'strict' protection must be met by maritime coastline and not only by making up 'numbers' in the remote and seldom frequented waters of the Southern Territories or the Pacific Ocean.

➡ The prohibition of industrial fishing in all French Marine Protected Areas:

in accordance with the recommendations of the IUCN.

PROGRAM

Demersal seining

Since the ban on electric fishing, obtained by BLOOM in 2019, the Dutch industry seems to be redoubling its efforts to replace one destructive fishery with another. Demersal seining is one such technique. Its main attraction for the industry is that it consumes less fuel than a bottom trawl. It is therefore a more economical choice, although also not very environmentally friendly. The Dutch industry owns at least 30 purse seiners, of which 13 vessels sail under foreign flag (French, Belgian, German and English).



Demonstration by French and English fishers in the middle of the Channel, 22 May 2022.

What is demersal seining?

The demersal seine is a highly technological fishing technique from the Dutch industry. It consists of placing a funnel-shaped net connected by its two ends to a long cable on the seabed to encircle the fishing area. This cable is then set into vibration, creating a 'wall of sediment' that traps all the fish in the area, which are gradually captured by the net. The deployment of a single seiner impacts an average area of 3km². Like bottom trawling,

demersal seining is not selective and catches a substantial proportion of juveniles. Its impact is disastrous from an ecological and social point of view. **Through their efficiency, mobility and disproportionate spatial footprint, Dutch purse seiners threaten marine ecosystems, but also the livelihoods of French artisanal fishermen, who depend on coastal areas.**

THE FISHERS' CALL FOR HELP

In 2021, BLOOM was alerted by French fishers from the North and Normandy who condemned the fact that the public authorities and the National Fisheries Committee (CNPME) were not listening to their request for the regulation of this practice. The presence of Dutch purse seiners in the Channel has provoked clashes with French fishers who accuse the Dutch vessels of draining the sea and practicing a scorched earth policy. Faced with the difficulty of changing the regulations, BLOOM has initially implemented a roadblock strategy in order to restrict demersal seining in the Channel, such as the implementation of systematic control of purse seiners at landing.

The demersal seine has achieved the feat of uniting French and English fishers behind a common cause. On 9 May 2022, at the initiative of BLOOM, Greenpeace UK and Pleine Mer, **an English vessel and a French vessel met in the middle of the Channel to symbolize this union and to engage in a common fight against this destructive industrial fishing.** This was followed by a rally in the port of Boulogne-sur-Mer, where BLOOM had organized a press conference and reproduced a 'crime seine' to demand a moratorium on demersal seining.

A DRIFT IN THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

After action on the field comes the legal action. Taking advantage of the revision of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) – the fisheries counterpart of the European Union Common Agricultural Policy – **BLOOM has proposed an amendment prohibiting countries with historical rights in French waters from using demersal seines.** Indeed, Article 5 of the CFP, initiated in 1983, has perpetuated neighborly relations that existed before the text was implemented. Access to the waters of a European country is thus authorized to the categories of foreign vessels that traditionally operated in these waters. Since demersal seining did not exist in 1983, there is no historical right for its practice in the Channel. Dutch purse seiners should therefore not be able to invoke Article 5 to obtain access to French waters. The amendment, tabled by MEPs Caroline Roose (EELV), Manuel Bompard (LFI) and Nora Mebareck (PS) in May 2022 would thus correct the

drift observed in the interpretation of Article 5 of the CFP.

During the months of June and July, BLOOM went to the European Parliament several times with a delegation of fishers to convince the elected officials to adopt the amendment. The fishers finally won their case on 12 July, when the **PECH Committee of the European Parliament voted – by 12 votes to 11 – to ban demersal seining in French territorial waters.** This was an important first step before the trilogue meeting, the final and opaque negotiation between the Parliament, the Commission and the Council of the EU.

CITIZEN MOBILIZATION INTENSIFIES

The next step was to convince the Council of the European Union, where the representatives of the Member States sit. In September 2022, BLOOM met with the permanent representatives of Belgium, Bulgaria, Ireland, Finland, France, the Czech Republic and Slovenia. The association has published an advocacy document in French and English bringing together all the scientific, ecological, social and economic arguments in favor of a ban on demersal seines.

The mobilization has taken on a new dimension in the run-up to the trilogue meeting on 29 September. On 14 September BLOOM launched a petition addressed to President Emmanuel Macron for France to defend the demersal seine ban within the Council. **This petition obtained the support of 65,000 signatories.** BLOOM then launched an appeal via its iPolitics platform to President Emmanuel Macron, the Secretary of State in charge of the Sea Hervé Berville, and the various European ministers in charge of the sea and agriculture. They received hundreds of tweets reminding them of BLOOM's arguments.

FISHERS ARE ALSO SPEAKING OUT

Our campaign for a ban on demersal seining has been met with total consensus among French fishers, bringing together both artisanal and semi-industrial fishers. Fishers from Normandy and Hauts-de-France, concerned by direct

competition with the anti-ecological fishing methods of the Dutch, expressed their thoughts in a survey organized by the Regional Fisheries Committee of Normandy (CRPME) and the Organization of Norman Fishermen (OPN). **To the question 'Are you in favor of banning demersal seining within 12 miles for all flags?', 98% of the fishermen surveyed answered 'yes'** (205 fishermen took part in the survey).

Several French fishers who have decided to practice demersal seining in order to remain competitive have themselves requested a ban on the method in which they have invested. In particular, BLOOM has noted and broadcast the testimony of Wilfried Roberge, owner of a purse seine trawler in Port-en-Bessin, who decided to stop using purse seine fishing but to keep his license in order to avoid the construction of a new purse seiner.

'Crime scene' at the protest in Boulogne-sur-Mer, 22 May 2022.



ELECTED OFFICIALS RALLY ALONGSIDE

In addition to the online mobilization, **BLOOM has obtained numerous statements in major outlets**, including an opinion piece by Claire Nouvian in *Libération*, an opinion article co-signed by 130 MPs in *Le Monde* and an open letter from Xavier Bertrand, President of the Hauts-de-France region. The MP Sébastien Jumel from the Democratic and Republican Left group (*groupe de la Gauche démocrate et républicaine - NUPES*) has initiated a motion for a resolution, co-signed by 143 deputies, which *'invites the Government to support, for the sustainability of fisheries resources and the French artisanal fishing model, the banning of demersal seining in French territorial waters between Dunkirk and Grandcamp-les-Bains in the forthcoming discussions of the European trilogue meeting.'*

At a press conference with Sébastien Jumel on the day the MPs' opinion article was published in *Le Monde*, **BLOOM learned that Hervé Berville had called Renew MEPs to dissuade them from supporting the demersal seine ban.** Claire Nouvian's tweet revealing the personal involvement of the Secretary of State received more than 10,000 retweets, resulting in three phone calls and two emails from the Ministry to reach the founder of BLOOM.

On 28 September, on the eve of the trilogue meeting, a second press conference was organized by Sébastien Jumel (GDR), with the participation of MPs François Ruffin (LFI), Gérard Leseul (PS), Richard Ramos (MoDem) and Charles Fournier (EELV), the representative of the producers' organization 'The Norman fishers' (*Les pêcheurs normands*) Mathieu Vimard, the fishers Philippe Calone and Jean-Baptiste Houchard as

well as the founder of BLOOM Claire Nouvian to keep the pressure on until the last minute.

FRANCE ABANDONS ITS OWN FISHERS

Despite the request of fishers, MEPs and BLOOM, the trilogue meeting concluded with a *status quo*, i.e. the maintenance of demersal seining in French territorial waters. Dutch vessels remain free to do as they please with Article 5 of the CFP, while many fishers in the North sink into bankruptcy and economic insecurity. This betrayal of French interests and general interest is incomprehensible.

The arguments put forward by French representatives to justify their position against the ban on demersal seines leave us perplexed. According to Pierre Karleskind, Renew MEP and rapporteur of the text, the amendment was ‘*badly formulated*’ and ‘*discriminatory*’ against the Netherlands and Belgium, where the seine vessels are flagged. For Hervé Berville, the amendment ‘*threatened*’ the Common Fisheries Policy by asking for additional consultation (sic). However, the European Parliament had already carried out a legal analysis on the conformity of the amendment with the CFP. Pierre Karleskind could not have been unaware of this: he had made the request himself in an attempt to derail the proposal. The Parliament’s lawyers had confirmed that the amendment proposed by Caroline Roose was fully compliant.

‘Betrayal to the nation. Betrayal to our youth. Betrayal to our future.’ With these three sentences denouncing the role of France in the loss of the trilogue, BLOOM provoked a new outcry on social networks, to the point of pushing Hervé Berville to organize a meeting with our NGO a few days later, on 3 October on the Avenue de Ségur. The Secretary of State repeated the same cynical speech according to which France could do nothing and the amendment was inadequate, triggering a real fight with BLOOM representatives. The meeting ended with an additional lie: the promise that BLOOM would be associated with the negotiations of the Gentleman Agreement, an agreement to ‘set guidelines on’ (but really ‘ratify’) the practice of demersal seining in French waters. This did not happen.

The National Committee for Maritime Fisheries and Marine Farming and the Gentleman Agreement

The National Committee for Sea Fisheries and Marine Aquaculture (*Le Comité national des pêches maritimes et des élevages marins*, CNPEM) is a private law organization with public service missions. Together with the regional (CRPEM) and departmental (CDPEM) committees, its role is to ensure the representation of the interests of French fishers. While all fishers pay mandatory professional contributions to these committees, small-scale fishers are under-represented. Many of them criticize the National Fisheries Committee, which they consider to be in collusion with the large industrial fishing companies.

Since 2020, the CNPEM has been defending a draft agreement from Dutch lobbies for the ‘supervision’ of demersal seining in the Channel – the Gentleman Agreement – against the wishes of French fishers, who are asking for a general moratorium on this practice. The agreement proposes limitations that are difficult to control (such as a limit on the number of fishing days) and therefore unnecessary. Under the guise of easing tensions between Dutch fishers and their Channel neighbors, the Gentleman Agreement instead sets a precedent to legitimize the presence of Dutch purse seiners in French waters.

The Comité National des Pêches and the public authorities did not waste any time before putting their Gentleman Agreement back on the table. Only a few hours after the end of the trilogue, fishers received the first of a series of emails to obtain their signatures. **BLOOM denounced the pressure exerted by the CNPEM and the government to have this agreement accepted.** The fisher’s representatives finally signed it on the evening of 24 November.

OUR PERSPECTIVES

Despite the rejection of the amendment, we have won a cultural battle. We put the issue on the political and social stage. Even if we did not succeed in obtaining the ban, we managed to make demersal seining a real issue of concern. BLOOM will follow through on this issue to get to the root of this decision, which is clearly driven by a shameful rationale. The fight to ban demersal seining in Europe continues.

PROGRAM

Fisheries in Africa

In line with our 'Fishing Agreements' program, BLOOM investigated the destructive practices of the European Union's distant-water fishing fleets in African waters.

For several years, BLOOM has been conducting a research program aimed at shedding a light on the fishing agreements between African countries and major fishing blocs such as the EU, China, Russia and Japan.

These economic partnerships are not well known by the general public. However, they have been criticized since their creation in the late 1970s for exporting the fishing overcapacity of developed countries to the waters of Africa, teeming with fish and poorly monitored, in exchange for meager financial compensation. **These agreements are thus responsible for overfishing and the erosion of biodiversity in the waters of the African continent**, with little-known effects on the food security and socio-economic stability of these coastal regions.

TUNA FISHING: A SYMBOLIC CASE OF THE ANTI-ECOLOGICAL AND NEO-COLONIAL PRACTICES OF EUROPEAN FLEETS

In 2021, BLOOM participated in several important analytical works on the economic model of French distant water fishing fleets in African waters, as well as on the legal basis and implications of the notion of 'surplus' (the fishing resource that a country cannot exploit due to lack of means) at the heart of many fisheries agreements. This research has led BLOOM to focus on the tuna fisheries in the Indian Ocean, in which France and Spain are major players. These fisheries represent a glaring example of the anti-ecological and neo-colonial practices of distant water fleets in Africa and bear a major responsibility in the degradation of marine ecosystems and tuna stocks in the Indian Ocean.

In Europe, tuna is a product of mass consumption and comes mainly in canned form. It is the most consumed fish among the French population, with nearly 4 kilos consumed per year and per inhabitant. These are not bluefin tuna, the emblematic species of the Mediterranean, but tropical species: mainly skipjack, yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna.

The tuna fishing sector represents almost 10% of the fish catches and supports a vast international trade estimated to be worth more than 42 billion dollars worldwide. The waters bordering Africa represent the second largest tuna fishing area in the world (behind the western Pacific Ocean).

Over the years, Spain and France have deployed a huge industrial fleet in Africa: in 2021, 48 tuna seiners, with an average length of 82 meters, were active in the region. **Spain and France alone catch more than a quarter of the tuna officially fished in Africa:** with 17.5% and 8.0% of the catches respectively, they occupy the top two places in the ranking of the largest tuna fishers in the region. These figures are highly underestimated, not only because there is a problem of chronic under-reporting, but also because the third most significant fishing country, the Seychelles, is in reality a State of convenience: its entire tuna purse seine fleet belongs to French and Spanish interests. Once this country is accounted for, the French and Spanish catches amount to one third of the total.

Furthermore, European tuna fishing is mostly carried out with non-selective methods such as 'purse seines' and 'fish aggregating devices' (FADs)*, connected rafts deployed on a large scale to aggregate and capture all marine life. This method of fishing generates huge amounts of discards. In 2018, 96% of their catches in the Indian Ocean were made under FADs. Vulnerable species — such as manta rays or silky and longfin sharks — are wiped out in hundreds of thousands of kilos each year due to the fishing methods of European tuna vessels.

**Drifting FADs — used by industrial purse seiners — should not be confused with anchored FADs, used by small-scale fishers close to the coast, which have a marginal environmental impact but ensure safety at sea and thus increased food security.*

AN OUTLAWED INDUSTRY

By their own admission, French tuna vessels do not respect the quotas allocated to them. They are constantly in a situation of ‘involuntary infringement’, i.e., a part of their catches already passes under the radar of scientists who report on the health of fish populations, but it also falls under the radar of the tax authorities. They are therefore guilty of tax evasion.

Until now, industrial lobbies have managed to make France turn a blind eye to the illegal practices of the tuna fleet. Worse still, the State has even given them preferential treatment. In particular, France has delegated control operations to the tuna fishers themselves and published a circular in 2015 exempting them from the obligation to respect the European regulations on catch declarations. For both these reasons, **since June 2021, the State has been under the threat of an infringement procedure by the European Commission.** On 29 September 2022, the Commission finally published a ‘reasoned opinion’, ordering France to implement the necessary measures to comply with the Control Regulation – the general framework for the control of European fishing fleets, both inside and outside European Union waters – within two months. If they failed to do so, they could refer the matter to the Court of Justice of the EU. The Commission has not yet followed through on this threat.

Meanwhile, European fleets continue to plunder African waters. The problem with their practices in the Indian Ocean goes beyond marine conservation. Their unreported catches are being thieved from countries that are already facing resource, employment and food security problems. By participating in the overexploitation of African waters, **the European Union and other powerful nations such as Russia and China are directly contributing to the extreme impoverishment of the Global South and creating the conditions for mass economic migration and even more human tragedies.**



Allocation of fishing quotas in the Indian Ocean

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) determines the criteria for quota allocation, i.e., how the Indian Ocean fishing ‘pie’ is shared out among States. The amount of historical catches is currently the major criterion for allocation, but since 2011, two outlooks have clashed:

- On the one hand, coastal countries (such as Madagascar, Kenya, etc.) want to reclaim their marine resources and demand that what was historically fished in their waters be recognized as theirs, and not those who fished there in the past;
- On the other, that of the Europeans, who consider that everything they have historically fished belongs to them, whether in the High Seas or in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of the coastal States of the region, and that this ‘precedence’ constitutes the legitimate basis for their unchanging presence in African waters.

The position of industrial lobbies as well as high-ranking European officials and politicians thus amounts to maintaining, *ad vitam æternam*, their colonial and industrial ascendancy over the countries of the South.

This historical domination has its roots in the massive subsidization of its fleets, such as the French and Spanish tuna fleets, for which EU citizens have covered costs amounting to several hundred million euros over the years, to enable them to operate within the framework of the fishing access agreements established between the EU and some 20 African countries. European taxpayers’ money has thus contributed to the overexploitation of African waters, with disastrous social and environmental consequences.

On this point, our scientific director Frédéric Le Manach co-authored a publication in the scientific journal *Frontiers* examining the relationship between the colossal public subsidies that distant water fishing nations have received for their development in the Indian Ocean and the negotiations for the allocation of fishing possibilities currently underway within the IOTC. ‘*Subsidies and allocation: A legacy of distortion and intergenerational loss*’ was published on 6 December.



THE BEGINNING OF 'TUNAGATE'

BLOOM's work in 2022 has been to trace the toxic influence strategy of the European Union – in this case, France and Spain – to destroy any environmental ambition in the Indian Ocean and to whitewash the systemic fraud of their tuna seiners. BLOOM began publicizing its research with a revelation emblematic of the impunity of the French and European tuna lobbies in Africa: **a case of 'revolving door' involving the transfer of a key official from the French administration to the largest European fishing lobby.** This case marked the beginning of the 'TunaGate' investigative series.

On 14 November, BLOOM revealed that the civil servant in charge of the management and control of the Indian Ocean tuna fleets within the French administration — Mrs. Anne-France Mattlet — had been seconded to the French tuna lobby Orthongel for a year before being 'put at the disposal' of the powerful European industrial fishing lobby Europêche, where Mrs. Mattlet now works as director of the 'tuna group', representing the interests of European tuna fishers in Brussels.

The law, however, is extremely clear. It prohibits any person who has held a public office from going into the private sector to work on the issues for which he or she was responsible before the expiration of a three-year period following the termination of his or her duties (article 432-13 of the French Criminal Code). However, Mrs. Mattlet was clearly working on the files for which she is now a lobbyist. In addition to her functions

within the French administration, she was also president of the 'implementation committee' of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) until March 2022. It is within the framework of this Commission that fishing quotas, the (non-existent) controls of fleets, their monitoring, etc. are discussed. This management body occupies a strategic position for European industrialists, with the Indian Ocean being a key fishing area for their fleets. **Mrs. Mattlet was thus responsible for the fishing agreements between France and Africa, had to solve their 'application problems', participated in the 'drafting of administrative instructions' and in 'inter-ministerial coordination' to define the negotiation positions of France.**

BLOOM thus approached the anti-corruption association ANTICOR and reported the defector case to the Public Prosecutor on 9 November. On 16 November, BLOOM also joined forces with the NGO Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO) to file a complaint with the European Union's Transparency Register – the register of European lobbies – against Orthongel and Europêche. Both NGOs consider that these lobbies have violated the register's code of conduct by recruiting Mrs. Mattlet despite what French law stipulates.

Europêche, one of the worst European lobbies

Europêche is a lobby that brings together the largest industrial shipowners in Europe, such as the *Union des armateurs à la pêche de France* (UAPF, Union of French fishing ship owners), the *Compagnie française du thon océanique* (CFTO, French Oceanic Tuna Company) – under Dutch capital of the giant consortium Parlevliet & Van der Plas –, and the Pelagic Freezer-Trawler Association (PFA), whose factory ships of up to

145m in length target pelagic fish in Africa. Established in April 2022, the Europêche ‘tuna group’ represents the interests of two European tropical tuna fishing organizations: the Spanish lobby OPAGAC-AGAC and the French lobby Orthongel.

In a report published in October 2022, **Europêche was identified as one of the most climate-destroying and ecocidal lobbies in Brussels by the think tank**

InfluenceMap. On a scale of A (the best rating) to F (the worst), the lobby received an overall grade of E-, half a place below the worst possible grade, held by the oil and mining lobbies.

Europêche is singled out for its harmful influence on public decisions, almost systematically opposing measures to protect biodiversity and blocking policies aimed at reducing the staggering loss of wild species at a time of accelerated extinction of life on earth.



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The ZUBEROA, a tuna seiner from the Spanish fishing company Atuneros Congeladores y Transportes Frigoríficos S.A. (ATUNSA).

A TURNING POINT: THE NEGOTIATION OF THE EU FISHERIES CONTROL REGULATION

The timing of this transfer is anything but insignificant: it comes at a time when the ‘EU Fisheries Control Regulation’ is being renegotiated in Brussels which, as its name indicates, provides the general framework for the control of European fishing fleets wherever they operate. The objective of the lobbies is to obtain a more favorable ‘margin of tolerance’, i.e. to increase the acceptable share of non-regulatory catches conceded to the fleets.

The margin of tolerance defined in the 2009 EU Fisheries Control Regulation currently in force is 10%. This means that a tuna vessel checked with 10% more fish than indicated in its logbook will not be fined. The current definition of this margin of tolerance is not perfect, but an amendment adopted in the European Parliament’s Committee on Fisheries (PECH) could make things worse. The amendment provides for a drastic increase in the tolerance for ‘errors’ made (or deliberate cheating) by fishing fleets from 10...to 25%! In case of control at landing, a vessel would thus have the right to be ‘wrong’ about a quarter of the volumes caught! In the event of no control, this vessel could again be ‘mistaken’ by 25% between the declaration in the logbook – already 25% less than the reality – and the volume sold.

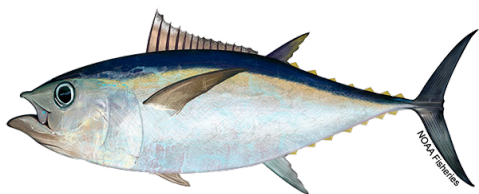
In concrete terms, this means that a ship will be able to:

- Increase its catch volumes in a context of collapse of marine biodiversity and chronic overexploitation of tuna populations.
- Fish more indiscriminately, with non-selective methods.
- Defraud more easily, because increasing the margins of error is equivalent to giving a blank check to systematically underreport catches.

It is a crime-promoting measure that greatly facilitates financial fraud, because anything that is not declared can be sold without any control and thus escape any taxation

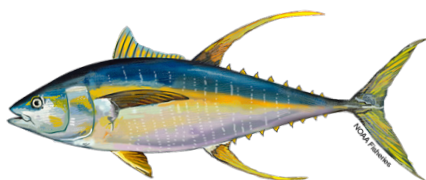
The state of health of tuna populations

Tuna fishing in the Indian Ocean targets three species:



Bigeye tuna

(*thunnus obesus*, up to 2.50 m)



Yellowfin tuna

(*thunnus albacares*, up to 2.30 m)



Skipjack tuna

(*katsuwonus pelamis*, up to 1.10 m)

The official statistics, which are considerably underestimated, already recognize that the majority of the catches come from overfished stocks. Of these three species, two are currently considered overfished (yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna); the third (skipjack) is fished at a level never before seen. The situation is particularly problematic for yellowfin tuna, as the widespread and uncontrolled use of 'fish aggregating devices' (FADs) by French and Spanish industrialists is leading to the capture of a large number of juveniles, thus endangering the population of this species: 97% of yellowfin tuna caught under FADs by the European purse seine fleet in the Indian Ocean between 2015 and 2019 were juveniles.

LAUNDERING OPERATION COVERING YEARS OF ILLEGAL FISHING BY THE FRENCH STATE

Rather than forcing the industry to change their practices, France has fully endorsed the demands of tuna lobbies and is playing an extremely harmful role in the negotiations of the EU Fisheries Control Regulation.

Indeed, the government has openly supported the relentless lobbying of industrial shipowners and directly called on the members of the European Parliament to adopt amendments that exponentially increase the tolerance for their non-regulatory catches. Furthermore, France has failed to mention the infringement procedure opened against it and has thus lied about its real motivations: to avoid condemnation and legitimize the overfishing to which it has turned a blind eye for years.

Orthongel and the French state are trying to change European law to legitimize a posteriori their illegal and disastrous practice for marine life, even if it means dismantling the entire EU legal framework for the protection of the environment. The French State has therefore sent its most strategic civil servant on a special mission to destroy the European standard and render null and void the infringement procedure opened by the European Commission against it.

BLOOM BREAKS THROUGH THE OPACITY OF THE SECTOR

BLOOM revealed this affair in an investigative report entitled 'The Wild West of tuna fishing in Africa'. This first episode of 'TunaGate' was the subject of a special program of 'A l'air libre' on *Médiapart*, broadcasted live on Youtube and viewed more than 25,000 times. Claire Nouvian was accompanied by Caroline Roose, European deputy for Europe Ecology – The Greens, and Clarence Bathia, jurist at ANTICOR. Our investigation was also picked up on by many major media outlets such as *Le Monde*, *Le Figaro*, *Le Parisien*, *Le Point*, *L'Obs*, *Ouest-France*, etc. On social networks, **Claire Nouvian's Twitter thread revealing the affair has gone viral, reaching over 2 million views.**

In conjunction with this initial disclosure, **BLOOM launched the 'BLOOM Africa' newsletter, which is sent regularly to over 200 key stakeholders** – including local NGOs,

tuna scientists, policy makers, etc. – with an interest in African fisheries, marine conservation, biodiversity and climate issues.

A FIRST VICTORY

Following BLOOM's first revelation, the Parquet National Financier announced on 2 December 2022 that it was opening a preliminary investigation into illegal conflict of interest. This investigation is a crucial first step in restoring a little watertightness between the long-term interests of all and the short-term interests of a few.

It is clear that this case of defection to the powerful tuna lobbies is only the tip of the iceberg. Beneath the surface, there is a system for monopolizing public decisions for the benefit of industrial fishing that is engrained within the State machinery. By reporting this defector's case to the French public prosecutor, BLOOM and ANTICOR not only intended to ensure that the rules of probity and integrity, which are the essential condition of public action, are respected, but also to shed light on a system that cultivates conflicts of interest in order to favor the financial interests of industrialists to the detriment of the general interest, and in particular the protection of the environment and living organisms.

OUR DEMANDS

BLOOM still has many revelations to make about the European fleets and tuna fishing in the Indian Ocean. In just a few months, we have already established that fraud is rampant in the industry: underreporting, exceeding quotas, corruption of public decision-making, etc. The goal of this campaign is **to put an end to the destructive practices of distant water fishing fleets in Africa, to propose a roadmap to restore the ecosystems and overexploited fish stocks in the Indian Ocean, and to move towards fairer partnerships between Europe and African nations.**

The investigation by the Financial Prosecutor's Office is a very important first step. We hope that it heralds the end of impunity for industrial lobbies. But the battle is far from over. While waiting for the results of the investigation, France must stop obeying an industry that demands that European law adapt to its repeated fraud and destructive practices. The year 2023 will allow us to continue to unravel all the threads of a sector that seems more and more comparable to a Wild West and even a mafia.



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PROGRAM

TotalEnergies' offshore projects



Last September, BLOOM responded to the appeal received from South Africa to oppose TotalEnergies' new offshore gas project. South African environmental activist Liziwe McDaid, who received the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize along with Claire Nouvian (in 2018), contacted our founder so that BLOOM could lend a hand to her NGO, The Green Connection, which has been fighting against fossil fuel drilling in South African waters for years.



Demonstration of artisanal fishers led by The Green Connection at Saldanha Bay, South Africa, 26 September 2022.

A CRAZY RACE FOR FOSSIL FUELS

South Africa's deep waters, which are subject to some of the strongest ocean currents in the world, have long been spared by multinational energy companies due to being viewed too dangerous. Until recently, fossil fuel companies considered it impossible to install their infrastructure in such an environment. But since 2014, things have changed: the South African government launched 'Operation Phakisa' to stimulate investment in offshore oil and gas exploration, setting a target of 30 exploration wells by 2024, with the potential to extract nine billion barrels of oil equivalent over the next few decades. **With the support of the South African government, Shell, TotalEnergies, Qatar Petroleum, PetroSA and other industry leaders have set their sights on numerous oil and gas 'blocks'¹ off the coast of South Africa.**

South Africa's *Climate Change Response White Paper* and experts from the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) both recommend a transition to renewable energy away from fossil fuels, including gas. However, in its 2022 report, the IISD warned that 'all indications are that South Africa is potentially on the verge of a gas investment boom that could prove to be a very costly mistake for the South African people.' Indeed, the siting of offshore projects threatens the livelihoods of coastal communities, increases the likelihood of an industrial disaster such as an oil spill, and disrupts unique marine ecosystems. These are issues to which BLOOM is particularly sensitive.

THE GREEN CONNECTION FIGHTS TO EMPOWER SMALL-SCALE FISHERS TO DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS

On the ground, The Green Connection is mobilizing to protect the ocean and those who depend on it from the onslaught of multinational fossil fuel companies. Since 2020, the NGO has launched the 'Who Stole Our Ocean' campaign to raise awareness of coastal communities' rights and help them take part in public consultations where their interests and those of the environment are threatened. They are building on existing networks of artisanal fishers, as well as environmental and energy organizations, to organize advocacy workshops with grassroots actors and empower them to lead their own battles. This is what they call the 'Legacy Program'. In 2022, The Green Connection and a coalition of associations and fishers won a victory against Shell's seismic exploration projects. **The constant assault by the fossil fuel companies remains difficult for civil society to counter, with each victory being followed by a counter-offensive.**

La situation s'est encore aggravée avec le retour d'un poids lourd du secteur : TotalEnergies.

The French multinational has had its eye on South African fossil fuels since 2014 and the launch of Operation Phakisa. Starting in late 2021, it has been ramping up requests to local authorities to conduct seismic studies and exploration drilling.

On September 5, 2022, TotalEnergies applied for a production license to develop two large gas fields, which could contain up to one billion barrels of oil equivalent, located off the southern coast of South Africa. The company is preparing to invest three billion dollars to launch drilling operations in the deep waters of South Africa. In its quest for profits, the company even dares to claim that its gas project is part of a transition to renewable energy for South Africa, stubbornly pursuing a nonsensical greenwashing claim that gas is not a fossil fuel.

1 - The 'blocks' correspond to a grid of South African waters divided into cartographic compartments.

BLOOM VENTURES INTO THE STORMY WATERS OF OFFSHORE ENERGY

BLOOM is a strong advocate of ocean protection as a crucial element in the fight against global warming, but this is the first time we have engaged in a campaign against offshore fossil fuel development. Exceptional times call for exceptional measures. **The opening of South African waters to oil and gas exploration is indeed a major risk, not only for South African citizens, but also for humanity.**

In July 2021, the International Energy Agency published its roadmap for the global energy sector and emphasized that *'beyond the projects already committed in 2021, no new oil and gas field development is approved in our trajectory.'* The recommendations of the International Energy Agency and the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) are unequivocal.

The disastrous consequences of climate change, which we observe daily, remind us that an energy transition based on gas extraction, encouraged by the greed of fossil fuel companies, diverts financial resources from an essential transition to renewable energies. In this context, TotalEnergies' project is absolutely incompatible with our objectives to preserve the planet's habitability and limit global warming to 1.5°C.

Gas is a fossil fuel and cannot be considered a sustainable energy source for the future.

Through this campaign, the Goldman Prize laureates strongly denounce TotalEnergies' deception in calling the switch from coal to gas a 'green' energy transition.

A THREAT TO MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

Furthermore, the French oil and gas major is knowingly developing its exploitation project in an area of extremely strong currents and spectacular biodiversity – home to Cape fur seals, cormorants, Cape gannets, sharks, dolphins, to name but a few species. South Africa's network of Marine Protected Areas and Critical Biodiversity Areas reveals that these waters are home to rich marine biodiversity both along the coast and offshore, along canyons, seamounts and the

deeper edges of the continental shelf.

South African waters form a 'blue corridor' for the migration of thousands of whales as well as a feeding and nesting site for seals, penguins, petrels, albatrosses and leatherback turtles, which are threatened with extinction. Since 2011, South Africa has seen 'super-pods' of up to 200 humpback whales feeding in the waters off the south and west coast. This is a testament to the crucial nature of South African waters for marine biodiversity. However, oil and gas development disturbs whales and their prey *'through underwater noise pollution, construction of supporting infrastructure, oil spills, associated shipping and the risk of catastrophic oil spills.'*²

A DISASTER FOR COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Coastal fishing communities will not benefit from oil profits. Yet they would suffer all the negative effects: from the gradual depletion of fish stocks in the face of industrial disruption, to pollution from potential disasters. South Africa's coastal economies rely heavily on fish populations such as snoek (mackerel family) and greater amberjack (jackfish family). Their livelihoods depend on a healthy marine ecosystem. Artisanal fishers are denouncing a monopolization of the ocean that jeopardizes their way of life.

In a show of barefaced cynicism, TotalEnergies claimed during public consultations that this gas project would create jobs in South Africa. But what kind of jobs? Temporary jobs that do not correspond to the qualifications or wishes of the local fishers. **Their demands are clear: above all, they want to preserve their activity, their way of life and their cultural practices, which are profoundly linked to a healthy ocean.**

The climate emergency, the collapse of biodiversity and the protection of artisanal fishing communities call for an immediate moratorium on this fossil fuel rush. Civil society and artisanal fishers across South Africa are mobilizing to put an end to Operation Phakisa, but TotalEnergies is turning a deaf ear to citizens' demands. Instead, France's leading oil company is at the forefront of an unprecedented assault on South Africa's ocean, climate and future.

2 - Read the report ['Protecting Blue Corridors'](#)

The Green Connection called on BLOOM to bring the South African mobilization to France, more precisely to Paris, close to the heart of the multinational's power. United in the defense of the ocean and artisanal fishers, the two NGOs have decided to lead the campaign together against the absurd TotalEnergies project.

17 OCTOBER: FIRST DENUNCIATION OF THE PROJECT

In order to raise awareness in France, BLOOM organized a press conference on 17 October in the presence of Camille Etienne (environmental activist), François Ruffin (MEP La France Insoumise), Karima Delli (MEP Greens/European Free Alliance) and Raphaël Glucksmann (MEP S&D, Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats). The Green Connection was also present via video conference: Liziwe McDaid, Strategic Director, Neville van Roy, Community Relations Officer and winner of the 2022 Eco-warrior Gold Award, and Ntshindiso Nongavu, artisanal fisher and first plaintiff in the successful case against Shell, were able to answer questions directly from French journalists. A video testimonial from Christian Adams, artisanal fisher and environmental activist, was also shown.

Together, French and South African environmentalists and elected officials have asked TotalEnergies to put an immediate halt to all its hydrocarbon extraction projects in South Africa.



A unifying campaign

The press conference organized by BLOOM on 17 October 2022 brought together activists and political figures who also denounced the social and environmental irresponsibility of TotalEnergies.

➡ **Environmental activist Camille Etienne** reported on the mobilization against the EACOP (East African Crude Oil Pipeline) project, a giant crude oil pipeline between Tanzania and Uganda, led by TotalEnergies and the China National Offshore Oil Corporation.

➡ **MEP Raphaël Glucksmann** returned to the maintenance of the multinational in Russia after the Ukrainian invasion, which continued to supply fuel to the Russian aggressor.

➡ **MP François Ruffin** echoed the striking employees of TotalEnergies, who in the autumn of 2022 were demanding a wage increase. In particular, he called on the French government to tax the company at the real level of its superprofits.

➡ Finally, **MEP Karima Delli** denounced TotalEnergies' lobbying in the European Parliament and the 'European taxonomy' that makes gas look like a transitional energy.

Simultaneously, BLOOM published a plea with ecological and social arguments against gas exploration in South Africa. **BLOOM and The Green Connection invited French citizens to make their voices heard by signing a petition asking Mr. Pouyanné, CEO of TotalEnergies, to stop this project before COP27, to protect the ocean, the climate and our future. The petition has gathered nearly 100,000 signatures.** TotalEnergies responded on 22 November with an unconvincing letter, continuing to defend ‘the use of gas as a transitional energy’ and reaffirming that the project would go ahead.

25 NOVEMBER: THE CAMPAIGN TARGETS TOTALENERGIES’ FINANCIERS

BLOOM then turned to the French NGO Reclaim Finance, whose director Lucie Pinson is also a Goldman Prize winner (2020). **They developed a new strategy to address TotalEnergies’ financial backers.** BLOOM, Reclaim Finance and The Green Connection joined forces with two other organizations, Heffa Schücking’s NGO Urgewald and Makoma Lekalakala’s NGO Africa Earth – for a total of five Goldman Prizes – and sent a letter to 78 financial players (banks, insurance companies, investment funds) likely to finance TotalEnergies’ expansion in South Africa. They were asked to take a stand for the climate and refuse to support new fossil fuel operations in Africa. Only four of them pledged not to support the French major oil and gas company in this direction. The results of this survey will be made public in February 2023, when The Green Connection comes to Paris and Brussels.

7 DECEMBER: MOBILIZATION CONTINUES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Meanwhile, in South Africa, The Green Connection continued grassroots mobilization, culminating in a ‘National Picket Day’ on 7 December, a simultaneous demonstration in a number of coastal cities such as Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban, in collaboration with local organizations.

A few days before COP27, The Green Connection also published an open letter to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa with a strong message: **‘Now, with the country’s energy**

system in tatters, we see companies like Shell and Total taking advantage with their offshore oil and gas projects, pushed by government, despite all the risks, court rulings, and local opposition. Everything is connected and interlinked in some way. Therefore, the goal should not merely be to address the country’s energy crisis. It should be to do so while also responding to the climate reality and while addressing the country’s deepening inequality and weakening economy. This will be achieved through a just transition, for which we need an updated IEP (Integrated Energy Plan).’ Mobilization will continue until this message is heard.

THE BEGINNINGS OF AN INTERNATIONAL MOBILIZATION

The alliance of our two NGOs has enabled the South African mobilization to gain new momentum, amplifying the grassroots action and the demands of local populations. There is still a chance to stop the TotalEnergies project, currently in its planning phase, before the damage to the environment and coastal communities is done. It is possible to win this fight to protect the unique ecosystem of South African waters and to prevent a French multinational from carrying out unacceptable actions abroad. The campaign will continue in February 2023 with The Green Connection’s visit to the European Parliament and the National Assembly.



PROGRAM

Harmful subsidies

In the early 1990s, subsidies were identified as the major culprit in global overfishing. At the cost of marine ecosystem health, harmful subsidies encourage industrial fleets in their frantic race for greater yields. To end destructive fishing practices, we must end the funding that enables their development.

Although global estimates exist, there is still a lack of transparency on the public aid allocated to the fishing sector in the world. This information is crucial to understand which fleets are encouraged in their harmful practices by public funds.

With the goal of removing this opacity, BLOOM began a research program dedicated to the study of grants in 2014. Over the years, we have developed a unique expertise on this subject. The analyses produced by BLOOM on subsidies were notably decisive on a legislative level in the success of the campaigns to ban deep-sea fishing and electric fishing.

The aim of this long-term program is to establish precisely the amounts of direct subsidies allocated to the fisheries sector, to identify the different categories of beneficiaries, and to evaluate the adequacy of this funding with the objectives of sustainable development in France and in Europe. This is one of BLOOM's most ambitious programs, and it is working around a key completion date: **the negotiations for the next European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) which should start in 2024. Indeed, the decision that Europe will take on the allocation of public subsidies for the next decade will determine our future.** This is why BLOOM is already campaigning to stop using subsidies to destroy the ocean.

Glossary



STECF: Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries. It gives scientific advice to the European Commission, notably in anticipation of the annual negotiations on Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and fishing quotas.

FIFG: Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance. This is the structural and investment program dedicated to fisheries for the period 1994-2006. It is divided into two iterations, the first covering the period 1994-1999, the second covering the period 2000-2006. The objective of these funds is to provide financial support for the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

EFF: European Fisheries Fund. This is the structural and investment program dedicated to fisheries for the period 2007-2013.




EMFF: European Maritime Fisheries Fund. This is the structural and investment program dedicated to fisheries for the period 2014-2020.

EMFAF: European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund. This is the structural and investment program dedicated to fisheries for the period 2021-2027.

Recognizing the different types of subsidies

In general terms, a subsidy is defined as a financial contribution made by a government or public body to a private operator that provides the latter with a benefit. There are two types of subsidies: direct subsidies, which correspond to a transfer of public funds to a private operator, and indirect subsidies, which correspond to the renunciation of a financial contribution by the public authority.

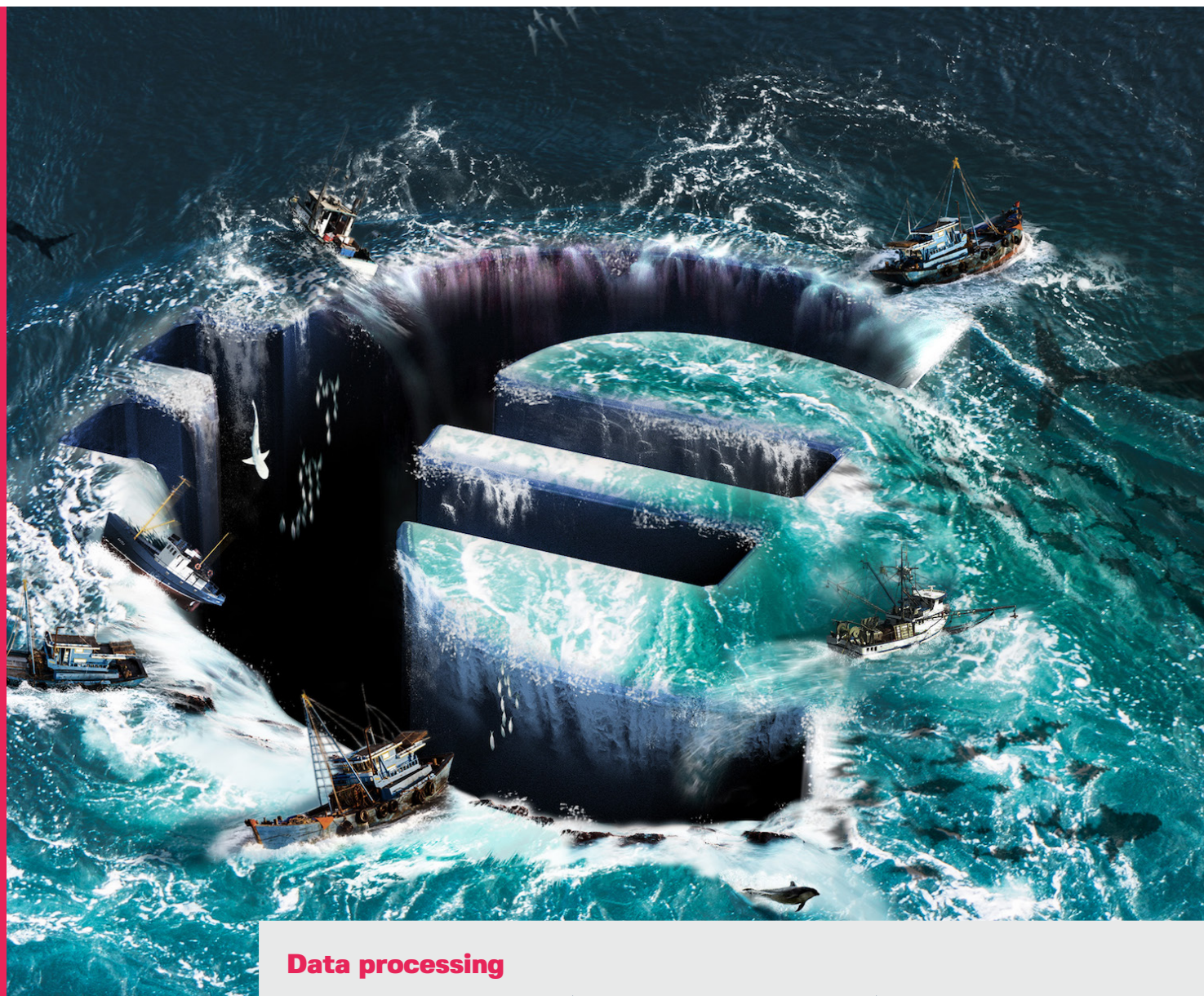
It is then possible to categorize subsidies according to other criteria, including economic, social and environmental. Because of the proven role of public subsidies in the overexploitation of world fish stocks, economists at the University of British Columbia have sought to establish a typology of subsidies according to their environmental impact.

Types	Effects
 BENEFICIAL SUBSIDIES	Allow the improvement of the state of stocks, the creation of Marine Protected Areas or the reinforcement of scientific knowledge.
 HARMFUL SUBSIDIES	Contribute to maintaining or increasing the capacity of fleets, building new vessels or acquiring more powerful gear, which exacerbates the pressure on stocks. Subsidies that lower the operational costs of vessels, such as fuel tax, are also harmful subsidies.
 AMBIGUOUS SUBSIDIES	Can have harmful or beneficial effects. Example: innovation grants. If an innovation would improve the selectivity of fishing gear, the subsidy would be considered beneficial. But if the innovation consists, for example, of developing electric trawls, then it is considered harmful given the disastrous environmental impact of this method.

GREAT STRIDES

In 2022, BLOOM reached major milestones in reconstructing and analyzing data on subsidies allocated to the fisheries sector in France over the past 30 years. Our scientific team has completed the reconstruction of the data on the beneficiaries of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) between 2007 and 2016. In addition to correcting a number of errors in the vessel registration numbers, the team enriched

the initial dataset with information on the sizes and types of gear used (tonnage, engine power, etc.) by cross-referencing the information on French vessels with that provided in the European Fleet Register. It was also necessary to manually reconstruct essential but missing data, such as the exact nature of the projects funded and the location of the beneficiaries, using a variety of open source data. This part of the database, thus finalized, reports on more than 8,000 financial transactions.



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Data processing

Every six months, European Union Member States are required to publish their data on the beneficiaries of the European Fisheries Support Funds. **Collecting** this data is one thing, being able to use it is another. Indeed, the lists provided by the Member States are often incomplete and non-homogeneous, making any comparison or analysis impossible as they stand. A great deal of work is needed to **homogenize** file structures and formats, and then to **verify** the data in order to eliminate

potential errors. Finally, researchers **enrich** the data by combining the lists of beneficiaries of European funds with additional information from a variety of relevant sources (Community Fleet Register, business database, etc.).

Only after these four steps are completed can the data be assembled and the analysis begin. The precise methodology applied by the BLOOM team for the fisheries sector will be the subject of a scientific publication in 2023.

In parallel, new data was obtained on other European programs that could benefit the fisheries sector (Financial Transparency System, 2007-2022) and on state aid (Transparency Award Module, 2016-2022) for all European Union countries.

The scientific team has also completed the list of beneficiaries of the two programs of the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG) between the years 1994-1999 and 2000-2006, and the current beneficiaries of the European Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in France.

This data has been meticulously collected in a database that covers more than 30 years of direct subsidies allocated to the fisheries sector in France, with an absolutely unprecedented level of precision. It covers the four European structural and investment funds: FIFG (1994-1999 and 2000-2006), EFF (2007-2013), and EMFF (2014-2020).



SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

With this database finalized, we have begun writing scientific publications that will be submitted to scientific journals in 2023.

- **An article presenting in detail the methodology used to compile, homogenize, complete, and enrich the lists of beneficiaries published by the administration.** Our complete database is now made up of nearly 29,625 rows (financial operations) and 52 columns (criteria). This article is already written and will be proposed for publication as soon as the article on the results themselves is published.
- **An article analyzing this mountain of data and presenting the main trends in the distribution of subsidies since the implementation of the FIFG in 1994 by type of vessel, maritime district (all the ports in the same area) and field of intervention.** This is the first time that such detailed data from the lists of beneficiaries and covering such a long period have been published for France. Indeed, the majority of articles on subsidies are based on the analysis

of data that has already been incorporated or on the provisional expenditure presented by the Member States in the operational programs that enable them to obtain the payment of European funds. The writing of the article is already well underway and the main trends have been identified.

Among these results, we show in particular that over the whole period covered, small-scale coastal fishing has clearly been neglected.

While it represents 72% of the fleet in terms of number of vessels, it has received only 12% of the subsidies. Moreover, it is the main target of the decommissioning plans: of the 1,800 vessels destroyed over the last 30 years, 1,005 were vessels measuring less than 12 m.

There have been some positive developments, such as the redirection of much of the harmful subsidies (shipbuilding) to beneficial subsidies (data collection, monitoring and enforcement of legislation).

Nevertheless, harmful subsidies still exist, in particular aid for the modernization of vessels that are likely to increase fishing capacity, or aid for the purchase of second-hand vessels by young fishers, whose criteria constitute, in reality, incentives for the construction of new vessels, given that subsidies can be obtained *a posteriori* when these vessels are bought back. The Covid-19 pandemic also caused an increase in aid for temporary cessation of fishing activities, which have mainly been received by vessels over 12 m using towed gear, which destroys the seabed.

FROM DATA ANALYSIS TO LEGAL ACTION

At the same time, the scientific team continued to collect lists of EMFF beneficiaries for other European countries. **In particular, this allowed BLOOM to identify a case of widespread fraud in the Netherlands in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic-related temporary cessation subsidies.** Published on 26 June in collaboration with the newspaper *Médiapart*, BLOOM's study reveals that more than 95% of the Dutch vessels that received this aid cheated to varying degrees, for a total amount of 5.8 million euros. The next day, BLOOM reported the 242 fraudulent vessels to the European Public Prosecutor's Office. The case is currently under investigation.

However, the European Commission did not wait

for the Prosecutor's Office to make its decision before trying to clear the Dutch fleet, thus exceeding its own prerogatives. When the case was discussed on 10 October in the European Parliament's Committee on Fisheries (PECH), Commission representative Maja Kirchner explained that the Commission had asked its own body, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), to carry out the investigation. Unsurprisingly, OLAF concluded that there had been no fraud committed. Its method of investigation was to question the Dutch authorities, the very ones implicated in the case. **This embarrassing spectacle had the merit of showing that, once again, BLOOM had touched on a sensitive subject.**

NEW RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES

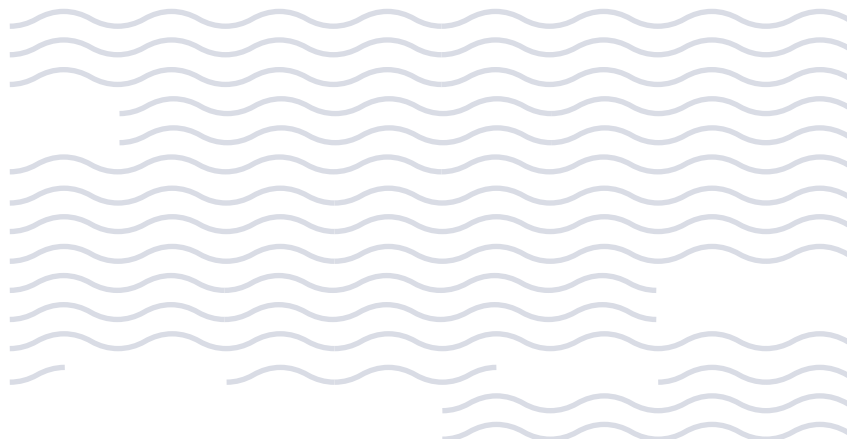
This year, BLOOM has further expanded this data collection in order to obtain the most complete picture possible of the influence of European public aid in the fisheries sector. In collaboration with economists and experts from the Rousseau Institute, **BLOOM has started to map and quantify all direct and indirect aids that benefit the sector in France.**

The scientific team began by looking at the indirect subsidies linked to the tax exemption of fuel, a major source of savings for the fishing sector. Fishers are in fact exempted from the Value Added Tax (VAT) and the Domestic Consumption Tax on Energy Products (the French acronym is TICPE), two taxes that normally apply to fuel prices. From the analysis of the reports of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), we were able to extract fuel consumption data for the different segments of the French fleet. By coupling this data with the

fuel prices published each week by the Weekly Oil Bulletin, we were able to calculate the cost of fuel with and without taxes, and thus estimate the amount of the fuel tax for the different segments of the fleet. **Based on this data, we were then able to estimate the carbon footprint of the various fleet segments.**

This new stage of research on direct and indirect subsidies is already shedding new light on our campaigns. Take, for example, the French tuna purse seine fleet operating in the Indian Ocean under the African-EU fisheries agreements. Our analysis reveals that the 22 vessels in the fleet alone received almost 20% of the total indirect subsidies represented by the fuel tax in 2019, even though they represent only 0.4% of the fleet in terms of numbers.

Before we get to the EMFAF negotiations, where our analysis of fisheries subsidies will be critical, this program continues to provide powerful observations in the fight to protect the ocean and the climate.





Legal action

At the end of 2021, we called on our members to give us the means so that in 2022 we would not have to let any crime or offense go by unpunished.

We hired an excellent environmental law firm in order to be extremely responsive on the legal front. Thanks to the backing of our supporters, we have also been able to hire a full-time jurist and **take another step forward in the fight against fraud and destructive industrial fishing practices.**

In addition to the various appeals already filed and in preparation, BLOOM has made a number of requests for access to public data or environmental information in order to remove opacity in the fisheries sector, particularly on issues of subsidy allocation.



ELECTRIC FISHING: OBTAINING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF ILLEGAL SUBSIDIES TO THE NETHERLANDS

The evidence for the illegal use of public funds to finance the development of electric fishing during the period 2007-2020, i.e. before it was banned in 2021 at the end of BLOOM's intense campaign, is irrefutable. As demonstrated by the analysis of public data published by BLOOM in the scientific journal *Marine Policy* in 2019, more than 20 million euros of European public subsidies have been granted to electric fishing.

Letting European taxpayers pay the heavy bill of political systems infiltrated by industrial lobbies is not an option for BLOOM. Due to not having an 'interest to act' to bring a case before the Court of Justice of the EU, under European law, BLOOM has formed a group of plaintiffs who have directly suffered financial damage, as required by the highly questionable and limiting principle of 'interest to act'. **BLOOM is thus coordinating the complaint, the work of the lawyers and the follow-up of the case, which we describe below.**

In the spring of 2021, the association of small-scale European fishers, LIFE (Low Impact Fishers of Europe), as well as a group of French, Belgian, English and Dutch fishers, filed a complaint

with the European Commission's competition department (DG COMP) in order to ask for the reimbursement of public subsidies that financed the development of electric fishing.

The reasoning is simple: financial support from the European Union is conditional upon compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). **By equipping five times more vessels with electric fishing than the authorized limit (84 against a maximum of 15), the Netherlands has violated the regulatory framework imposed by the European Union. The European subsidies allocated to the development of electric fishing are therefore also illegal.**

Instead of investigating the fishers' complaint and opening a formal investigation to ensure the legality of the aid with the internal market, the European Commission spent the rest of the year evading the issue. First it replied that another service should be contacted, and then that no link could be established between the European subsidies allocated to fishing and the development of electric fishing (!).

The same strategy of attrition continued in 2022.

On 4 April, the fisher's coalition supported by BLOOM sent back a letter with additional evidence via the law firm in charge of the case. After a reminder of its obligations, DG COMP

maintained on 9 September that the subsidies allocated to electric fishing were not potentially illegal, writing *'there has been no violation of the rules applicable to EU fisheries funds'*. Despite the overwhelming body of evidence, DG COMP let the case drag on in the hope that the fishers and LIFE would drop the case.

That was a gross miscalculation of our determination.

On 8 November, the fishers' coalition sent a letter of formal notice to the European Commission, via a lawyer, asking it to finally assume its responsibilities and open an investigation into the compatibility of the aid. **This reminder was the last before legal action was taken before the Court of Justice of the European Union for 'unlawful failure to act'.**

This was done in 2023.

SUBSIDIES: DENOUNCING THE WIDESPREAD FRAUD OF DUTCH INDUSTRIAL FISHERS

In response to the health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the European Union made emergency aid — named 'temporary cessations' — available to compensate vessels that remained in port. It was then up to each Member State to decide on its own allocation criteria. In 2021, BLOOM had already analyzed the COVID aid allocated to the French fishing sector and showed that the most powerful companies and the most destructive fishing practices (such as bottom trawling, dredging, and demersal seining) were the main beneficiaries. BLOOM denounced the devastating favoritism of the French government.

In the Netherlands, the ministerial decree which established the conditions for the allocation of these 'temporary stops' *de facto* excluded all vessels under 12 meters from the aid scheme. **Thus, an envelope of almost six million euros benefited almost exclusively industrial fisheries with destructive practices – beam trawlers, otter trawlers and demersal seiners.**

To qualify for these temporary lay-up grants, eligible vessels had to meet only two requirements:

- Staying in dock for at least seven consecutive

days: each full week of seven consecutive days in dock gives rise to a flat-rate compensation proportional to the vessel's engine power, up to a limit of five periods.

- Keep their Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) turned on during the entire period of the temporary shutdowns.

In total, 269 Dutch vessels were compensated. Analysis of AIS data (Automatic Identification System, a system with which all European vessels over 15 m are equipped) allowed the scientific team to trace the activity of 254 beneficiary vessels.

Our analysis shows that only 12 Dutch vessels out of these 254 identified beneficiaries complied with the rules for the allocation of aid. In other words, 95% of the Dutch vessels that benefited from the temporary cessation subsidies were fraudulent.

On 27 June, BLOOM reported this case of wide scale fraud to the European Prosecutor's Office, the new European judicial institution. The case is still under investigation.

This did not stop Dutch and Spanish MEPs from treating the matter as 'fake news' during exchanges on 10 October in the European Parliament's Fisheries Committee (PECH). Spanish MEP Nicolás González Casares questioned the integrity of BLOOM, going so far as to call it 'green denial', while the Commission tried to discredit the case (*see our campaign on harmful subsidies*).

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS: DENOUNCING THE ECOLOGICAL FRAUD OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT

While Emmanuel Macron announced with great fanfare at the One Ocean Summit on 11 February 2022 in Brest that the country would catch up on marine protection, the French Ministry of Ecological Transition had already drafted a decree weakening protection standards in French Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Worse still, the government had already closed the public consultation period on the text even before the President's announcements.

The decree was published on 13 April in the Official Journal. As it stands, the text provides for 'avoidance' or 'significant limitation' of impacting human activities, and not their outright prohibition as they should be in any so-called 'protected' area, according to the standards defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). **Not only does the decree not prohibit destructive activities in Marine Protected Areas, but it also omits any mention of 'strict' protection, the international standard that prohibits all extractive activities in MPAs.** This level of protection – the most effective for restoring marine ecosystems – is replaced by a French invention, 'strong' protection, which tolerates industrial activities in supposedly 'strongly' protected areas.

On 8 June, BLOOM filed an appeal with the French administration **for the withdrawal and cancellation of this decree which, as it stands, represents a serious and immediate threat to the ocean and the climate**, renders the very concept of marine protection inoperative and undermines the international ecological ambition for the ocean by creating a legal definition into which the extractive industries will be able to fall in order to pursue their biologically and climatically destructive activities in supposedly protected areas.

On 7 October, after four months of waiting and in the absence of a response from the government, BLOOM attacked the decree before the French Council of State, the highest administrative court in France, asking for the outright repeal of the text.

TUNA FISHERIES: PUTTING AN END TO FRAUD AND MARINE DESTRUCTION BY EUROPEAN TUNA FLEETS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

On 9 November, BLOOM reported a case of conflict of interest in tuna fishing to the French Public Prosecutor, in cooperation with the anti-corruption association ANTICOR. BLOOM discovered that the person responsible within the French administration for tuna fleets in Africa had been seconded to the largest French tuna lobby, Orthongel, without respecting the three-year time limit provided for by law. **This case of transfer, which contravenes the most elementary ethical rules, could fall under the offence of illegal conflict of interest provided for in article 432-13 of the French Criminal Code.** Furthermore, the administration's choice to place a strategic agent with industrial lobbies comes at a turning point for tuna fisheries in Africa (see our campaign 'Fisheries in Africa').

On 2 December, the French National Financial Prosecutor's Office announced that it was opening an investigation into illegal conflict of interest.

At the same time, BLOOM launched several requests to obtain a certain amount of information missing from the public debate. On 14 November, BLOOM made a request to the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture (*La direction générale des affaires maritimes, de la pêche et de l'aquaculture*, DGAMPA) for control data on the French tuna fleet in order to remove the opacity on the number and location of 'fish aggregating devices' (FADs) used by European tuna seiners. These highly technological rafts have devastating consequences for marine animals, indiscriminately capturing all species that come into contact with them. In order to respect the imperatives of protection of marine life, it is essential to establish how the European fleets use them in the Indian Ocean.

Coalitions

In order to increase its impact and make the voice of the ocean and fishers heard in political decisions, this year BLOOM led actions within the following alliances.

THE EUROPEAN EEL ALLIANCE

Faced with the collapse of the European eel population, classified as 'critically endangered' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), a hundred NGOs including BLOOM have joined forces to form the European Eel Alliance.

At the time of political decisions at the European level in September and at the Mediterranean level in November, the coalition advocated for the closure of all eel fisheries until a recovery of the population could be documented. In order to address the entire problem, Claire Nouvian stressed that it was *'also necessary to simultaneously address other anthropogenic threats to the European eel, such as habitat loss and degradation, water pollution and barriers to migration.'*

COALITION AGAINST OVERFISHING

Fearing the worst in Brussels during the annual negotiation of the total allowable catches at the European level, the associations BLOOM, ClientEarth and *Défense des Milieux Aquatiques* (DMA, Defense of aquatic environments) renewed their collaboration against the intensive and unsustainable exploitation of fish stocks.

While the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) has made it mandatory to end overfishing *'by 2020 at the latest'*, many fish populations are now close to collapse and French quotas are still distributed in a way that greatly favors industrial vessels. The situation is worsened by the deafening silence of



the Paris court, which has not granted a hearing following the complaint filed in 2020 by our three NGOs against the French state for having allowed overfishing for years. BLOOM, ClientEarth and DMA claim their fundamental right to access to justice and an effective solution to end the impunity of the French government and force it to scrupulously respect scientific advice.

COALITION AGAINST DEEP-SEA MINING

Twelve environmental NGOs, including BLOOM, called on the French government in October to put a real stop to deep sea mining and make President Emmanuel Macron's declaration in Lisbon a reality.

You may recall that under pressure from BLOOM and hundreds of thousands of citizens, President Emmanuel Macron finally changed his position at the UN Oceans Conference in Portugal by supporting a ban on deep-sea mining. The NGO coalition urged France to live up to its commitments, which were put to the test in October at the International Seabed Authority (ISA) Council meeting in Kingston. We are closely following the negotiations, which will continue until 2023.

COALITION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE DEEP OCEAN

It took BLOOM seven years of fighting alongside the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition and The Pew Charitable Trusts to achieve a major victory for vulnerable deep-water marine ecosystems. Despite the adoption in 2016 of the European Union's Deep Sea Fishing Regulation that ended bottom trawling beyond 800 m, its implementation was far from won. Indeed, some States such as France obstructed the act of implementation by blocking the sending of essential scientific data. Spain even threatened to take the European Commission to the Court of Justice of the EU if it had the audacity to enforce the law and protect thousand-year-old ecosystems.

Prompted by BLOOM and the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, the European Commission stood firm and announced in September the closure of all bottom-contact fishing gear to 87 areas with vulnerable marine ecosystems beyond 400 m depth.

COALITION AGAINST THE ENERGY CHARTER TREATY

Signed at the end of the Cold War, the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) has been challenged as environmental issues have moved into the public sphere. Hundreds of civil society organizations, including BLOOM, have been denouncing its manipulation by fossil fuel companies for years. Indeed, the ECT allows these companies to attack States in exceptional and opaque courts for having taken environmental measures that are harmful to their economic activity. By threat, investors are thus able to influence the energy ambitions of governments and, by action, to demand dizzying compensation from them, paid for by taxpayers' money.

Under the sustained pressure of 400 organizations and one million signatories, countries have withdrawn one by one from the TCE. The French government finally announced its withdrawal from the treaty in October, favoring for once the needs of the biosphere over climate-wrecking industrial interests.

BLOOM in the media

By bringing new issues to the national stage, such as demersal seining, and by continuing to be the French reference on the protection of the ocean and the problems of extraction, of industrial and artisanal fishing, BLOOM has been called upon to speak a great number of times in the press. In 2022, the actions of the association were mentioned in 713 articles/programs in French and international media.

This represents an average of 2 articles per day.



Mentions in the media

2020

485
(or 1.3/day)

2021

250
(or 0.7/day)

2022

713
(or 1.9/day)

9

18

23

SOME EXAMPLES

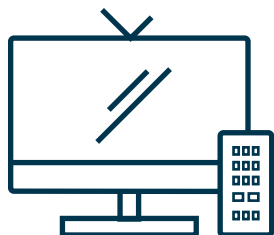
Arte (28 Minutes): « Comment protéger les océans ? », 9 February

M6 (Capital): « Alimentation, bois, pêche : révélations sur les pillages et gaspillages de nos ressources ! », 13 February

BFMTV: « Boulogne sur mer, les pêcheurs protestent contre la senne démersale », 9 May

France 24: « Claire Nouvian : 'Nous accusons le gouvernement français de mentir sur la protection des océans' », 8 June

France 2 (evening news): « TotalEnergies : Un projet gazier en pleine mer fait polémique », 18 October



Television shows



69

38

83

SOME EXAMPLES

Le Monde: « Un sommet de l'océan pour pas grand-chose », 16 January

Libération: « La production française de poissons n'a pas la pêche », 5 May

L'Humanité: « Une coalition de pêcheurs français contre les industriels », 21 September

Les Échos: « Aires marines protégées : la guerre des pêches », 18 October

L'Obs: « Total et l'environnement : la bombe climatique », 26 October

Le Point: « Un cas de pantoufflage dans l'industrie de la pêche fait polémique », 14 November

Le Parisien: « Des associations dénoncent le 'Far West' de la pêche thonière en Afrique », 14 November



Print media



Radio shows

2020

23

2021

23

2022

39

SOME EXAMPLES

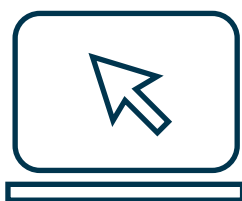
France Inter: « Avec BLOOM une autre politique de la pêche est possible » (Chroniques littorales), 4 April

EU Radio: « Quelle place pour la pêche artisanale en Europe ? », 28 June

Radio Monaco: « Claire Nouvian de BLOOM : 'Il faut de vraies aires marines protégées' », 22 September

Mouv': « TotalEnergies prépare une bombe climatique en Afrique du Sud selon l'ONG BLOOM », 18 October

France Inter: « Lutte pour la biodiversité : 'Ce qui nous manque, c'est la volonté politique' », 9 December



Online articles

370

171

568

SOME EXAMPLES

Blast: « L'océan est en danger, s'il meurt, nous mourrons », 18 February

Libération: « Océans : 'Le minimum serait d'interdire les méthodes de pêche destructrices dans les aires marines dites 'protégées'', 2 May

Reporterre: « BLOOM demande le retrait d'un décret menaçant la protection des océans », 8 June

La Croix: « L'OMC arrache un accord historique sur la pêche », 17 June

Euractiv: « Aides COVID : l'ONG Bloom signale des fraudes de pêcheurs néerlandais au parquet européen », 28 June

GEO: « Océan : plus de 200 scientifiques se mobilisent pour interdire la pêche destructrice dans les aires marines protégées », 12 September

Le Figaro: « Pêche : l'UE ferme une partie de l'Atlantique au chalutage en eau profonde », 15 September

Brut: « Après la pêche électrique, c'est quoi la senne démersale ? », 29 September

Médiapart: « TotalEnergies jette son dévolu sur l'Afrique du Sud avec un mégaprojet gazier », 17 October

Le Journal du Dimanche: « Claire Nouvian sur la COP15 : 'La France a combattu pour retirer tous les éléments restrictifs du texte' », 19 December



International press

19

38

83*

SOME EXAMPLES

EFE Verde (Spain): « Defensa del océano, la corrección política no es opción », 15 February

De Telegraaf (Netherlands): « Woede om Franse aanval op onze zegenvissers: 'Nederlanders gepest' », 12 July

The Guardian (United Kingdom): « EU slammed over failure to protect marine life from 'destructive' fishing », 12 September

EUObserver (Belgium): « French official accused of conflict over EU fish lobby job », 18 November

Mongabay (United States): « Illegal bottom trawling widespread inside Mediterranean marine protected areas », 22 November

*Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, France, India, Ireland, Jordan, Luxembourg, Mali, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, United States.

BLOOM on social media

In the year 2022, BLOOM expanded its impact on social networks.

Our association was present on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn through the official accounts of BLOOM, but also those of Claire Nouvian and the scientific team, including Frédéric Le Manach and Laetitia Bisiaux. In total, **BLOOM has united an audience of 273,000 followers, spread over 4 platforms and 13 different accounts** (although it is possible that a single person can be representative of several subscriptions, by following BLOOM on two different social

networks for example). The BLOOM community gained several tens of thousands of subscribers in 2022.

Our posts had phenomenal impact with more than 45 million views and 1.4 million interactions (likes, shares, comments) across all accounts. BLOOM performed best on Instagram, where Claire Nouvian's June post against deep-sea mining received more than 200,000 likes.



Platforms

in number of followers*

More than **273,000** followers on all our accounts.



*The number of subscribers for each platform is obtained by adding up the followers of BLOOM, Claire Nouvian, Laetitia Bisiaux and Frédéric Le Manach.



Website

in number of page views

2020

2021

2022

399,000 | **231,000** | **379,000**

OUR MOST READ ARTICLE OF THE YEAR:

On 9 February, Claire Nouvian published an open letter to the French President publicly explaining the reasons for her refusal to attend the One Ocean Summit in Brest. The article has been viewed more than 34,000 times on the BLOOM website.

Petitions

in number of signatures



222,103 signatures on our three new petitions (from 191,586 different individuals).

For true Marine Protected Areas
62,036

Our Ocean: Total destruction
96,052

Exit demersal seining
64,015

Awareness-raising and education

Editorial collaborations

Fraude qui peut ! BLOOM face aux industriels de la pêche électrique, written and illustrated by Sébastien Girard, published by Delachaux et Niestlé (released on 7 October).



The result of the collaboration between Sébastien Girard and our project manager Laetitia Bisiaux, the comic book narrates our titanic fight against the Dutch fishing industry, which uses electric fishing, with precision and humor.



Maman les petits bateaux, written and illustrated by Pauline Kalioujny, published by Thierry Magnier (released on 18 October).



This children's book, created in partnership with BLOOM, raises awareness among young people about overfishing and the destruction of the ocean. Delicately hand illustrated, it plunges the reader

into a lively and teeming sea, where fish, sharks, dolphins, mermaids, and even, if you look hard enough, Captain Nemo live together.

Festivals / Conferences / Round table discussions



CONFERENCE AT THE HALLE AUX SUCRES

Frédéric Le Manach, scientific director of BLOOM, gave a conference on the flaws of the current fishing system and the emergence of more ecological and socially viable models in Dunkirk on 16 January. This was followed by a concert by the artist Mademoiselle K.

ROUND TABLE AT THE FRENCH SENATE

On 22 February, Frédéric Le Manach represented BLOOM at a roundtable discussion at the French Senate entitled 'Exploration, protection and exploitation of the seabed: what strategy for France?' Other NGOs participating were Greenpeace France, WWF and France Nature Environnement.

LA P'ART BELLE FESTIVAL

The third edition of the festival La P'Art Belle, from September 3 to 4 in Sarzeau in Brittany, was placed under the theme of the ocean. Claire Nouvian took part in the round table 'Is responsible fishing possible?' with Ken Kawahara, secretary

of the Ligneurs de la Pointe de Bretagne association, Clémentine Guillois, restaurant owner (Peska) in Rennes as well as Charles Guirriec, co-founder of Poiscaille, a business offering a 'circuit courts' service, i.e. selling fish from artisanal fishers directly to consumers, which supports sustainable fishing and fights against overfishing.

FORUM DES TERRITOIRES POSITIFS

Claire Nouvian was one of the speakers at the Positive Territories Forum in La Rochelle, organized for the past 11 years by the Positive Economy Institute. She took part in the round table 'Global issues, local actions' on 20 September.

RENDEZ-VOUS DE L'HISTOIRE DE BLOIS

For the first time in 25 editions, the sea was the main theme of the Rendez-vous de l'Histoire de Blois, organized on 8 and 9 October. Claire Nouvian and Frédéric Le Manach both participated in the event. The founder of BLOOM participated in the round table 'Can the law save the sea?' with the CNRS

researcher Françoise Gaill and Laurent Neyret from the Constitutional Council. Frédéric Le Manach took part in the round table 'The sea: a space for the mobilization of civil society' with Pierre Micheletti (Action contre la Faim), William Lebedel (Friendship France) and Fabienne Lassalle (SOS Méditerranée). On the occasion of her visit to Blois, Claire Nouvian also took part in an interview conducted by local high school students (espace Quinière – Rosa-Parks).

1% FOR THE PLANET FRANCE'S ASSOCIATIVE AND PHILANTHROPIC MEETINGS

Claire Nouvian was invited to speak at the closing evening of the 1% for the Planet Network's 2022 Associative and Philanthropic Meetings on 12 October. She gave a lecture on BLOOM's actions and strategy in the presence of the writer and journalist, Flore Vasseur, and the Executive Director of 1% for the Planet, Kate Williams.

FESTIVAL SOCIALTER

Socialter magazine organized

its first festival on October 15 and 16 at the Point Éphémère in Paris, in the context of 'Un week-end pour bifurquer' ('One week-end to change direction'). Frédéric Le Manach was present to take part in the round table 'Marine funds: how to stop the coming ecocide' with the ecological activist Camille Etienne (Look Down).

CONFERENCE ON ELECTRIC FISHING

For the release of the graphic novel *Fraude qui peut! BLOOM face aux industriels de la pêche électrique*, Claire Nouvian, Laetitia Bisiaux and Sébastien Girard gave a conference on the creation of the book and BLOOM's campaign against electric fishing, on 25 October at Les Canaux in Paris. The event concluded with an exchange with the public and a book signing session.

JOURNÉES DE L'ÉCONOMIE AUTREMENT

For the 7th edition of the festival organized by the magazine Alternatives Économiques on 25 and 26 November in Dijon, Claire Nouvian participated in the round table '*Biodiversité, climat, même combat?*' ('Biodiversity, climate, same fight?') alongside Julien Hallak, project manager at the Veblen Institute, Harold Levrel, professor at AgroParisTech and researcher at Cired, Anne-Caroline Prévot, director of research at the CNRS and researcher at the Center for Ecology and Conservation Sciences at the National Museum of Natural History in Paris, and Guillaume Sainteny, President of Plan Bleu.

SOBD FESTIVAL

Laetitia Bisiaux was present from December 2 to 4 at the 12th edition of the SoBD festival in Paris to present and sign the graphic novel *Fraude qui peut! BLOOM face aux industriels de la pêche électrique*.

Meeting with high school students during the Rendez-vous de l'Histoire de Blois



© Estelle Lesur-Bourgeois

LA NUIT 'TOTAL'

Claire Nouvian participated in 'La nuit Total' (*Total night*) on 2 December at Ground Control in Paris: an event organized by MEP Raphaël Glucksmann against the human rights violations and climate change projects from the French firm TotalEnergies abroad. The NGO Reclaim Finance, the StopEacop collective, lawyer William Bourdon, and MEPs Karima Delli and Aurore Lalucq also spoke.

INTERVENTION AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND MIGRANT WORKERS FORUM IN TAIWAN

Swann Bommier, BLOOM's Advocacy Officer, participated via videoconference in a panel dedicated to corporate responsibility and the protection of migrant workers at the Human Rights and Migrant Workers Forum 2022. The panel organized by the Taiwan National Commission for Human Rights Protection was held on December 7 in Taipei. It included the Commission's Director Lai Chen-chang, Vice Minister of Economy Lin Chuan-neng, Secretary General of Taiwan Labor Front Son Yu-Liam, and a professor at the Central Police University in Taiwan Lin Ying-chun.

FRAUDE QUI PEUT ! BOOK SIGNING EVENTS

Sébastien Girard and Laetitia Bisiaux organized two books signing sessions for *Fraude qui peut ! BLOOM face aux industriels de la pêche électrique* in Brittany on 10 December, at the Ondine bookstore in Dinard, and on 17 December at the Le Grenier bookstore in Dinan.

Participation in marches

'LOOK UP !' MARCH

With two months to go before the presidential election, BLOOM has joined forces with more than 500 NGOs to put the climate and social emergency on the political and media agenda. The association supported the 'Look Up!' ecological marches organized on 12 March 2022 throughout France. BLOOM was present in the procession in the capital. In total, 135 marches took place across the country, bringing 80,000 people together.



© Pierre Gleizes

Screenings / Exhibitions



Participation in the photographic exhibition 'L'Océan, c'est Vivant!' ('The Ocean is Alive!') in Paris on the banks of the Seine between the Pont Neuf and the Pont au Change (from

15 February to 15 March) and on the gates of the Cité internationale universitaire (from 13 June to 18 July). This open-air exhibition drew attention to the multiple anthropic pressures that the ocean is undergoing, such as overfishing, plastic pollution, global warming or the increase in maritime traffic. Several pictures of Pierre Gleizes, former photojournalist for Greenpeace and regular collaborator of BLOOM, were exposed. The exhibition was organized in the framework of the United Nations program 'The Decade of the Ocean' with the Ocean Institute of the

Sorbonne University Alliance, in partnership with the City of Paris.

Broadcast of the documentary 'Watt the fish' on BLOOM's fight against electric fishing on Ushuaïa TV on 23 April as part of a cycle dedicated to sustainable fishing. Released in 2019, the film directed by Dorian Hays and Emerick Missud continues its journey.

Text contribution to accompany the photographic exhibition 'AQUATIQUE, de la Moselle aux Abysses' as part of the 2022 edition of the Sentiers de la photo, in Haut-du-Tôt in the Vosges mountains (from 6 July to 1 December). Along a track in the middle of nature, visitors were led to discover exceptional prints of marine ecosystems, from rivers to the ocean.

Broadcast of the program 'Labels, des verts et des pas mûrs' ('Green and unripe eco-labels') on ecolabels in food on 27 September on France 5. Frédéric Le Manach appears on the subject of the Marine Stewardship Council's sustainable fishing label. The program is part of the documentary series 'Le doc du dimanche'.

Screening of the short documentary film 'Stolen Fish' by director Gosia Juszcak in Orleans, as part of the AlimenTERRE Festival on 27 November in Orleans. The film addresses the disastrous effects of overfishing in African waters, destroying marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of local populations for the benefit of Northern shipowners and consumers. Valérie Le Brenne, project manager at BLOOM, participated in the debate following the screening.

Interventions in Grandes écoles / Universities / Training programs



INTERVENTION AT AGROPARISTECH UNIVERSITY

During 2022, Frédéric Le Manach was a lecturer in the module '*Politiques de la nature et stratégies des ONGE en contexte international*' ('Nature policies and ENGO strategies in an international context') of the Specialized Master's degree in Forestry, Nature and Society/ International Management at AgroParisTech University.

INTERVIEW FOR HEC PARIS ALUMNI

Augustin Lafond, data scientist at BLOOM, was interviewed as part of the writing of the white paper *Biodiversity, a call for decisive action* by the HEC Paris Alumni network, under the direction of Christine Rodwell and David Vaillant.

CONFERENCE AT THE HOUSE OF EUROPE

Frédéric Le Manach took part in the conference '*Les enjeux écologiques et politiques de la pêche à l'échelle de l'Union européenne*' ('Ecological and political stakes of fisheries at the European Union level') on 1 June with the EELV MEP Caroline Roose and the professor and director of the fisheries pole of the Agro Rennes-Angers Institute Didier Gascuel. The exchange was organized by the Parisian student group Les Jeunes Européens and the association Science Environnement et Démocratie.

SEMINAR AT PARIS-DAUPHINE UNIVERSITY

BLOOM spoke at the first seminar of the Dauphine Durable scientific research program of the 2022 academic year, '*Les modes d'organisation et de décision face aux défis socio-écologiques*' ('Organizational and decision-making modes in the face of socio-ecological challenges'), on 28 September. The topic was: '*À propos des communs environnementaux : le cas des pêcheries et des mondes agricoles*' ('About the environmental commons: the case of fisheries and agricultural worlds').

SEMINAR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS VIII SAINT-DENIS

Valérie Le Brenne, project manager at BLOOM, participated in a seminar organized by Camille Al Dabaghy on 8 December at the University of Paris VIII.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

On 12 December, Valérie Le Brenne took part in a round table discussion on marine resources, organized by students of the Masters in Sciences of the Sea at Sorbonne University.

LECTURE AT THE PARIS ÉCOLE DES MINES

On December 17, Swann Bommier gave a lecture entitled 'Respecter l'Accord de Paris et les droits humains. Quand justice climatique rime avec justice sociale' ('Respecting the Paris Agreement and human rights. When climate justice rhymes with social justice'). He talked about BLOOM's campaigns against TotalEnergies' projects in South Africa and for truly protected marine areas in Europe, as well as the importance of the ocean in the ocean carbon pump to fight global warming.

Financial statement

Financial year ending December 31.

Changes in the use of resources and expenditure

RESOURCES in K€	2022	2021
Individual donations	1,463	913
Memberships	3	16
Private grants, foundations and endowments funds	512	166
Corporate donations and other sponsorship income	153	65
Public subsidies	20	0
Other income	24	10
TOTAL OF RESOURCES	2,175	1,170

EXPENDITURE in K€	2022	2021
Local Missions	1,147	787
Operating expenses	251	152
Fundraising expenses	193	92
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,591	1,031
Allocation to provisions	12	10

SURPLUS RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR in K€	2022	2021
RESULT	572	129

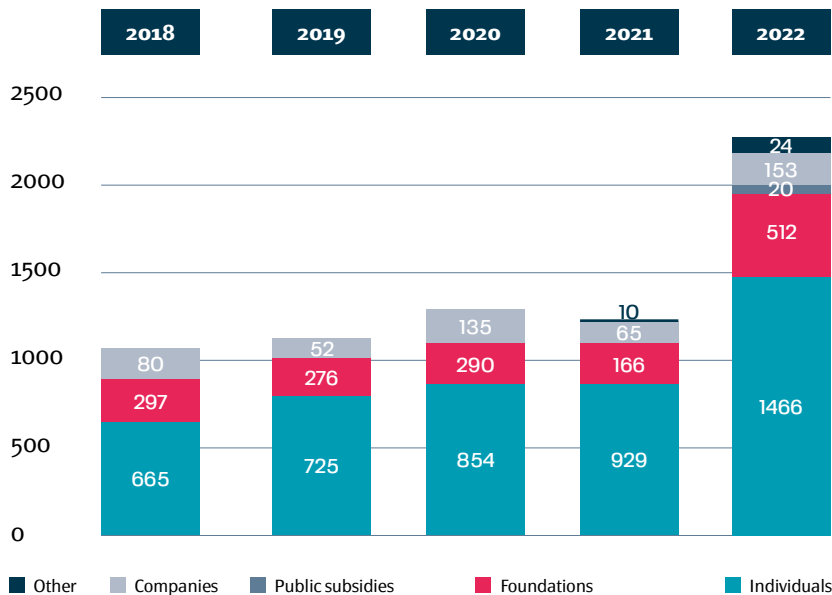
Changes in our resources

BLOOM continues to grow in order to carry out its ambitious program. We have increased our fundraising effort in recent years and will continue to do so in 2023.

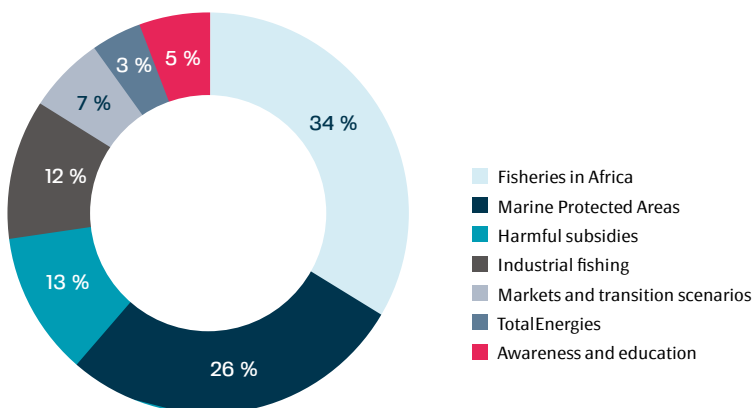
In 2022, we were able to strengthen our teams with legal and communication skills. We plan to further strengthen our research and campaign teams in 2023.

Our fundraising model, which does not depend on public subsidies, guarantees our independence and our freedom of action and tone.

Changes in the distribution of resources from 2018 to 2022 in K€



Distribution of human resources by program



Thank you

♥ FOUNDATIONS

France: Fondation AKUO, Fondation AnBer, Fondation Cabestan, Fondation 2050, Fondation Lemarchand, Fonds de dotation Yes Futur, Fonds de dotation 1 % for the Planet France

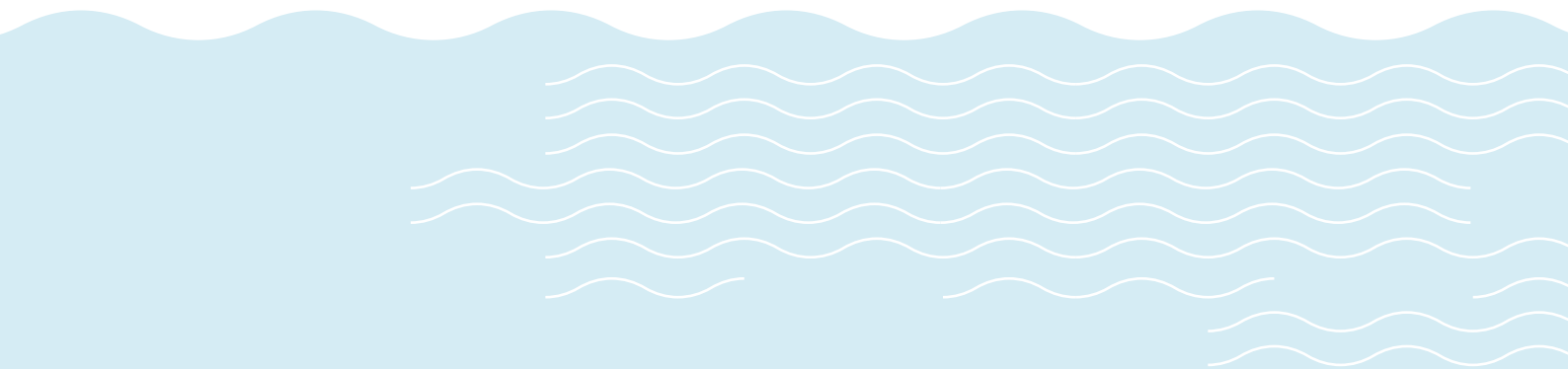
International: Georg Waechter Memorial Foundation, Goldman Environmental Prize Fund, Levine Family Foundation, Oak Foundation, Oceans 5, Pew Charitable Trusts, The Ocean Foundation, Smile Wave Fund & The Wishful Squid Fund, Synchronicity Earth

♥ PRO BONO / VOLUNTEERING

Pierre Gleizes and the law firm Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

♥ COMPANIES

Adrenalean, Aencrage, AGX Informatique SARL, Aryga, Brigand des mers, Camping Le Royannais, Caroline Motte SAS, Champlain SARL, Colibri-Ingénierie, Constance Bornette SAS, CoOptek, Corporate Finance News, Correspondances et musique, Datatorii, De Lignières Patrimoine, DEVOLIS, Extia, Gingko 21, HOTEL REX SAS, Humus, In-Silico Scientific Solutions, Ingérop Conseil ingénierie, J2AM Conseil, Kaizen Avocat, KAOBALT, L.A.C.S, La Fumerie du Coin, La Maison d'Adam SARL, Leca Marée SAS, Le Sens du Poil, McKinsey & Company, MKF Éditions, Natural Surf Lodge SARL, Laboratoire Nutergia, Nuxly SAS, OCTO Technology, OPHTATECH, Orfeo Développement, OSCOME, Ouvrages et patrimoine, Pharmacie du soleil, Pilotes PLV, Pocket Prod, Poiscaille, Provence Géo Conseil, S.C.I AZUR II, SAOLA STUDIO, SELARL de Lamboux, Share Fraiche, SMARTGREEN, Speak Out Communication, Timtrade, Uncharted, WECAREPRODUCT, Wise & Talented, Xcomposite, ZEN'TO, Zippy Travel SARL



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