ABUNDANT AND RARE COMMERCIAL MARINE SPECIES

La coquille SAINT JACQUES

Sea Scallop

Région BRETAGNE

Côtes d'Armor

Presentation of the Coquille St Jacques

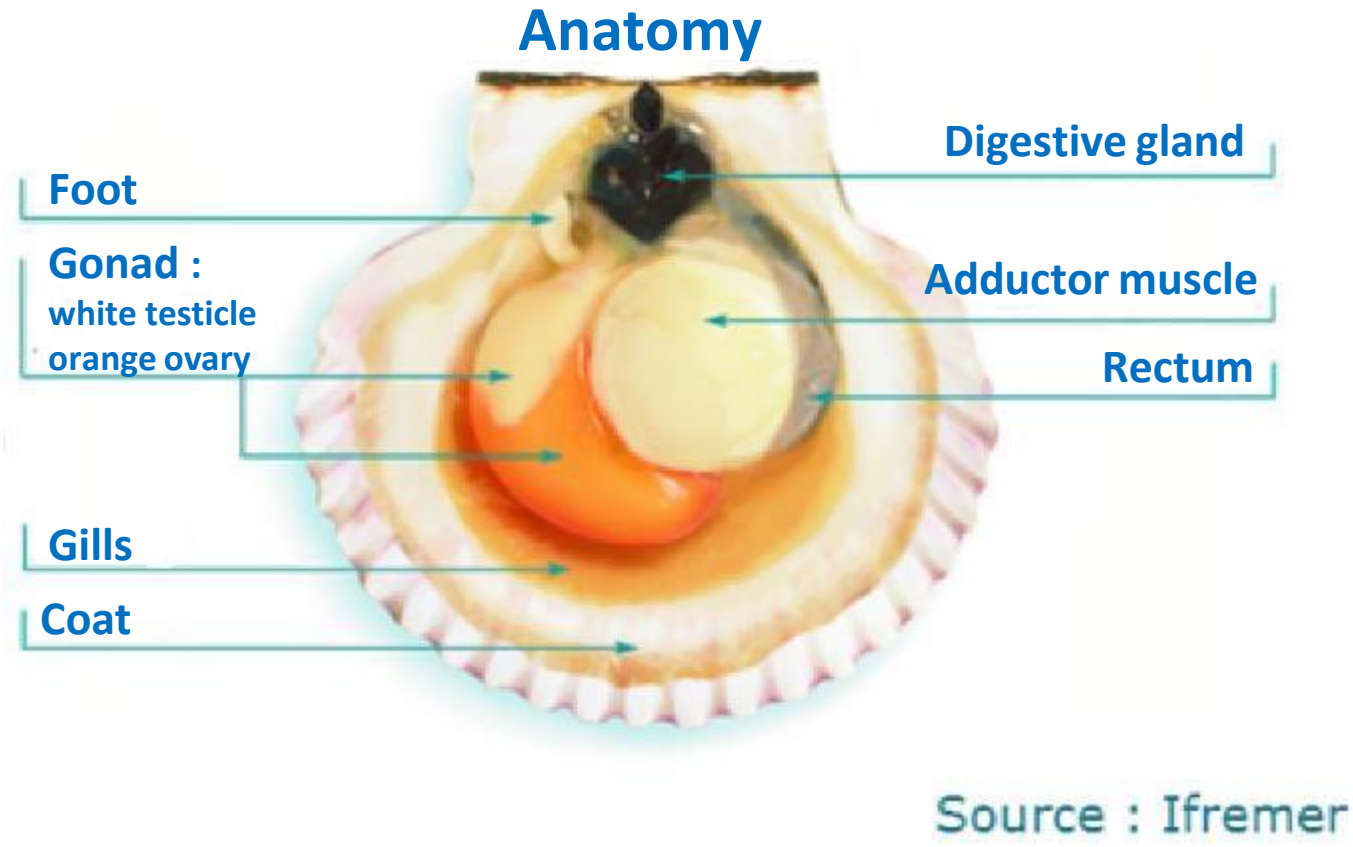
☞ **Name** : Sea scallop

☞ **Scientific name**: Pecten Maximus

☞ **Group** : Bivalve
The scallop has 2 shells and is both male and female. It's hermaphrodite.

☞ **Size** : 12 cm

☞ **Weight** : 190 g including 120 g of shell



☞ **Distribution** : The scallop is present on the Atlantic coast, from the north of Spain to the north of Norway.

☞ **Breton name :** krogenn Sant-Jakez ou kalipezenn

☞ **More information :** When the scallop feels threatened, it moves by shutting its shells.

La coquille SAINT JACQUES - Sea Scallop

The Bay of Saint-Brieuc is the largest natural shoal scallop in France with 150 000 hectares.

The Côtes-d'Armor shoal is the most productive in Brittany. It represents more than 6, 500 tons, almost half of the French production (16, 000 tons per year).

Erquy is the first harbour in northern Brittany and the first European harbour for scallop fishing. Shellfish fishing replaced the declining traditional activities (clams and sea urchins) and represents a large part of the fishermen’s income.

La coquille SAINT JACQUES - The Scallop

At the beginning of the 1960s, the scallop shoal was developed as well as its exploitation with alternate periods of abundance and scarcity.

- 1963: 2, 400 tons in the Côtes-d'Armor
- less than 1, 000 tons in 1965
- 1972 12, 000 tons
- 1, 200 tons in 1990
- In 1963, there were 56 shellfish boats and as many as 440 in 1975

The Scallop fishery in the bay of Saint-Brieuc has known a fast development from 1962 to 1975. To ensure the sustainability of the ressource, the fishermen imposed strict regulations:

In 1973, the Coquille Saint-Jacques - Baie de Saint-Brieuc licence was created and the number of applications was 469. In 2009, 253 boats were allowed to fish.

La coquille SAINT JACQUES - Scallop fishing

Scallop fishing is very strict :

Management is entrusted to the Regional Committee for Fisheries and Marine Farming (CRPMEM).

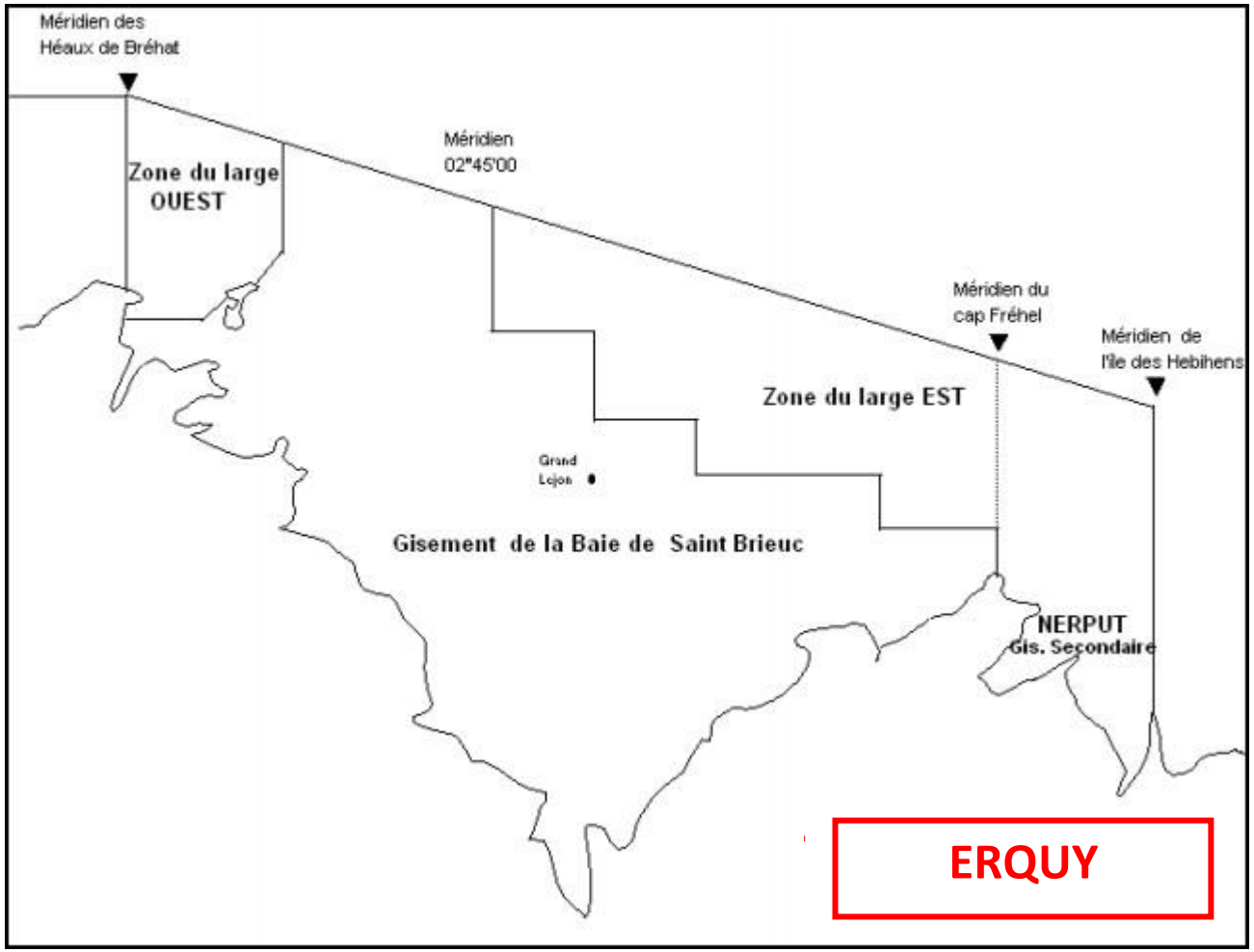
It manages licences and fishing in the Bay of Saint Brieuc.

The number of fishing licences for this year's campaign is to 194.

Since 1966, the monitoring of scallops in the Bay of Saint-Brieuc has been carried out by IFREMER researchers.

The scallop shoal in the Bay of Saint-Brieuc

Source : CAD22



La coquille SAINT JACQUES - Scallop fishing

☞ In order to manage the resource and enable renewal, scallop fishing is allowed only from October to April. Quotas were imposed as early as 1970.

☞ Fishing is closed between May 15 and October 1st corresponding to the reproduction periods (three spawnings per year: mid-June, mid-July and end of August).

☞ Scallop fishing times are twice 45 minutes a week and fishing days are usually Mondays and Wednesdays).

☞ 200 hours per season in 1970, and only 40 to 50 hours in 1990.

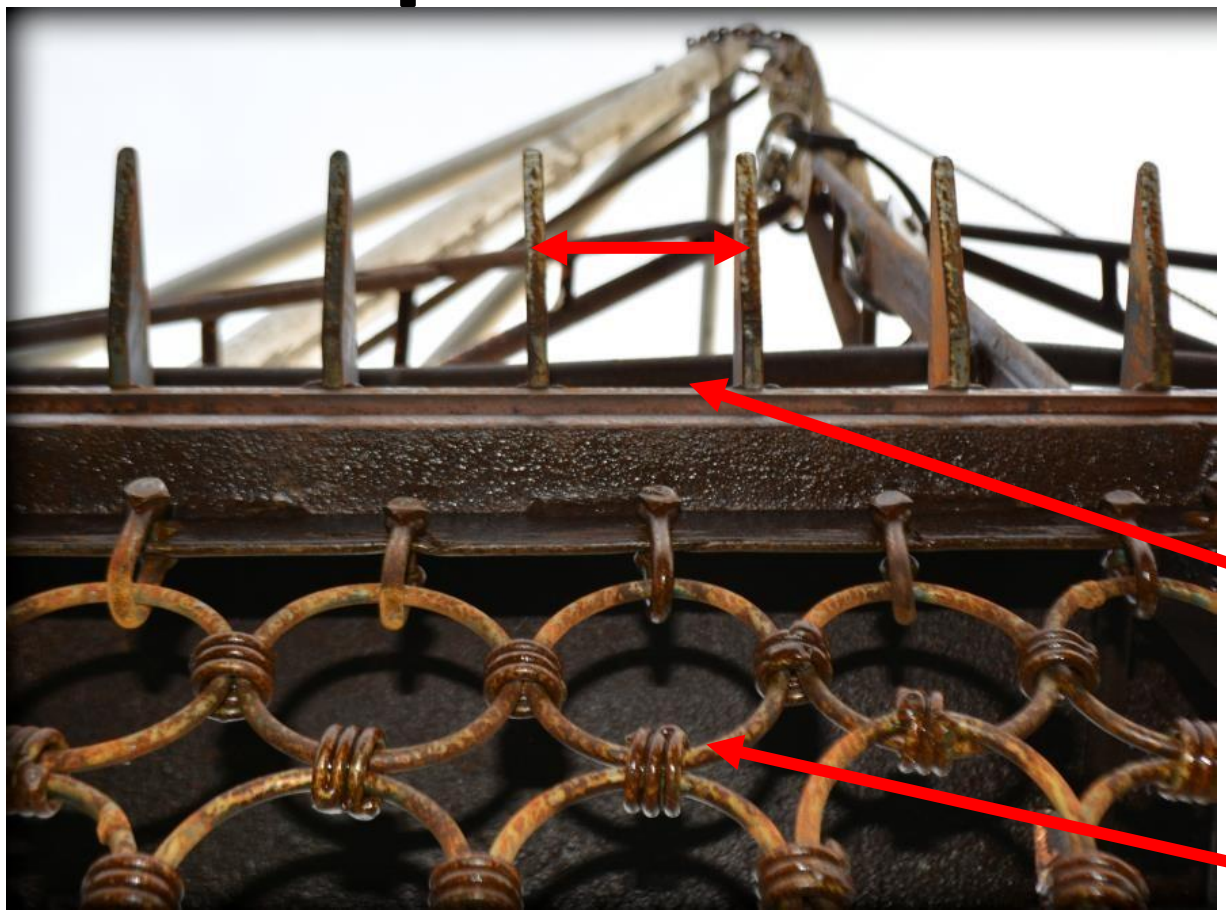
La coquille SAINT JACQUES - Scallop fishing

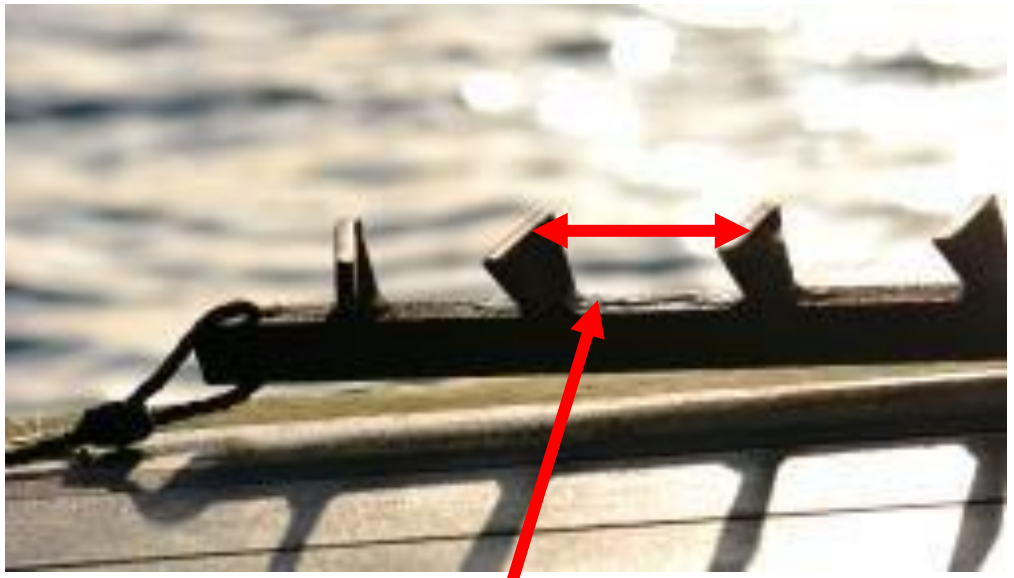
☞ The minimum shell size is 10.2 cm (favouring the capture of shells two years old and older). Shells must be two years old or older.

☞ The shell is fished by dredging. The dredging technique, using a metal frame, consists of excavating the seabed and digging out the scallops buried in the sand
(rings with a diameter of 97 mm)

☞ Since 1967, the number of dredgers has been limited to 2 per boat (whatever the size of the boat).

La coquille SAINT JACQUES - Scallop fishing





Space between teeth from inner edge to inner edge: 90 mm

Dredger and its rings with a diameter of 97 mm

Maximum fishing width of the dredgers : 8 meters

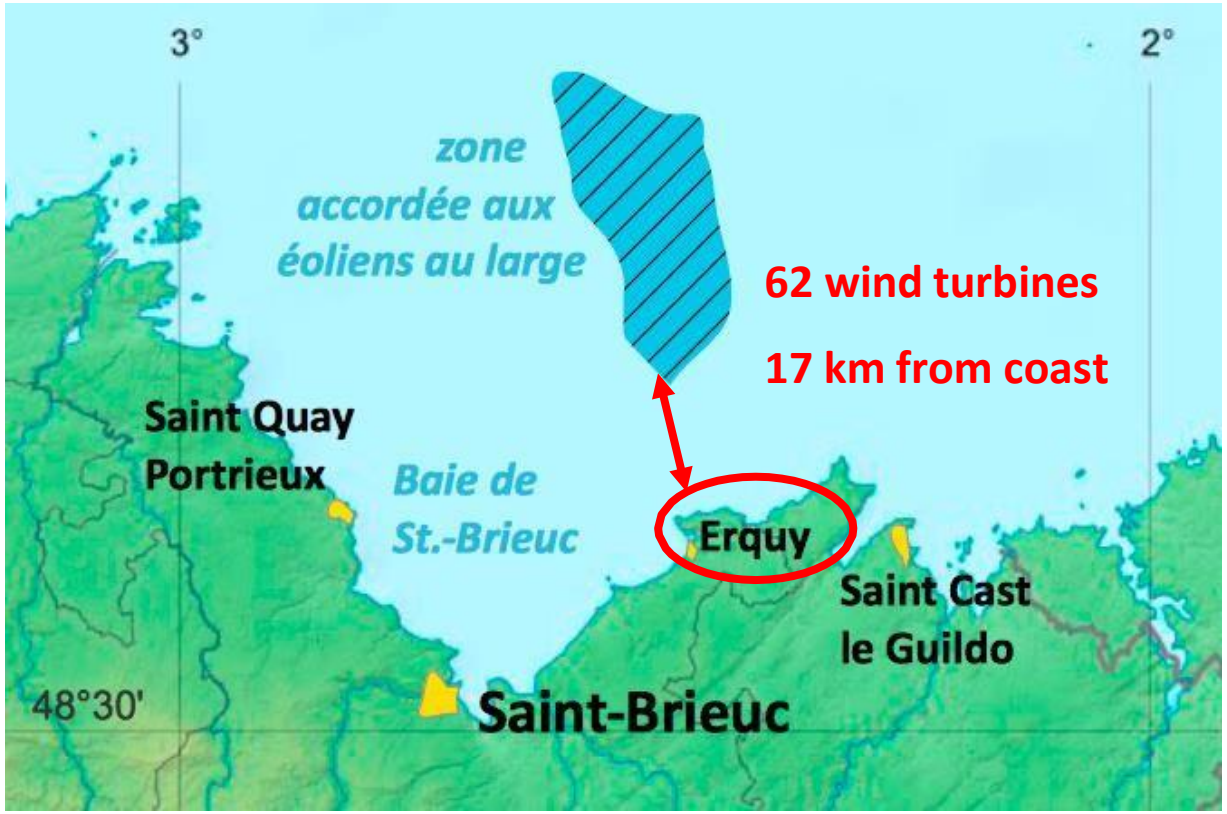
Each dredger is identified by the boat registration number.
Outside authorised fishing days, scallop dredges must be removed from vessels.

Conflicts of use: wind turbines

Aproject to install wind turbines in the bay of Saint-Brieuc (Côtes-d'Armor) has been developping for ten years.

A total of 62 wind turbines are to be built at sea. In the future, they would produce 9% of the electricity consumed in Brittany. But this titanic project is far from unanimous.

The offshore wind farm in the Bay of Saint-Brieuc is the first Breton project.



Conflicts of use: wind turbines

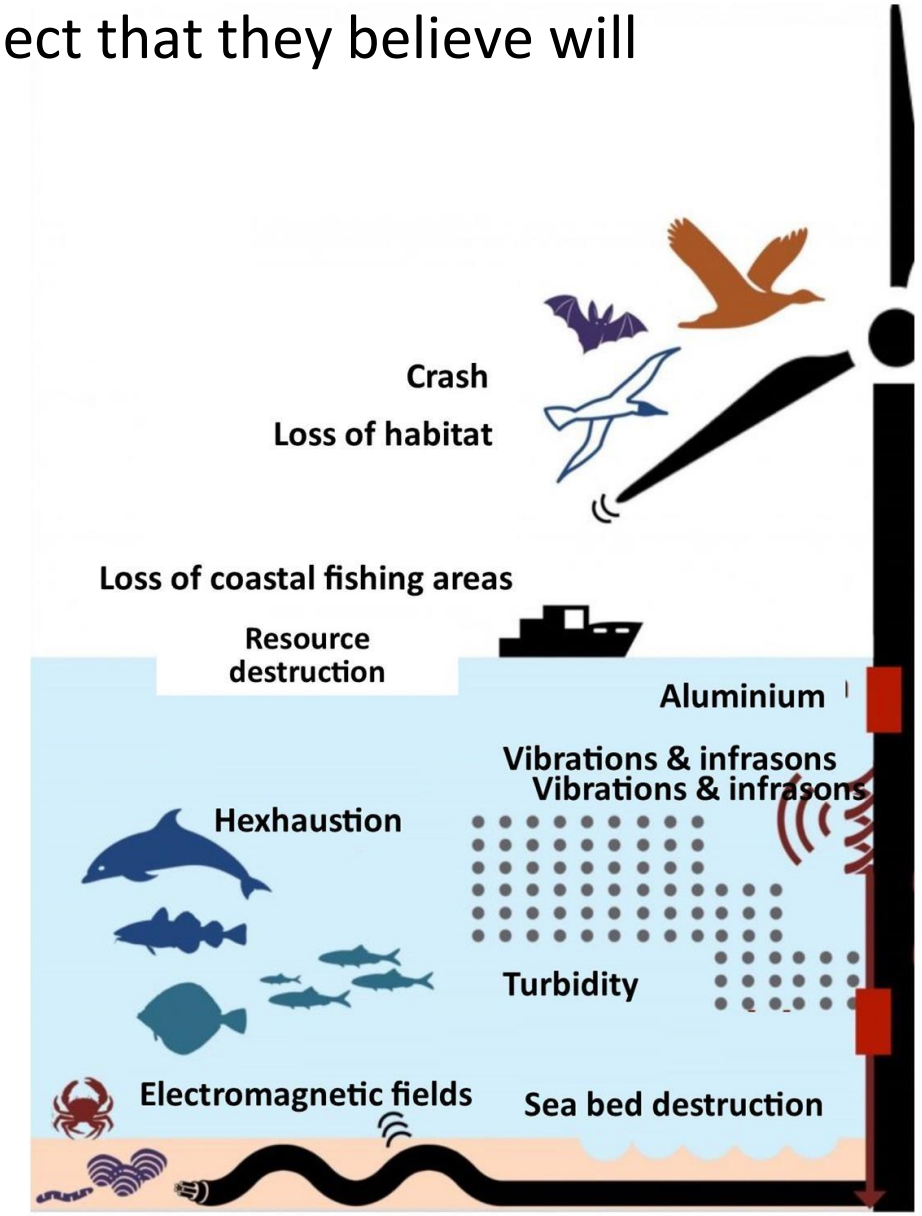
Fishermen do not agree with the project of a wind farm project that they believe will destroy the scallop shoal.

- They cannot fish scallop too close from the wind turbines.

- Pollution, noise , electromagnetic barrier
- (waves in the sea)
- Scallops are dying because of concreting and drilling.

- Spoils the landscape.

- Offshore wind turbines aim at increasing the production of energy.



Conflicts of use: wind turbines

Fishermen are demonstrating to protect the scallops.

Their slogan is "NO windmill will replace fishermen."

On Monday, May 18, 2020, fishermen show their anger by blocking offshore survey work. They oppose technical studies in fishing areas that will destroy 40 years of effort to preserve the scallop.

In September 2020, the court authorized RTE company to continue the work.

Sources :

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