

The blue economy in Nouvelle Aquitaine, France

Source: OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)

FACTS AND FIGURES

Fact box

- **Population:** 6 010 289 ^[1]
- **GDP:** EUR 18.9 billion ^[2]
- **Area:** 84 036 km² ^[3]

Drivers for the blue economy



Boost economic activity



Conserve biodiversity, including ecosystems



Create jobs

Blue economy sectors

Nouvelle Aquitaine, a European coastal region of the Atlantic Ocean with five rivers (Loire, Charente, Vienne, Garonne and Dordogne), is home to most blue economy sectors below, except for water passenger transport and related services. According to the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region Study 2022, the region counts 1 519 companies in the nautical and naval industries, representing 8 047 jobs concentrated in the coastal counties (départements) of Charente-Maritime and Gironde. Within the nautical and naval industries in Nouvelle-Aquitaine, which include the construction of pleasure boats, ships and floating structures, ship repair and maintenance, manufacture of equipment for boats and consulting and engineering, the 150 shipbuilding companies represent half of the jobs. Water-related tourism accounts for around 9% of regional gross domestic product (GDP).



Seafood



Water-based renewable energy



Shipping



Port activities



Shipbuilding and repair



Water passenger transport and related services



Water-related tourism



Blue bioeconomy, biotechnology and research and education

BLUE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

The main environmental impacts of blue economy sectors in Nouvelle Aquitaine are related to pollution from plastics and waste generation. Biodiversity loss, water pollution, and depletion of freshwater resources due to freshwater abstraction are other moderate impacts.

Top 3 climate threats to the blue economy in Nouvelle Aquitaine



Drought



Coastal erosion



Temperature-related hazards (e.g. heat or cold waves, wildfires)

[1] [3] Insee (2019), www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/1405599?geo=COM-34301+REG-75 (accessed 16 March 2023)

[2] Insee (2021), www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/serie/010751758 (accessed 16 March 2023)

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GOVERNANCE OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

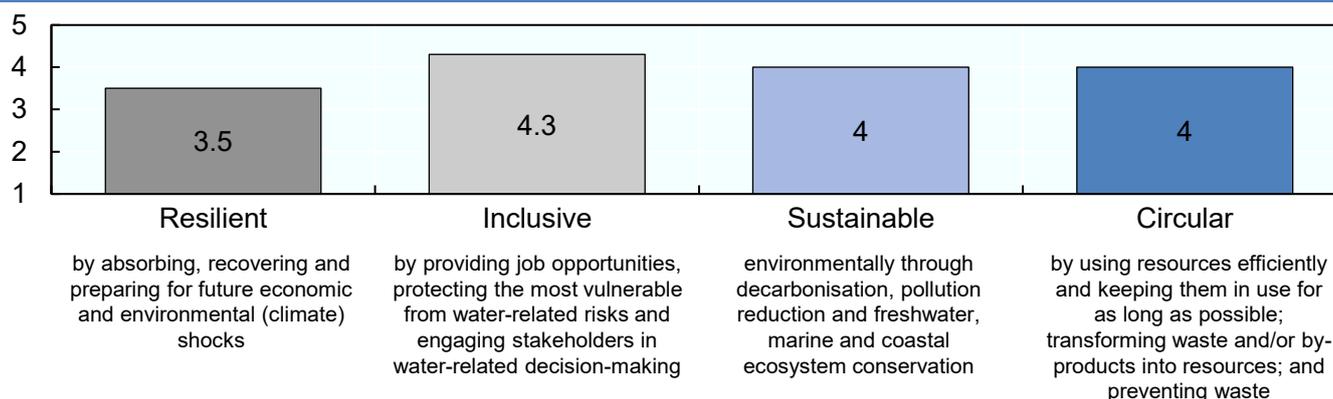
In 2019, the region launched a roadmap for blue growth “[Sharing the Ocean Ambition, a Strategy for the Future Region](#)”. The roadmap identifies 11 water-related sectors and aims to enhance the dynamism of existing maritime, port, and coastal activities as well as the development of new blue economy activities. The [Blue Growth Cluster](#) aims to strengthen the regional blue economy and increase the visibility of the region’s maritime activities and related actors at national and international scale. In 2019, the Region also adopted a [Regional Tourism and Leisure Development Plan \(SRDTL\)](#) to support the regional tourism development and to support the modernisation of the sectors involved, complemented later by a [Roadmap on Sustainable Tourism](#). In 2021, the region launched a [Tourism Lab](#) to better respond to the challenges identified by the SRDTL.



Dedicated budget for the blue economy

THE RISC-PROOF BLUE ECONOMY

(*)



(*) Survey respondents were invited to define their level of agreement (with 5 "Agree" and 1 "Disagree") for statements for each of the RISC dimensions (from question 2.1.1 to 2.1.4 of the OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)).

TOP CHALLENGES

- Unclear allocation of roles and responsibilities
- Lack of political will
- Lack of planning and decision-making at the adequate scale
- Lack of co-ordination between levels of government
- Lack of financial resources

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Set up a formal strategy
- Foster decarbonisation
- Promote material efficiency and circularity
- Enhance resilience to climate change
- Tackle pollution of water bodies
- Boost technology use and uptake
- Foster a science-policy dialogue
- Preserve local culture and traditions linked to aquatic ecosystems
- Foster collaboration between blue economy sectors and others
- Improve the regulatory environment
- Create new jobs and business opportunities
- Protect the most vulnerable from negative impacts
- Channel public and private funds towards the blue economy
- Improve data collection on the blue economy