

The blue economy in Sète, France

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



FACTS AND FIGURES

Fact box

- **Population:** 43 858 [1]
- **GDP:** N/A
- **Area:** 24.2 km² [2]

Drivers for the blue economy



Boost economic activity



Conserve biodiversity, including ecosystems



Create jobs

Blue economy sectors

Sète, a European port city in France on the Mediterranean Sea bordered by the Thau Bassin, is home to all blue economy sectors below, except water-based renewable energy.



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 impact of blue economy sectors in Sète is related to the depletion of natural resources (e.g. fish stocks, sand, hydrocarbons, etc.). Air pollution, land pollution, disturbance of natural habitats and wildlife are other moderate impacts.

Top 3 climate threats to the blue economy in Sète



Sea level rise



Coastal erosion



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

[1] [2] Insee (2019), www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/1405599?geo=COM-34301 (accessed 16 March 2023)

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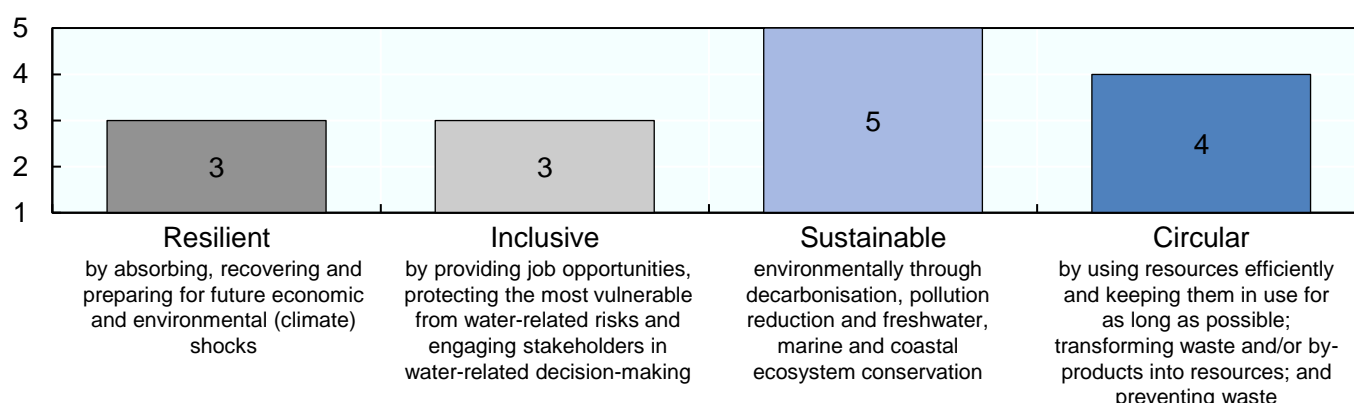


GOVERNANCE OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

The City of Sète interacts with the Thau Basin union, which was created in 2005 to preserve the Thau lagoon and its fishing and marine culture activities. In 2022, *Sète agglomération méditerranéenne* launched the Blue Growth Pact (*Pacte de croissance bleue*) bringing together local players around two transversal levers: 1) the development of digital technology, drawing on the neighbouring city of Montpellier's ecosystem and 2) the ecological transition, promoting the Thau lagoon and its maritime area as a testing ground for projects aimed at protecting the Mediterranean and lagoon environments and guaranteeing the resilience of the associated socio-ecosystems. This ambition is also part of regional programmes such as the region of Occitanie's Territorial Contracts (CTO) and Recovery and Ecological Recovery and Transition Contracts (CRTE). In 2019, *Sète agglomération méditerranéenne* and the county (*département*) of Hérault's Chamber of Commerce and Industry proposed a three-year timetable for the study and proposal of a complete support system for companies with the creation of an [Economic Zone for Nautical Industries \(ZEN\)](#). In the Port of Sète, the [Zero Emission Multi-Service Port Energy Barge](#) provides energy solutions to ships and vessels through a "green" hydrogen fuel cell and waste management.

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

- Technological challenges
- Lack of financial resources

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Set up a formal strategy
- Boost technology use and uptake
- Foster collaboration between blue economy sectors and others
- Create new jobs and business opportunities
- Channel public and private funds towards the blue economy
- Improve data collection on the blue economy