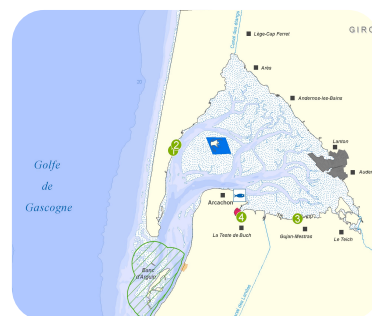


Arcachon Bay
Countryside visits

Bassin d'Arcachon
Visites en mer et à terre

First Conference of the Atlantic Arc
Marine Protected Areas Network
6th December 2012

Arcachon, France



MPA Site Visits

Agence des aires marines protégées

September, 2012

Arcachon Bay Countryside visits

First Conference of the Atlantic Arc
Marine Protected Areas Network

6th December 2012

Bassin d'Arcachon Visites en mer et à terre

Arcachon, France

[Authors] Romain Hubert, Agence des aires marines protégées
Amandine Eynaudi, Agence des aires marines protégées
Mélanie Odion, Agence des aires marines protégées

[Contact] Agence des aires marines protégées
MAIA Coordination Team, maia@aires-marines.fr
www.maia-network.org

[Published by] Agence des aires marines protégées
www.aires-marines.fr

[Acknowledgments] The task force for the creation of a *parc naturel marin* in
Arcachon Bay and its open fetch,
The Regional Oyster-farming Committee of Aquitaine,
The Gironde committee for sea fisheries and seawater
culture,
The Arcachon fish auction,
Réserve naturelle nationale of Banc d'Arguin,
La Teste-de-Buch Town Council,
The Gironde County Council,
SEPANSO,
Association for the sustainable development of the Bassin
d'Arcachon
The *Conservatoire du Littoral* for their welcome on the Ile
aux Oiseaux and the *Domaine* of Certes-Graveyron

[Photo credits] At left: Jean-Marie Froidefond / Laboratoire Epoc,
Université Bordeaux 1
On center : Thierry Duprat / IAO

Work quotation: R. Hubert, A. Eynaudi, M. Odion, September 2012. "Arcachon Bay, Countryside visits", Agence des aires marines protégées – MAIA, Brest, France.

This publication is supported by the European Union (ERDF European Regional Development Fund), within the Interreg IV B Atlantic Area Programme, under the Objective 2.2. "Sustainable management and protection of the resources of marine spaces".

Its content is under the full responsibility of the author(s) and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union. Any reproduction of this publication done without the author's consent, either in full or in part, is unlawful.

The reproduction for a non commercial aim, particularly educative, is allowed without written authorization, only if sources are quoted. The reproduction for a commercial aim, particularly for sale, is forbidden without preliminary written authorization of the author.

Contents

SUMMARY.....	IV
ARCACHON BAY,	1
COUNTRYSIDE VISITS.....	1
INTRODUCTION	1
GENERAL ORGANISATION OF THE TRIPS.....	1
<i>Times.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>At sea</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>On land.....</i>	<i>2</i>
ARCACHON BAY – PRESENTATION	3
GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS	3
MPAS IN ARCACHON BAY GEOGRAPHIC AREA	3
THE PROJECT TO CREATE A NATURAL MARINE PARK IN ARCACHON BAY AND ITS OPEN FETCH	5
<i>Success on a local level.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Need for a global vision</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>After two years of work, a PNM should be created by end 2012.....</i>	<i>5</i>
PRESENTATION OF THE VISITS	6
AT SEA.....	6
<i>Trip to the réserve naturelle nationale of the Banc d’Arguin</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Trip to the réserve naturelle nationale of the Banc d’Arguin, boat trip to the oyster-farming villages Le Canon and L’Herbe and tour of the Ile aux Oiseaux.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Trip to the Ile aux Oiseaux, domaine public maritime of the Conservatoire du Littoral.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Discovery of the oyster-farming activity in the southern bay (Gujan-Mestras and La Teste-de-Buch).....</i>	<i>8</i>
ON LAND	8
<i>Visit to the Arcachon fish auction</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Trip to the Domaine of Certes-Graveyron, Conservatoire du Littoral site</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Trip to the Pilat dune.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Trip to the salt marshes west of La Teste-de-Buch</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Bird-watching boat trip in the bay</i>	<i>10</i>
DEFINITIONS.....	11
DESIGNATION.....	11
TYPE OF DESIGNATION	11
CALCULATED SURFACE AREA	11
MANAGER	11
AGENCE DES AIRES MARINES PROTÉGÉES.....	11
FIGURES & ILLUSTRATIONS.....	12
TABLES	12

Summary

The field trips proposed as part of the First Conference of the Atlantic Arc Marine Protected Areas Network are designed to provide a detailed view of the situation of MPAs in the Arcachon Bay area, to discover the specific features of the site and to give participants an opportunity to socialise and engage in technical discussions.

- **At sea**

1. Trip to the *réserve naturelle nationale* of the Banc d'Arguin managed by SEPANSO
2. Trip to the *réserve naturelle nationale* of the Banc d'Arguin followed by a boat ride to the oyster-farming villages Le Canon and L'Herbe. Boat tour of the Ile aux Oiseaux (Birds' island), a *domaine public maritime* of the *Conservatoire du Littoral*
3. Trip to the Ile aux Oiseaux
4. Discovery of the oyster-farming activity in the southern bay area (Gujan-Mestras and La Teste-de-Buch)

- **On land**

5. Visit to the Arcachon fish auction
6. Trip to the *domaine* of Certes-Graveyron, a *Conservatoire du Littoral* site, managed by the Gironde county council
7. Trip to the Pilat dune
8. Trip to the salt marshes west site of the city of La Teste-de-Buch
9. Bird-watching trip in the bay, by boat

This boat trip will be possible if the sailing conditions in the bay permit.

Arcachon Bay, countryside visits

Introduction

The field trips proposed as part of the First Conference of the Atlantic Arc Marine Protected Areas Network are designed to provide a detailed view of the situation of MPAs in Arcachon Bay area, to discover the specific features of the site and to give participants an opportunity to socialise and engage in technical discussions.

These trips have been organised in cooperation and with the valuable help of:

- The task force for the creation of a *parc naturel marin* in the Arcachon Bay and its open fetch,
- The Regional Oyster-farming Committee of Aquitaine,
- The Gironde committee for sea fisheries and seawater culture,
- Arcachon fish auction,
- The réserve naturelle nationale of Banc d'Arguin,
- La Teste-de-Buch Town Council,
- The Gironde County Council,
- SEPANSO,
- Association for the sustainable development of Arcachon Bay,
- The *Conservatoire du Littoral* for their welcome on the Ile aux Oiseaux and the *Domaine* of Certes-Graveyron.

We kindly thank them all together with all the people who act as guides for these trips and enhance them with their knowledge of the sites.

General organisation of the trips

Times

All trips (boat and coach) will depart from and return to Arcachon marina (*La Halle* car-park).

8:15 Everyone meets in Arcachon marina.

Participants will be met at Arcachon marina, given a general presentation of the trips and the *Parc naturel marin* project by Anne LITTAYE, head of the task force for the creation of the *Parc naturel marin*.

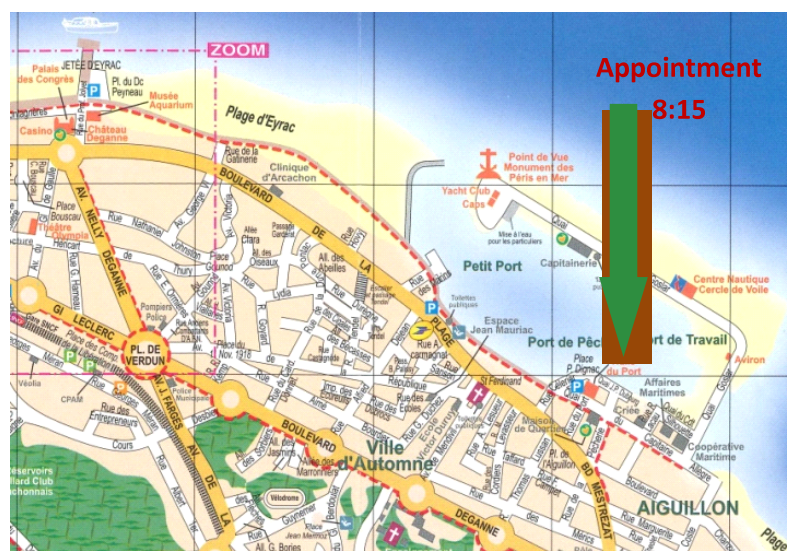
8:45 Departures by boat and coach

13:00 Return to the marina and lunch in the restaurant of the Cercle de Voile d'Arcachon (CVA), the Santa Maria

16:30 Return from the afternoon trip

The visit to Arcachon fish auction can be done before to any other trip. Meeting at 6:30 at the fish auction.

Lunch will be served around 1:00pm and all the groups will have lunch together.



At sea

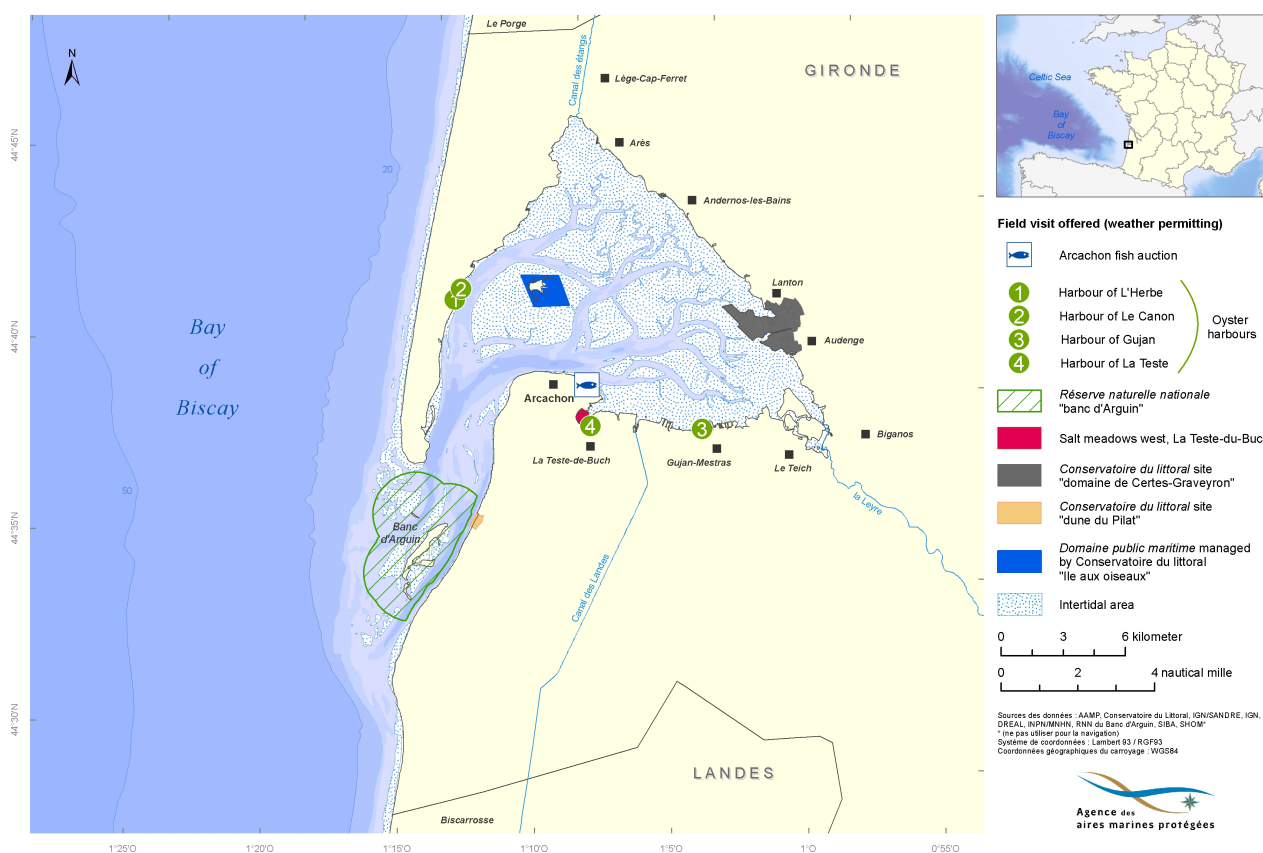
1. Trip to réserve naturelle nationale of Banc d'Arguin managed by SEPANSO **9:00 – 13:00**
2. Trip to réserve naturelle nationale of Banc d'Arguin followed by a boat ride to the oyster-farming villages Le Canon and L'Herbe. After lunch, boat tour of the Ile aux Oiseaux..... **9:00 – 16:30**
3. Trip to the Ile aux Oiseaux **9:00 – 13:00**
4. Discovery of the oyster-farming activity in the southern bay area..... **9:00 – 13:00**
(Gujan-Mestras and La Teste-de-Buch)

On land

5. Visit to the Arcachon fish auction **6:30 – 7:15**
6. Trip to the *Domaine* of Certes-Graveyron **9:00 – 13:00**
7. Trip to the Pilat dune **9:00 – 13:00**
8. Trip to the salt marsh site, west of La Teste-de-Buch **9:00 – 13:00**
9. Bird-watching trip in the bay, by boat **9:00 – 13:00**

This boat trip will be possible if the sailing conditions in the bay permit.

The place and time for lunch remain unchanged (1:00 pm at the Arcachon Marina).



Map I: First conference of the Atlantic arc marine protected areas network: field trips

Arcachon Bay – Presentation

General characteristics

Arcachon Bay is a 174 Km² bay boasting outstanding landscapes and natural heritage. It is the only sheltered part along the 250 Km sandy coastline of Aquitaine.

The tidal ebb and flow considerably change the landscape: at low tide, the sea uncovers two thirds of the Bay's surface area. This vast expanse of sand banks and mud flats contrasts with the coast lashed by the waves.

The influence of the bottom of the Bay and the water courses, the confinement and the strong waves create a mosaic of landscapes with salt marshes, shelly mud flats, channels, dunes, sandy islets, etc. The salt marshes interface between the land and the sea.

These varied habitats fulfil vital ecological functions: breeding grounds, nurseries, resting areas, biological production, fresh water drainage, transport of sediments, recycling of matter, etc.

Arcachon Bay is also the scene of many maritime activities including oyster farming, fishing (professional and recreational), marine industry, yachting, tourism, underwater fishing, etc.

The maritime identity is reflected in a unique cultural heritage with traditional boats (pinasses, sailboats, etc.), oyster-farming huts, etc.

In addition to an ever-growing permanent population, there are a great many secondary residents, a phenomenon that has contributed considerably to urban development.

All these human activities take place in a single and therefore vulnerable marine area. The numerous uses give rise to conflicts and weaken natural balances, creating the need for integrated management.



Map II: Location of Arcachon Bay in the Atlantic arc

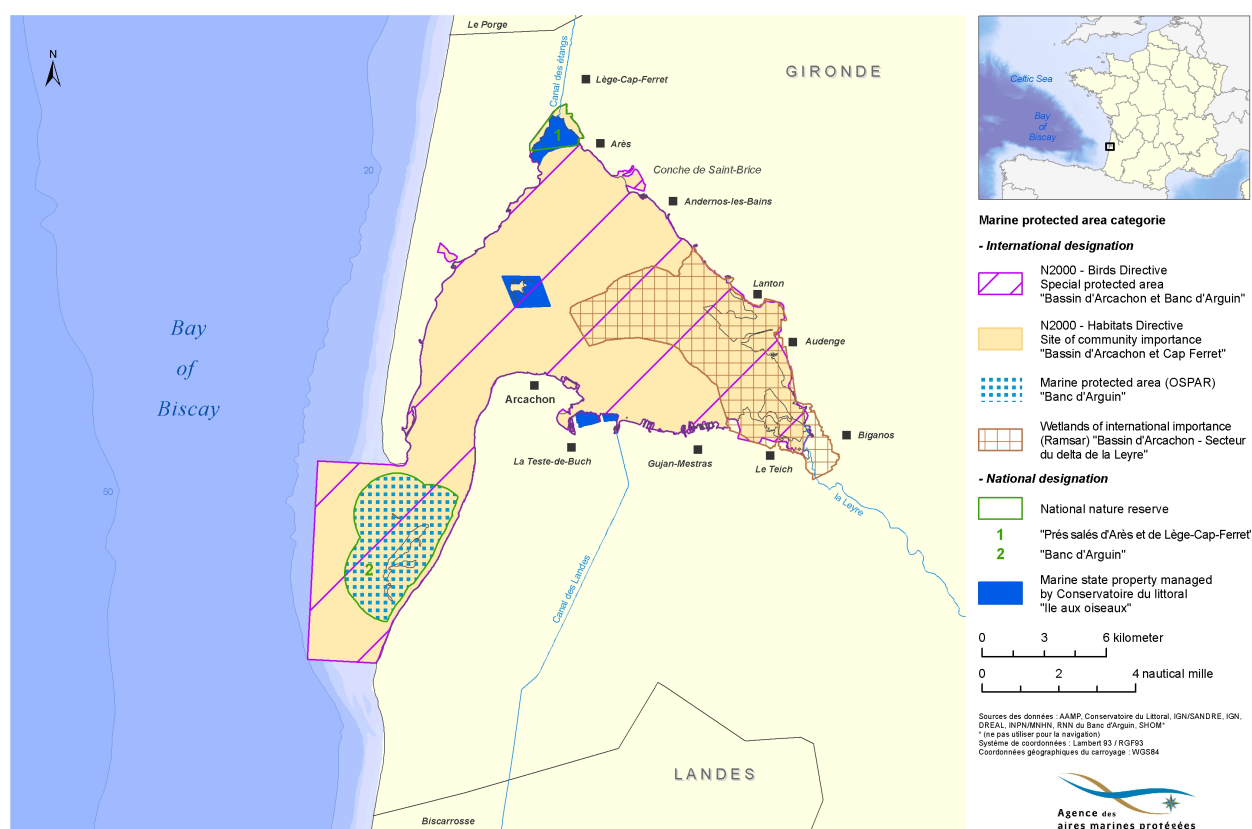
MPAs in Arcachon Bay geographic area

Several MPAs have been established in the geographic area of Arcachon Bay. Here is a complete list of the MPAs in this area together with their main characteristics.

Detailed datasheets of these MPAs are available for consultation on the MAIA website:

www.maia-network.org > marine protected areas > MPA datasheets.

Feel free to consult them. You will find information about the management, applicable regulations, governance and the species and habitats of these MPAs.



Map III: Inventory of marine protected areas in Arcachon Bay (September 2012)

Table IV: List and main characteristics of marine protected areas in Arcachon Bay geographic area

NAME	DESIGNATION	DESIGNATION IN ENGLISH	DATE OF DESIGNATION	TOTAL SURFACE AREA (CALCULATED) KM ²	MARINE SURFACE AREA (CALCULATED) KM ²	ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGEMENT
International designations						
Banc d'Arguin	Zone marine protégée (OSPAR)	OSPAR Marine Protected Area	2006	24.6	24.6	Manager not identified to date. The future <i>parc naturel marin</i> in Arcachon Bay and its open fetch will be in charge of managing these sites.
Arcachon Bay and Banc d'Arguin	Zone de protection spéciale	Special Protection Area	2009	226.59	194.69	
Arcachon Bay and Cap-Ferret	Site d'importance communautaire	Site of Community Importance	2004	226.59	194.69	
Arcachon Bay – Area of the delta of La Leyre	Zone humide d'importance internationale (Ramsar)	Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)	2011	52.52	37.4	<i>Parc naturel régional</i> des Landes de Gascogne
National designations						
Ile aux oiseaux	Domaine public maritime du Conservatoire du littoral	Marine State Property of Conservatoire du littoral	2004	2.2	2.2	La Teste-de-Buch town council
Salt marshes of Arès and Lège-Cap-Ferret	Réserve naturelle nationale	National Nature Reserve	1983	3.2	2.64	French national office for hunting and wildlife
Banc d'Arguin	Réserve naturelle nationale	National Nature Reserve	1972	24.6	48.51	Federation of societies for the study, protection and development of nature in the south-west (SEPANSO)

The project to create a natural marine park in Arcachon Bay and its open fetch

Success on a local level

The particular wealth of habitats and wild birds and the sustainable development of uses of the Bay represent major challenges. The implementation of measures to protect or restore the natural heritage reflects local stakeholder acceptance of and involvement in the need to preserve and enhance the natural marine and coastal heritage.

Need for a global vision

Although many measures have been taken to protect the sites, they do not guarantee good ecological functioning of the bay given the fragmentation of these protected spaces and the number of managers.

Consistent management across the territory is therefore vital to take into account the many interactions between land and sea, between the sites actually within the bay and between the bay and the ocean. The Bay's attractiveness to birds and the quality of water, which indicate its ecological state, are examples that require a global vision of the site.

On the basis of scientific and socio-economic knowledge and monitoring, the natural marine park, in cooperation with local practitioners, could provide an integrated vision of the necessary protection measures combining both protection of the natural heritage and sustainable development of maritime activities.

After two years of work, a *PNM* should be created by end 2012.

Task force for the creation of a *parc naturel marin* in Arcachon Bay and its open fetch

Placed under the authority of the Maritime Prefect of the Atlantic and the Prefect of the Aquitaine region by the ministerial order of 31 December 2009, a task force was set up in Arcachon by the French MPA Agency (Agence des aires marines protégées), in February 2010. Its role involves studying the conditions for the creation of a *parc naturel marin* on the Arcachon Bay and its open fetch, and coordinating consultation with sea practitioners to define a project for the park.

Task force work

The consultation phase involved over 300 people and some 150 organisations and was conducted in various ways: bilateral talks, public information meetings and debates, theme-based workshops, work groups, consultation committees and lastly a reporting seminar.

The task force was able to draw up an inventory of the natural and cultural heritage relating to the sea. The heritage-related and economic challenges specific to the marine area were identified too.

Through extensive public consultation, a maritime territory document shared by the stakeholders was drafted: "the management guidelines".

The perimeter to which these guidelines apply has been defined. The membership of the management council has been developed so as to include the diversity of players and skills necessary to draw up the management plan.

A public examination of the guidelines, the perimeter and the management council has been conducted (legislative obligation under the French Environmental Code) and the *PNM* project has been widely approved (89% approval).



Figure 1: Consultation meeting for the creation of a *parc naturel marin* in Arcachon Bay and its open fetch, Le Teich, on 14 September 2010
© Pierre Contré / association CDROM

At this stage, the Ministry for the Environment has all the documents needed to draft a ministerial decree relative to the *PNM* project which should be created by the end of 2012.

Presentation of the visits

At sea

Discovery of the Arcachon Bay and the MPAs on board of a traditional boat in the bay, a pinasse, with a choice of four trips.

Figure 2: Traditional boat in Arcachon Bay called a "Pinasse"
© Laurent Mignaux / MEDDE



Trip to the *réserve naturelle nationale* of the Banc d'Arguin

Numbers: **11 seats available**
Departure: **9am from Arcachon marina**
Lunch: **1pm at the Santa Maria, CVA restaurant in Arcachon marina**

Themes addressed:

Presentation of the *réserve naturelle nationale* (functioning, notable species and habitats, protection measures, etc.).

Disembarkation at the Banc d'Arguin (1½ hours on site).

Guide:

Ranger of the *réserve naturelle nationale* of Banc d'Arguin.

Under the combined effects of the winds and currents, the Banc d'Arguin and neighbouring banks which are isolated from the shore by channels of varying depth, move and constantly change configuration.

Listed as a national nature reserve since 1972, the Banc d'Arguin is an important place for many bird species.

It is a preferred nesting place for the sandwich tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*), the Eurasian oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) and the snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) and a high tide retreat area for shorebirds: dunlins (*Calidris alpina*), Eurasian curlew (*Numenius arquata*) and black-bellied plovers (*Pluvialis squatarola*). This site is located on one of the most important migration routes in Europe.

The Banc d'Arguin

The Banc d'Arguin is a sandy ocean islet between Arcachon Bay and the ocean, located at the two entrance channels to the bay.



Figure 3: Bird's-eye view of the Banc d'Arguin
© Jean-Marie Froidefond / Laboratoire Epoc, Université Bordeaux 1

Trip to the *réserve naturelle nationale* of the Banc d'Arguin, boat trip to the oyster-farming villages Le Canon and L'Herbe and tour of the Ile aux Oiseaux

Numbers: 11 seats available
 Departure: 9am from Arcachon marina
 Lunch: 1pm at the Santa Maria, CVA restaurant in Arcachon marina
 Departure: 2:30pm from Arcachon marina
 Return: 4:30pm to Arcachon marina

Themes addressed:

Presentation of the *réserve naturelle nationale*, presentation of the oyster-farming activity in the bay and presentation of the Ile aux Oiseaux site. Disembarkation at the Banc d'Arguin in the morning (1½ hours on site).

Guides:

Ranger of the *réserve naturelle nationale* of Banc d'Arguin and task force officer for the creation of the *parc naturel marin*.

Oyster-farming villages - L'Herbe and Le Canon

With their wooden houses forming a maze of narrow streets, these very popular picturesque villages have everything to enhance their appeal. Now very much in demand for recreational purposes, the wooden houses were built by and for fishing and oyster-farming families during the 19th century, when the Cap-Ferret peninsula was still a relatively untamed site of pine trees and dunes.



Figure 4: Narrow street in the oyster-farming village Lège-Cap-Ferret
 © Aurélien Garreau / AAMP

Trip to the Ile aux Oiseaux, *domaine public maritime* of the *Conservatoire du Littoral*

Numbers: 11 seats available
 Departure: 9am from Arcachon marina
 Lunch: 1pm at the Santa Maria, CVA restaurant in Arcachon marina

Themes addressed:

Presentation of the *Conservatoire du Littoral* site and of the Ile aux Oiseaux (functioning, notable species and habitats, protection measures, etc.).

Disembarkation on the Ile aux Oiseaux in the morning (1½ hours on site).

Guide:

Ranger of the Ile aux Oiseaux.

The Ile aux Oiseaux

Located at the centre of the Bay, this *Conservatoire du Littoral* site is still in a relatively natural state and thus attracts many birds: shorebirds, Laridae, Anatidae, passerines.

Surrounded by mudflats in which the oyster farmers have established their beds, the terrestrial part of the island consists of salt marshes and some forty or so huts including the two famous huts on piles (known as the “cabanes tchanquées” literally meaning “on stilts” in Gascon, the regional dialect) built during the Napoleon III era to watch over the oyster farms.



Figure 5: The huts on piles or “cabanes tchanquées” of the Ile aux Oiseaux
 © Laurent Mignaux / MEDDE

Discovery of the oyster-farming activity in the southern bay (Gujan-Mestras and La Teste-de-Buch)

Numbers: **11 seats available**
 Departure: **9am from Arcachon marina**
 Lunch: **1pm at the Santa Maria, CVA restaurant in Arcachon marina**

Themes addressed:

Presentation of oyster farming in Arcachon Bay.

Disembarkation in an oyster-farming harbour (1 hour on site).

Guides:

Regional oyster-farming committee of Aquitaine, oyster farmer and task force officer for the creation of the natural marine park.

Oyster farming in Arcachon Bay

Two towns, La Teste-de-Buch and Gujan-Mestras, are the main oyster-farming sites in the Bay.

These quaint harbour towns are very popular with tourists.

Oyster farming developed more than two hundred years ago and is still emblematic of the Bay.



Figure 6: Larros oyster-farming harbour, Gujan-Mestras
 © Aurélien Garreau / AAMP

On land

Visit to the Arcachon fish auction

Numbers: **30 people**
 Departure: **6:30am at the Arcachon fish auction**

End of the visit: **7:15am**

Themes addressed:

Discovery of how *Arcachon* fishing harbour functions, the diversity of species fished, observation of the process from landing to the fish auction sale.

Guide:

Staff at the auction and a professional fisherman.

Arcachon fish auction

In 2010, Arcachon fish auction sold 1,830 metric tons of fish for a value of €13,298 million.

Traditional trawlers, gillnetters, coastal launches and boats from the Bay come here to unload their catch.

The main species fished (in tonnage) are sole, cuttlefish, wedge sole, hake, sea bass, squid and meagre.

Fish can be unloaded and sorted 24 hours a day. The auction sales are held both ways (i.e. rising and descending bids). The morning auction commences between 5 and 7:30am depending on the tonnage delivered and in the afternoon for specific catches (cuttlefish, mackerel).



Figure 7: The Arcachon fish auction
 © CRPMEM

Trip to the *Domaine of Certes-Graveyron, Conservatoire du Littoral* site

Numbers: **15 – 20 seats available**
 Departure: **9am from Arcachon marina (by coach)**
 Lunch: **1pm at the Santa Maria, CVA restaurant in Arcachon marina**

Themes addressed:

History, management and conservation of the site and its biodiversity, public awareness-raising activities.

Guides:

Two employees of the Gironde county council, the site manager.

Domaine de Certes-Graveyron, Conservatoire du Littoral site

Located in the east part of Arcachon Bay in Audenge, the *Domaine* of Certes-Graveyron is a dyked area or polder reclaimed from the sea. After being abandoned for several decades, this site with its very distinctive natural heritage has been restored, and sea and fresh water input has been managed.

The polder was initially designed for salt production in the 18th century and then fish-farming.

In 1984, the *Conservatoire du Littoral* became the owner of the 400 hectares and since 1991 the site has been managed by the Gironde county council.

The council employees will present the measures they take on this site which include water and ecological management.



Figure 8: Bird's-eye view of the *Domaine of Certes-Graveyron*
 © Jean-Jacques Saubi / Sud-Ouest

Trip to the Pilat dune

Numbers: **20 seats available**
 Departure: **9am from Arcachon marina (by coach)**
 Lunch: **1pm at the Santa Maria, CVA restaurant in Arcachon marina**

Themes addressed:

Geomorphology, history and wildlife of the Dune.

Guide:

Jean-Marie Froidefond, former lecturer in sedimentology at Bordeaux 1 university, retired.

The Pilat dune

The highest dune in Europe measuring 110 metres, the Pilat dune is a mountain of 60 million cubic metres of sand affording a unique view of Arcachon Bay, the Banc d'Arguin, the ocean and the Landes forest.

This dune is still highly active, retreating inland by approximately fifteen centimetres a year and eroding significantly on the sea side.



Figure 9: Bird's-eye view of the Pilat dune
 © Jean-Marie Froidefond / Laboratoire Epoc, Université Bordeaux 1



Figure 10: Salt marshes west of La Teste-de-Buch © Nathalie Gauyacq / AAMP

Trip to the salt marshes west of La Teste-de-Buch

Numbers: **20 – 25 seats available**
 Departure: **9am from Arcachon marina (by coach)**
 Lunch: **1pm at the Santa Maria, CVA restaurant in Arcachon marina**

Themes addressed:

Presentation of the facilities set up to purify or store rainwater; of the hydraulic works used to control the levels of fresh and salt water; of the biodiversity relating to the fact that there are two wetlands side by side: a fresh water marsh as a result of the old dykes of the Marine State Property and a coastal marsh created by the recent depolderisation (four years ago).

Guides:

Marie-France PERRIN, association for the sustainable development of the Arcachon Bay.

Bird-watching boat trip in the bay

Numbers: **11 seats available**
 Departure: **9am from Arcachon marina (by coach)**
 Lunch: **1pm at the Santa Maria, CVA restaurant in Arcachon marina**

Themes addressed:

Navigation in the channels at high tide to discover the birds in the bay: brants (*Brenta bernicla*), grebes (e.g. *Podiceps cristatus*), mergansers (e.g. *Mergus serrator*), divers (e.g. *Gavia immer*), scoters (e.g. *Melanitta fusca*), etc.

Guide:

Ranger of the *réserve naturelle nationale* of Banc d'Arguin.

The bay is the biggest international winter staging area.



Figure 11: Flight of brants (*Brenta bernicla*) in Arcachon Bay © RNN banc d'Arguin - SEPANSO

The salt marshes west of La Teste-de-Buch

These 130 hectares of salt marsh are managed by the La Teste-de-Buch town council. Work has been done (dykes, locks, etc.) to manage and improve the quality of water in this wetland. It is particularly interesting as fresh, brackish and salt waters are juxtaposed, creating conditions propitious to extensive biodiversity.

Definitions

Designation

Category of protected area officially established and having national recognition; examples include *parc naturel marin*, *réserve naturelle nationale* or Site of Community Importance.

Type of designation

A designation may be national or international.

A designation is national where it has domestic legal value and applies to sites in the national territory. A designation is international where it refers to a protected area recognised by an international convention or treaty (MAB, OSPAR, RAMSAR, Natura 2000, World Heritage, etc.).

Sites designated pursuant to a document applying to more than one country have an international designation. The designation is international even when the document applying to several nations has been transposed into domestic legislation, such as sites designated under the European “Habitats” or “Birds” directives (so called Natura 2000).

Calculated surface area

Surface area within the MPA perimeter (in square kilometres) calculated using geomatic tools. The surface areas given in this document have been calculated using the World cylindrical equal-area projection in order to provide comparable values in the entire Atlantic arc.

Manager

Body responsible for managing the protected area.

Agence des aires marines protégées

The Agence des aires marines protégées is the French MPA Agency, a public undertaking devoted to the protection of the marine environment, under the French Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy. It is headquartered in Brest.

The Agency was established on 14 April 2006 and its main missions are:

- Supporting public policy for the creation and management of MPAs,
- Coordinating the network of MPA managers,
- Managing the human, technical and financial resources made available to *parcs naturels marins*, or other categories of marine protected area for which it is responsible,
- Providing technical support for regional seas conventions (Caribbean, North-East Atlantic, Mediterranean, Indian Ocean, South Pacific and Antarctic).

It comprises:

- the *parc naturel marin* of Iroise,
- the *parc naturel marin* of Mayotte,
- the *parc naturel marin* of the Glorieuses,
- the *parc naturel marin* of Golfe du Lion,
- Task forces for the creation of *parcs naturels marins* (5 *parcs naturels marins* are currently under study: mer d’Opale et estuaires picards, estuaire de la Gironde et Pertuis charentais, golfe normand-breton, Arcachon Bay and its open fetch, Martinique in the French West Indies),
- The branches on the three seaboard of Metropolitan France and in overseas parts.

Figures & illustrations

Figure 1:	Consultation meeting for the creation of a <i>parc naturel marin</i> in Arcachon Bay and its open fetch, Le Teich, on 14 September 2010 © Pierre Contré / association CDROM.....	5
Figure 2:	Traditional boat in Arcachon Bay called a “Pinasse” © Laurent Mignaux / MEDDE	6
Figure 3:	Bird’s-eye view of the Banc d’Arguin © Jean-Marie Froidefond / Laboratoire Epoc, Université Bordeaux 1	6
Figure 4:	Narrow street in the oyster-farming village Lège-Cap-Ferret © Aurélien Garreau / AAMP.....	7
Figure 5 :	The huts on piles or “cabanes tchanquées” of the Ile aux Oiseaux © Laurent Mignaux / MEDDE.....	7
Figure 6:	Larros oyster-farming harbour, Gujan-Mestras © Aurélien Garreau / AAMP.....	8
Figure 7:	The Arcachon fish auction © CRPMEM.....	8
Figure 8:	Bird’s-eye view of the <i>Domaine</i> of Certes-Graveyron © Jean-Jacques Saubi / Sud-Ouest	9
Figure 9:	Bird’s-eye view of the Pilat dune © Jean-Marie Froidefond / Laboratoire Epoc, Université Bordeaux 1	9
Figure 10:	Salt marshes west of La Teste-de-Buch © Nathalie Gauyacq / AAMP.....	10
Figure 11:	Flight of brants (<i>Brenta bernicla</i>) in Arcachon Bay © RNN banc d’Arguin - SEPANSO	10

Tables

Map I:	First conference of the Atlantic arc marine protected areas network: field trips	2
Map II:	Location of Arcachon Bay in the Atlantic arc	3
Map III:	Inventory of marine protected areas in Arcachon Bay (September 2012)	4
Table IV:	List and main characteristics of marine protected areas in Arcachon Bay geographic area	4

Développer un réseau d'aires marines protégées sur l'arc atlantique

Le projet de coopération MAIA vise la constitution d'un réseau de **gestionnaires et d'acteurs** d'aires marines protégées (AMP). Ce réseau humain, **force de proposition** à l'échelle internationale en matière de désignation, de gouvernance, de gestion, œuvrera au **déploiement d'un réseau d'aires marines protégées** représentatif, cohérent, efficace et accepté sur l'arc atlantique.

MAIA s'organise en 4 groupes de travail technique :

- Etat des lieux des AMP existantes
- Stratégies de suivi
- Plans de gestion
- Intégration des acteurs

MAIA réunit 9 partenaires **impliqués dans la désignation et la gestion d'AMP**, issus de quatre pays européens : Royaume-Uni, France, Espagne et Portugal.

L'Agence des aires marines protégées, en tant que chef de file, assure la coordination globale du projet.

Plan d'action 2010 – 2012

Des ateliers techniques sur des problématiques de gestion communes aux AMP de l'arc atlantique.

Des visites de sites dans chaque pays partenaire qui visent le partage de savoir-faire.

Des analyses transversales afin de comparer les situations des AMP de l'arc atlantique.

Des études de terrain réalisées par les partenaires, qui alimentent les échanges au sein du réseau.

Un site web dédié qui intègre un espace collaboratif réservé, une base documentaire et une base de données SIG qui établira un point de référence de l'état des AMP sur la façade atlantique.

La réalisation et la diffusion de ressources documentaires.

Towards an Atlantic network of Marine Protected Areas

The purpose of the European Marine Protected Areas in the Atlantic Arc (MAIA) project is to create a **network of MPA managers and stakeholders**, who will take initiatives on an international level in terms of designation, governance and management. This will be to enhance the **development of a consistent, efficient and accepted MPAs network** in the Atlantic arc.

MAIA is structured in 4 main technical lines of work:

- State-of-play of the existing MPAs
- Setting up common monitoring strategies
- Implementing management plans
- Involving stakeholders

MAIA gathers 9 partners from 4 countries: United Kingdom, France, Spain and Portugal, **involved in MPAs designation and management.**

As lead partner, the French Marine Protected Areas Agency, coordinates the project implementation.

The 2010 – 2012 Action Plan

Organisation of technical workshops on common MPA management issues in the Atlantic arc.

Site visits in each partner country to enhance the sharing of information, knowledge and know-how.

Overview reports to compare MPA situations in the Atlantic arc.

Field studies to be carried out by MAIA partners, promoting exchanges within the network.

Creation of a dedicated website, including a private collaborative space, a document database and a GIS database used to establish a baseline on the status of MPAs in the Atlantic arc.

Production and dissemination of document resources.

