



European  
Commission



# THE EU BLUE ECONOMY OBSERVATORY 2024

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# THE EU27 BLUE ECONOMY

## ESTABLISHED SECTORS

2021

Source: own elaboration based on Eurostat and DCF data



### PERSONS EMPLOYED

#### Living Resources



+4% 543,000 people

#### Maritime Transport



-1% 379,000 people

#### Non-living Resources



-68% 9,000 people

#### Offshore Wind



+258% 14,000 people

#### Port Activities



-1% 410,000 people

#### Shipbuilding and Repair



+18% 312,000 people

#### Coastal Tourism



+3% 1.9 M people

### GVA

22 billion +27%

44 billion +29%

4 billion -51%

3 billion +326%

29 billion +11%

18 billion +54%

50 billion -7%

**AQUACULTURE**  
Production volume  
**1.12M TONNES**

**MARITIME TRANSPORT**  
% of waterborne transport over total transport  
**68% (freight)**

**COASTAL TOURISM**  
% of nights spent in coastal areas over total nights spent  
**48%**

Percentage values refer to the 2015-21 period

# THE EU27 BLUE ECONOMY

## EMERGING SECTORS

### CUMULATIVE RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY IN EUROPEAN SEA BASINS (2023)

13.3  
MW



WAVE



LOAD  
FACTOR

30.5  
MW



TIDAL



207  
MW



FLOATING WIND



32.6  
GW



BOTTOM-FIXED  
WIND



The levelized cost of electricity (LCOE) represents the price at which the generated electricity should be sold for the system to break even at the end of its lifetime. The load factor is the percentage of power output an intermittent renewable energy source actually produces compared to its nominal capacity (i.e., the max output)

LCOE

160-750  
€/MWh

110-480  
€/MWh

145-350  
€/MWh

60-232  
€/MWh

Source: 4COffshore, BNEF IRENA, Ocean Energy Europe

### DESALINATION ACTIVE CAPACITY (2024)

3.4  
BILLION  
M<sup>3</sup>/YEAR

other sources  
28%

Seawater  
and brackish water  
72%

65%

7%

4%

4%

4%

16%



**SPAIN**  
914 plants



**ITALY**  
342 plants



**GERMANY**  
184 plants



**NETHERLANDS**  
79 plants



**CYPRUS**  
30 plants



**REST OF THE EU**  
817 plants

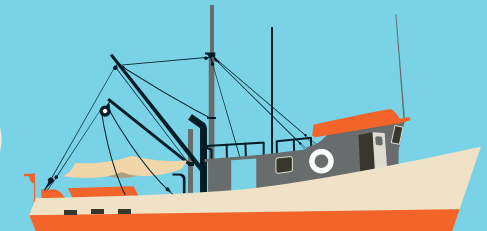
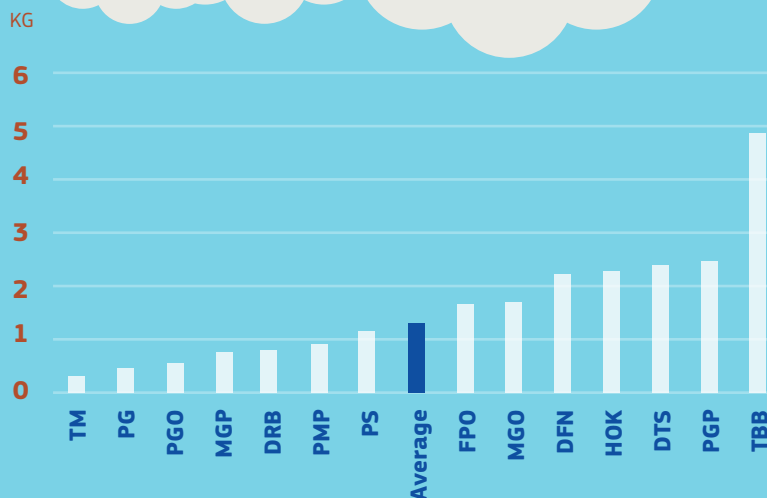
Source: own elaboration based on DesalData

# THE EU27 BLUE ECONOMY

## ENERGY TRANSITION

### CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS BY FISHING GEAR (2020)

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per kg of fish landed

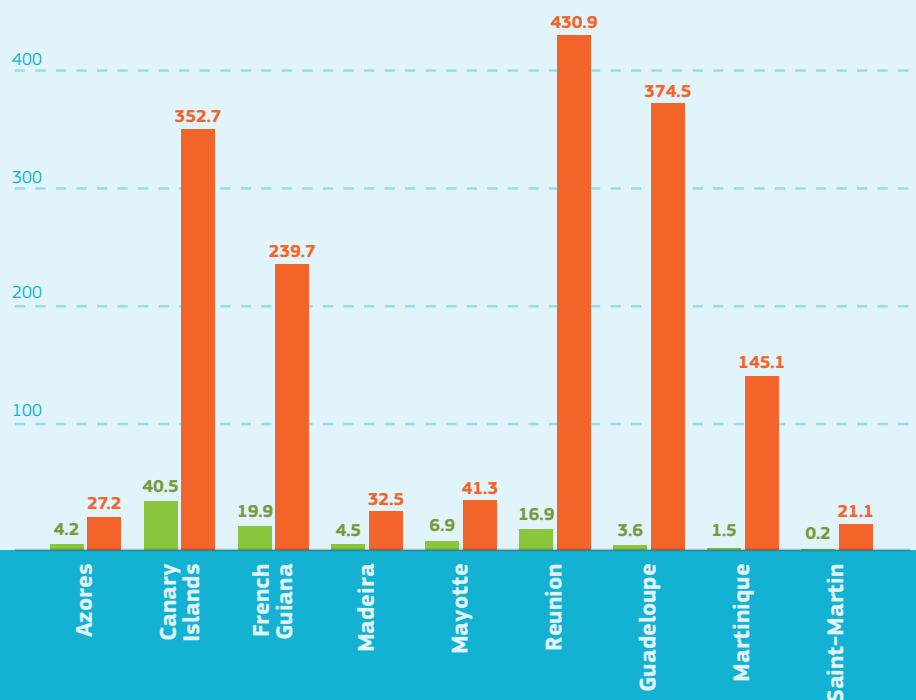


**TM:** Pelagic trawlers  
**PG:** Vessels using passive gears  
**PGO:** Vessels using other passive gears  
**MGP:** Vessels using polyvalent active gears only  
**DRB:** Dredgers  
**PMP:** Vessel using active and passive gears  
**PS:** Purse seiners  
**FPO:** Vessels using pots and/or traps  
**MGO:** Vessel using other active gears  
**DFN:** Drift and/or fixed netters  
**HOK:** Vessels using hooks  
**DTS:** Demersal trawlers and/or demersal seiners  
**PGP:** Vessels using polyvalent passive gears only  
**TBB:** Beam trawlers

Source: own elaboration based on STECF data

### EXPECTED ANNUAL DAMAGE OF RISING SEA LEVEL IN THE EU OUTERMOST REGIONS (EUR, MILLION)

■ 2020  
■ 2100 SSP1-2.6



Source: LISCOAST, Joint Research Centre