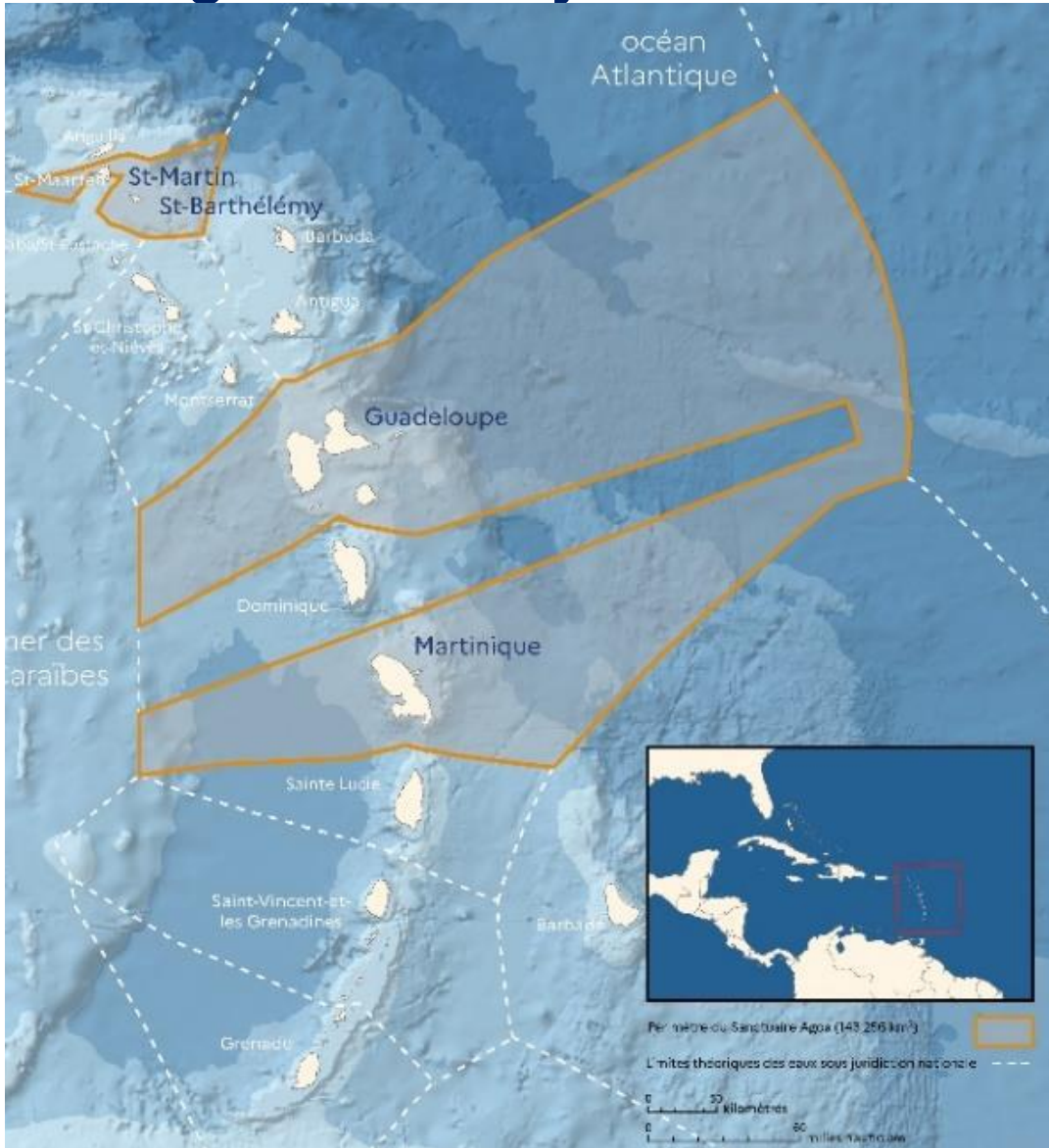


Bucket Regatta, 2024

Security and marine mammals briefing

The Agoa Sanctuary



Marine Protected Area dedicated to the preservation of marine mammals in the French West Indies. Managed by the French Biodiversity Agency (OFB), a State public institution.

An area of **143 256 km²** : all French West Indies Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters.

24 cetacean species: one-third of global cetacean species.

5 key missions:

- Knowledge enhancement
- Management of human activities
- Raising awareness
- Collaboration with state services
- International cooperation

Collision with a cetacean: risk factors and consequences

- **Human risk:** safety hazard / **danger to skippers**
- **Damage to ships**
- Silent sailboat: little detectable by cetaceans.

Did you know? Above 18 knots, 90% of collisions are fatal, especially with large vessels.

A vulnerable species: the humpback whale



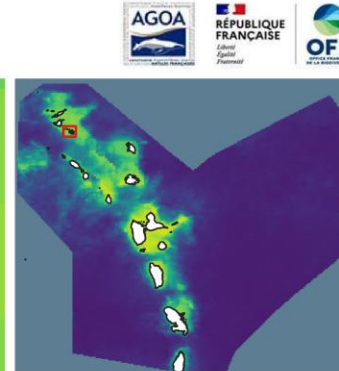
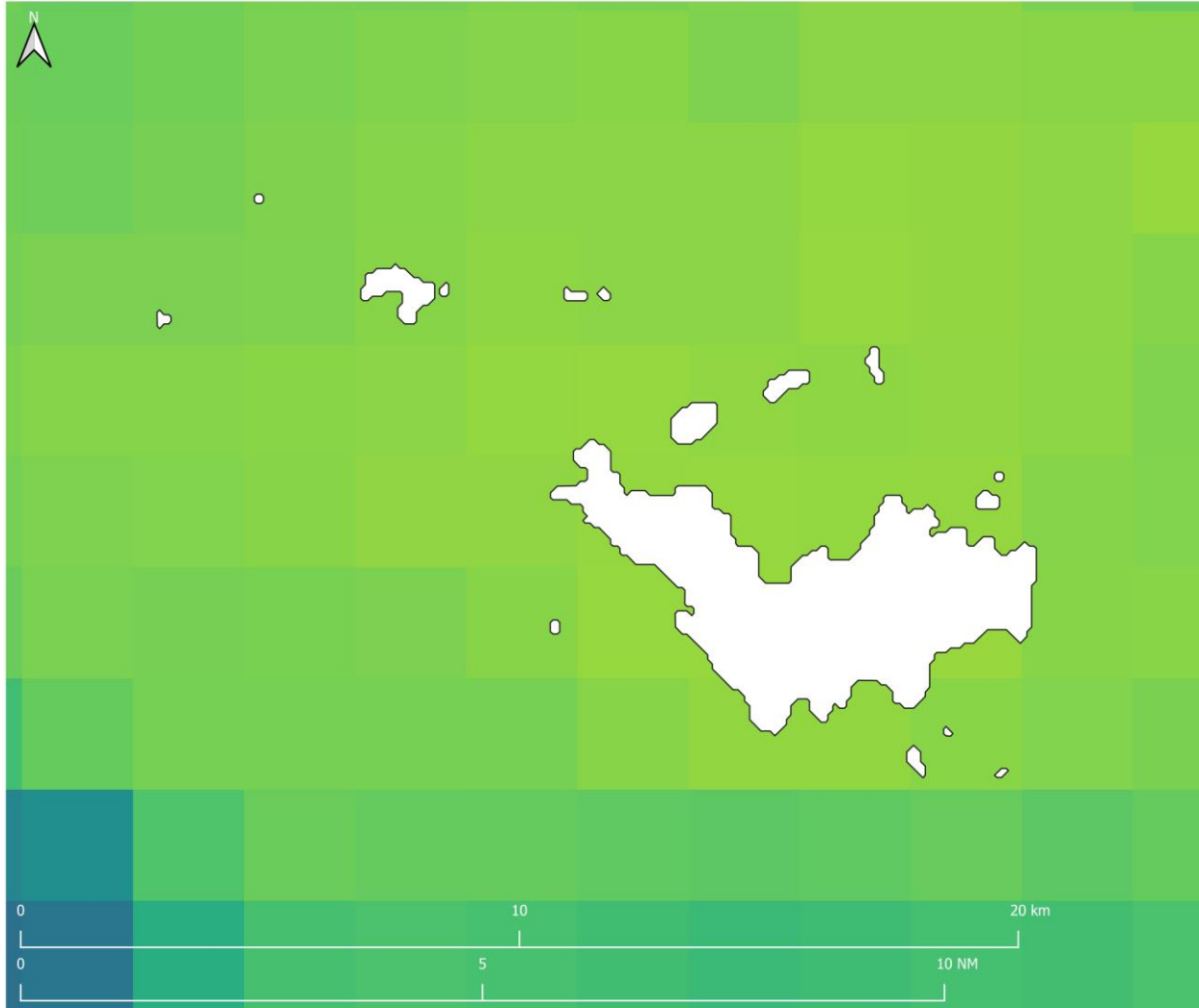
 up to **18 m** for **25 to 40 tonnes**: **low manoeuvrability**

- **Very present** during **breeding season** (December – May) and **close to the coast**
- High probability of presence of **juveniles** (mother-calf pair)

Possible encounters with other species such as **resident delphinids** (bottlenose dolphins, pilot whales or spotted dolphins) and others, as well as **deep divers** (beaked whales, **sperm whales**, dwarf sperm whales)

Areas requiring increased vigilance for humpback whales

Favorable humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) habitat in Saint-Barthélemy waters during the dry season (December - May)

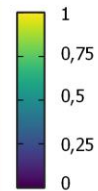


Legend

□ Saint-Barthélemy

■ No data

Probability of presence

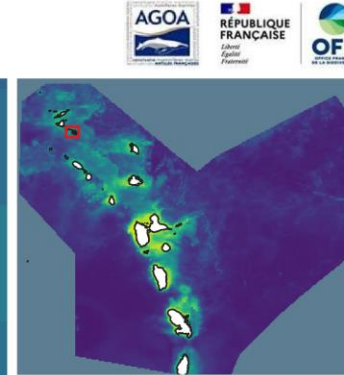
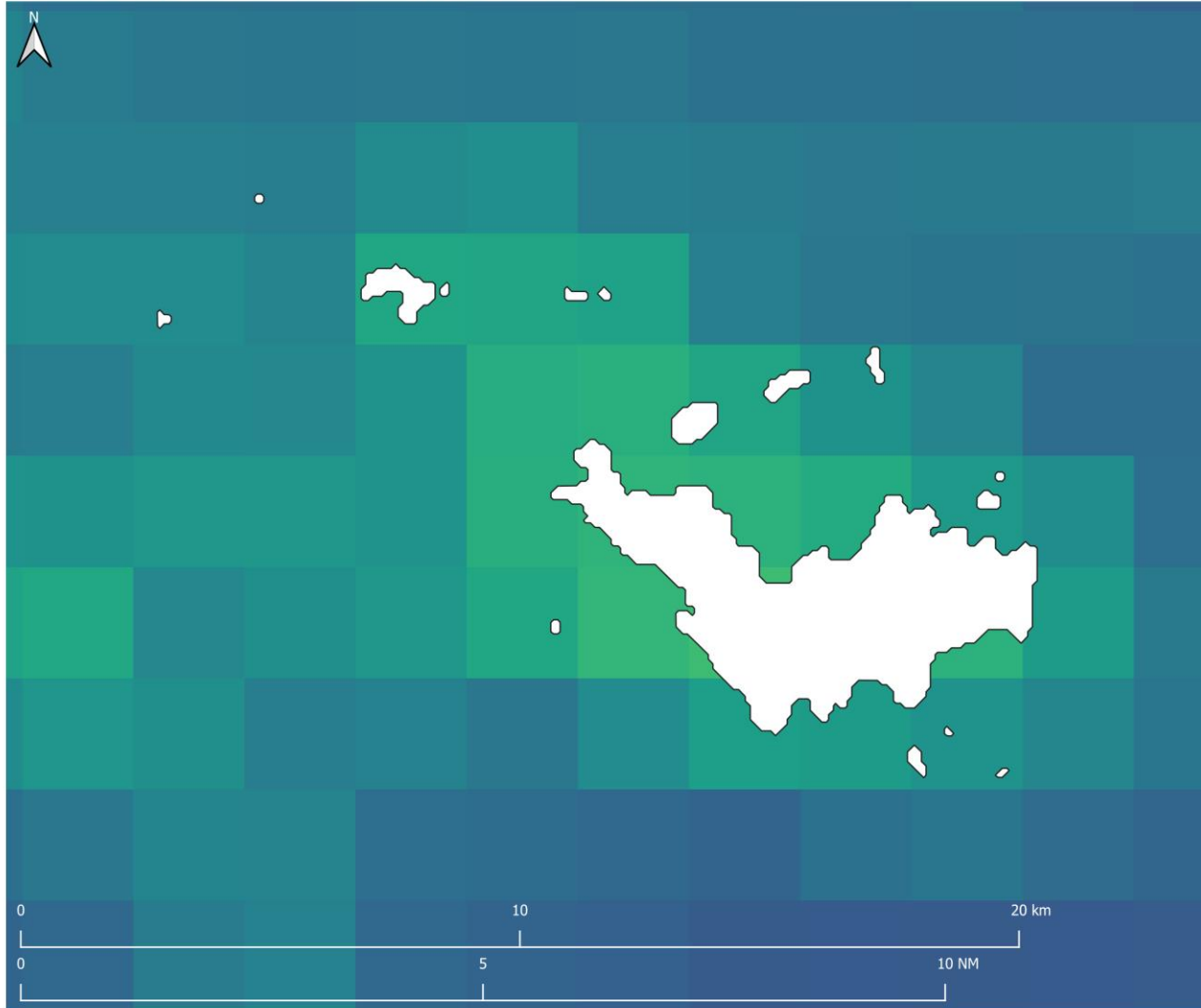


EDITEE LE : 19 / 2 / 2024
Sources des données :
"Compréhension et cartographie des habitats favorables des mammifères marins dans le Sanctuaire Agoa"
F.Hugon, J.P. Maalouf, Sanctuaire Agoa
Fonds cartographiques : BD NOAA
Coast Lines GSHHS_f_L1
Système de coordonnées : EPSG:4326

- **High probability of presence** over the entire race circuit (around 0.80)
- Very sensitive to **collision risk**

Areas requiring increased vigilance for bottlenose dolphins

Favorable bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) habitat in Saint-Barthélemy waters during the dry season (December - May)

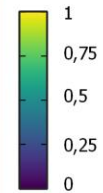


Legend

□ Saint-Barthélemy

■ No data

Probability of presence



- High probability of encounter near the coast

EDITEE LE : 19 / 2 / 2024
Sources des données :
"Compréhension et cartographie des habitats favorables des mammifères marins dans le Sanctuaire Agoua"
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Regulations:

- The National Decree of July 1, 2011 **prohibits prosecution and harassment of all marine mammals**
- The Prefectoral Decree of March 15, 2017 **prohibits approaching marine mammals closer than 300m**

Reminder:

In the event of **cetaceans voluntarily approaching under 300 meters** of the vessel, the following rules must be observed:

- the vessel's **speed is reduced** to a maximum of 5 knots
- the **vessel moves away from the collision course**

It is strictly forbidden to accelerate or change course in order to interact with the animals.



Informations and contacts:

- **Transmission of sighting data to the Agoa Sanctuary:** Information should include date, GPS location and species identification. This information can be used for future studies.

Mail: lionel.yamb@ofb.gouv.fr (+596 696 38 45 38) and sanctuaire.agoa@ofb.gouv.fr

- Any disturbance of cetaceans in the French Exclusive Economic Zone must be immediately reported to the Agoa Sanctuary (+596 696 33 19 15) and to CROSS AG (telephone 196 and VHF 16).
- In the event of sightings of entanglements, strandings or marine mammals in distress, immediately notify the personnel responsible for the local National Stranding Network (RNE), depending on the sector:
 - For Saint-Martin, the Nature Reserve of Saint-Martin +590 690 38 77 71
 - Agoa Sanctuary: Jérôme COUVAT +596 696 33 19 15

Thank you for your attention and cooperation, and enjoy the race!



Crédit: Laurent BOUVERET / OMMAG