

France

Iroise

Declaration date: 1988

Surface area: 20,613 ha

Administrative division: Syndicat mixte du Parc Naturel Régional d'Armorique (collectivité territoriale) Bretagne Vivante SEPNB

Human activities:

Daily tourism is a significant element of the local economy, providing the basis for commercial activities on the islands. However, also fishing activities remain important. Numerous educational and training activities are carried out in the biosphere reserve, such as guided visits for school classes, exhibits, public information meetings and internships.

Contact information:

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Ecological characteristics:

Iroise Biosphere Reserve, located on the coast of Brittany, comprises small rocky marine islands and islets and open marine areas to a depth of -20 meters with strong currents and a high tidal range. It is of significance from a biodiversity point of view since it encompasses a variety of habitats e.g. for more than 300 species of seaweed, large sea bird colonies and populations of basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) and grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*). The Isle of Ouessant reaches no higher than 60 meters in altitude and its landscape is one of meadows grazed by sheep and criss-crossed with stone walls and numerous hamlets.

Islands; marine waters and sandy bottoms; marine algae communities dominated by *Fucus spiralis*, *F. vesiculosus* and *Laminaria digitata*; gravel, rocks and rocky bottoms (*Zostera* seagrass beds, *Laminaria* and kelp seaweed communities); sandy beaches; pebble beach communities with *Beta maritima* and *Crambe maritima*; rocky coasts and islets; coastal marshlands; coastal grasslands; dry moorlands; enriched pasturelands; scrublands (ferns, willows); mesotrophic backwaters.

