

STAKEHOLDER MAPPING IN THE CONTEXT OF OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY IN THE GULF OF ROSES/CAP DE CREUS

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INTRODUCTION

Faced with the imperative of a swift energy transition, political decisions across all levels of government are dedicated to replacing fossil fuels and nuclear power with renewable alternatives. In this context, offshore wind energy stands out as a viable avenue for achieving economic and societal decarbonization. Notably, in Spain, the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO) recently ratified Royal Decree 150/2023 on February 28, 2023, outlining Maritime Space Management Plans (POEM) for the country's five marine demarcations. The research presented in this study has been carried out in the Levantine-Balearic demarcation (LEBA), including LEBA 1 situated off the Gulf of Roses/Cap de Creus.

AIM

To understand the different stakeholders involved in the study area and their positioning through various communication channels (press) on different scales (from local to global).

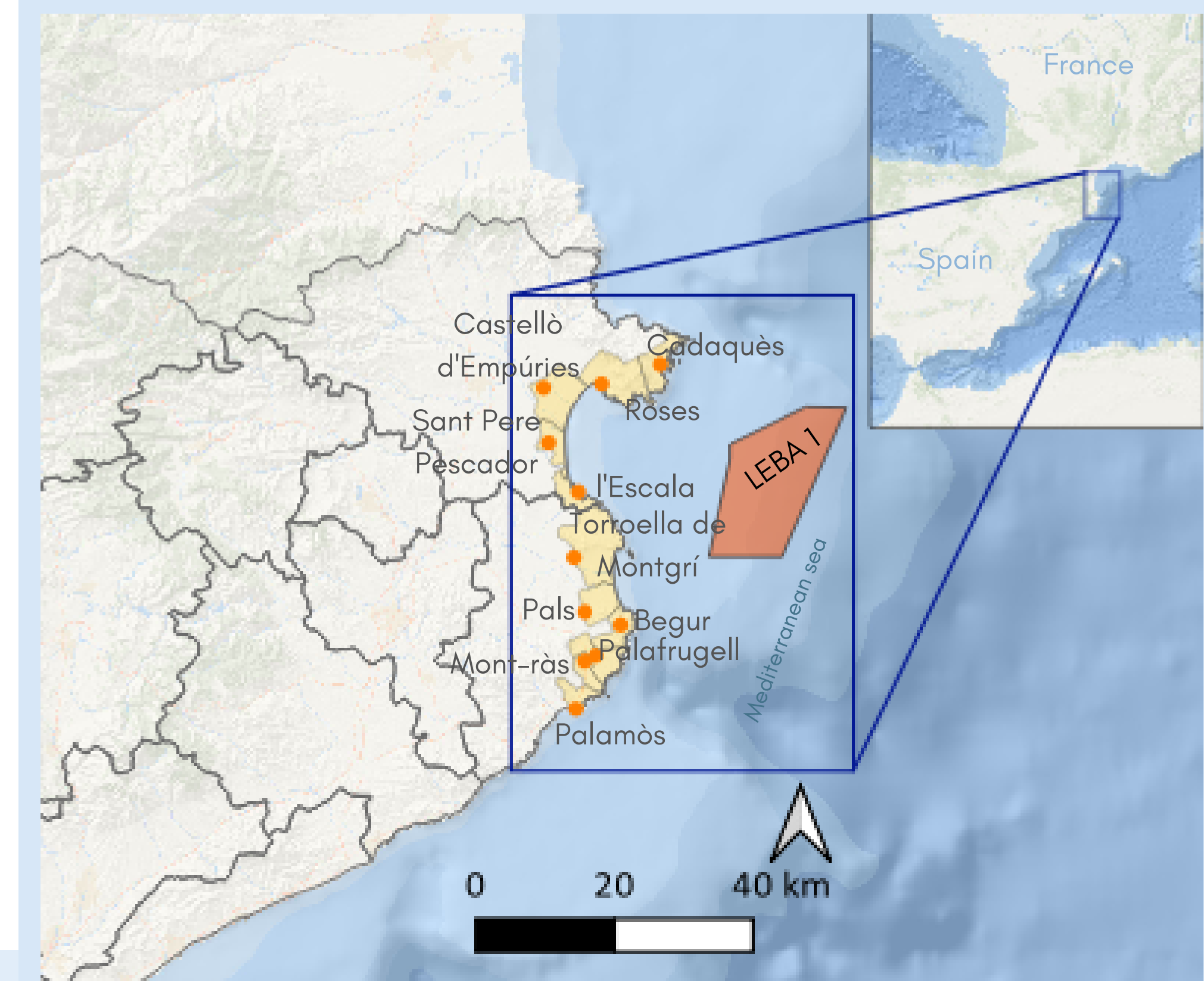


Figure 1. Study area location, focusing on the main involved municipalities and displaying the location of the offshore wind energy production area (LEBA 1).

METHODOLOGY

1. Define the study area and gain a comprehensive understanding of the characteristics of each offshore wind energy project slated for implementation within it (Figure 1).
2. Select various press media outlets spanning different geographic scales, including one local, three regional, two national, and one international source.
3. Determine the specific time period for analysis, as indicated by the arrows in Figure 2.
4. Choose appropriate keywords for conducting searches within newspaper archives.
5. Retrieve and read the located news articles, and download them for further analysis.
6. Analyze the results using the MAXQDA qualitative data analysis software.

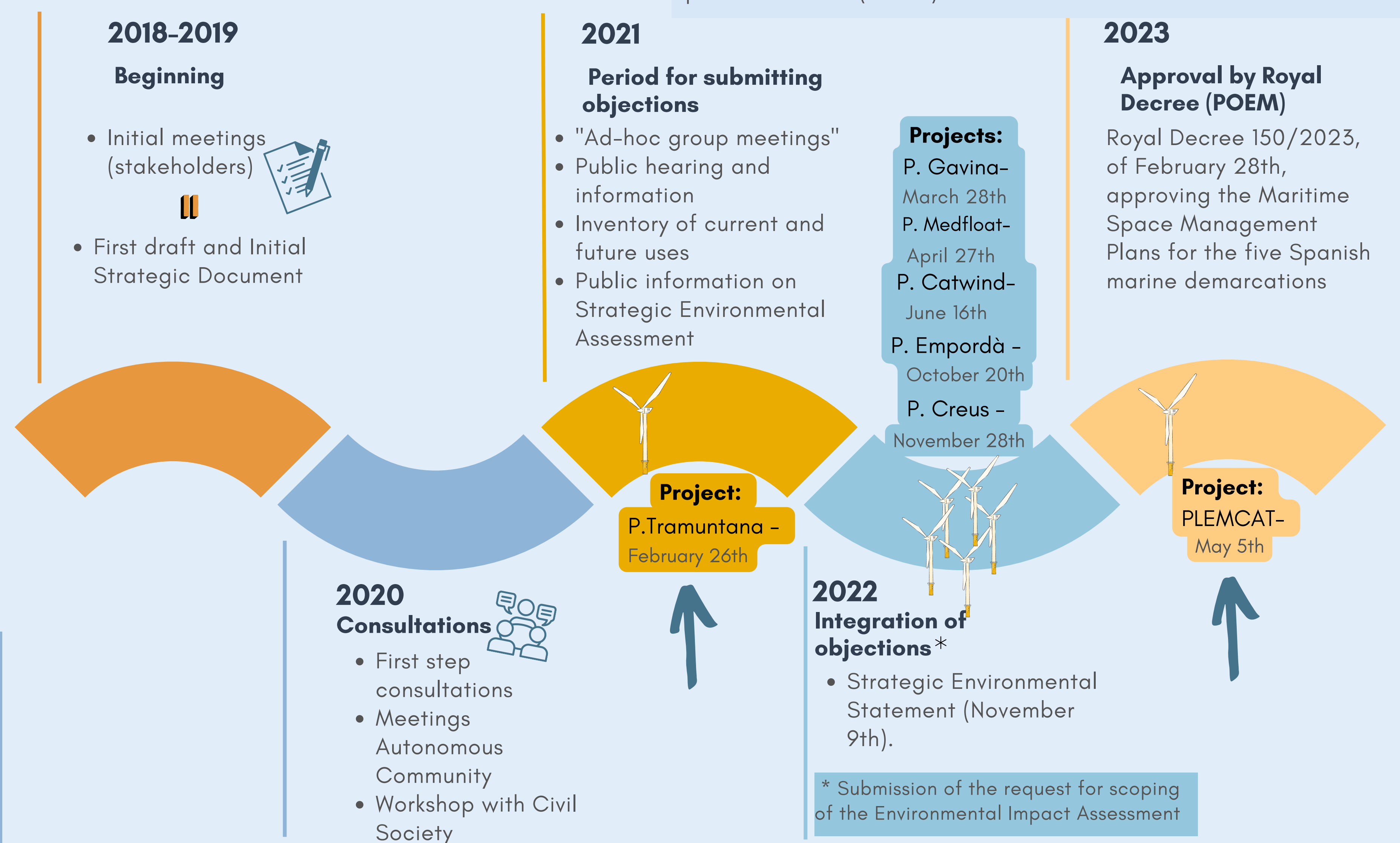


Figure 2. Timeline of the decision-making process by the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge (MITECO) regarding offshore wind planning in Spain. The arrows indicate the start and end dates for information search in different press media.

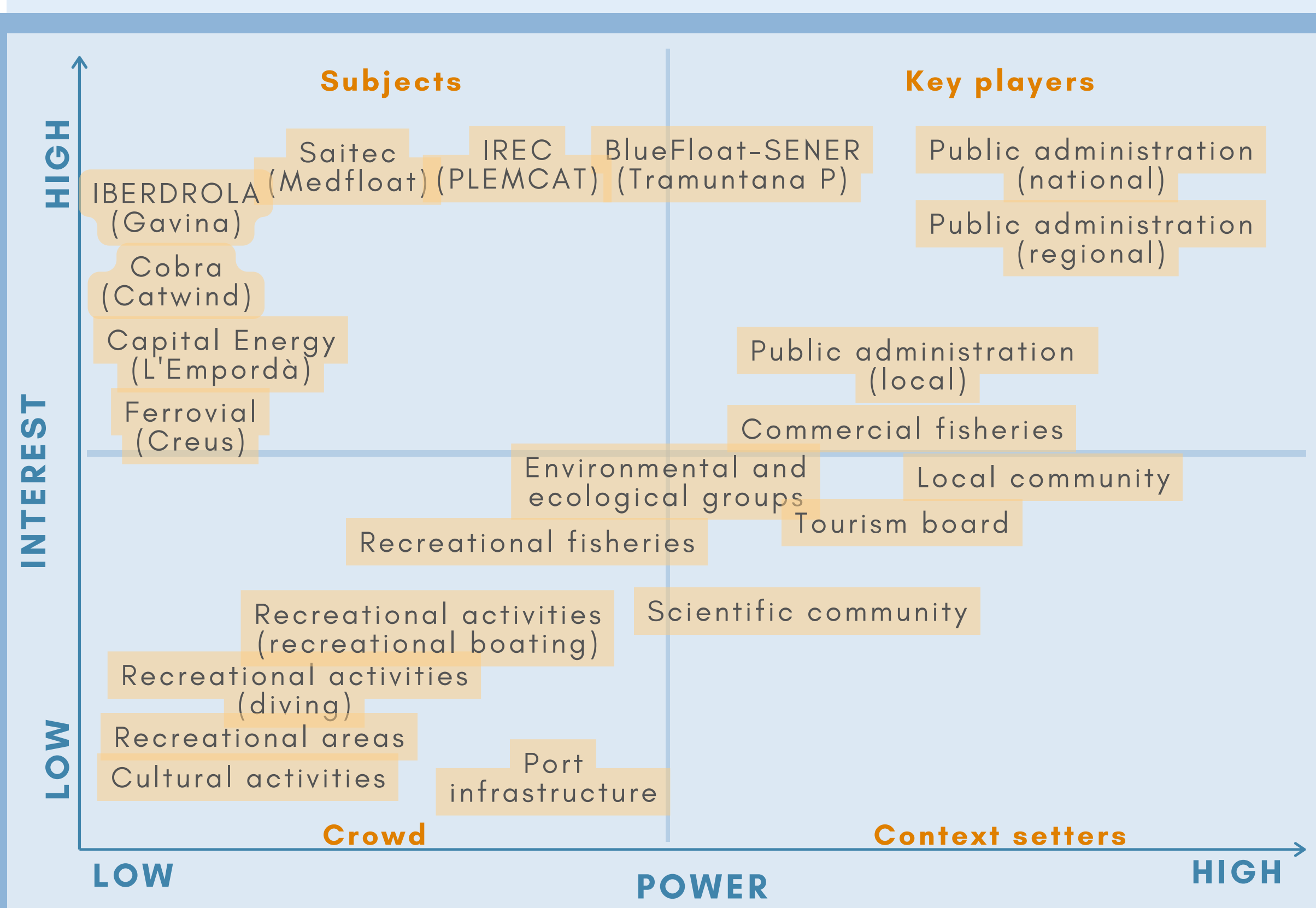


Figure 3. Influence-Interest Matrix in the decision-making process regarding the approval of offshore wind farm projects based on the appearance in the analyzed print media.

RESULTS

Key findings Figure 3

- Environmental groups opposed macro wind projects, while offshore wind sectors were segmented by media focus. The Tramuntana wind farm project garnered the most mentions.

Key findings Figure 4

- Based on the selection of search keywords, 407 press articles have been identified: Wind farm (88); offshore wind farm (216); MSP (Maritime Spatial Planning) (41); experimental park (7); and Tramuntana Park (55).
- Among the articles we've analyzed, 168 express support for the offshore wind farm, while 202 take a stance against it. Additionally, 26 articles provide an objective and purely informative perspective. Lastly, there are 11 divergent articles that present both pro and con viewpoints.

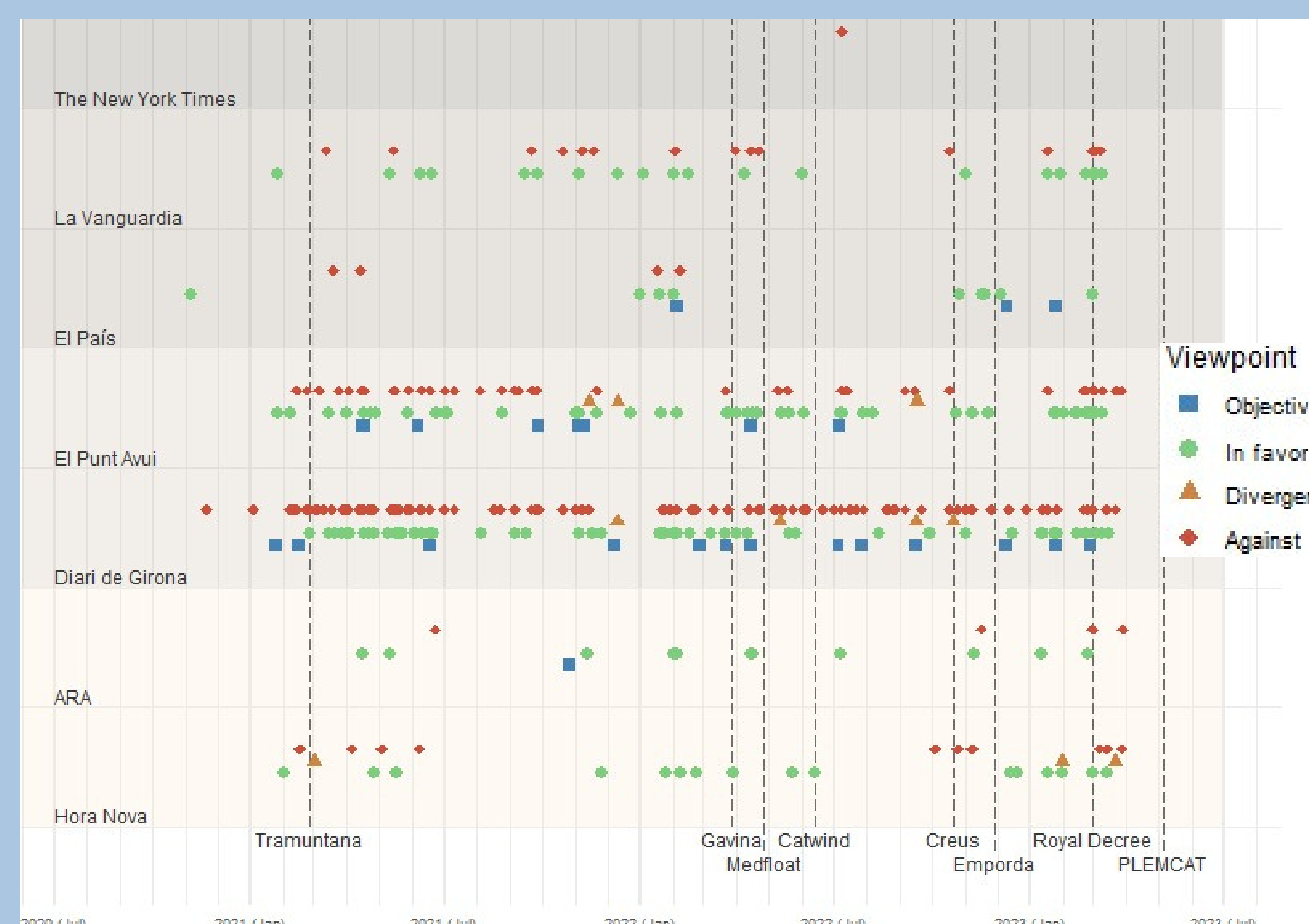


Figure 4. Positioning of Press Media by Publication Dates of Seven Offshore Wind Farm Projects and Declaration of Maritime Spatial Planning. X-axis: Years Selected for Article Analysis. Y-axis: Analyzed Media.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- This scrutiny of the newspaper archives has allowed us to closely examine the primary stances of the media over the years. At the same time, it has provided insight into the information reaching the population.
- Thanks to this methodology, we have been able to identify who the stakeholders are and those affected by the construction of the offshore wind farm. In addition, it has helped us understand the level of importance they have for the selected print media outlets.
- The next steps will involve conducting interviews with local stakeholders to understand the degree of relationships that exist among them.

SOME REFERENCES

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- Ahsan, D., & Pedersen, S. M. (2018). The influence of stakeholder groups in operation and maintenance services of offshore wind farms: Lesson from Denmark. *Renewable Energy*, 125, 819-828. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.renene.2017.12.098>