

## Day 4 – Field trip- practicals

A field trip is organized to Bourgneuf Bay, the main oyster production site of Région des Pays de la Loire. It is located south of the Loire estuary on the French Atlantic coast, is a macrotidal bay with a maximum tidal amplitude of 6 m during spring tides, receiving freshwater inputs from a 980 km<sup>2</sup> watershed, which includes 350 km<sup>2</sup> of marshes adjacent to the bay. The bay total surface area is 340 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 100 km<sup>2</sup> are constituted by the intertidal zone. It is a site of extensive aquaculture of the oyster *Crassostrea gigas* (Thunberg), ranking sixth in France with a production of 8 600 metric tons on 1 000 hectares of intertidal cultures. Oysters are grown in plastic bags placed on racks, 70 cm from the bottom. This bay is highly turbid with annual mean concentrations of suspended particulate matter concentrations ranging from 27 to 129 mg.L<sup>-1</sup> according to a south-north gradient and with maximum values > g. L<sup>-1</sup> during spring tides. At the vicinity of oyster-production sites, there are large mudflats colonized by microphytobenthos.

The field trip will start with a visit of IFREMER research station of Bouin, located in a polder with many bivalves' hatcheries. We will later stop at the typical oyster port of l'Epoids and have a pique-nique with an oyster producer with a tasting of oysters from Bourgneuf Bay.

In the afternoon, there will be practical sessions in the mudflat to illustrate different sampling techniques (contact cores, benthos sampling) and to use equipment (field spectroradiometers)

### Confirmed speakers:

Dr. Vincent Buchet & Dr. Christophe Stavrakakis (IFREMER Bouin)

David Lecossois (Oyster producer-Fromentine)

Practicals: Dr Vona Méléder-Dr Bruno Jesus-Dr Bruno Cognie-Pr. Laurent Barillé