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Asymmetry of tidal currents off the W.Brittany coast and assessment of tidal energy resource around the Ushant Island

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A novel method of assessing and mapping the hydrokinetic resource at two very promising tidal stream energy sites around the Ushant Island in the Iroise Sea is presented.

By merging surface velocity time series recorded by HF radars with ADCP measurements, the major metrics of the tidal flow required for detailed resource characterization are quantified.

Current velocities recorded by the radars show a pronounced asymmetry between the flood and ebb flow varying in a wide range, from 0.5 to 2.5, around the Ushant Island. The strongest variation of asymmetry was found in the Fromveur Strait.

In the Fromveur Strait, the 1/7 power law is appropriate to characterize the velocity profile, during at least 3-hour period of the strongest current observed on ebb and flood flow.

Assuming the 1/7 power law velocity profile to be appropriate for sites around the Ushant Island, the time series of the theoretical and technical power were reconstructed and used for quantifying the power available in the lower and upper half of the water column at different time scales.

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