

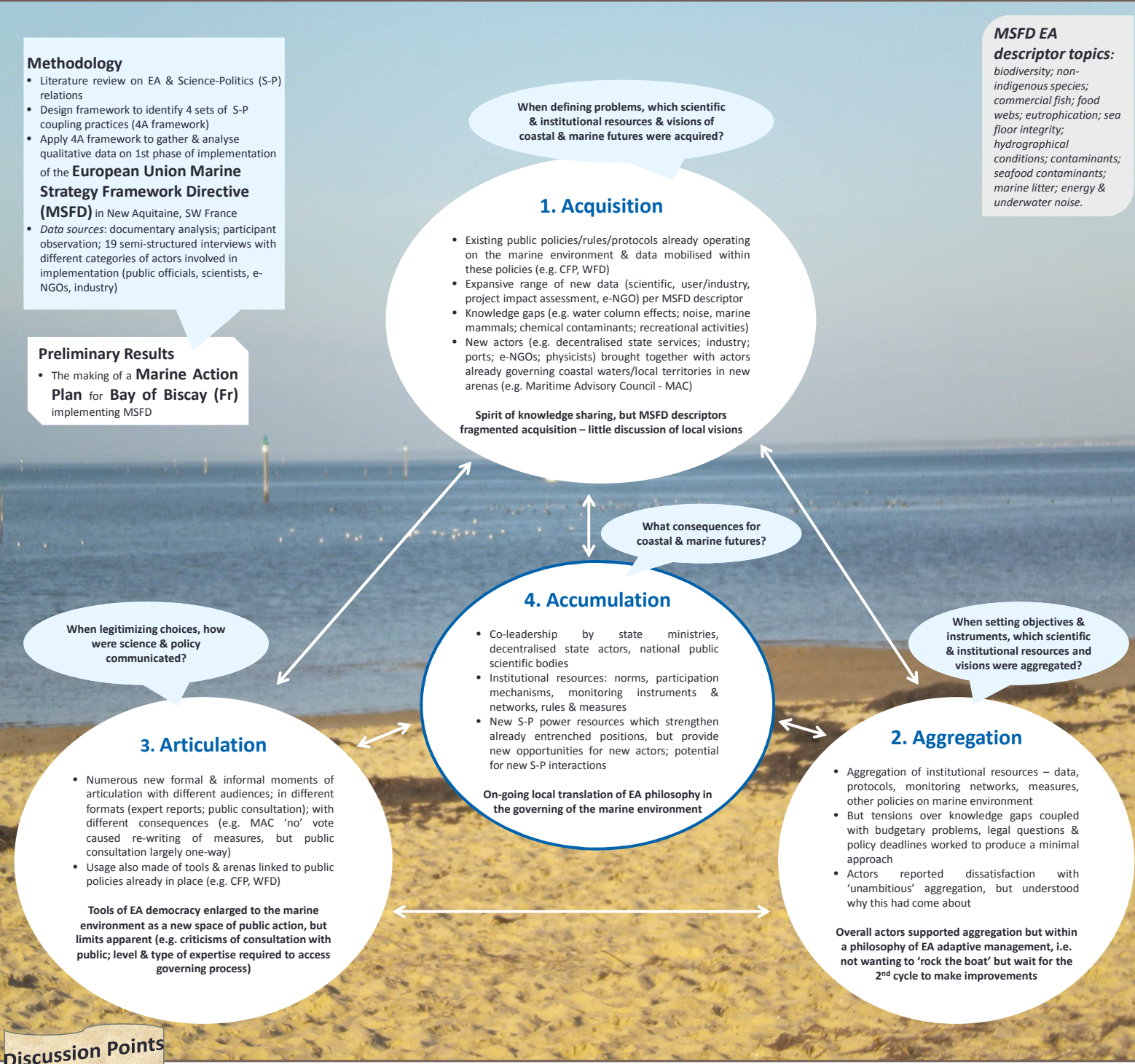
New Integrated Framework to grasp transforming Science-Politics 'coupling practices'

Participatory European coastal & marine water management

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Context

- The interdisciplinary project **ECOGOV** (A political sociology of ECOSystem sciences: theories, narratives, interactions and GOVernance) examines transforming Science-Politics (S-P) 'coupling practices' in natural resource governance.
- In European coastal & marine water management, the 'Ecosystem Approach' (EA) is a central philosophy for governing interactions between biotic, abiotic & anthropic factors at different scales.
- The EA potentially fosters new forms of participatory management (Van Leeuwen et al, 2014).
- How can interdisciplinary research grasp changing configurations of science/knowledge, institutions and stakeholders which the EA invites?



Discussion Points

- Local MSFD choices & local meaning of an 'EA' emerged from **complex, socially embedded** and often **opaque governing processes** (Cleaver & Franks 2005; Van Tatenhove 2013), as distinct from deliberate, designed government with linear input from science.
- Unambitious outcome should not be confused with a departure from an EA.**
- Complexity** associated with an EA was **not upheld** by actors as an **immediate barrier to governing.**
- Complexity did** make it **hard** for both actors (and analysts) to **grasp the 'bigger picture'** or '**panoramic vision'** (Leslie & McLeod 2007) **associated with an EA** as implemented in New Aquitaine.
- Disparity of S-P temporal scales** (rather than spatial) posed **more immediate local difficulties:** e.g. mismatch strict policy deadlines vs long term policy effects; mismatch urgent science needs vs budget timeframes.

Perspectives: How the EA is interrogating S-P coupling practices merits continued study. The ECOGOV project will apply the 4A framework to the governing of other ecosystems in New Aquitaine (e.g. 'forestry', 'estuary') to **compare** the consequences of the EA for participation.