



Can SRDAM (Regional scheme for the development of marine aquaculture) facilitate the access to new farming sites on French Mediterranean coast ?

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Framework of the work

- Programme EU H2020 **SUCCESS** (2016-18):

“Strategic Use of Competitiveness towards Consolidating the Economic Sustainability of the European Seafood Sector”

- **WP 3, European fisheries and aquaculture sectors**
- **Task 3.3a - Identification of “room for competitiveness improvement” (RFI) at the primary sector level**

Case Study “Seabass & seabream farming”, France:

“Study of SRDAMs as a possible tool to improve access to new sites for marine fish farming on French Mediterranean coast”

CONTEXT: marine fish farming in France, a low development



4920 T in 2016 (source CIPA)

seabass, seabream, meager, turbot

An **absence of development over the last 20 years**, attributed to:

- **the difficult access to new farming sites in coastal zones (high competition),**
- **to regulatory constraints and very strict implementation,**
- **to a lack of social acceptability.**



BUT in recent years, changes in public policies, in favor of aquaculture development :

- **EU level: Strategic Guidelines for the Sustainable Development of EU Aquaculture (2013)** (priority “improving access to space and water”), **MSP directive (2014)**
- **Implementation by Member States : Multiannual National Strategic Plans** for promotion of sustainable aquaculture (should be established by 2021)
- ➔ **in France, PNSPDA = national plan with ambitious objectives: 10,000 to 20,000 T**
- + creation of SRDAMs (2011), a French planning tool for aquaculture at regional level**

Objectives of our study:

- To analyze the legislation background related to the creation & drawing up of SRDAMs
- To understand the building process and the contents of Mediterranean SRDAMs
- To make a preliminary assessment of the effect of the implementation of SRDAMs on fish farming development
- To analyze the other constraints for marine fish farming development

Methods

- Desk work: review of literature and of main legislative texts
- Field work: 13 interviews with key stakeholders; from June to November 2017 :
 - Representatives of the Administration in charge of the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector (national, inter-regional, regional)
 - Syndicates of fish farmers and CEOs of the two main marine fish farming companies in France
 - Researchers

SRDAMs for the 3 Mediterranean administrative regions

- Provence - Alpes - Cote d'Azur (PACA),
- Languedoc Roussillon (LR, in Occitania)
- Corsica

3 SRDAMs approved in 2014 (LR) & 2015 (PACA, Corsica)

Did they enable the creation of new fish farms ?



What is SRDAM ?

➤ **SRDAM = Regional schemes for the development of marine aquaculture**

- ✓ Introduced by the **French Law on modernisation of agriculture and fisheries 2010; Decree 2011**
- ✓ **A tool of strategic planning for the marine aquaculture sector**
- ✓ *“In order to insure the development of aquaculture in harmony with other coastal activities”*.
(Source: Circulaire DPMA, 2011)

➤ **How ?**

- ✓ **Inventory of: 1/ existing aquaculture sites; 2/ suitable sites for aquaculture**
- ✓ **A work driven by public administration at regional level : DIRM (Inter-regional Directorate for the Sea)**
- ✓ **Including : choice of criteria, data collecting/storing in GIS, consultation of stakeholders**

➤ **For ?**

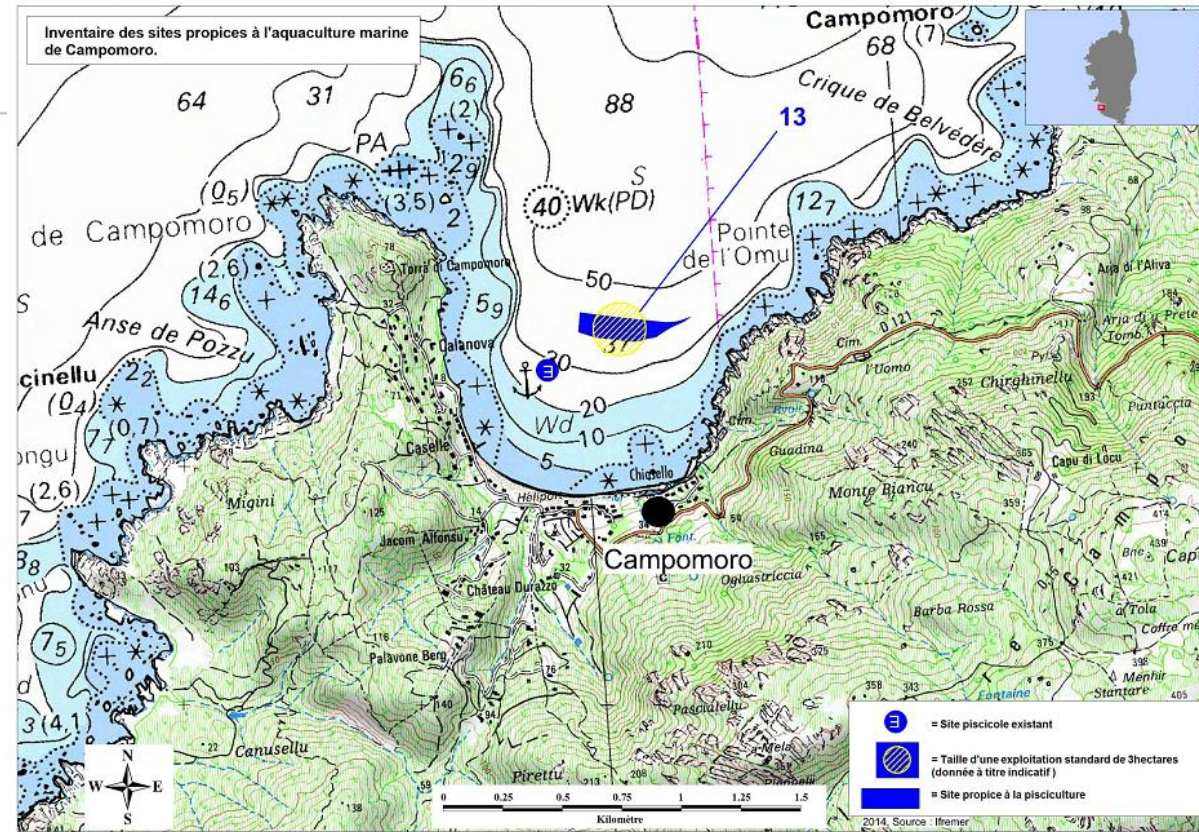
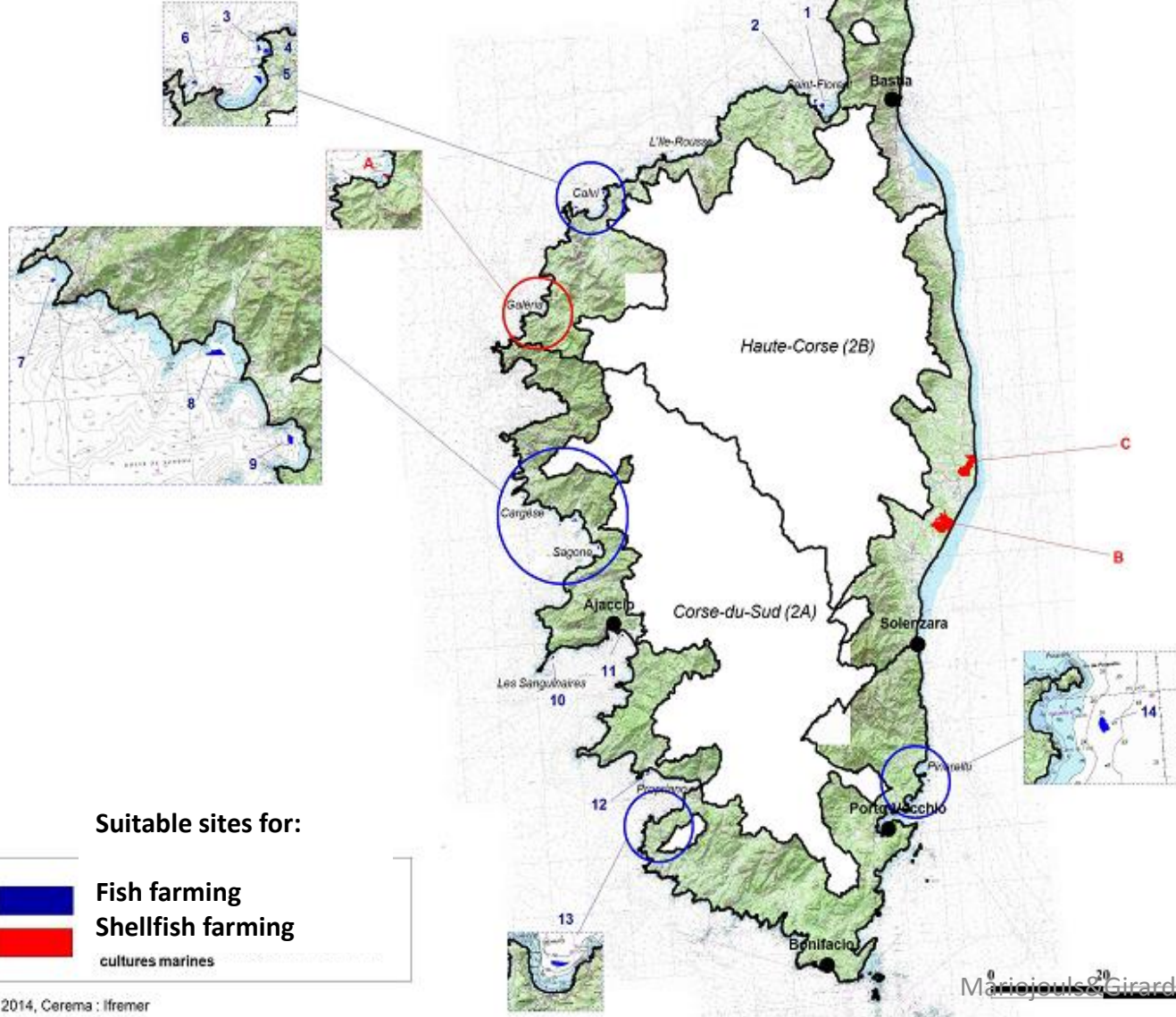
- ✓ **A mapping taken into account in the administrative examination of application files for creating new aquaculture farms**
- ✓ **A mapping as an information for future projects**
- ✓ **A sectorial mapping that will be included in the Marine Spatial Planning**

Main points in the planning process for suitable sites

- **Starting from the sites proposals by aquaculture professionals** (large use of IFREMER inventory, 1999)
- **Crossed with physical or environmental criteria** (geolocated data) to characterize the main issues:
 - criteria regarding the **issues for fish or shellfish farming**:
 - at sea: depth, wind, swell, water quality, distance to coast, distance to landing point,
 - onshore: distance to coastline, present land uses, underground water resources, maximum altitude, zone with technological risks
 - criteria regarding the **issues of potential conflicts with other users**:
 - navigation (all types, including in particular professional fishing)
 - air traffic
 - mooring zones
 - criteria regarding the **issues for protection of natural environment** :
 - existing protected zones (under various statutes)
 - zones with vulnerable benthic biocenoses (Posidinia meadows, coralligenes, etc)
- ➔ **data from public services and scientific bodies**
- ➔ **building a data base and GIS** (based on SI REMCO, IFREMER 2007), and **mapping**
- Selection → first draft**
- **Consultation (3 steps, various stakeholders) → final version**
- **Adoption of the scheme by the regional prefect**
- + **Environmental study and presentation to Environmental Authority, for advice**

Example: SRDAM for Corsica

Inventory of suitable sites for marine aquaculture in Corsica



in CORSICA:
+ PADDUC (regional plan incl.
Aquaculture)

Final contents of the Mediterranean SRDAMs

- Mediterranean SRDAMs **as a strategic scheme**:
 - devoted to a development of aquaculture **keeping the present form of artisanal companies**
 - aiming to **double the production volume**
- **Existing sites, suitable sites : a limited number of sites**

	Number of existing sites	Number of suitable sites
SRDAM Languedoc-Roussillon (new Region Occitanie)	5	17
SRDAM PACA (Provence, Alpes, Cote d'Azur)	15	10
SRDAM Corse	9	14

Lessons learnt from the elaboration of SRDAMs

- **a first step for setting a methodology for spatial planning in coastal zone, bringing out difficulties**
 - Criteria: choice/objective
 - Data : choice, availability, scale
 - Degree of precision: finally, a fine precision is needed
- **a huge work required**
 - Very time consuming
 - A very important input from the administration DIRM Méditerranée
 - A very important involvement from the professionals through concertation

Two years after the publication of SRDAMs: no creation of fish farms..... why ?

Results from the interviews with the fish farming sector (1)

- **The main constraint: administrative burden concerning the application files for fish farming authorization**
- **Other limiting factors ?**
 - **Investments ? Financing ?**
 - There are potential investors (but they often go abroad today...)
 - Banks, public supports : sometimes slow
 - **Market ? not limiting (< high volumes)**

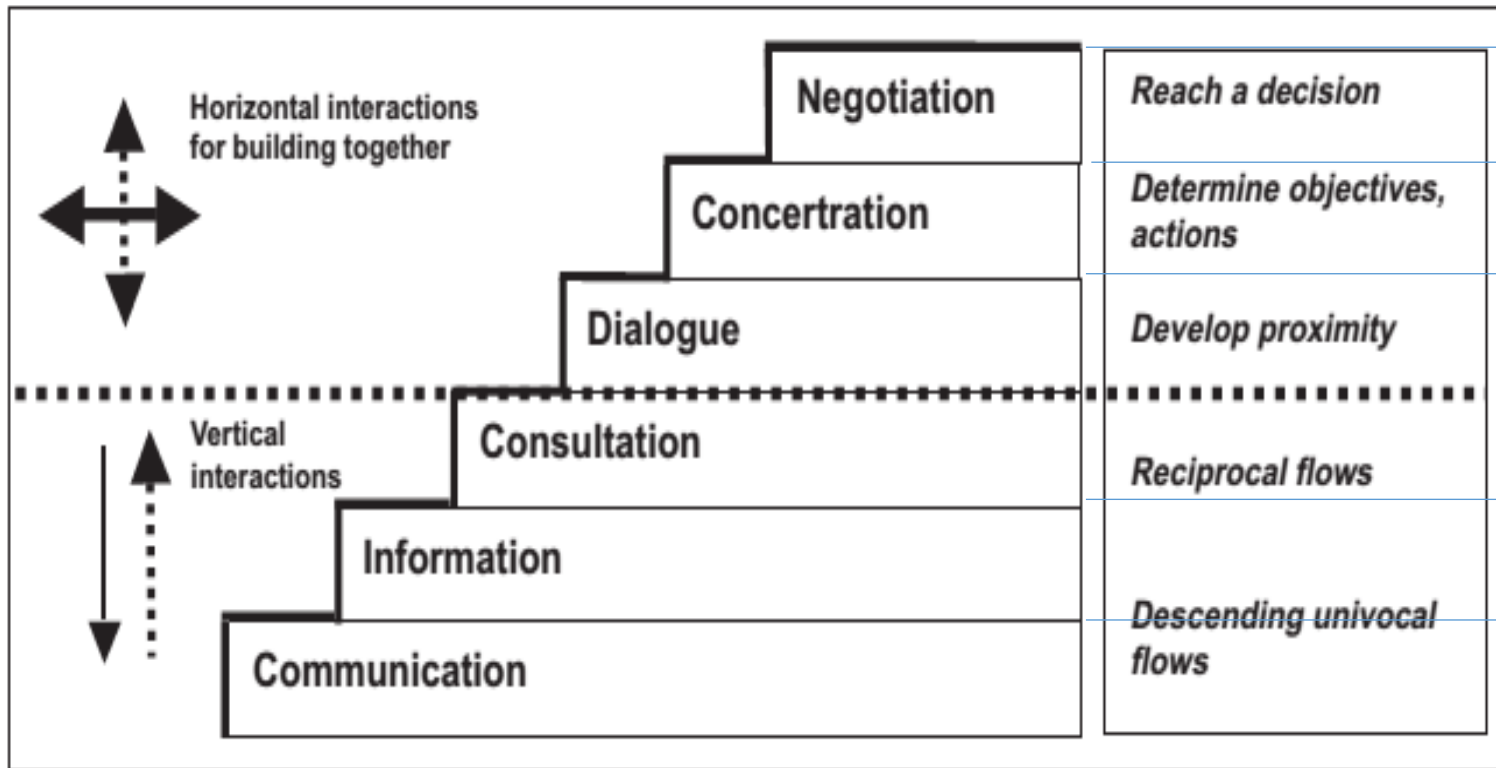
Two years after the publication of SRDAMs: no creation of fish farms...

Results from the interviews with fish farming sector (2)

- **A great disappointment among marine fish farming sector**
 - ✓ who had put great expectations in SRDAMs for access to **new** sites
 - ✓ but also expected some improvement of social acceptability (*which is not included in SRDAMs*)
- **Some missing/uncomplete aspects in SRDAMs**
 - ✓ **Weak legal weight** (cannot prevail against other land planning documents)
 - ✓ **No mapping of land-based sites** (needed facilities for storage, staff)
 - ✓ *Consultation process to be questioned ?*

Important limits in participative approach with stakeholders, in SRDAMs frame

Complete participation of fish farmers,
partial participation of fishermen



Fish farmers	Fishermen	Other users	Public
X			
X			
X	X		
X	X	X	(X)
X	X		X
			X

Attempt to characterize the stakeholders participation in Mediterranean SRDAMs, using the « possible types of stakeholders participation in an MSP process »

After: Pomeroy & Douvere 2008

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Consultation through advices of dedicated public administrations and elected representatives

Highlights / Mediterranean SRDAMs for fish farming

- **Two-three years after SRDAM publication: no significant effect on fish farm creation**
- **A choice of not dedicating zones to aquaculture**
- **A limited process of concertation with other users**

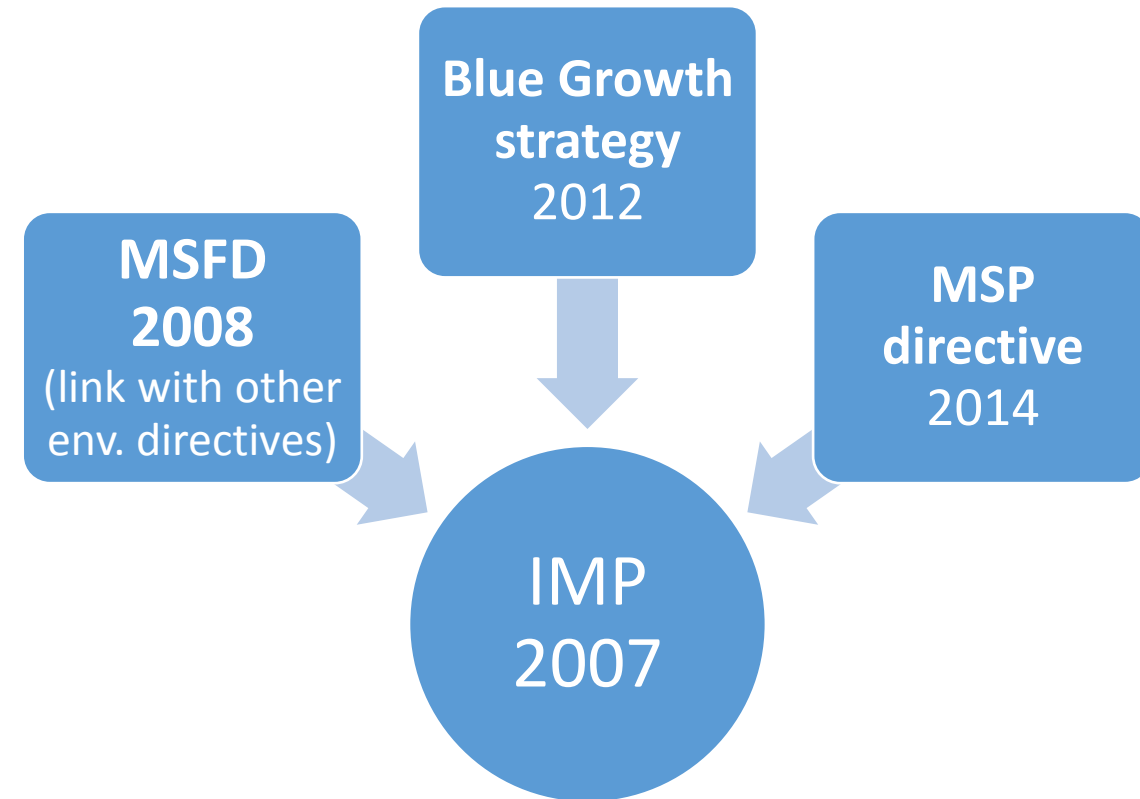
- **The tension between “production” and “nature protection” remains**
(difficulties during administrative examination of application files for existing or new farms, weak social acceptability)
- **Time for public policies and needs of French marine fish farming, a wide gap between :**
 - S.T. needs of marine fish farming sector : simplification of administrative procedures (*despite mentioned in National plan for aquaculture*)
 - L.T. work required by the MSP, both for the process itself and its implementation.

EU framework : from Integrated Maritime Policy to Marine Spatial Planning

EU policies, directives and strategy for the sea and the coastline

- **Integrated Marine Policy, IMP (2007)**
- **Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008)**
 - the environment pillar of the IMP
 - requires EU countries to achieve Good Environmental Status for environment by 2020
- **Blue Growth (2012)**
 - L.T. strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors
 - *Concerning : aquaculture, coastal tourism, marine biotech., ocean energy and seabed mining*
- **Directive Marine Spatial Planning, MSP (2014)**
 - to create a common framework for maritime spatial planning in Europe (cross-sectoral tool)
 - Member States are expected to establish their maritime spatial plans for 2021

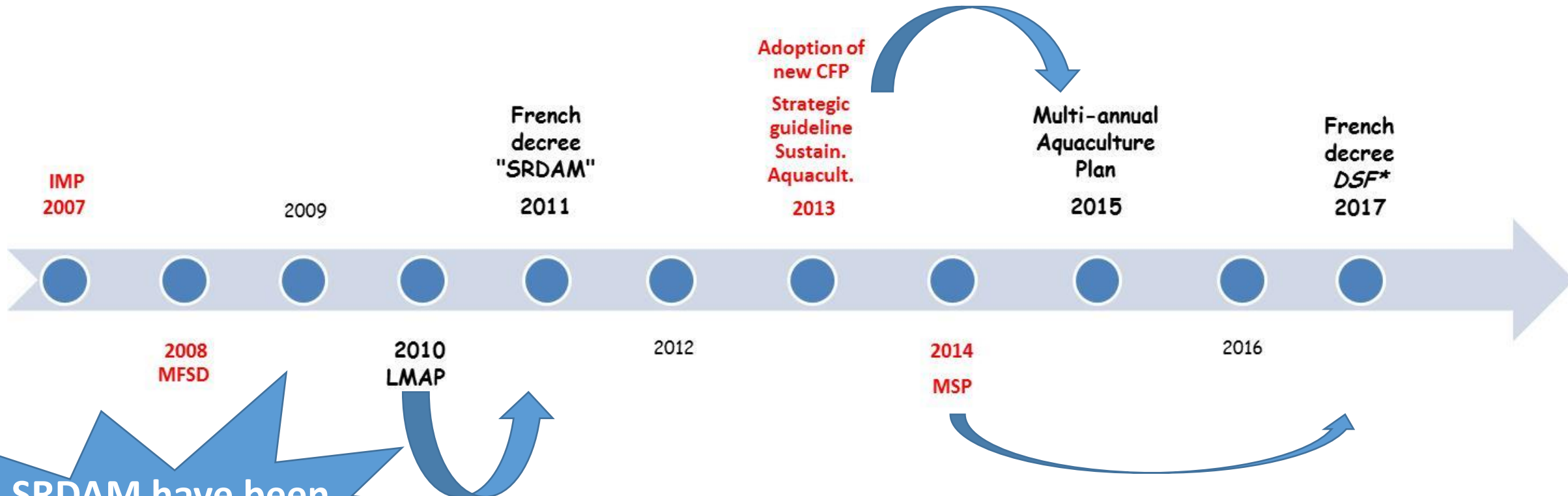
➔ **Under progress in France as DSF**



Implementation of EU policies and French legislation in the aquaculture sector

EU policy framework

French regulatory framework



SRDAM have been created before MSP and new CFP

*Decree n° 2017-724 integrating maritime planning and action plan for the marine environment into strategic coastline documents (*DSF*)

SRDAMs : a first step for MSP ?

- Marine Spatial Planning : due for 2021 in EU Member States
- In France : Marine Spatial Planning is addressed through DSF (*strategic document for coastal region*), elaborated by DIRM – under progress
- **« SRDAMs will be included in DSF » : how ?**
 - 1- A sectorial planning tool into a cross-sectorial tool...
 - 2- Elaborated under a « simple » framework, with a limited scope
 - 3- Created too early compared to EU on-going process of aquaculture zoning?

Main points for aquaculture spatial planning

- **What strategy for marine fish farming development ?**
For the “last comer”, is it possible to develop without space reservation ?
- **How is the environmental assessment taken into account ?**
- **What Stakeholders participation in marine aquaculture spatial planning ?**
 - **Does it allow a real empowerment of stakeholders ?**
 - **For aquaculture, is it an opportunity for improving the understanding by other users and the social acceptability ?**
- **Numerous works /concepts /guidelines**
 - **Aquaculture zoning in ecosystem approach (FAO & World Bank, 2017)**
 - **AZA (Affected Zones for Aquaculture), (FAO CGPM Resolution GFCM/36/2012/1)**



Merci

Thank you