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ICZM challenges in the Arcachon Bay:



An interdisciplinary analysis of social and economic strategies in a vulnerable oyster industry

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An original approach of ICZM

- Our question is not so much a matter of dealing with / estimating directly the conditions of implementation of the principles of the ICZM (i.e. instruments or representations) in a given territory...

- ...As to analyze its actors' behaviors, to bring to the foreground questions that may enrich the ICZM debate

- ⇒ **Oyster farming in the Arcachon Bay as a relevant entry point**

- ⇒ **Question the process of ICZM through the lens of tensions / adaptations of a symbolic industry**

- ⇒ **Privileged observatories and tracers of the processes of**

Oyster farming: a symbolic industry of Arcachon Bay (160km²)

Socio-economic dimension:

Smallest of the French oyster farming sites

0.5% of the national production (7000 T)

15 exploitations (8.5% of the whole)

Productive specificities:

Historic production site (XIXth Century)

1st nursery of France and Europe (50% of

natural spat production in France)

Economic activity notable on the Arcachon Bay :

700 direct employments

€40m turnover

Political dimension:

Supported by local elective representatives

Allocated service in local institutions (CG)

Cultural dimension of heritage:

Symbolic identity/occupation/attractiveness





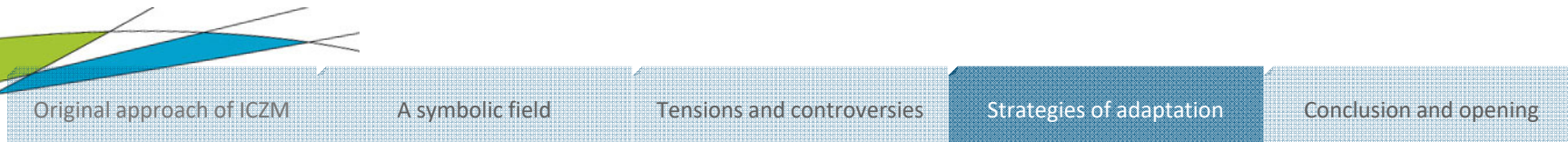
Ambivalent links between an industry and its territory : Crises, conflicts and controversies

Oyster farming which crystallizes the stakes of a multifunctional territory:

- Diversity of actors linked/impacted by oyster farming:
 - Actors of industry (from the local to the European level), institutions (administration, politicians), residents, actors of tourism, agriculture, factories, collective facilities, users of the resource (water sport, fishing, swimming), environmentalists, etc.

Oyster farming conflicts/controversies in the heart of ICZM challenges:

- Land use conflicts (implementation of a database management system)
 - Overlapping of competing usages = Presence of “scrap iron” of old oyster beds
 - Adjacency conflicts = Occupation of “Banc d’Arguin” reserve
 - Neighborhood conflicts (negative externalities) = reduction of the herbarium



The local strategies of adaptation of the oyster farming industry

Adaptations reveal arbitrage : interdependences, balance of power, systems of constraints

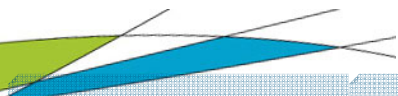


An overlap of sectoral and territorial dynamics

Collective strategies: ex: “Mouse bioessay” = oyster farmers are the bearer of **general interest for the territory** but also defender of **economic interest**

- Substitution of a biologic standard (*uncertainty*) with a chemical analyze (*quantifiable risk*)
- Negotiation of the threshold / Development of technical tools to anticipate the contaminations of the environment

Individual strategies: ex: “Banc d’Arguin” = **spatial extension** questioned by the other users but having an economic value (brand)



Original approach of ICZM

A symbolic field

Tensions and controversies

Strategies of adaptation

Conclusion and opening

social sciences approach through the industry point of view: Which interest for ICZM?

How to decipher the underlying dynamics in conflicts /controversies:

Collectives and individuals logics

Overlap of **processes +/- long, complex and multi-level**

Interplays between actors of the oyster farming industry in the elaboration of management instruments (SCOT, SMVM, PNM)

Complementary approach to the scholars dealing with ICZM by looking at **planning/coordination authorities:**

➔ **Arena of co-construction** (integration/innovations)

➔ **Validation/institutionalization** of pre-existing adaptations:

- Revealing the tensions between various activities on a territory

Lighting social sciences: which interests for the public managers?

ICZM on the Arcachon Bay is a **little defined purpose** :

- No authorities to locally anchor the ICZM
- Weak operational reach of the key instruments of the ICZM (SCOT/SMVM) (Hénocque, Billé, 2005)

PNM (natural marine area) consensus : « **window of opportunity** » for an ICZM incarnation?

- Context of **high uncertainty and evolution of balance of power**:
- **Less** a will to exceed a collective rhetoric and to build together a “common good” or a “common rule”
 - **More** the expression of vague desires of strong appropriation by the actors of Arcachon Bay (in particular the oyster farming industry)

- Detailed knowledge of adaptation processes can **allow the public manager to define its posture** (Narcy *et al.*, 2008) towards the process of creation of the PNM:



Thank you for your attention !

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