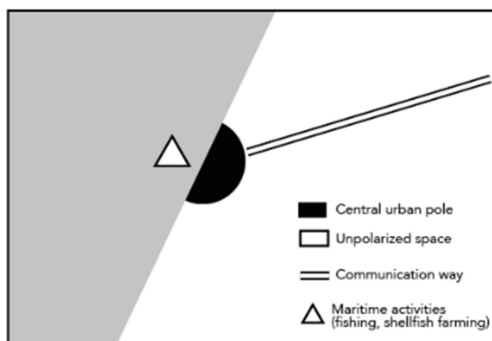


ARCHETYPE 4

Predominantly productive small -or medium- sized towns



Towns matching this archetype:

- Important fishing ports: La Cotinière, Le Guilvinec, Concarneau, La Turballe
- Shellfish hubs: Marennes, Charron
- Freight and passenger ports: Roscoff

DESCRIPTION OF THE ARCHETYPE

Spatial configuration

This archetype represents small or medium-sized port towns specialising in sea products and located in predominantly rural areas. It fits the profile of fishing ports such as La Guilvinec, Concarneau, La Cortinière or La Turballe, and shellfish ports such as Marennes, Charron as well as passenger and freight ports such as Roscoff. The demographic weight of these *communes*¹ is low with fewer than 15 000 inhabitants. The port area is necessarily in a low-lying part of these towns and the remainder of the town may also be located in low-lying areas that are potentially exposed to erosion and inundation or on coastal cliffs exposed to erosion.

Territorial economy

These towns have developed around the traditional activities of fishing, oyster farming and/or salt production. Today, their economy remains based mainly on these primary productive activities. The service sector generates a minor share of the jobs in these *communes*. Compared to other coastal *communes*, they have little appeal and are not very touristy. They do not therefore have a seasonal pattern.

Socio-demographic characteristics

They are mainly inhabited by permanent residents: people coming from the surrounding areas or those who have established themselves there for work reasons and who have not moved away. One characteristic of this population is endogenous ageing: young people leave for more attractive urban centres and replacements for maritime workers are not always guaranteed. Thus, some productive activities do not find buyers. The low attractiveness of these fishing ports is reflected in property prices which remain low for coastal *communes*.

¹ A level of administrative division in the French Republic. *Communes* are based on historical geographic communities or villages and are vested with significant powers to manage the populations and land of the geographic area covered. The *communes* are the fourth-level administrative divisions of France.

Innovation pathways

Traditional maritime activities (shellfish farming, fishing, salt production) requiring the proximity of water are the essence of these places. Nonetheless, these are declining as they are economically fragile faced with international competition, European fishing regulations, production costs, job disaffection, etc. These traditional maritime activities must therefore change or disappear.

Furthermore, climate change may have several negative effects on these already vulnerable activities: sea-level rise will increase damage to production equipment and infrastructure. It might also lead to a decline in coastal water quality, essential for spawning and aquaculture areas, if the sea were to cover more polluted ground (as a result of agricultural inputs or industrial pollutants for example). A rise in ocean temperature might also increase the risk of disease (particularly viral) affecting shellfish farming.

Governance

This area comprises a variety of actors who can influence adaptation pathways and support the *commune* which has limited political and financial capacity. Economic actors becoming involved through producer organisations, such as the regional fisheries committees, can play a lobbying role at regional, national and European levels to defend their activities. Productive maritime activities are also defended by the State, in particular in the national sea and coastline strategy.

Psycho-social characteristics

There is great concern about the risks because maritime activities are the main economic asset of the area. The relationship with the sea and risk awareness are instilled into people's thoughts. Collective involvement is significant (associations, Chamber of Commerce and Industry...). To the extent that they can afford to do so, local authorities intervene to protect the factors of production.

ADAPTATION PATHWAYS

Adaptation pathway (slow progression): renewal of maritime jobs

The slow progression of climate conditions allows for the technical adjustment of activities and the transformation of maritime jobs. This transformation is eased by political involvement at all levels (G1): it is supported by Europe, the State and local authorities through subsidies. Indeed, the defence of sustainable maritime activities (ET2) is reiterated as one of the priorities in the national sea and coast strategy and in strategic documents concerning the shoreline.

*Intercommunality*² is supported by the State (included in the State-Region project contract) and the European fund for the renewal of sustainable maritime activities (European Maritime and Fisheries Fund). Local MPs, convinced of the need to defend maritime activities (TI3), provide direct access to the National Assembly (G4). Producer organisations and regional fisheries committees, ports and the chamber of commerce prepare, with the *intercommunality*, a proposal for a special new sea-related PAPI³ (G6) called “maritime professions” in order to finance structures to protect production equipment and infrastructure (shellfish farming, port, and shipyard projects).

Maritime jobs are changing. They are becoming multifunctional, heavily-focussed on environmental protection (PS1) (Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Marine Protected Areas, fishers “sea gardeners”) as well as on (pesca)tourism, Marine Renewable Energy, etc. They also benefit from the development of high quality, high value-added value chains (G5, TI1) (certified fishing, sustainable aquaculture, high-class shipyards for recreation and racing, “luxury” artisanal salt production, less-polluting alternative maritime transportation, maritime travel to replace the plane, etc.). The relationship with scientists strengthens (G3) for these high-quality value chains (cooperation with research laboratories on materials’ resistance, marine biotechnologies for antifouling systems and other technological innovations). A small marine technopole (EX2) with a centre for experimentation develops in the port.

The maritime productive identity (TI1) is thereby maintained and even consolidated. Priority is given to the protection of productive equipment and to economic activities requiring proximity to the sea. They are defended, safeguarded by heavy defence structures (G8). As a result, the beaches and the few beach activities are gradually disappearing.

De facto, homes are no longer a priority (ET2) for sea defence investments. Seawalls located in front of residential areas are abandoned as they are no longer covered by the GEMAPI⁴ prerogative. Private individuals’ insurance excesses increase. Thanks to public subsidies, the residential area which has suffered much damage migrates within the *commune* or the *intercommunality*. It relocates to the rehabilitated old village centre (G8) and in new housing estates which offer affordable homes to the economically-active population. However, the re-opening to the sea of sectors freed by managed retreat is restricted, except for sites belonging to the “*Conservatoire du Littoral*”, a coastal protection agency. It is strongly resisted by some actors (National Hunters’ Organisation) when mixed uses are not considered (hunting/fishing/nature tourism).

Thanks to renaturation policies, the coast retains a “wild” and natural character which adds to the cultural identity of the area. Hence, living by the sea is no longer an end in itself (PS2).

² In France, *intercommunality* refers to a group of actors and co-operating bodies for all or some of the communes in the exercise of their administrative powers.

³ Action programmes for flood prevention

⁴ Gestion des Milieux Aquatiques et Prévention des Inondations – Aquatic environmental management and flood prevention

Attachment to the place is strong (PS1) but living further away from the coast is not a problem. The latter is mainly a workplace. Sea views continue to be sought after for workplaces but not for homes. The lack of residential and tourist attractiveness is confirmed by a relative equilibrium between departures and arrivals in the *commune*.

Adaptation pathway (fast progression): renatured coastline

The close succession of extreme marine weather events and crises (EX3) hinders the adaptation of the productive economy. The resilience capacity is heavily affected. The productive identity becomes unsettled.

Political mobilisation at State and European levels is not swift enough (G1). The maritime identity of the *commune* is diluted by the constitution of a large-sized public institution for intercommunal cooperation in response to the need to rationalise administrative boundaries (G1). The damage suffered by protective structures exceeds *intercommunal* resources. Only some of the structures designed to protect productive activities are maintained occasionally. The few professionals who can afford it complete the work undertaken and try to adapt their practices but most of them struggle and must cease their activity.

The seawall defences of the residential areas are abandoned (G8). Insurance excesses rise for private individuals. The residential zone, which has suffered much damage, experiences a clear disaffection and a fall in house prices (ET3). People living by the seaside tend to move of their own accord to the old village centre or to the *intercommunal* or beyond. For electoral and financial reasons (G4), the mayor cannot commit to a genuine managed-retreat policy.

This situation alters local power relationships with a strengthening of actors engaged in protection of the natural environment (G5) such as the *Conservatoire du Littoral*, a coastal protection agency. In places that have dropped in economic value, they encourage alternatives (G8) to protective structures such as depolderisation or the destruction of buildings. If they have sufficient financial resources, they take over from local authorities in encouraging managed retreat. They become involved in managing property and represent a means to finance such measures. Establishing a network connecting several decision-making levels appears to be indispensable and is encouraged by these actors. On the other hand, conflicts between endogenous and exogenous actors cannot be ruled out (distrust of top-down measures, tension between local and national expertise...). Some local actors (e.g. the National Hunters' Organisation) militate against adaptation options (G5) that might be detrimental to their activities (depolderisation, buffer zones).

In depolderised areas, some recreational activities (naturalist-based leisure) burgeon and contribute to a slight upturn in activity. The renaturation of these areas (G8) and cheap property (ET3) are an opportunity for individuals who are attracted by the proximity of the sea and nature and cannot afford to settle elsewhere. "Unexpected" actors emerge from the solidarity

economy. Some cheap agricultural areas (ET3) attract a new generation of “neo-rural” farmers (SD2, ET2) who are typically young and aware of environmental issues. They prone the use of soft adaptation methods such as depolderisation and buffer zones in the most exposed seafront areas. These new arrivals contribute to keep the average natural net migration rate in balance.