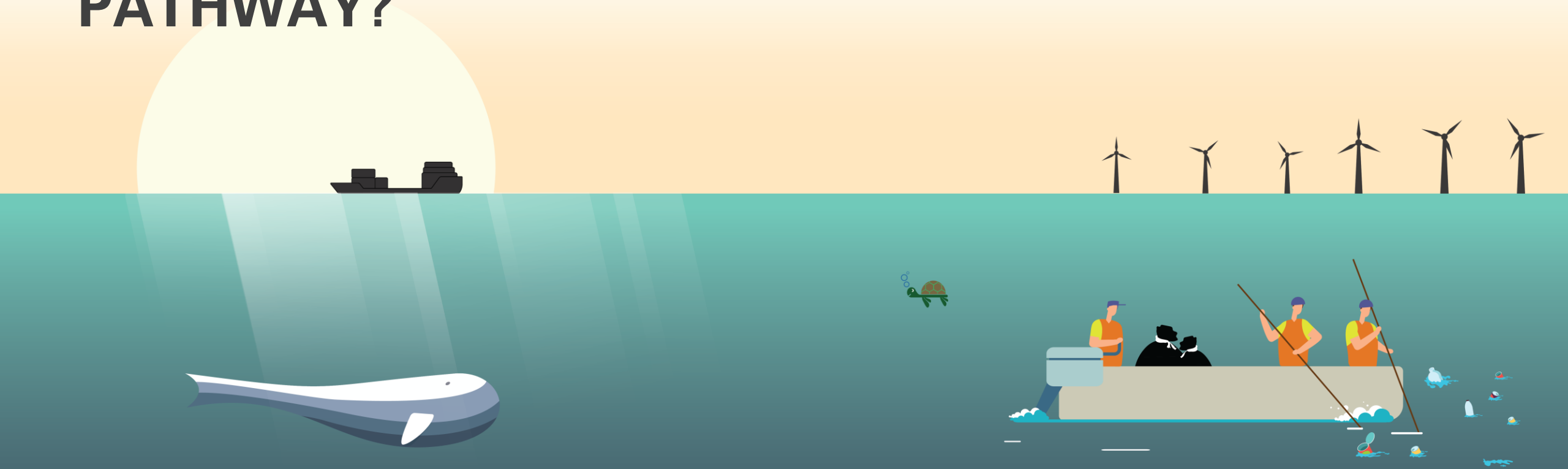


OCEAN GOVERNANCE TRANSFORMATION CHALLENGES: EU OCEAN (P)ACT AS FUTURE PATHWAY?



Judith van Leeuwen, Wageningen University
Funded by Horizon Europe & UKRI

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EU ocean governance; trends and timeline

Sectoral governance

CFP, nature conservation, shipping

2000s: Ecosystem approach

MSFD, MSPD, (CFP)

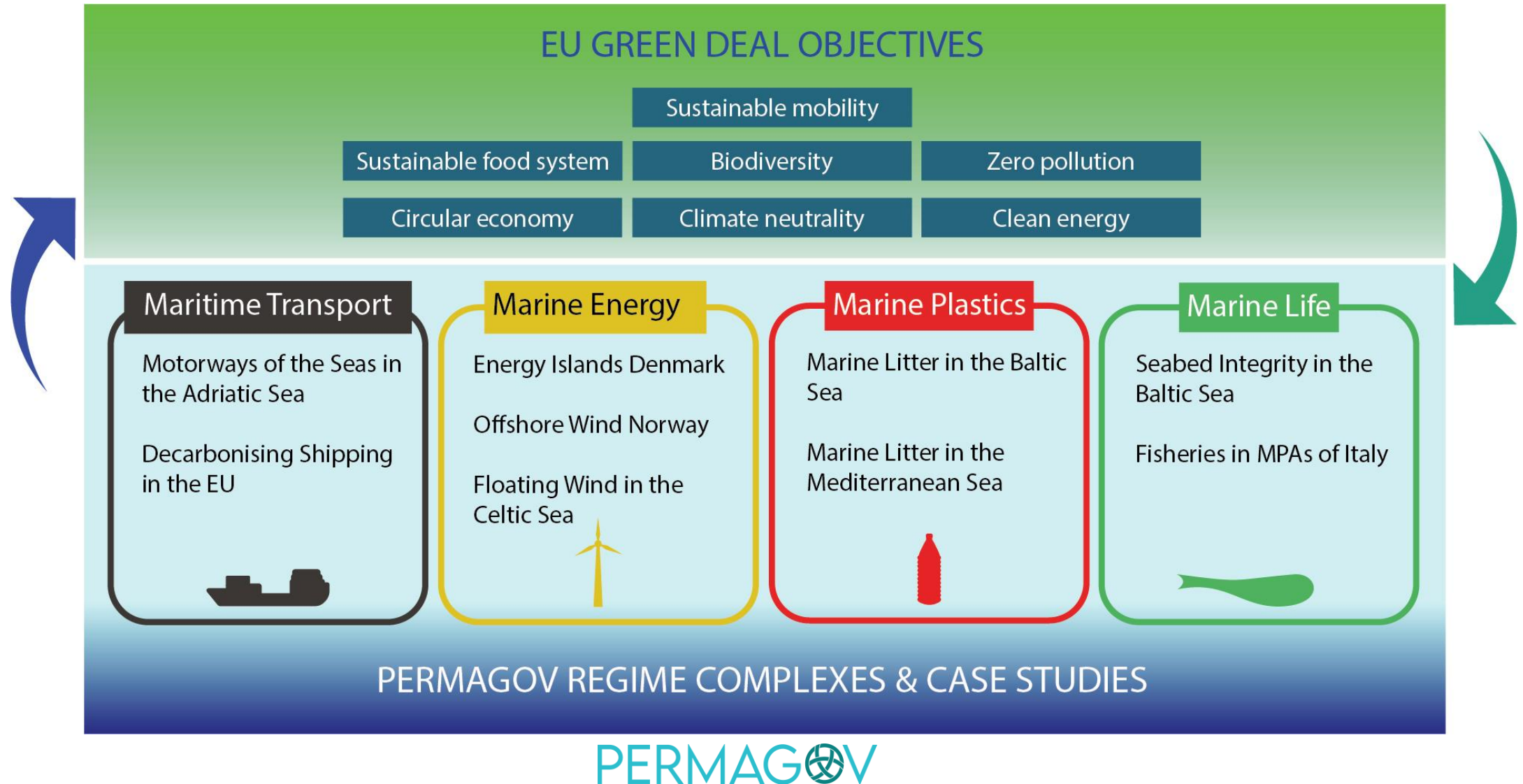
2019: European Green Deal (GD) with thematic approach

Food, clean energy, transport

2025: European Ocean Pact with mainstreaming the ocean

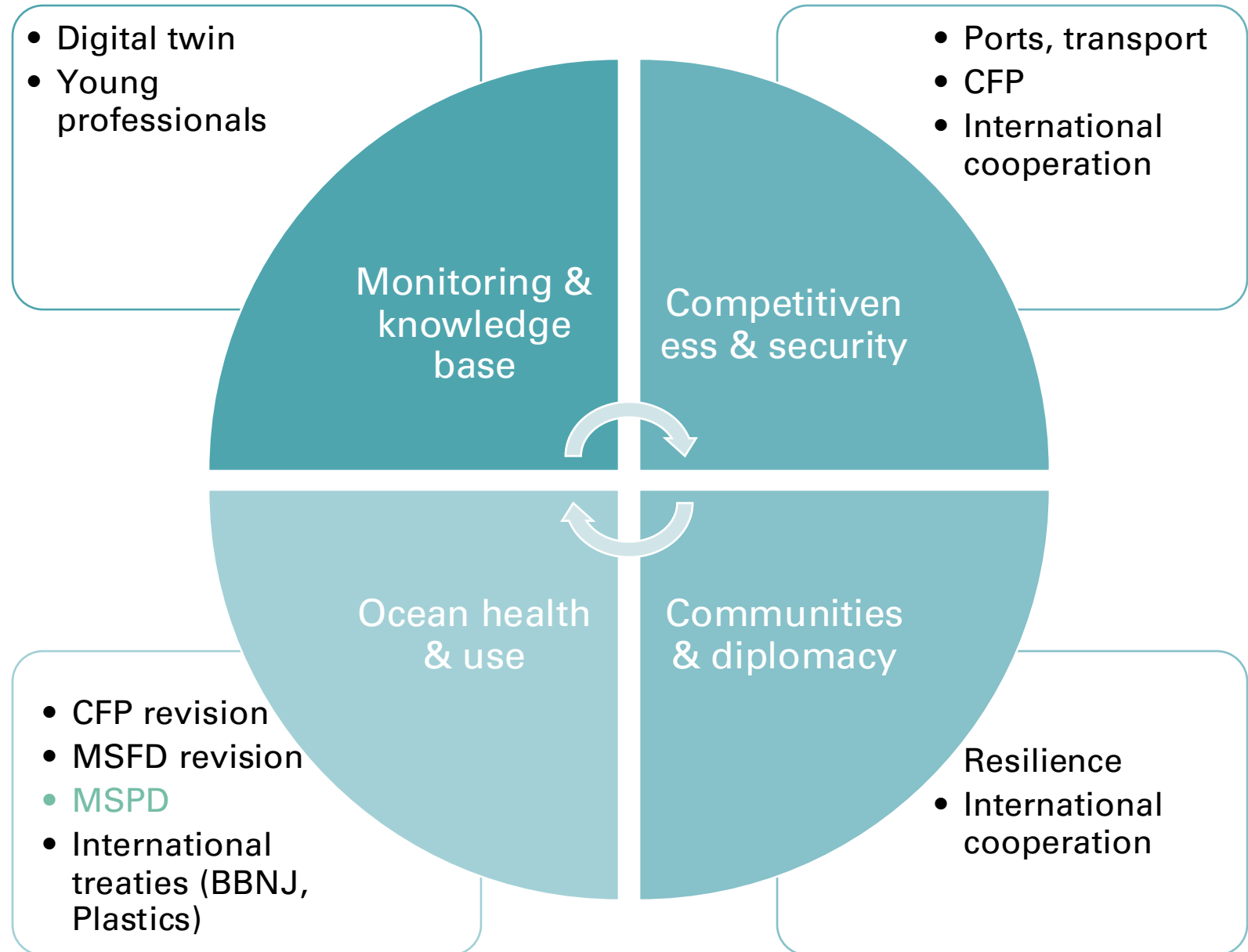
Revision of MSFD and MSPD

European Green Deal and marine issue areas



EU Ocean (P)act priorities

- Strategies
- Revision existing legislation
- Ocean Act: a single framework to facilitate the implementation of the Pact's key objectives, while cutting red tape



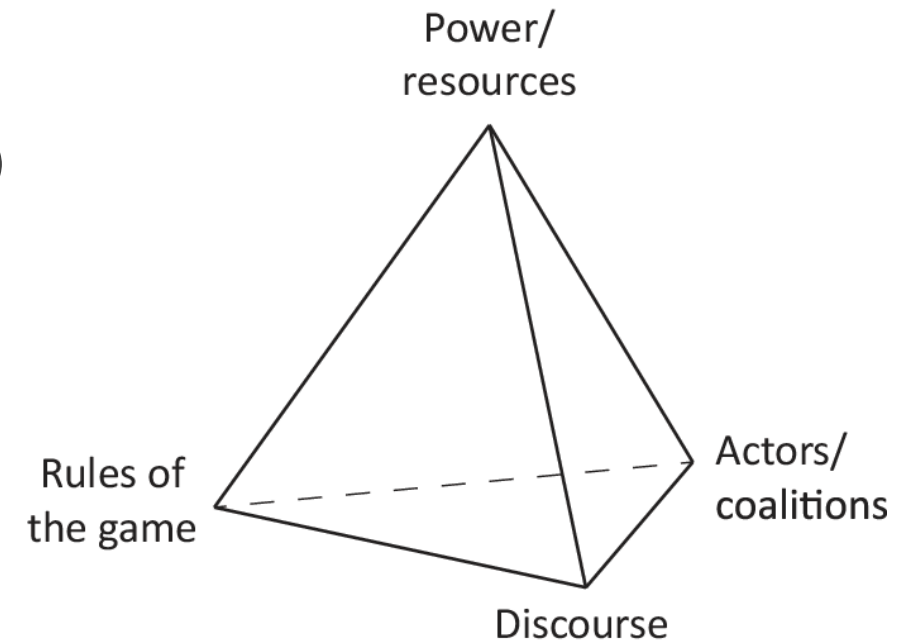
Structural EU ocean governance challenges

- Fragmentation and policy incoherence in governance
 - Spatial
 - Cross-sectoral
 - Multi-level
- Meaningful stakeholder participation and power structures
 - Cross-sectoral
 - Land-sea divide
- Expanding and diversifying knowledge base
 - Natural science domination
 - Local and tacit knowledge

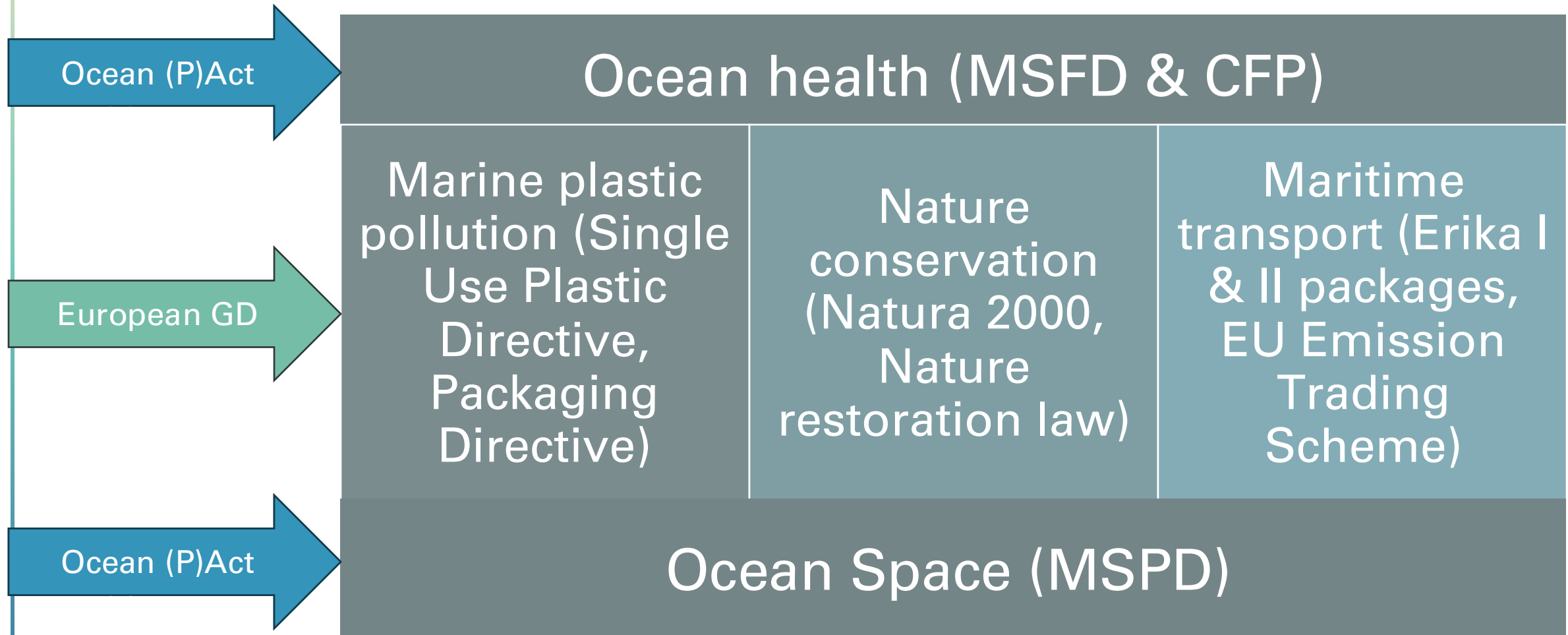
→ Existing governance arrangements require transformation to achieve ambitious objectives of EU GD and Ocean Pact

Governance arrangements for the EU GD & Ocean Pact

- Governance arrangement is a more or less stable *configuration of actors* that interact to develop and implement policies and regulations for a particular issue area, subject to interplay between
 - Rules of the game
 - Discourses (expressed ideas and worldviews)
 - Power & Resources
 - Formal position
 - Lobbying and access to decision makers
 - Financial and knowledge resources



EU ocean governance arrangements sandwich



EU GD and Ocean Pact as drivers of governance transformation

How will the revised CFP, MSFD and MSPD (the Ocean Act):

- Transform existing, siloed governance arrangements?
 - Not one but all four dimensions!
- Transform interaction between (sectoral, multi-level) governance arrangements?
- Lead to new governance arrangements? E.g. around the Ocean Act?
- And will these transformations lead to improved ocean sustainability outcomes?

EU GD and Ocean Pact as drivers of transformation

Strengthened discourses

- Priorities and objectives: biodiversity, pollution, land-sea interaction, but also security and competitiveness
- Integration and coordination: mainstreaming the ocean, one integrated Act

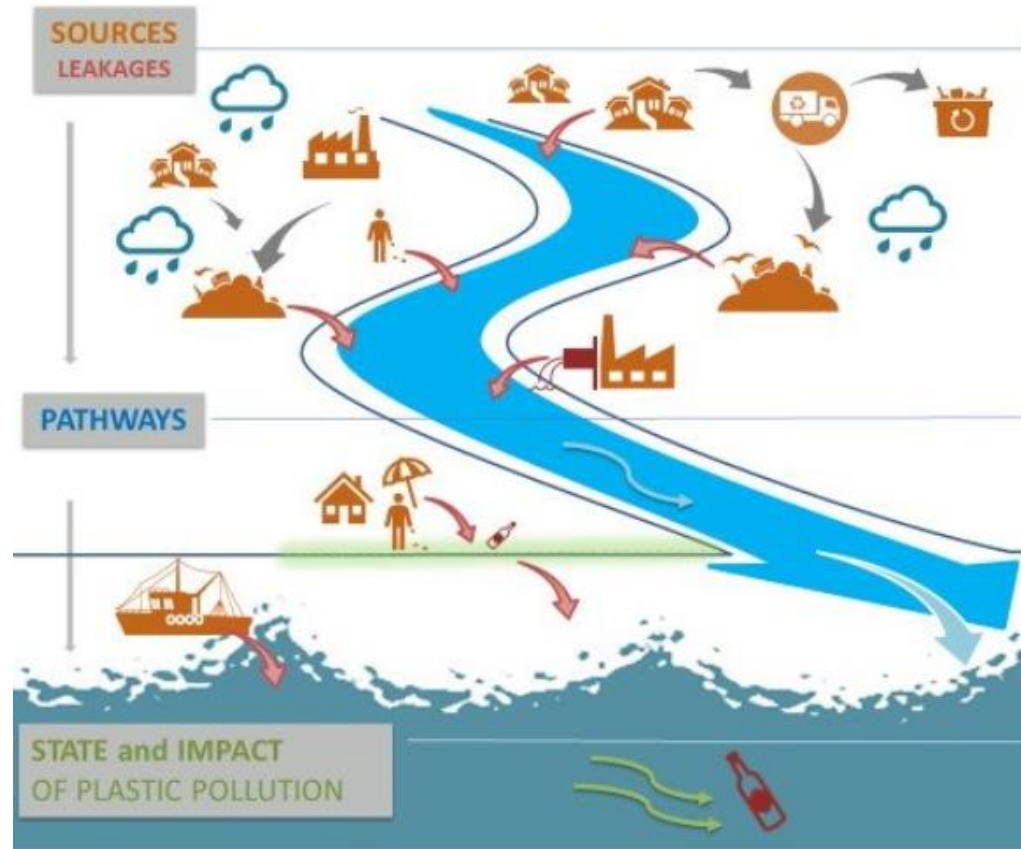
Rules of the game

- Revised and new rules and regulations to support and implement ocean objectives (e.g. marine energy, revision of CFP and MSFD, Ocean Act)

Battle between path dependency and governance transformation

- Will it transform the knowledge base and more fundamental worldviews/discourses upon which governance is based?
 - What role for the digital twin(s)?
- Will it transform more structural rules/institutions, e.g. issues of scale and responsibilities across international, EU, sea basin, national and sub-national levels?
 - How will the Ocean Act facilitate and strengthen cross-scale-sectoral policy making?
- And more importantly, will actor involvement and power transform?
 - Will financial incentives be geared to nature positive/regenerative practices?

Marine plastics



- +
 - Multilevel marine litter governance
 - (revised) EU MSFD, SUPD, Plastic Strategy
 - Regional sea conventions
 - Future Plastic Treaty?
 - Bottom-up initiatives
 - Fragmented plastics governance
 - Pollution reduction targets (e.g. MSFD)
 - Product (e.g. SUPD)
 - Waste management (Packaging Directive)
 - Sectoral plastic use (e.g. agriculture and fisheries)
 - Power dynamics
 - Plastic production (and waste) as a global market
 - Producers, users, waste management separate sectors
 - Knowledge base
 - Uncertainty on plastic pathways and faith

Conclusions

- EU Ocean Pact aims to strengthen ecosystem-based and integrated ocean governance
- EU Ocean Pact's transformative potential lies in renewing governance arrangements, but will it change underlying:
 - Power relations
 - Knowledge base and worldviews/values
 - Rules of the game
- And will it create more institutional interaction between governance arrangements
- Within turbulent times!
 - Increasing geopolitical tension
 - Budget shifting to security and defense
- Social scientific researchers as critical participants!