

# PCB in French rivers

## situation, analysis, plan

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# Analysis of the situation in autumn 2007

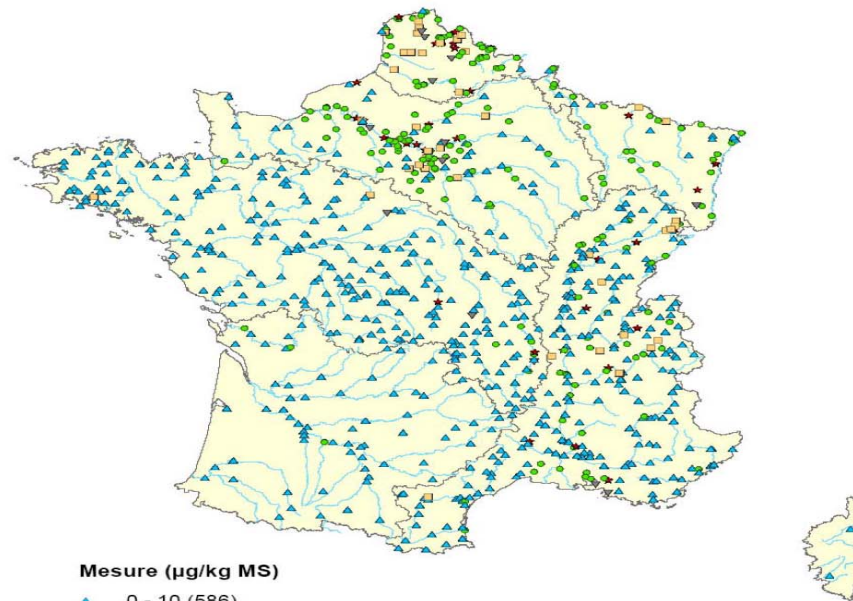
- Not far away in time from the ICCL of Stockholm
- change in norms for PCB contents of ailments changed the situation : what was considered as non polluted was then polluted
- publication of the map of contamination of sediments in rivers (july 2007)
- building of an action plan
- > importance of benchmarking and international experience (thanks Dominique and you all !)

# The situation in july 2007



## Contamination des sédiments fluviaux et estuariens par les PCB

Données BNDE 2000-2005



### Mesure ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg MS}$ )

- ▲ 0 - 10 (586)
- 11 - 140 (179)
- 141 - 270 (41)
- ▼ 271 - 400 (15)
- ★ > 401 (31)

— Principaux cours d'eau

Direction de l'eau - Juillet 2007  
Source : BD Carthage®, Agences de l'eau



RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE



ICCL meeting Helsinki 16<sup>th</sup> september 2009

DGPR/SRT/SDRCP/JLP

# benchmarking in pollution in the world

- what type of pollution encountered (widespread, concentrated, origin) : (cf BRGM report you were involved in)
- Available technics adopted and time of treatment
  - Water
  - Sediments
  - Destruction of PCB
- Examples around the world
  - Canada : Canal Lachine, Sydney Tar Pound
  - US : Duwamish River, Fox River, Hudson River, Housatonic River, Saginaw, Saint Laurent (NY)
  - Sweden : Lake Jarnjson, Fjord Orserumsviken
- > conclusions :
  - PCB can accumulate in sediments
  - This is the case in most industrialised countries
  - Different aspects of management : product policy, elimination of existing products, sanitary or ailment surveillance
  - No universal response for remediation : depends on the context (physical, socio-economical, and so on)

# Parliamentary report on PCB in Rhone River I

- Philippe Meunier, MP of the Rhône Region issued a report
- Main proposals :
  - Take advantage of the european experience in searching PCB in food.
  - **Sanitary area**
    - Inform people about PCB contamination and issue consumption recommendation
    - Define a protocol for impregnation study
    - Put in place a follow of former worker of the PCB industry
    - Have an attention to irrigation water and drinking water alimentation
  - **Environment area**
    - Study (benchmark) the possibilities of digging sediments in rivers
    - Have a comprehensive investigation of the trophic chain in case of contamination

# Parliamentary report on PCB in Rhone River II

- **Research area**
- Look for common work between different institutions on this subject
- Look as well on estuary areas (*p. 93*)
- Have a study on impregnation of different species
- Assess with certainty the non transmission of PCB to plants
- Study synergies with PCB and other pollutants in pollution
- **Fishing area**
- ... major social problem for France
- **Elimination of PCB**
- Renew the inventory of PCB containing objects
- Review the elimination plan
- Ensure that eliminating PCB will not create toxic subproducts...

# French action plan for PCB pollution

- Sanitary part :
  - Study on contamination of population is in progress
- Environmental part
  - Axe 1 : intensify reduction of release of PCB :
    - Follow up of the elimination plan, in particular with power transformers
    - Information of people having objects with PCB : communication campaign
  - Axe 2 : improve knowledge
    - Expert group with national office for water and aquatic areas (ONEMA), and french reference offices (BRGM, CEMAGREF, INERIS IFREMER and industrial structures involved in remediation etc)

# French action plan for PCB II

- **Axe 3 : reinforce controls on fish for human consumption**
  - Put in place a second phase of the sample plan (sediments and fishes) this autumn
- **Axe 4 : get knowledge about human contamination**
  - Impregnation study of french sanitary agency begins
- **Axe 5 : relocation of fishers**
  - Here is the tough problem of conflict of use...