

WFD implementation : some feedback from France



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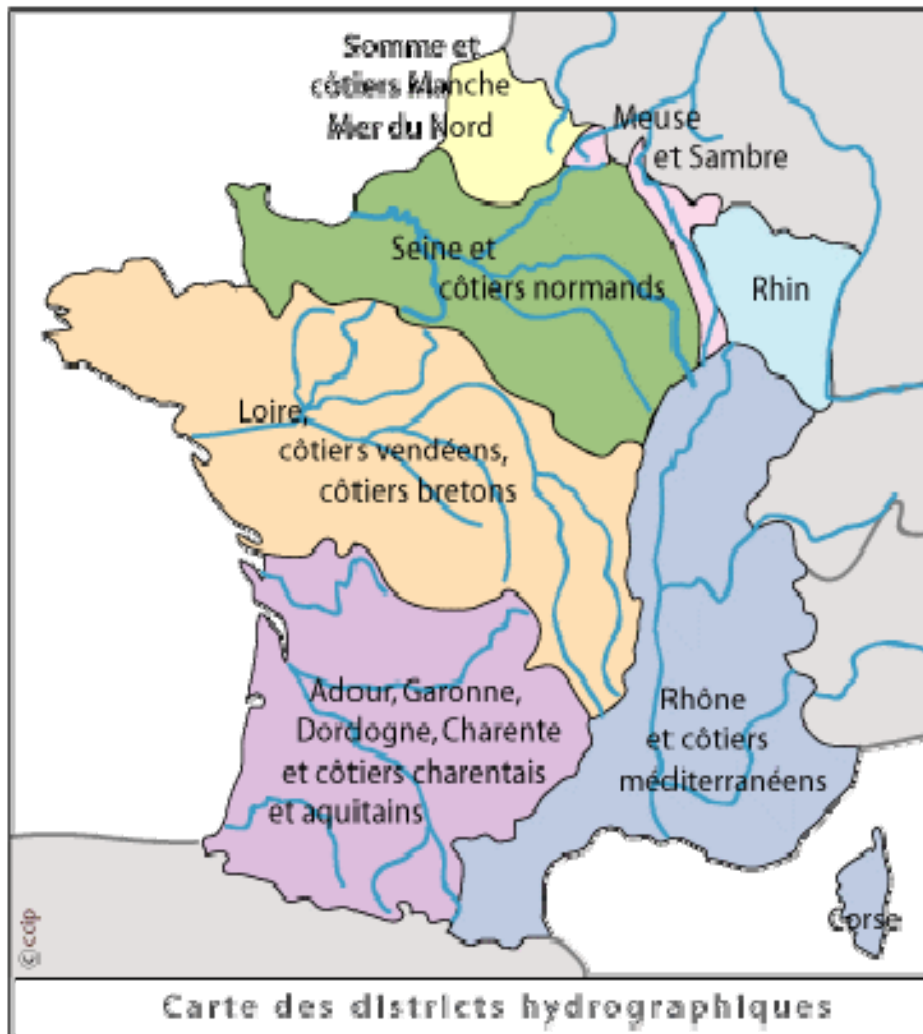
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Ministère de l'Écologie, du Développement durable et de l'Énergie

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WFD implementation in France



➤ A water policy defined at basin level

:

- Basin Committee
- River Basin Management Plan
- Programme of measures

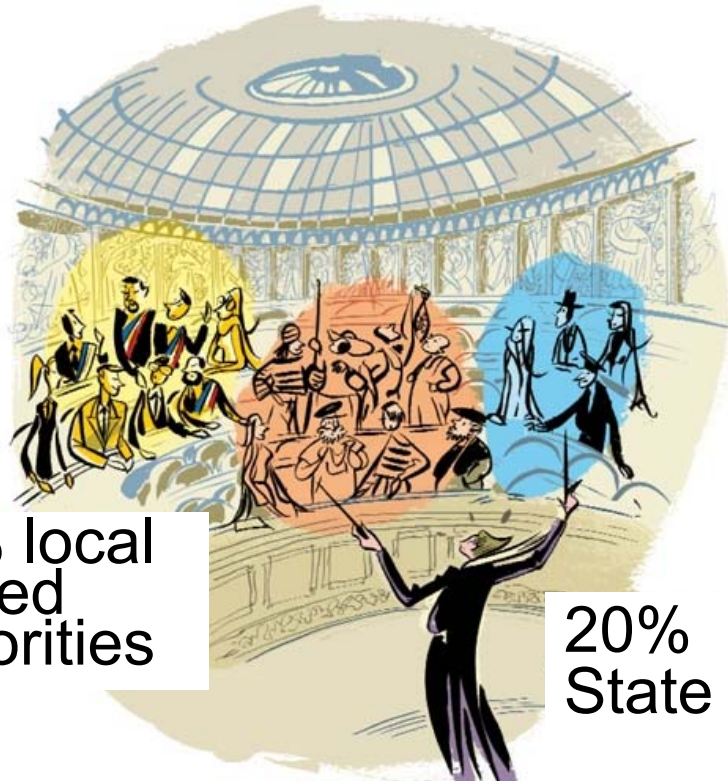
➤ A national Framework (Water laws and regulations)

➤ Water management at basin level since 1964 (1st FR water law)

➤ Strengthened by a European Water Framework Directive in 2000 (« WFD » 2000/60/EC)

The basin committees

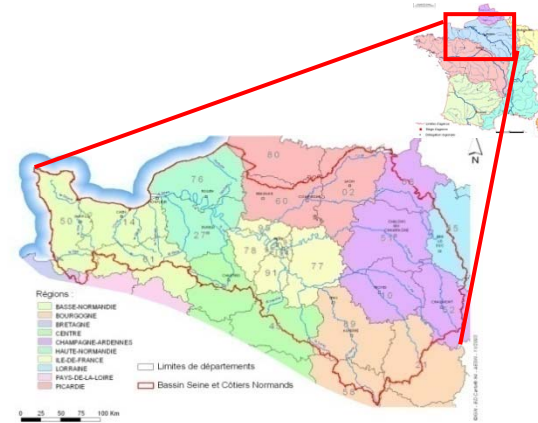
A water Parliament for each river basin



40 % local
elected
authorities

20%
State

40 % users
NGO, farmers, industries,...



A basin policy implemented through :

■ A regulatory tool :

- « *Préfet coordonnateur de bassin* » (Basin administrative authority)
 - Regulatory role at basin level for water scarcity management
- « *Préfet de département* » (Administrative authority at regional level)
 - Implementation of national regulation
- « *Office National de l'Eau et de Milieux Aquatiques* » (ONEMA)
 - Inspections, water police

■ A financial tool :

- Water Agencies
 - Collect environmental taxes on water uses and pollutions
 - Redistribute taxes through subsidies to water protection measures



Water Agencies

- **Environmental taxes for the Water Agencies** →
- **Water Agency intervention programmes**

Environmental taxes on:

- Water pollution
- Water abstraction
- Barriers in water streams

National framework set up by the French Parliament

Level of tax set up at basin level

Decided by the board of the Water Agency

Ceiling in expenditures

Decided by Ministry of Budget

Support water protection measures:

- Types of projects
- Types of support
- conditions for attribution

Decided by the board of the Water Agency

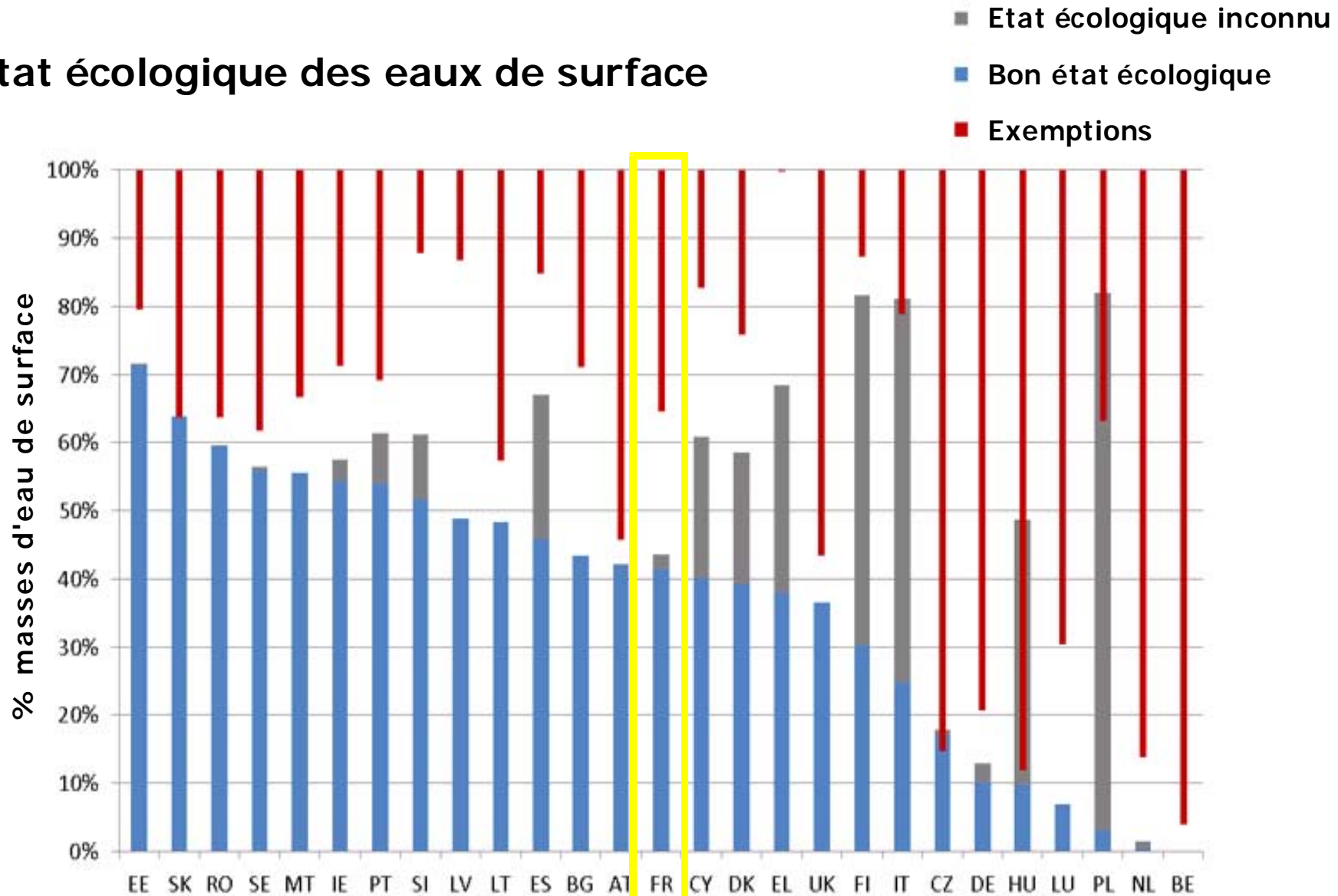


The national level in this decentralised context :

- **Sets the regulatory framework**
 - Classification
 - Monitoring
- **Coordinates the basin actions**
- **Sets instructions and priorities** according to the national policy
- Works closely in relation with the basin level (managers & experts of Water agencies, State administrations) and national experts (ONEMA, INERIS, etc.)

UE ecological status in 1st WFD cycle

État écologique des eaux de surface



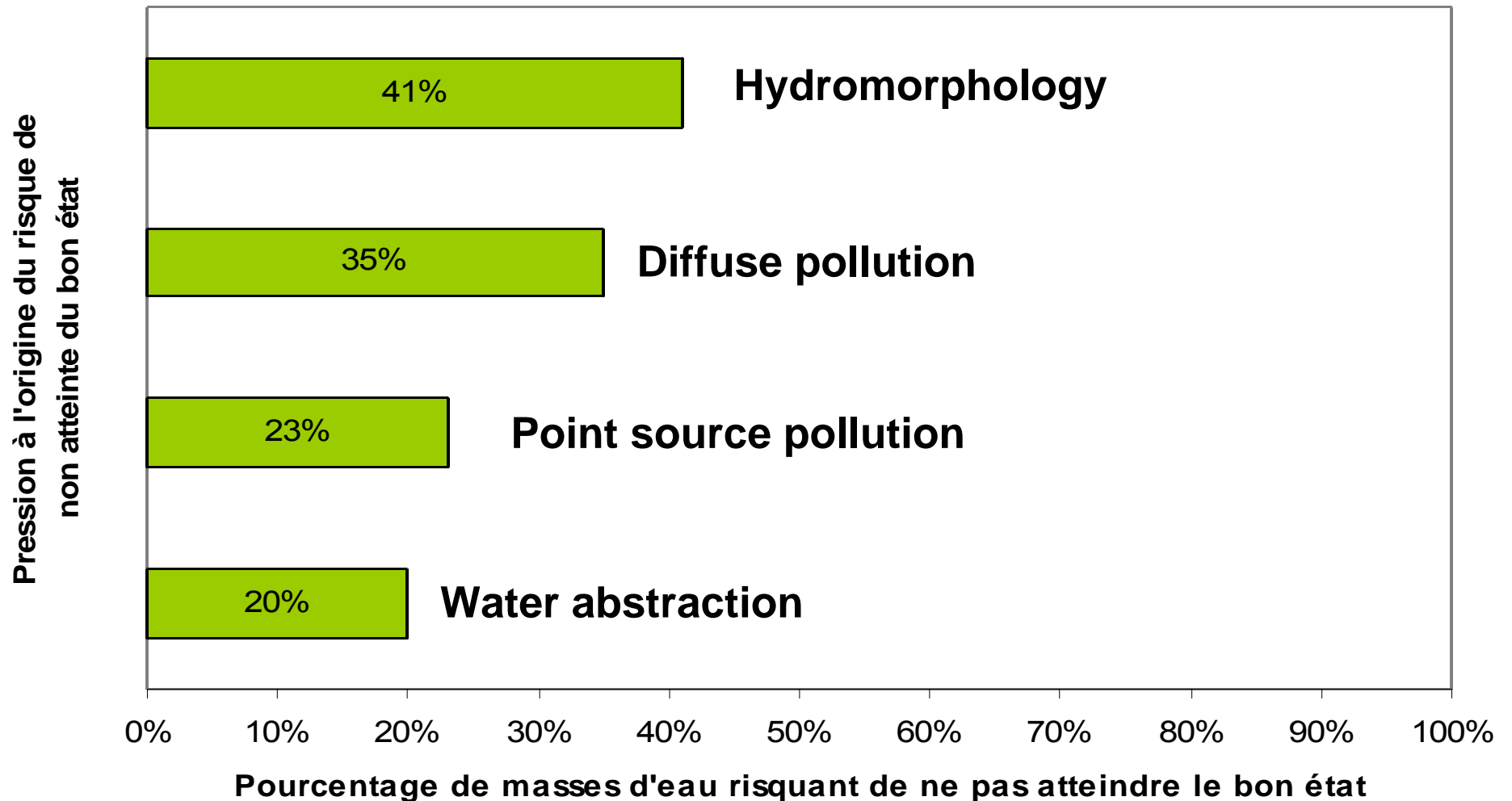
1st WFD cycle lessons in France :

- An initial assessment which was not accurate → led to overambitious objectives in 2015
- strict rules to assess the good ecological status (one out all out principle) → hard to show progress
- difficulty to implement hydromorphological measures and diffuse pollution measures → need to involve more stakeholders at early stage, need to adapt regulatory tools
- Cost of monitoring very high → necessity to limit the budgets, development of extrapolation tools.



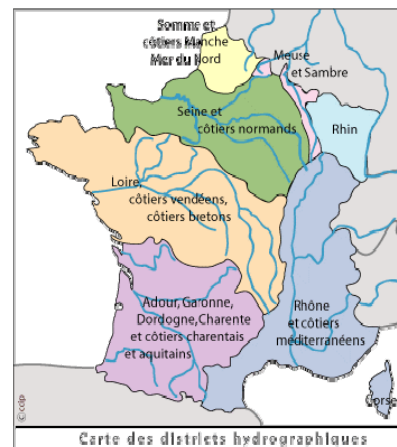
Art 5 analysis for 2nd cycle

Main pressures leading to non achievement of good status :



Next programmes of measures

- Focus on measures on agriculture to protect drinking water catchments and to implement the Nitrates Directive
 - 500 catchments with action plan in the 1st cycle + 500 more for the 2nd cycle
 - Nitrates Directive after Court ruling
- Restore river continuity on prioritised rivers
 - regulation sets obligations for owners
- Restore rivers with Water Agencies subsidies
 - targets set for each Water Agency on the period 2013-2018
- Address water quantity issues through a set of measures
 - Water quantity allocation / e-flows definition (1st cycle)
 - Reduction measure in all sectors (2nd cycle)
- Address sewage networks discharges more efficiently
 - discussions still ongoing



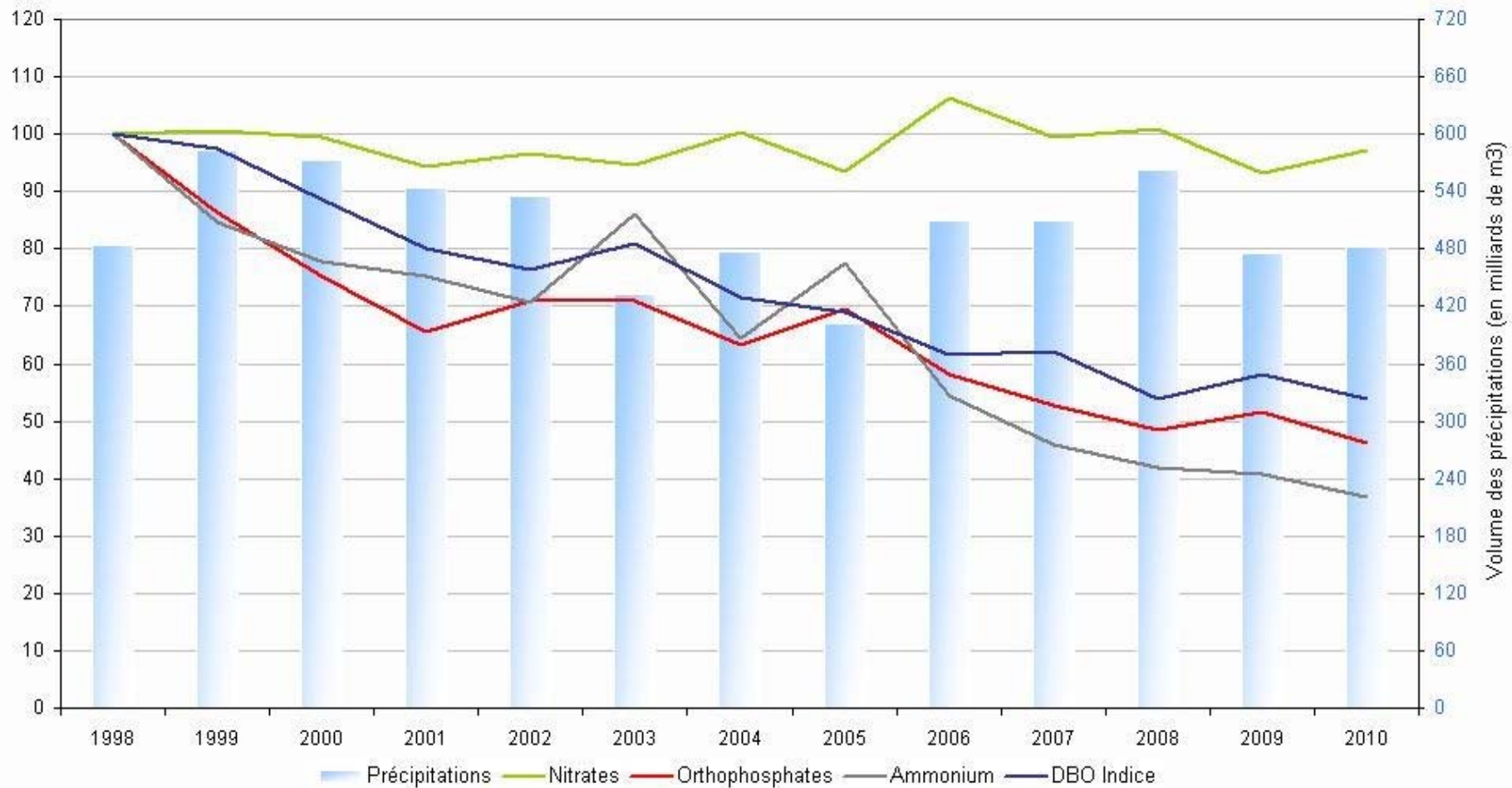
Showing Progress

- Replace Good Status targets in the long term (massive progress on biological indicators)
- Show progress on specific indicators to avoid One Out All Out rule
 - But based on monitoring data only to make data comparable
 - Go beyond the GES thresholds
- Put success stories forward
 - to show that measure are efficient
 - But it may take some time



Showing Progress

Indice de pollution des cours d'eau par les macro-polluants d'origine urbaine, industrielle et agricole

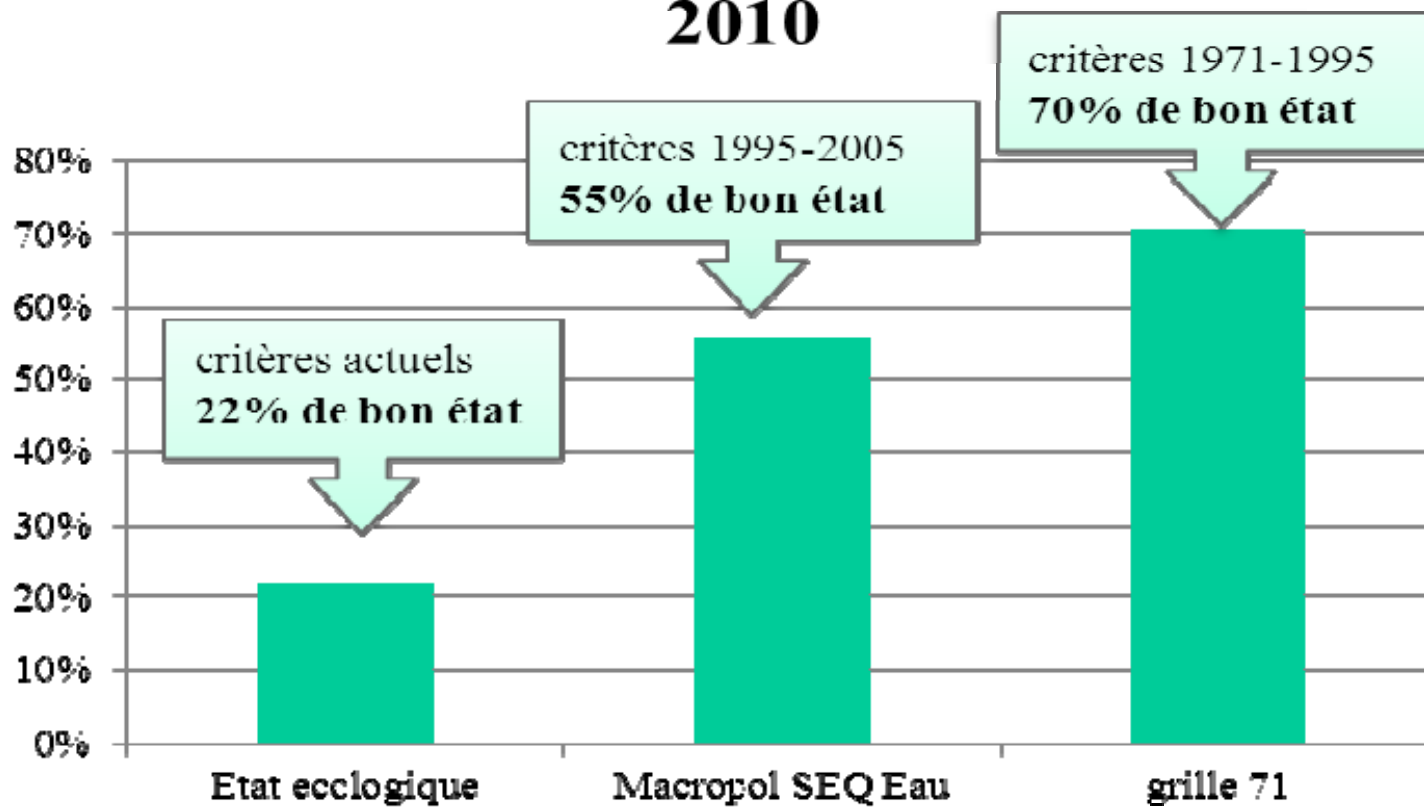


Source: CGDD/SOeS, 2010

→ Progress on P et N pollutants – except Nitrates – over 10 years

Showing Progress

Pourcentage de cours d'eau du bassin Rhin-Meuse en bon état en 2010



→ showing progress over long term using the same parameters

Climate change in 2nd cycle

- Definition of the **water stressed areas** by the State (« *zone de répartition des eaux* »).
- Recent **reform of the legal framework for water abstraction** (« *volumes prélevables* »)
- The **basis is the good functioning of the water ecosystem** to determine the amount which can be abstracted. This is determined by the State.
- Licences review : the abstracted volume does not exceed a **maximum of « abstractable water »**
- For irrigation purpose only : setting up of organisations of users (« *organismes uniques* ») to **share the maximum available water among users**

Water, marine, nature cross cutting approach: a necessity

- Welcome the workshop by COM on **better coordination** between nature, water and marine directives (2 & 3 December 2014 in Brussels)
- The Commission has an **important responsibility** on this issue
- We expect **more efficient public expenditures** and in the end **more environmental protection** on the ground.
- Good opportunity to **improve the European legal framework** around **2020** with the WFD revision, MSFD revision and the end of the EU Strategy on Biodiversity

Institutional changes in France enhancing coordination

- Since 2008, the services in charge of water, nature & marine in the Ministry **have merged into one directorate**: « *Direction de l'eau & de la biodiversité* »
- In 2016, France will launch a **national agency gathering the technical competencies** on water, marine & biodiversity issues: « *Agence française de la biodiversité* »

Exemples of coordinated implementations in France

- National instructions on WFD & MSFD common implementation
- National instructions on MSFD & N2000 common implementation
- Legislation on green & blue infrastructures
- Strategy on Natura 2000 at sea
- National legislation on invasive alien species

Thank you for your attention

