



Source: INBO

Fishing communities are still not doing well

The fish index gives a qualitative evaluation of the fish community as a whole. The fishing communities of the Flemish watercourses do not do well in most cases. In the period 2003-2008 not one measurement point was encountered with an excellent score and the proportion of measurement points with a good fishing community is very small (5 %). The number of unsatisfactory and bad measurement points makes up 64 % of the total number of measurement points sampled.

Slight improvement, but ...

From the comparison of 401 locations that were sampled both in the period 1996-2002 and in 2003-2008, it is noticeable that slightly more than half of the locations (51 %) showed no change in the ecological class (white cells in the table). 32 % of the locations showed an improvement (blue cells) and in 17 % of the locations the score went down (brown cells). Of the measurement points that still scored badly in the first period, more than half have improved, mostly to inadequate. Of the measurement points that scored good in the first period, nearly 70 % worsened. The conclusion is that the situation has improved slightly, especially because bad and inadequate measurement points improved. But also that it is apparently difficult to 'hold on to' good scores.

Changes in the Fish Index (Flanders, 1996-2002 versus 2003-2008)

number of measurement points 1996-2002	2003-2008				total
	good	moderate	inadequate	bad	
good	4	7	2	0	13
moderate	13	71	38	4	126
inadequate	0	48	77	18	143
bad	0	8	59	52	119
total	17	134	176	74	401

Interpretation: for example, of the 119 measurement points that scored bad in 1996-2002 the class of 52 did not change, 59 improved to inadequate.