



Source: VMM

In spite of a slight improvement, three-quarters of the watercourse sediment is polluted or heavily polluted

The quality of the Flemish watercourse sediments is monitored using the triad method, which combines the results of chemical, biological and ecotoxicological analyses and enables the watercourse sediments to be divided into quality classes.

Only 2 % of the Flemish watercourse sediments were not polluted in the period 2004-2007, three-quarters were polluted or heavily polluted. The watercourse sediment quality in Flanders is therefore still not good.

The table shows for each class how the watercourse sediment quality has changed since 2000-2003. The quality class of 51 % did not change (white cells in the table), 32 % improved (blue cells) and 17 % worsened (brown cells). Of the unpolluted and slightly polluted measurement points, 47 % worsened and it cannot therefore be taken for granted that less polluted watercourse sediments also remain so. On the other hand, 38 % of the heavily polluted measurement points improved. All in all, the state of the watercourse sediments has therefore improved slightly.

Changes in the watercourse sediment quality (Flanders, 2000-2003 versus 2004-2007)

number of measurement points 2000-2002	2004-2007				total
	not polluted	slightly polluted	polluted	heavily polluted	
not polluted	0	2	1	0	3
slightly polluted	4	36	28	5	73
polluted	5	70	89	58	222
heavily polluted	1	21	81	166	269
total	10	129	199	229	567

Interpretation: for example, of the 3 measurement points from 2000-2003 that were not polluted 2 changed to slightly polluted and 1 to polluted.