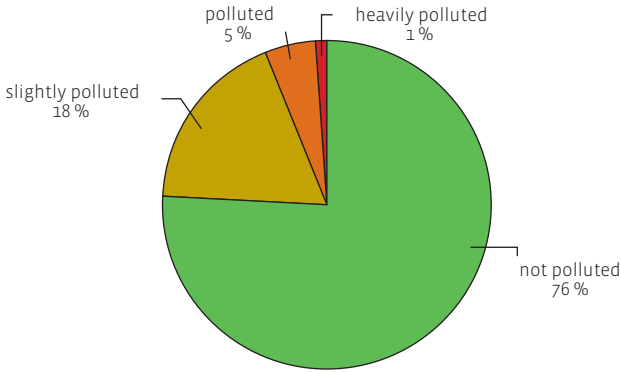




2004 - 2007



Source: VMM

Situation slightly improved

During the physico-chemical evaluation of the watercourse sediment quality, the presence of organochloro-pesticides is often also determined. The division into classes is based on the deviation compared to a reference value.

In the period 2004-2007, 76 % of the measurement points showed no deviation compared to the reference value for pesticides in watercourse sediments. At 24 % of the measurement points organochloro-pesticides were detected in slightly to strongly deviating concentrations. It is remarkable that already long forbidden agents such as the insecticide DDT (and degradation products) are still found in high concentrations.

243 measurement points that were sampled in 2000-2003 were studied again in 2004-2007. The situation has improved slightly: 33 % of the measurement points improved (blue cells in the table), 57 % stayed the same (white cells) and 9 % worsened (brown cells). Nearly all heavily polluted measurement points from the period 2000-2003 improved, while 85 % of the unpolluted measurement points maintained their good quality.

Changes in pesticides in watercourse sediments (Flanders, 2000-2003 versus 2004-2007)

number of measurement points 2000-2003	not polluted	slightly polluted	2004-2007 polluted	heavily polluted	total
not polluted	115	13	6	2	136
slightly polluted	35	20	2	0	57
polluted	17	8	2	0	27
heavily polluted	11	7	3	2	23
total	178	48	13	4	243

Interpretation: e.g. of the 136 not polluted measurement points from 2000-2003 the class of 115 did not change, 13 changed into slightly polluted, 6 into polluted.