

WP 6

SPATIALLY-BASED APPROACH **Western Highlands and Western Plains** (Ecoregions 8 and 13)

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1. Dataset

1.1. Fishing occasions

For ecoregions 8 and 13, FIDES database contains 3390 fishing occasions from Belgium-Flanders (BE, $n=1684$), Belgium-Wallonia (BW, $n=158$), France (FR, $n=1392$) and The Netherlands (NL, $n=156$) (Fig. 1a).

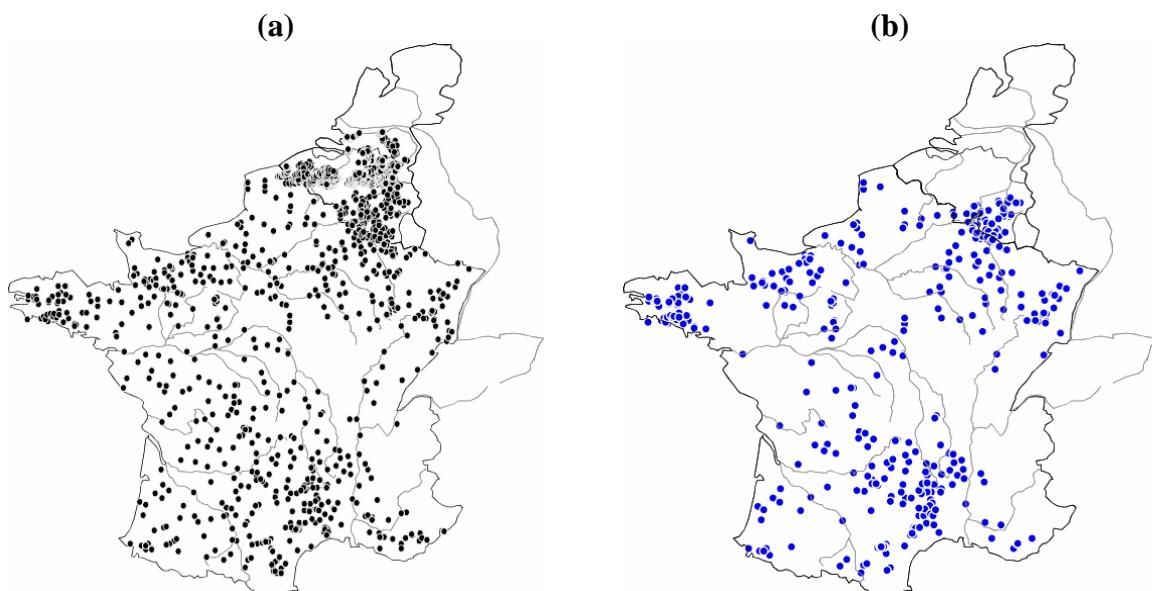


Fig. 1: Localisation of the sampling sites. (a) Fishing occasions in the FIDES database ($n=3390$),
(b) reference sites ($n=398$)

1.2. Reference dataset

In order to avoid the disequilibrium due to temporal repetition in each site, only one sample per site (the most recent one) was selected. Sites with impact classes 1 and 2 were retained to define the reference dataset. No reference conditions were found in Flanders and The Netherlands. Thus, our reference data set contained 398 sites in BW and FR (45 and 353 sites, respectively) (Fig. 1b).

These samples were roughly evenly distributed among the first three Huet river types, with less samples in the Bream zone (Fig. 2).

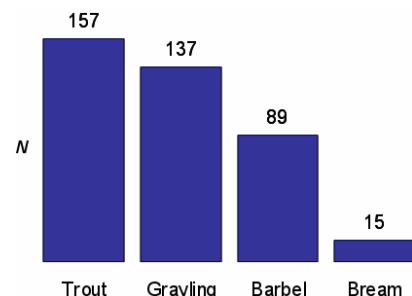


Fig. 2: Distribution of the reference sites among the different Huet river types.

2. Preliminary analysis: Correspondence analysis

Correspondence Analysis was performed on the transformed ($\log(X+1)$) matrix of species abundance (number of fish / 100 m^2) after the rare species, which highly influence the analysis, were excluded. We retained only species with occurrence $> 1\%$.

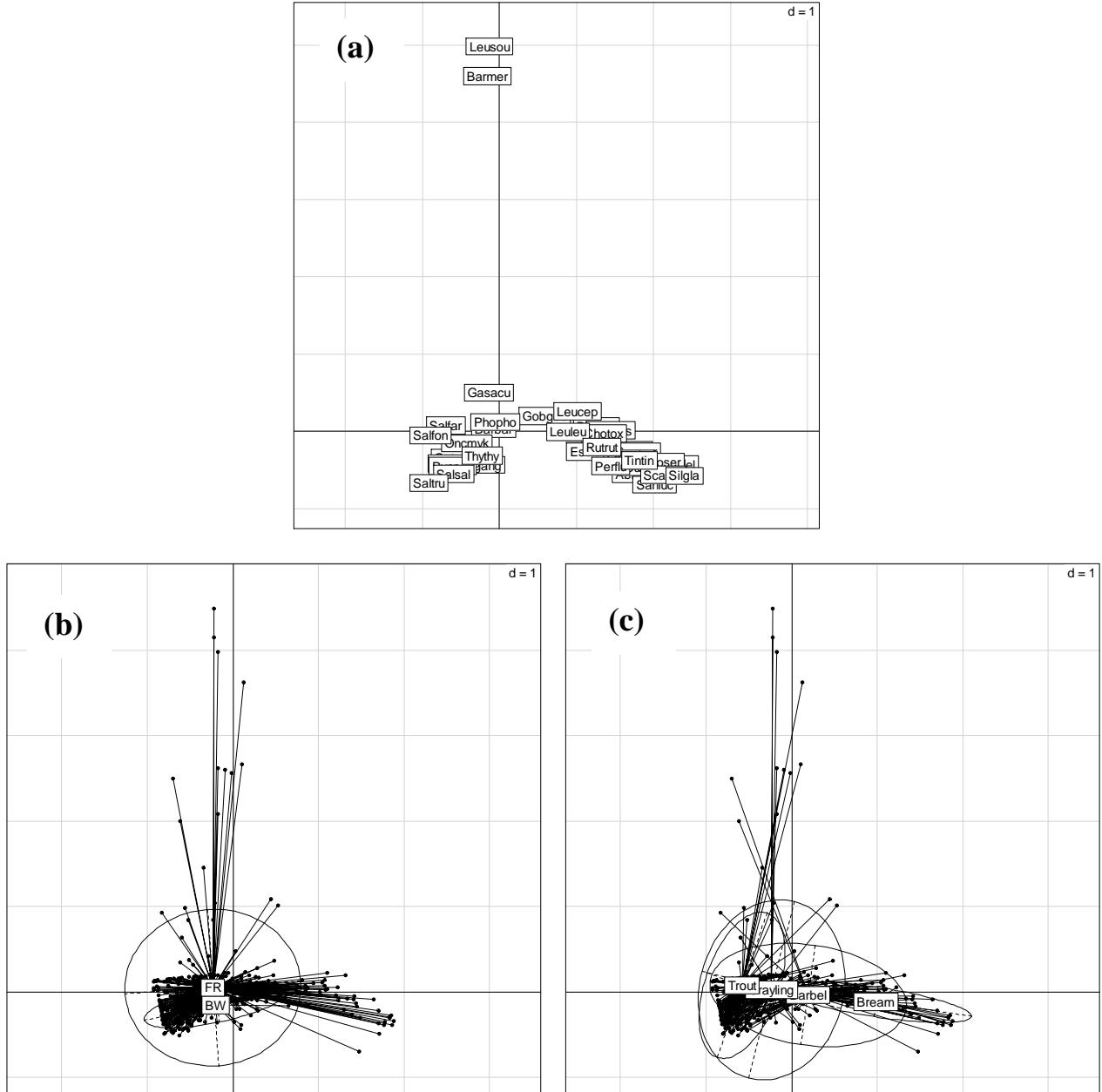


Fig. 3: Correspondence Analysis of species abundance (number of fish / 100 m^2).
(a) factorial map of fish species,
(b) grouping of sites according to their country,
(c) grouping of sites according to their Huet river type.

The first axis revealed the longitudinal organisation of species abundance (Fig. 3a), well represented by the Huet zonation (Fig 3c). The second axis separated two particular species (*Leuciscus soufia* and *Barbus meridionalis*), which were exclusively found in South France. Sites could not be separated according to their country (Fig. 3b). The observed longitudinal gradient was thus common for both countries.

3. Cluster analysis

3.1. Cluster identification (new variable for FIDES: “*Fish_type_ecoregional*”)

We applied a Hierarchical Cluster Analysis (using the Ward’s method) on the transformed ($\log(X+1)$) matrix of species abundance (number of fish / 100 m²) (Fig. 4). We defined 6 clusters. Each cluster has a numerical code (“*Fish_type_ecoregional*” in FIDES), which follows the longitudinal gradient (1 is for the upper type and 9 for the lower one).

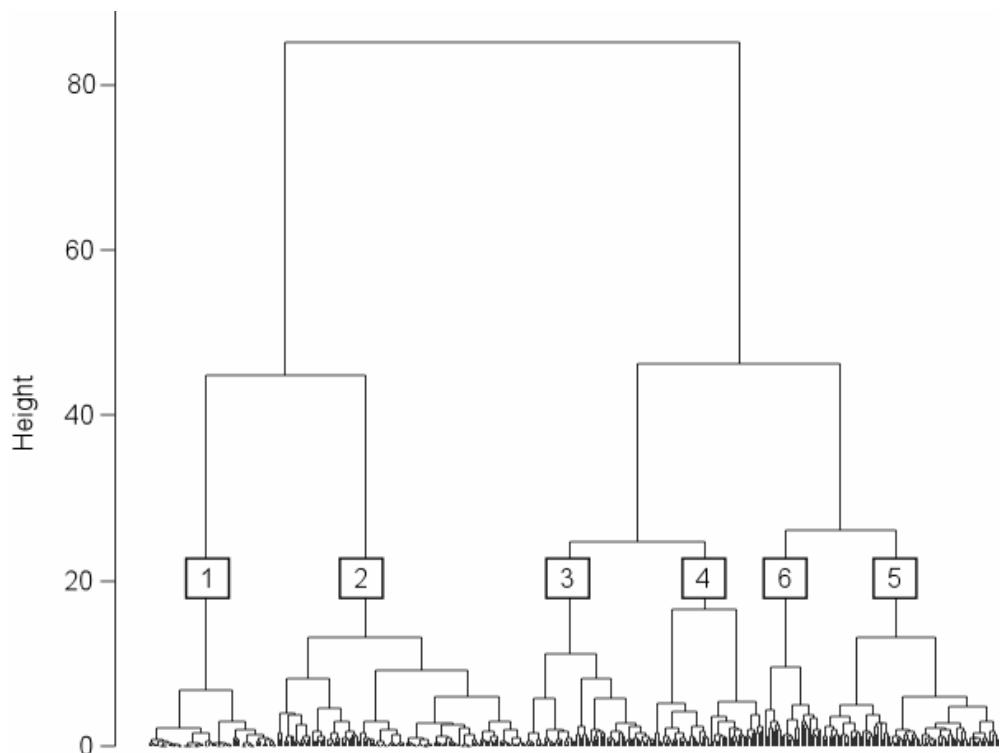


Fig. 4: Dendrogram of sites based on Ward’s method

3.2. Cluster description: physical characteristics

Five environmental parameters were used to describe physical habitat in the reference dataset (no missing value): altitude, mean air temperature, slope, distance from source and wetted width (Table 1).

Table 1: Environmental characteristics of the different fish clusters. Given are number of observation (N), minimum, maximum, and mean values, and standard deviation (SD) for altitude (ALT), mean air temperature (TEMP), slope (SLOPE), distance from source (DFS) and wetted width (WIDTH).

Cluster		ALT	TEMP	SLOPE	DFS	WIDTH
1	N of cases	60	60	60	60	60
	Minimum	10.000	5.800	1.000	1.000	0.800
	Maximum	1320.000	14.000	130.000	29.000	12.000
	Mean	494.133	9.608	21.103	8.100	4.635
	SD	320.582	1.569	23.945	7.118	2.885
2	N of cases	116	116	116	116	116
	Minimum	18.000	5.800	1.100	1.000	0.500
	Maximum	1190.000	12.000	60.000	149.000	20.000
	Mean	251.345	9.468	11.160	12.121	4.612
	SD	201.719	1.103	9.609	16.954	3.280
3	N of cases	61	61	61	61	61
	Minimum	14.000	5.800	1.500	1.000	0.800
	Maximum	1200.000	13.500	60.000	61.000	16.300
	Mean	469.016	10.161	9.962	17.410	6.677
	SD	322.814	1.834	10.038	13.045	3.696
4	N of cases	51	51	51	51	51
	Minimum	10.000	5.800	0.900	2.000	1.000
	Maximum	1090.000	13.500	13.200	316.000	26.000
	Mean	137.373	10.244	5.153	22.216	7.560
	SD	174.741	1.048	3.626	43.711	5.878
5	N of cases	83	83	83	83	83
	Minimum	10.000	7.500	0.400	2.000	3.000
	Maximum	760.000	14.500	25.000	289.000	50.000
	Mean	185.651	10.613	3.611	50.783	13.910
	SD	133.935	1.764	3.689	54.730	10.713
6	N of cases	27	27	27	27	27
	Minimum	31.000	9.000	0.100	4.000	4.000
	Maximum	315.000	14.500	3.000	420.000	120.000
	Mean	129.481	10.963	0.989	96.222	29.326
	SD	82.011	1.658	0.748	112.131	29.120

3.3. Principal Component Analysis

Before performing the PCA, altitude (ALT), slope (SLOPE), distance from source (DFS) and wetted width (WIDTH) were log-transformed to achieve normality (Fig. 5).

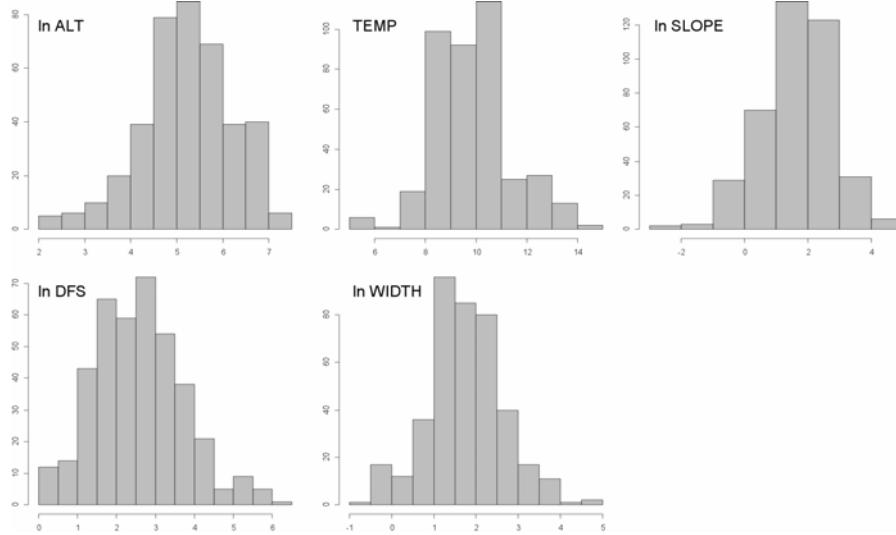


Fig. 5: Frequency distributions for environmental variables used in the Principal Component Analysis

The five environmental variables were then used to describe physiographic characteristics in the reference dataset (Fig. 6).

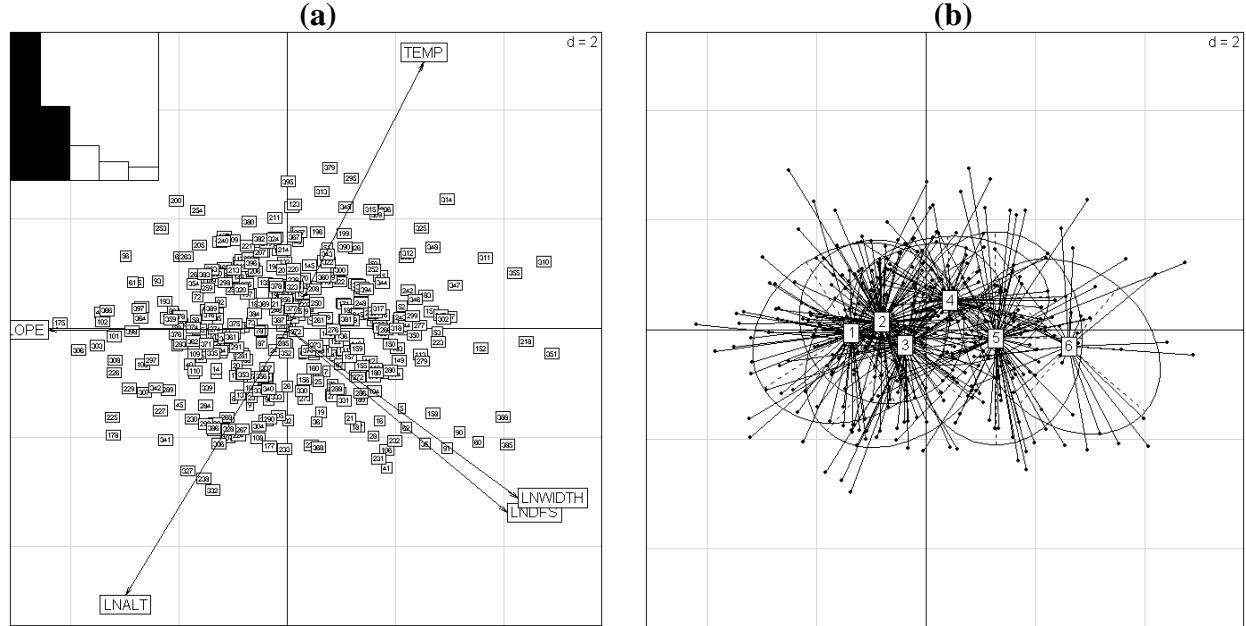


Fig. 6: Correspondence Analysis of species abundance (number of fish / 100 m²).

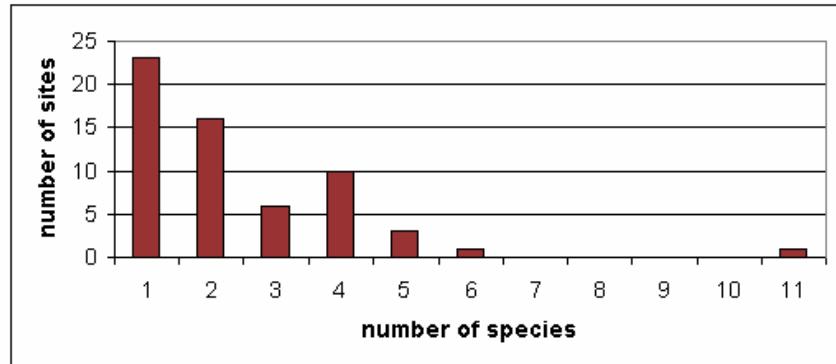
(a) factorial map (PC1 and PC2) showing sites position and environmental parameters,
(b) grouping of sites according to their cluster number

The first axis reflected the longitudinal gradient (Slope, Width and DFS) whereas the second axis separated sites according to their altitude and temperature characteristics (Fig. 6a). The fish clusters were ordered along the first axis, but were highly overlapping (Fig. 6b).

3.4. Fish composition of the different clusters (based on species with occurrence >1%)

Cluster 1

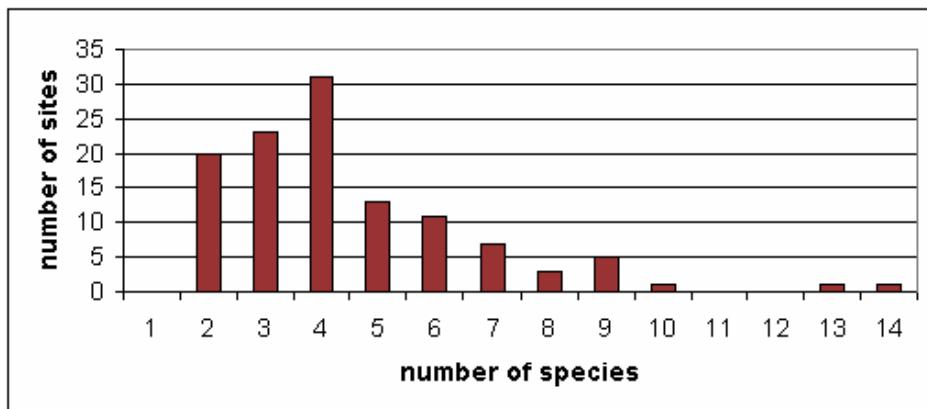
There are 60 sites and 23 different species in this type. In average sites contain 2.6 species.



Dominant species are *Salmo trutta fario* (brown trout, 100 %) and *Poxinus phoxinus* (minnow, 30.0 %). *Cottus gobio* (bullhead (21.6%) and *Barbatulla barbatulla* (stone loach, 16.6 %) are less frequent. The presence of the remaining species is quite low ($\leq 10\%$)

Cluster 2

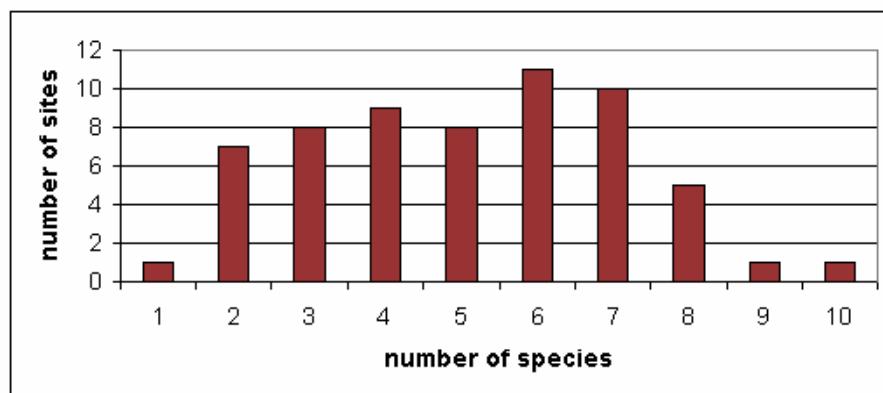
This cluster contains 28 species spread over 116 sites. Each site contains in average 4.47 species.



All sites contain brown trout and bullhead. *Lampetra planeri* (brook lamprey, 46.5 %), stone loach (41.3 %), minnow (31.8 %) and eel (*Anguilla anguilla*, 31.0 %) are relatively frequent too.

Cluster 3

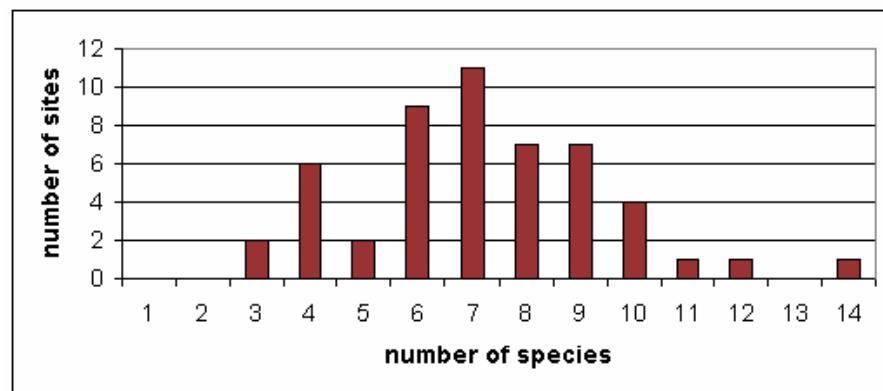
This cluster groups 61 sites having 23 different fish species in total. In average, the sites contain 5.0 species.



All sites have brown trout and in 91.8 % of them minnow is present. Stone loach (72.2 %) and *Gobio gobio* or gudgeon (67.2 %) are also frequently found. Chub (*Leuciscus cephalus*) is more abundant in this type (36.0 %) compared to the previous clusters. Newcomers are soufie (*Leuciscus soufia*) and Mediterranean barbel (*Barbus meridionalis*) with a frequency of 13.1 and 21.3% respectively. Brook lamprey has a frequency of 21.3 %.

Cluster 4

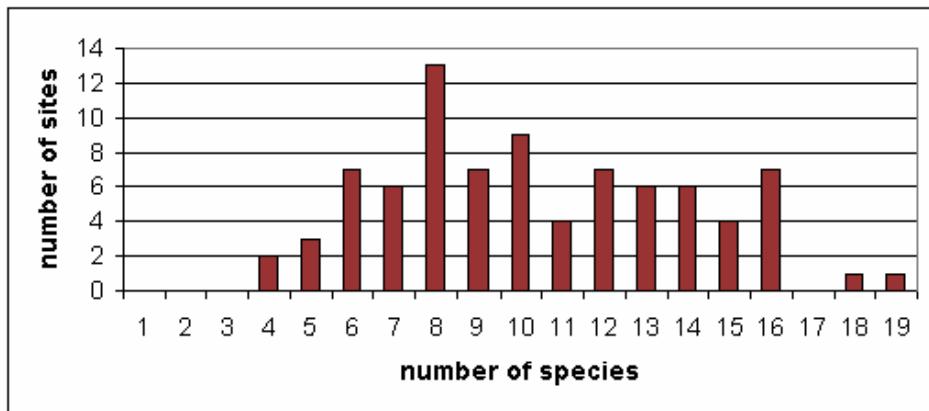
This type contains 51 sites having a total of 21 different fish species. In average sites contain 7.1 species.



Again, brown trout is present in all sites and together with bullhead (96.2 %) and minnow (92.1 %). Stone loach and eel are also quite frequent (88.2 and 74.5 % respectively). Brook lamprey (56.8 %) and salmon (*Salmo salar*, 52.9 %) are fairly present.

Cluster 5

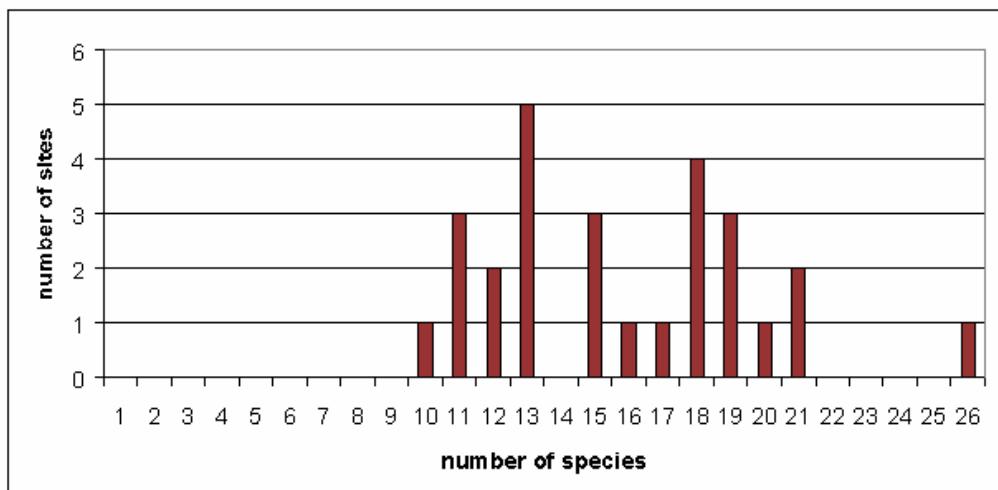
Here we have 83 sites with in total 36 different fish species. In average, one site contains 10.3 species.



The most abundant species in this type are minnow (96.3 %), gudgeon (89.1 %), stone loach (87.9 %), brown trout (81.9 %) and chub (80.7 %). In more than 50 % of the sites, we find bullhead (74.6 %), dace (*Leuciscus leuciscus*, 66.2 %), roach (*Rutilus rutilus*, 57.8 %), eel (54.2 %) and barbel (*Barbus barbus*, 53.0 %).

Cluster 6

This is a cluster with only 27 sites and 34 different species. Sites in average have 15.8 species.



This cluster is defined by the presence of roach, chub and gudgeon that are present in all sites. Bleak (*Alburnus alburnus*) is found in 96.3 % of the sites. Perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) and barbel are also important (85.2 %) as well as dace present in 81.5 % of the sites. Stone loach and eel are present in 74.1 and 70.4 % of the sites respectively. Pike (*Esox lucius*) is found in 66.7 % of the sites. Minnow and bitterling (*Rhodeus sericeus*) are present in 63 % of the sites. Bullhead is present in 51.9 % of the sites. Brown trout is less important here (22.2 %) but species like rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*, 48.1 %), tench (*Tinca tinca*, 44.4 %), Silver bream (*Blicca bjoerkna*, 48.1 %) and Schneider (*Alburnoides bipunctatus*, 44.4 %) are more important than in the other clusters.

Tables 2 and 3 summarise the fish characteristics of each fish cluster.

Table 2: Overview per cluster of the species and their percentage of occurrence.

Fish species	Cluster					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Salmo trutta fario</i>	100	100	100	100	81.9	22.2
<i>Phoxinus phoxinus</i>	30.0	31.8	91.8	92.1	96.3	63
<i>Leuciscus cephalus</i>	5.0	7.7	36.0	21.5	80.7	100
<i>Gobio gobio</i>	10.0	11.2	67.2	37.2	89.1	100
<i>Barbatula barbatula</i>	16.6	41.3	72.1	88.2	87.9	74.1
<i>Leuciscus soufia</i>	1	0.8	13.1		1.2	3.7
<i>Barbus meridionalis</i>	21.3		21.3		7.2	0
<i>Cottus gobio</i>	21.7	100	29.5	96.0	74.6	51.9
<i>Lampetra planeri</i>		46.5	21.3	56.8	28.9	11.1
<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	10	31.0	13.1	74.5	54.2	70.4
<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>		8.6	4.9	13.7	57.8	100
<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>		5.1	1.6	9.8	37.3	85.2
<i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i>		4.3	3.2	13.7	66.2	81.5
<i>Salmo salar</i>			1.6	52.9	3.6	
<i>Barbus barbus</i>		3.4	4.9	1.9	53.0	85.2
<i>Alburnus alburnus</i>		0.8	3.2		21.6	96.3
<i>Thymallus thymallus</i>	1.6	14.6	3.2	9.8	24.0	
<i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>		0.8			4.8	48.1
<i>Esox lucius</i>		3.4	3.2	7.8	43.3	

Table 3: Fish characteristics of each fish cluster (Fish_type_ecoregional). Given are total number of species (>1%), mean number of species per type and the dominant fish species.

Fish_type_ecoregional	Total number of species per type > 1 %	Mean number of species per type	Fish species (dominant)
1	23	2.6	<i>Salmo trutta fario</i>
2	28	4.5	<i>Salmo trutta fario</i>
3	25	5.0	<i>Salmo trutta fario</i>
4	21	7.1	<i>Phoxinus phoxinus</i>
5	36	10.3	<i>Phoxinus phoxinus</i>
6	34	15.8	<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>

3.5. Conclusions

Cluster 1 is characterised by brown trout. It is distinguished from the other types through its low number of species per site.

Clusters 2, 3 and 4 are firstly characterised by brown trout. In addition type 2 is further characterised by bullhead, type 3 by minnow and type 4 by minnow and bullhead. In average their sites have less species than clusters 5 and 6.

Cluster 5 is different from the other clusters since it is defined by minnow, bullhead, barbel, brown trout and chub.

Cluster 6 is characterised by gudgeon, chub, roach and bleak. In average it contains most species per site.

These fish clusters, ordered along the longitudinal gradient, reflect an increase in fish species richness with increasing stream size (Fig.16).

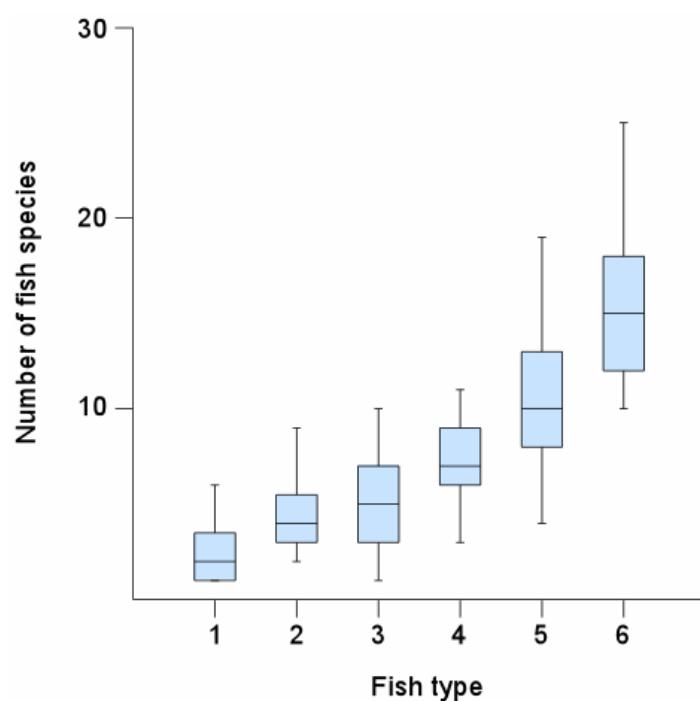


Fig. 16: Box plots of fish species richness for each fish type.
In a box plot, the centre vertical line marks the median of the sample.
The length of each box shows the range within which the central 50%
of the values fall, with the box edges at the first and third quartiles.

4. Linking fish clusters and abiotic variables: Discriminant Analysis

We performed a discriminant analysis (DA) to predict clusters belonging to the five environment parameters (ln-transformed for all except Mean Air Temperature).

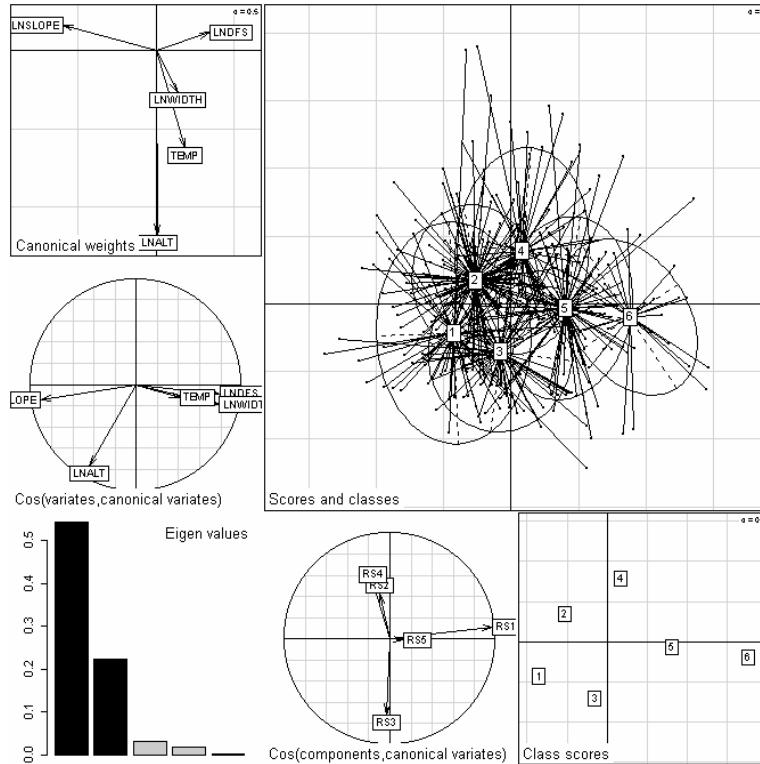


Fig. 17: Results of the Discriminant Analysis

The first two axes (LD1 and LD2) represented 77.7 and 18.8 % of the total inertia, respectively.

The factorial maps (Fig. 17) show that slope and altitude were the main factors involved in the prediction of the fish-clusters. Slope was negatively related to the first axis, whereas the second axis was strongly related to altitude (Table 4).

Table 4: Coefficients of linear discriminants.

	LD1	LD2	LD3	LD4	LD5
LNALT	0.01522	1.3438	-0.2653	0.4212	-0.20564
TEMP	0.17736	0.4470	0.1990	-0.2709	-0.50425
LNSLOPE	-0.77352	-0.1620	0.8438	-0.6433	0.48147
LNDFS	0.43522	-0.1138	1.0590	0.7306	0.02152
LNWIDTH	0.22827	0.3382	-0.5061	-1.3999	1.02050

To validate this analysis, we examined how the linear discriminants classify the calibration data set. We compared the fish type predicted by the discriminant analysis to the fish type resulting from the cluster analysis (Table 5).

Table 5: Validation of the Discriminant Analysis. For each fish type defined by the cluster analysis, given are the number of sites assigned to the different fish types, and the percentage of sites well classified

		Fish type					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Predicted fish type	1	22	5	11	1	1	0
	2	22	91	14	25	10	0
	3	10	8	21	0	4	0
	4	4	3	1	12	5	1
	5	2	9	14	13	60	10
	6	0	0	0	0	3	16
% of sites well classified		0.37	0.78	0.34	0.24	0.72	0.59

Note: One site was well classified when the Discriminant Analysis assigned it to the right fish type (defined by the cluster analysis). For each fish type, the numbers of sites well classified are in bold.

Globally, this analysis allowed to classify **55.8 %** of sites to the right fish type. We well classified only 24 % of sites from fish type 4, whereas sites from fish types 2 and 5 were the best classified (with 78 and 72 % of site well classified, respectively).

The results of the DA can then be used to assign clusters to all the samples of the ecoregions 8 and 13 based on a linear combination of these abiotic parameters. Thus, we assigned each site to a particular cluster whatever its degree of ecological integrity (i.e. reference and every levels of degradation).

5. Impact characteristics in the degraded data set.

Five anthropogenic variables were used to describe impact level of each degraded site:

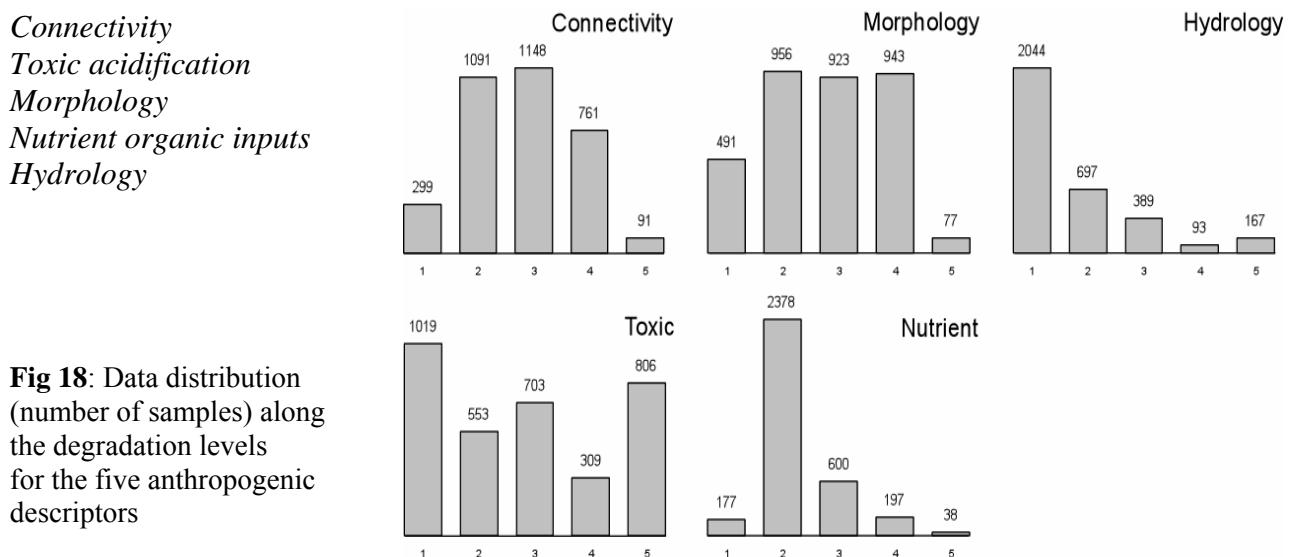


Fig 18: Data distribution (number of samples) along the degradation levels for the five anthropogenic descriptors

We defined a global level of anthropogenic impact as the mean of the five anthropogenic criteria, coded in five classes afterwards (Fig. 19). The class limits were as follows: [1.0, 1.8] [1.8, 2.6] [2.6, 3.4] [3.4, 4.2] [4.2, 5.0].

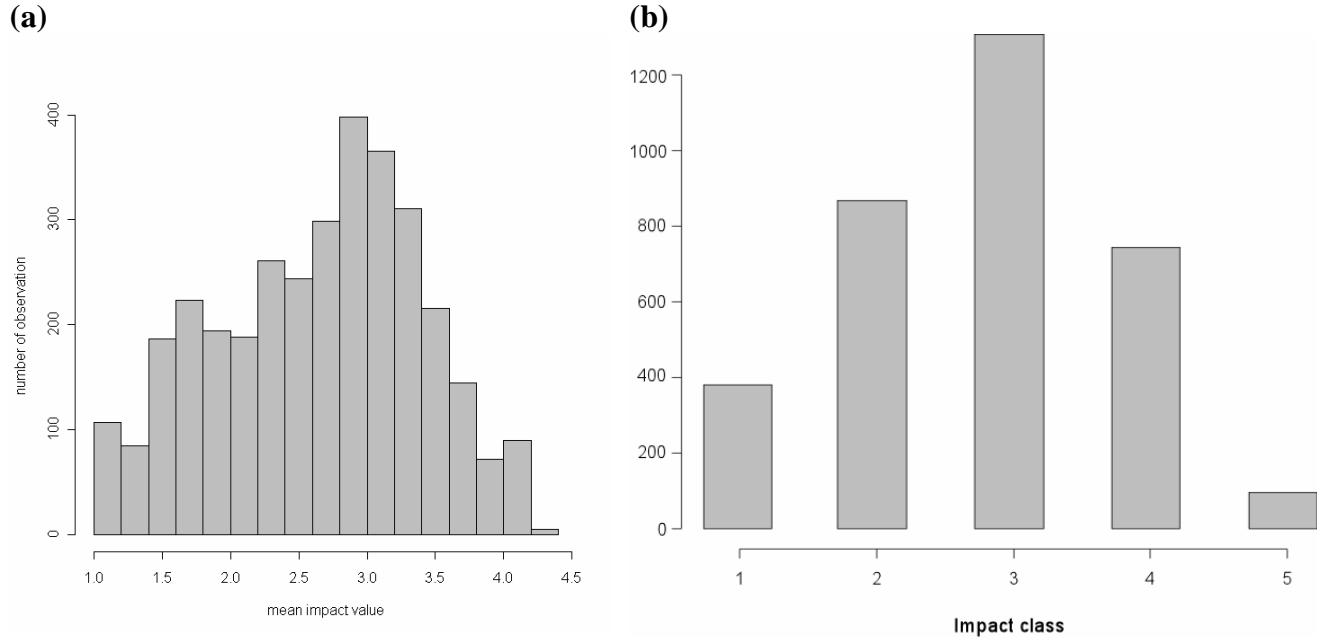


Fig. 19: Data distribution (number of samples) along the degradation levels expressed by (a) the mean value of five degradation criteria and (b) five impact classes.

High impact levels (class 5) were absent from fish types 1, 3 and 5 (Table 6).

Table 6: Distribution of samples in the degraded data set according to their fish type belonging and the global impact level (impact class).

		<i>Fish type</i>					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Impact class	1	59	169	46	38	60	7
	2	28	204	88	92	358	96
	3	5	332	11	543	159	255
	4	1	162	1	414	34	131
	5	0	27	0	33	0	35

6. Selection of fish metrics

Fish metrics have been calculated using (1) all species, or (2) sentinel species. Thus, two metric tables were available in FIDES and referenced as “all species metrics” and “sentinel species metrics”. We did not use “Historical metrics” because of the lack of information for ecoregion 8 and 13 (this information was available only for Flanders sites). Here we focused on metrics based on species composition (number, %), density and biomass.

6.1. First selection of metrics: Spearman correlations between metrics and impact class

For each fish type, we used Spearman rank correlation to screen the response of each metric to degradation. The number of metrics significantly responding to degradation varied from 61 (fish type 1) to 138 (fish type 6) (Table 7).

Table 7: Number of metrics significantly correlated with impact class for each fish type.

	Fish type					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
all species	58	117	99	97	79	112
sentinel species	3	12	4	14	22	26
Total	61	129	103	111	101	138

Few metrics based on sentinel species were selected, except downstream (fish types 5 and 6).

When examining in more details which metrics responded to degradation (see *Annex 1* and *Annex 2*), then it appeared that some metrics responded whatever the fish type (i.e., perc_sp_Intol or n_ha_Hab_li), whereas some others showed a response to degradation only for some fish types (i.e., perc_kgha_Hab_b in fish types 1-2-3)

6.2. Selection of metrics: Stepwise Discriminant Analysis

Stepwise Discriminant Analysis was performed to avoid redundancy between metrics and to select metrics discriminating the classification variable (impact class). We used a forward stepwise procedure, so that only metrics which significantly ($P<0.05$) discriminated among the different impact classes were added to the model.

This was done for each fish type and the number of selected metrics per fish type varied from 13 (fish type 1) to 19 (fish type 4) (Table 8).

Table 8: Selected metrics from Stepwise Discriminant Analysis for each fish type.

Fish type	Metrics	F	Fish type	Metrics	F
1	NHAHABB	54.00	4	BSPNATIVE	3.85
	KGHAHABB	32.73		NSPINTOL	7.35
	NHAHABLI	11.78		PNHAINTOL	5.18
	PERCNHAHABLI	22.21		PNHAHABRH	8.85
	PERCNHARELIT	42.69		PNHAHABEURY	9.14
	PERCSPREPHYT	29.53		NSPREPHYT	4.53
	PERCKGHAREPH	13.85		PNHAMILONG	21.92
	PERCNHALONSL	32.01		KHAMIPOTAD	9.98
	PERCNHAFEINS	29.49		DSPSENTINELC	13.36
	PERCNHAFEOMN	26.34		DSPSENTINELE	6.23
	KGHAFEOMNI	43.53		DSPSENTINELL	7.56
	PERCKGHAFEOM	9.39		D0COTGOB	5.35
	PRESENCE0PLU	19.62		P0SALFAR	38.48
				BSPSENTINELC	5.02
2	NSPNATIVE	15.44		BSPSENTINELE	7.49
	NSPINTOL	6.87		BSPSENTINELL	6.96
	PSPINTOL	5.34		BSPSENTINELS	5.69
	PKHAINTOL	6.21		PRES0COTGOB	7.15
	PNHAHABB	15.11		PRES0SALFAR	80.61
	PSPHABRH	13.28			
	NSPRELITH	17.68	5	PSPTOL	7.42
	PNHARELITH	8.42		NHAHABLI	15.23
	PKHARELITH	7.99		PNHAHABLI	55.28
	NSPREPHYT	4.57		PKHAHABLI	39.84
	KHAREPHYT	4.39		PSPHABEURY	59.52
	PNHAFEINSEV	6.12		NSPRELITH	28.08
	PSPMILONG	21.75		PSPRELITH	75.31
	NHAMIPOTAD	4.09		PSPREPHYT	23.64
	KHARUN1HABB	7.69		PKHAREPHYT	30.42
	D0PLUSCOTGOB	4.59		PSPFEINSEV	8.53
	BSPSENTINELC	6.79		PNHAFEINSEV	6.66
	PRES0PLUSSAL	4.51		PNHAFEOMNI	6.44
				NHAMILONG	6.92
				D0PLUSBARMER	9.02
3	NHAHABB	4.27	6	NSPINTOL	7.73
	NSPHABLI	14.31		NHAINTOL	3.90
	PKHAHABEURY	39.68		PSPHABB	12.32
	NSPREPHYT	7.10		PNHAHABRH	4.56
	PSPREPHYT	8.20		NSPRELITH	8.43
	NHAREPHYT	27.68		PNHALONLL	7.31
	KHAREPHYT	27.45		NSPMILONG	11.93
	NSPFEPISC	228.58		PSPMIPIOTAD	8.40
	PSPFEPISC	769.70		DSPSENCOTGOB	8.83
	NHAFEPISC	52.49		DSPSENESOLUC	13.90
	PKHAFEPISC	14.07		DSPSENSALFAR	7.20
	PNHAFEINSEV	15.00		BSPSENBARBAB	5.43
	KHARUN1HABEU	181.88		BSPSENCHONAS	5.33
	KHARUN1REPHY	22.04		BSPSENESOLUC	9.54
				PRES0PLUSLEU	6.64

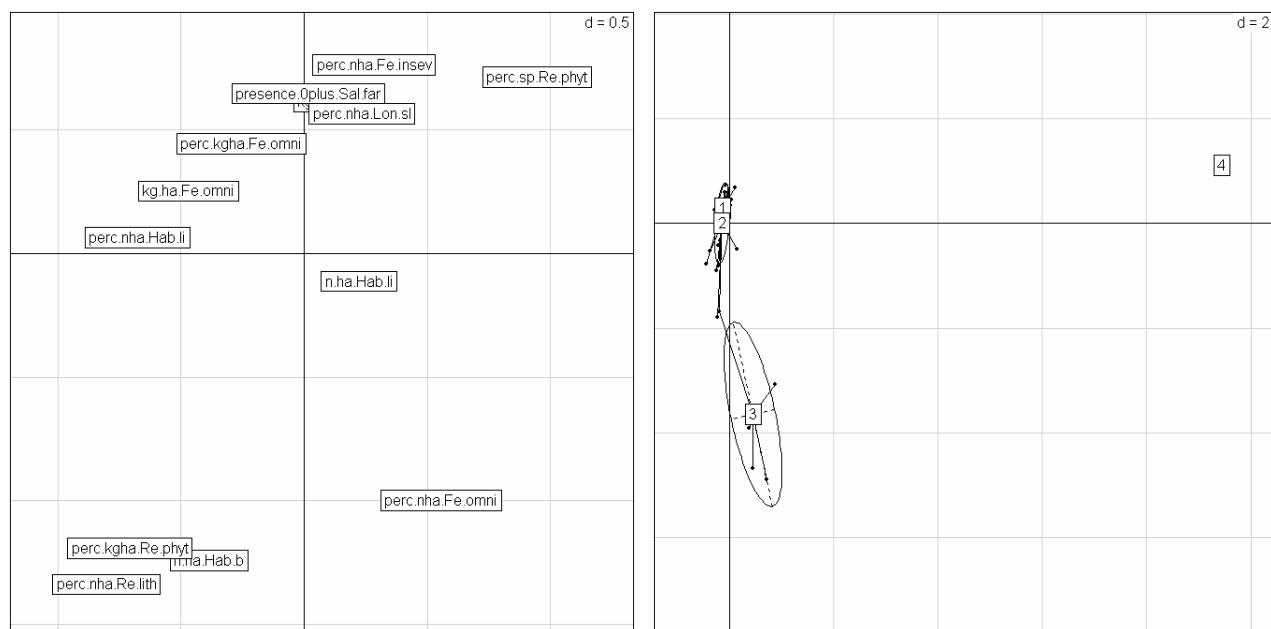
Note: The most discriminant metrics are given in bold.

7. Linking metrics and impact class: Discriminant Analysis

For each fish type, we performed Discriminant Analysis to examine how selected metrics discriminated impact classes.

Below is given, for each fish type, the coefficients of linear discriminants and the proportion of trace (the part of total inertia represented by each axes).

Fish type 1



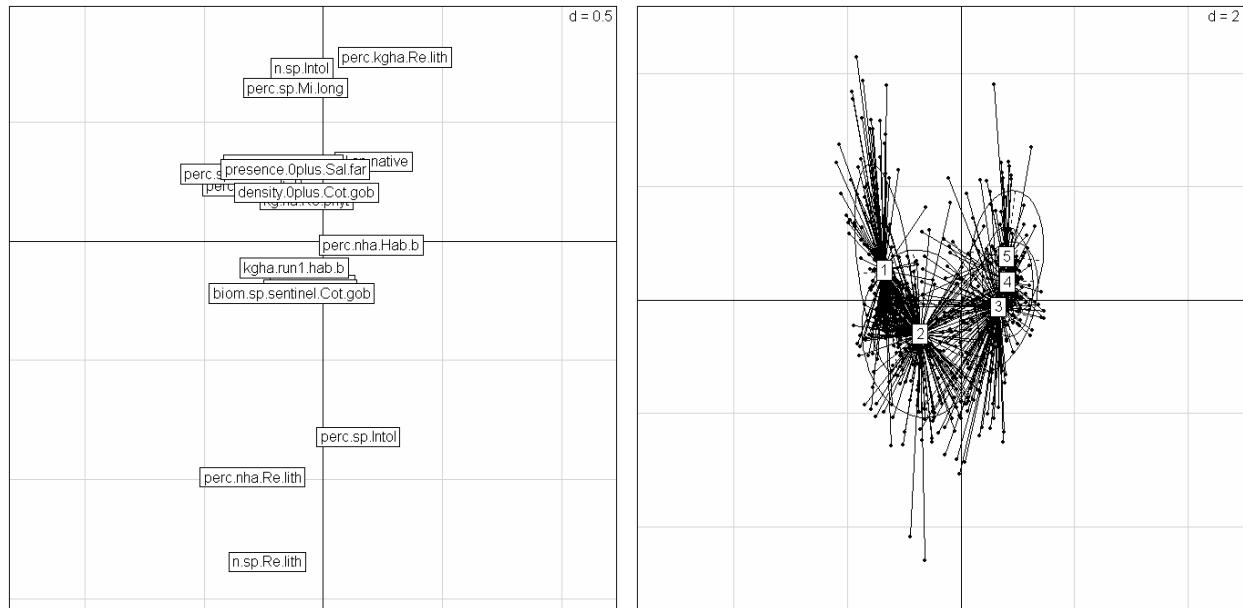
Coefficients of linear discriminants:

	LD1	LD2	LD3
n.ha.Hab.b	-0.0016604	-0.0013407	-8.807e-05
kg.ha.Hab.b	0.0002984	0.0003447	6.391e-05
n.ha.Hab.li	0.0234324	-0.0029637	3.915e-03
perc.nha.Hab.li	-1.5702601	0.0372589	-4.700e-02
perc.nha.Re.lith	-0.3513003	-0.1471455	2.377e-02
perc.sp.Re.phyt	0.7019682	0.1333477	-1.852e-01
perc.kgha.Re.phyt	-0.5638523	-0.2390132	1.255e-01
perc.nha.Lon.sl	0.0706469	0.0429786	4.788e-02
perc.nha.Fe.insev	0.0685035	0.0464706	1.289e-04
perc.nha.Fe.omni	0.2825933	-0.1278371	3.073e-02
kg.ha.Fe.omni	-0.0821636	0.0111300	-4.211e-03
perc.kgha.Fe.omni	-0.1336273	0.0585813	5.883e-02
presence.Oplus.Sal.far	0.4143835	4.2080316	-7.610e-01

Proportion of trace:

LD1	LD2	LD3
0.9397	0.0471	0.0131

Fish type 2



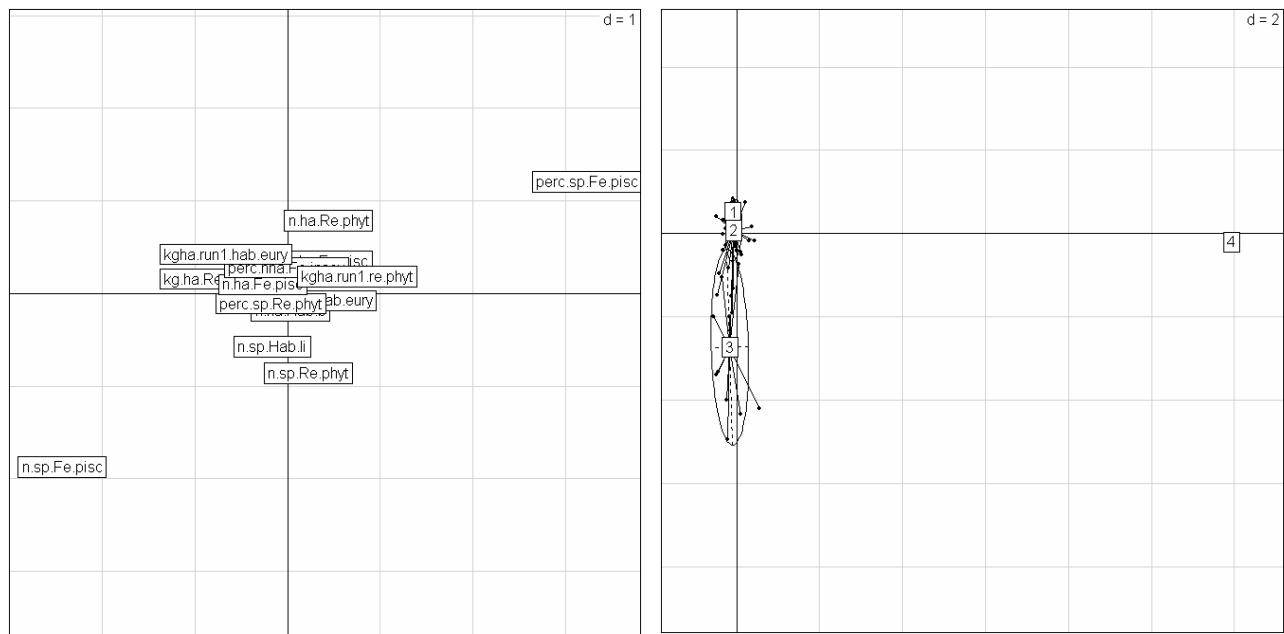
Coefficients of linear discriminants:

	LD1	LD2	LD3	LD4
N.sp.native	1.337e-01	1.125e-01	6.001e-01	2.764e-02
n.sp.Intol	-1.429e-01	6.037e-01	1.335e+00	3.390e-01
perc.sp.Intol	9.377e-03	-2.794e-02	-1.871e-02	1.848e-02
perc.kgha.Intol	-1.572e-02	6.414e-03	1.752e-03	2.392e-02
perc.nha.Hab.b	1.333e-02	-5.933e-04	-1.298e-02	-8.114e-03
perc.sp.Hab.rh	-2.014e-02	7.795e-03	2.044e-02	-5.819e-02
n.sp.Re.lith	-2.157e-01	-6.499e-01	-1.357e+00	4.575e-02
perc.nha.Re.lith	-1.371e-02	-2.426e-02	-2.143e-02	2.467e-02
perc.kgha.Re.lith	1.448e-02	1.981e-02	2.636e-02	6.634e-03
n.sp.Re.phyt	-1.189e-01	-2.527e-01	-6.202e-01	4.833e-01
kg.ha.Re.phyt	-7.362e-05	9.754e-05	-4.700e-05	5.623e-05
perc.nha.Fe.insev	-8.728e-03	8.844e-03	-4.647e-03	-2.286e-02
perc.sp.Mi.long	-2.657e-02	7.720e-02	-3.893e-02	-4.330e-03
n.ha.Mi.potad	-6.208e-05	-1.245e-04	8.420e-05	-1.237e-04
kgha.run1.hab.b	-4.446e-05	-2.144e-05	1.097e-05	-4.299e-05
density.Oplus.Cot.gob	-1.790e-04	2.670e-04	-3.058e-05	2.125e-04
biom.sp.sentinel.Cot.gob	-1.316e-03	-1.166e-03	3.234e-04	-5.112e-04
presence.Oplus.Sal.far	-5.265e-01	7.152e-01	-2.707e-01	-3.574e-02

Proportion of trace:

LD1	LD2	LD3	LD4
0.9016	0.0575	0.0330	0.0078

Fish type 3



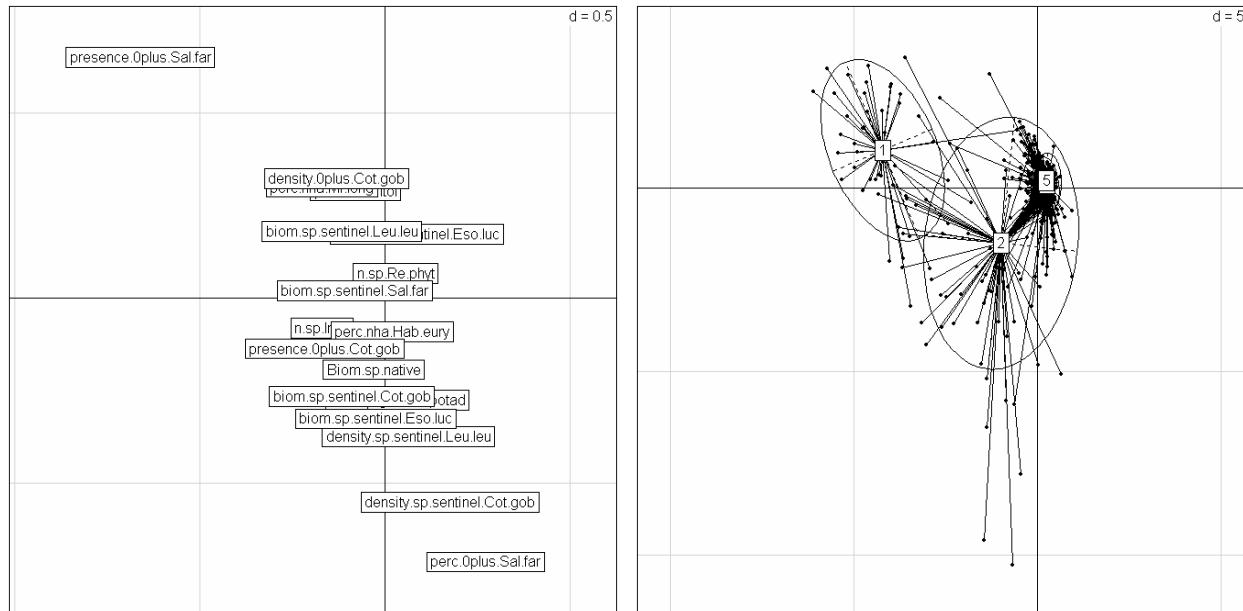
Coefficients of linear discriminants:

	LD1	LD2	LD3
n.ha.Hab.b	4.879e-05	-6.847e-05	-6.397e-05
n.sp.Hab.li	-1.310e+00	-1.028e+00	-2.015e-01
perc.kgha.Hab.eury	1.207e-01	-9.357e-03	8.507e-03
n.sp.Re.phyt	1.864e+00	-1.647e+00	-1.452e+00
perc.sp.Re.phyt	-1.871e-01	-2.601e-02	4.626e-02
n.ha.Re.phyt	5.237e-02	2.116e-02	1.109e-02
kg.ha.Re.phyt	-8.829e-01	3.685e-02	4.269e-02
n.sp.Fe.pisc	-8.314e+01	-1.452e+01	-6.733e+00
perc.sp.Fe.pisc	1.049e+01	8.857e-01	3.099e-01
n.ha.Fe.pisc	-2.876e-01	2.331e-02	1.444e-02
perc.kgha.Fe.pisc	2.246e+00	7.550e-01	6.072e-01
perc.nha.Fe.insev	-2.396e-03	1.316e-02	-3.165e-02
kgha.run1.hab.eury	-1.322e-01	1.895e-02	6.513e-03
kgha.run1.re.phyt	8.492e-01	4.640e-02	-2.976e-03

Proportion of trace:

LD1	LD2	LD3
0.9605	0.0326	0.0069

Fish type 4



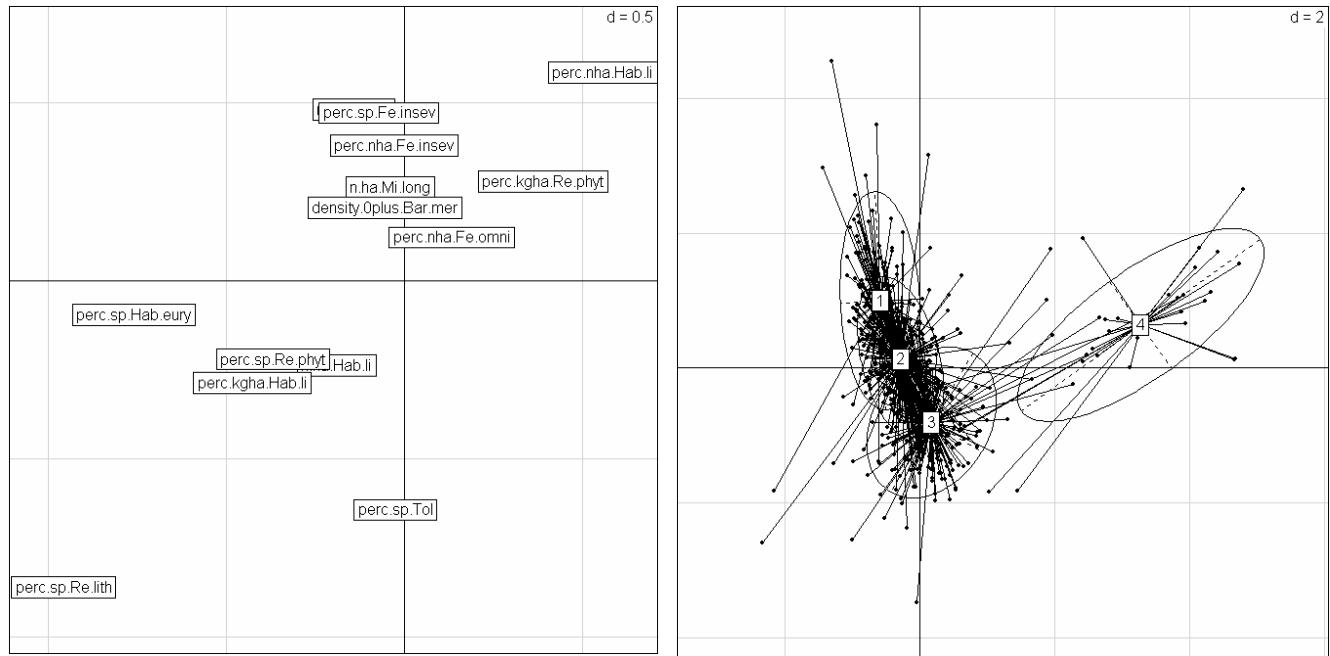
Coefficients of linear discriminants:

	LD1	LD2	LD3	LD4
Biom.sp.native	-2.051e-05	-7.456e-05	-1.561e-05	-2.797e-05
n.sp.Intol	-3.558e-01	-9.847e-02	-1.213e-01	9.725e-01
perc.nha.Intol	-1.007e-02	2.110e-02	6.469e-03	-1.980e-02
perc.nha.Hab.rh	-9.412e-04	-1.051e-02	1.988e-03	-2.525e-02
perc.nha.Hab.eury	1.131e-03	-2.999e-03	2.082e-02	-1.045e-02
n.sp.Re.phyt	3.994e-02	5.478e-02	3.427e-01	8.786e-02
perc.nha.Mi.long	-3.276e-02	3.378e-02	-1.615e-02	-3.972e-02
kg.ha.Mi.potad	3.925e-03	-7.008e-03	1.166e-03	-5.221e-03
density.sp.sentinel.Cot.gob	8.757e-04	-1.617e-03	9.279e-06	9.708e-05
density.sp.sentinel.Eso.luc	1.699e-02	2.018e-02	-2.133e-02	7.763e-03
density.sp.sentinel.Leu.leu	2.448e-03	-8.507e-03	-2.198e-04	-2.343e-03
density.0plus.Cot.gob	-2.827e-03	4.040e-03	9.909e-05	-3.609e-04
perc.0plus.Sal.far	7.443e-02	-1.145e-01	9.461e-03	-1.297e-02
biom.sp.sentinel.Cot.gob	-1.620e-03	-2.815e-03	-1.409e-03	-2.303e-04
biom.sp.sentinel.Eso.luc	-1.690e-03	-1.283e-02	-7.279e-03	6.465e-03
biom.sp.sentinel.Leu.leu	-6.023e-03	5.379e-03	-1.988e-03	6.892e-03
biom.sp.sentinel.Sal.far	-7.229e-04	9.824e-05	2.144e-03	2.353e-03
presence.0plus.Cot.gob	-1.389e+00	-6.780e-01	2.599e-01	-9.468e-01
presence.0plus.Sal.far	-5.431e+00	3.124e+00	2.930e-02	-4.181e-01

Proportion of trace:

LD1	LD2	LD3	LD4
0.8743	0.0942	0.0236	0.0079

Fish type 5



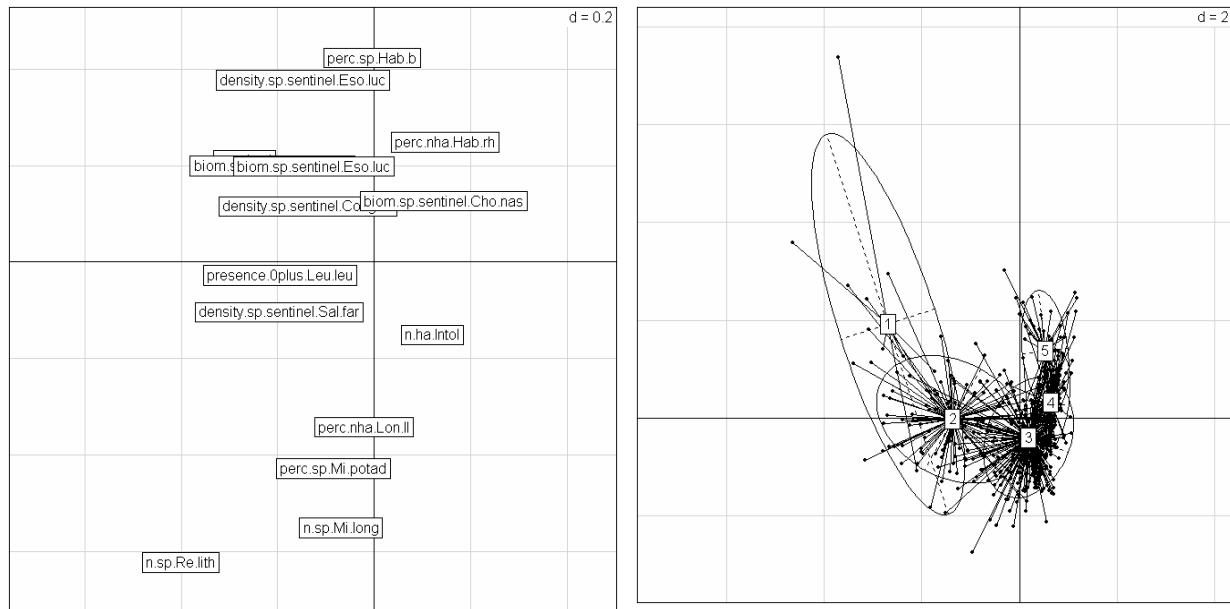
Coefficients of linear discriminants:

	LD1	LD2	LD3
perc.sp.Tol	-0.0023548	-0.0389801	3.876e-03
n.ha.Hab.li	-0.0003384	-0.0002813	-5.785e-05
perc.nha.Hab.li	0.0757376	0.0530421	3.362e-02
perc.kgha.Hab.li	-0.0662492	-0.0297214	-5.026e-02
perc.sp.Hab.eury	-0.0774781	-0.0065644	-1.690e-02
n.sp.Re.lith	-0.0977501	0.2207798	3.671e-01
perc.sp.Re.lith	-0.0714979	-0.0429555	-2.996e-02
perc.sp.Re.phyt	-0.0599017	-0.0238814	2.115e-03
perc.kgha.Re.phyt	0.0452748	0.0216637	-1.528e-02
perc.sp.Fe.insev	-0.0092923	0.0405919	2.624e-02
perc.nha.Fe.insev	-0.0025211	0.0208973	-1.451e-02
perc.nha.Fe.omni	0.0082335	0.0050213	1.582e-02
n.ha.Mi.long	-0.0002055	0.0008602	-4.409e-04
density.Oplus.Bar.mer	-0.0068021	0.0164348	-2.823e-02

Proportion of trace:

LD1	LD2	LD3
0.7929	0.1539	0.0532

Fish type 6



Coefficients of linear discriminants:

	LD1	LD2	LD3	LD4
n.sp.Intol	-4.355e-01	2.607e-01	4.731e-01	-8.222e-01
n.ha.Intol	8.673e-05	-8.196e-05	-4.386e-05	7.672e-05
perc.sp.Hab.b	-2.559e-04	2.547e-02	1.072e-02	4.100e-02
perc.nha.Hab.rh	8.845e-03	1.132e-02	3.006e-03	-9.219e-03
n.sp.Re.lith	-2.499e-01	-2.951e-01	-1.027e-02	3.547e-01
perc.nha.Lon.11	-1.595e-03	-2.056e-02	-1.068e-02	2.112e-02
n.sp.Mi.long	-2.033e-01	-1.240e+00	-2.366e-01	-6.873e-01
perc.sp.Mi.potad	-9.698e-03	-3.719e-02	-2.155e-02	-2.048e-03
density.sp.sentinel.Cot.gob	-5.367e-03	3.408e-03	-1.466e-02	-2.343e-03
density.sp.sentinel.Eso.luc	-4.002e-03	7.754e-03	-1.156e-02	-7.629e-04
density.sp.sentinel.Sal.far	-7.690e-03	-3.077e-03	2.347e-03	-2.214e-03
biom.sp.sentinel.Bar.bab	-2.881e-03	2.081e-03	-3.043e-04	-2.791e-03
biom.sp.sentinel.Cho.nas	6.118e-03	4.072e-03	-1.132e-02	-2.219e-03
biom.sp.sentinel.Eso.luc	-1.997e-03	2.396e-03	5.295e-03	4.008e-03
presence.Oplus.Leu.leu	-9.494e-01	-1.013e-01	1.118e+00	-7.134e-01

Proportion of trace:

LD1	LD2	LD3	LD4
0.6574	0.1815	0.0935	0.0677

8. Prediction of impact class for each site and validation

8.1. Prediction

Each site was assigned to a fish type (see 4. *Linking fish clusters and abiotic variables*), so that we used the coefficients of corresponding linear discriminants (from Discriminant Analysis with metrics) to predict ecological impact.

This produced a new variable in FIDES: *Status_ecoregional*, ranging from 1 (excellent) to 5 (bad) (Fig. 20).

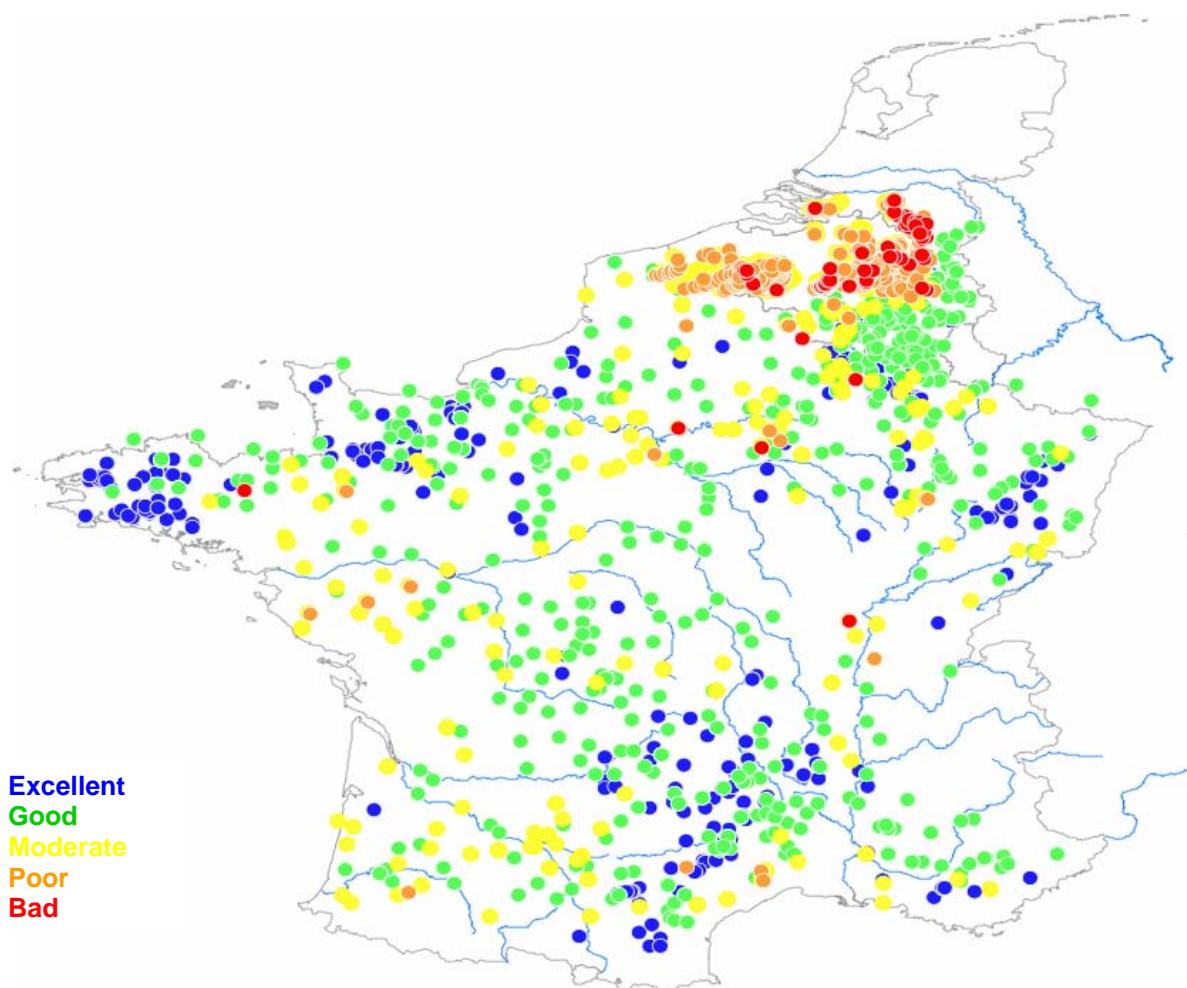


Fig. 20: Predicted values of impact class (*Status_ecoregional*).

8.2. Validation

We examined the ability of our method to classify site status by comparing predictions to observed impact status at two levels: the “ecoregional” and the “fish type” level.

8.2.1 At the ecoregion level (for the whole data set)

First, we examined the efficiency to classify sites into five impact classes (Fig. 21).

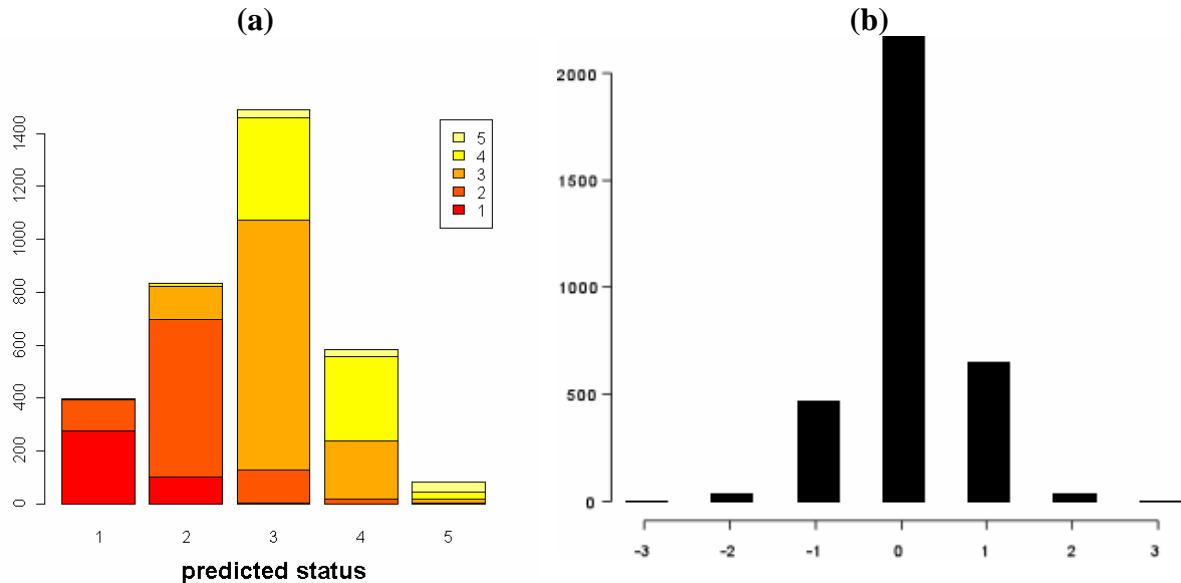


Fig. 21: (a) observed impact class for each predicted class
and (b) distribution of differences between observed and predicted impact class.

Globally, **64.1%** of the sites were well classified into five impact classes.
When examining the discrepancy between observed and predicted impacts, only 2.5% of sites had a difference >1 (in absolute value)

Then we compared predictions for ecological status, this is after grouping impacts 1 and 2 in a “not impacted” status, whereas impacts 3, 4 and 5 are defined as “impacted” status (Fig. 22).

91.3% of the sites were well classified into “impacted” or “not impacted” status.

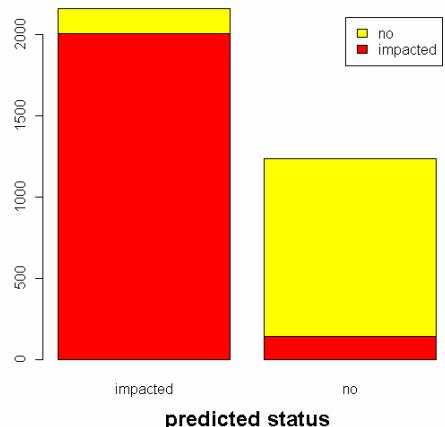


Fig. 22: observed status for each predicted status

8.2.2 At the fish-type level

The efficiency of our method to classify site varied among fish types (Fig. 23 and Table 9).

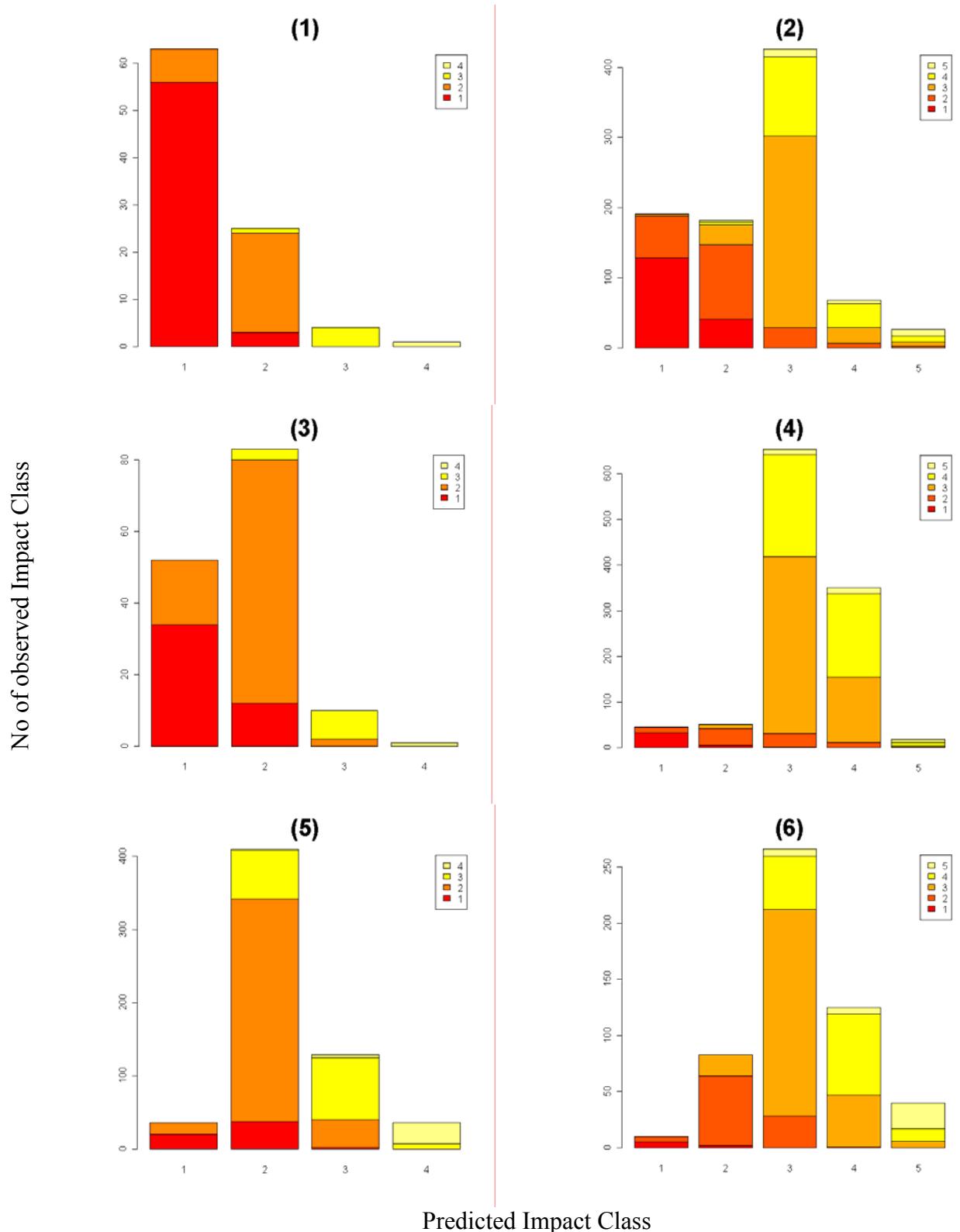


Fig. 23: observed impact class versus predicted impact for each fish type (in brackets)

Table 9: Percentage of well-classified sites according to two classifications:
 (1) Impact Class ranging from 1 to 5, and (2) Impact Status (impacted or not)

<i>Fish type</i>	<i>Impact class</i>	<i>Impact status</i>
1	0.880	0.989
2	0.615	0.914
3	0.760	0.966
4	0.575	0.951
5	0.716	0.823
6	0.660	0.908

The percentage of well-classified sites varied from 57.5% (fish type 4) to 88% (fish type 1) for a classification into five classes, and from 82.8 % (fish type 5) to 98.9 % (fish type 1) for a classification into two ecological statuses.

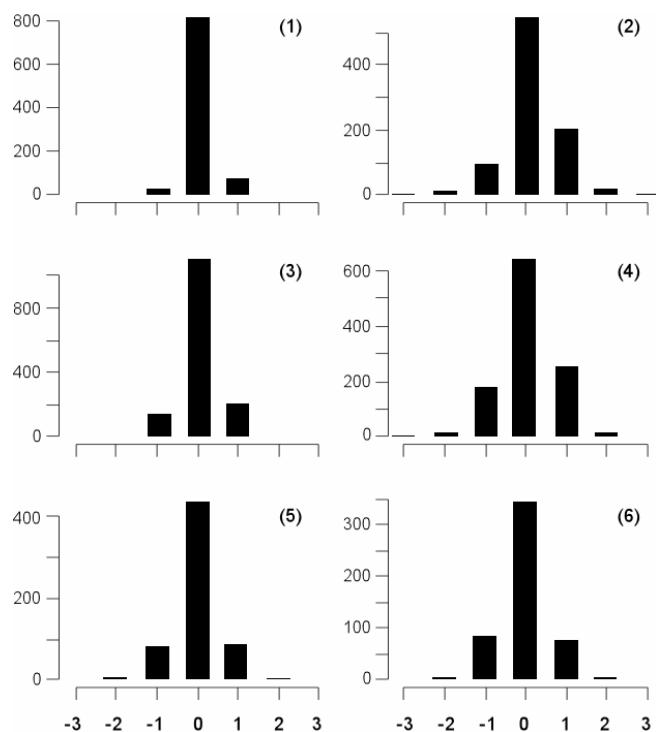


Fig. 24: Distribution of differences between observed and predicted impact class for each fish type (in brackets).

The percentage of sites for which the discrepancy between observed and predicted impact class was more than one class ranged from 0% (fish types 1 and 3) to 4.1% (fish type 2) (Fig. 24).

9. Conclusions

- Based on fish species composition, 6 main fish types were revealed by cluster analysis. These types could be separated along the longitudinal (upstream-downstream) gradient.
- The separation of the clusters, based on physiographic characteristics, was significant, but these clusters were highly overlapping.
- We measured impact level by the mean of five anthropogenic criteria, coded in five classes afterwards.
- For each fish types, we screened the response to degradation for all fish metrics, retaining only those exhibiting highly significant responses. Then we eliminated redundancy among metrics by performing discriminant analysis with a stepwise procedure. Only metrics that significantly discriminated among the different impact classes were retained. The number of selected metrics varied from 13 to 19 according to the fish type.
- We used discriminant analysis to predict an expected impact level and we compared this prediction to the observed impact.
- Globally, this approach well predicted impact class for 64% of the sites. When discrepancy was observed, the difference between observed and predicted impact was more than one class only for 2.5% of sites. This percentage ranged from 0 to 4.1% among fish types.
- When grouping impact classes into two ecological statuses, 91.3% of the sites were well classified into “impacted” or “not impacted” status. This percentage ranged from 82.8 % to 98.9 % among fish types.

Annex 1 : List of “*all species metrics*” correlated with impact class (Spearman correlation, $P<0.0003$ after Bonferroni correction).

metric	Fish type						metric	Fish type					
	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6
N_sp_all	x	x	x			x	n_sp_Fe_pisc		x		x		
N_sp_native	x	x	x	x	x		perc_sp_Fe_pisc		x				
Perc_sp_native	x	x	x	x			n_ha_Fe_pisc		x		x		
Density_sp_all	x			x			perc_nha_Fe_pisc						
Biom_sp_all	x			x			kg_ha_Fe_pisc		x		x		
Density_sp_native	x			x			perc_kgha_Fe_pisc		x				
Biom_sp_native	x	x	x	x			n_sp_Fe_insev		x	x	x	x	
Density_sp_alien	x	x	x	x	x		perc_sp_Fe_insev		x	x	x	x	x
Biom_sp_alien	x	x	x	x			n_ha_Fe_insev		x	x	x	x	x
n_sp_Intol	x	x	x	x	x		perc_nha_Fe_insev		x	x	x	x	x
perc_sp_Intol	x	x	x	x	x		kg_ha_Fe_insev		x	x	x	x	x
n_ha_Intol	x	x	x	x	x		perc_kgha_Fe_insev		x	x	x	x	x
perc_nha_Intol	x	x	x	x	x		n_sp_Fe_omni		x	x	x	x	x
kg_ha_Intol	x	x	x	x	x		perc_sp_Fe_omni		x	x	x	x	
perc_kgha_Intol	x	x	x	x	x		n_ha_Fe_omni		x	x	x	x	x
n_sp_Tol	x	x	x	x	x		perc_nha_Fe_omni		x	x	x	x	
perc_sp_Tol	x	x	x	x	x		kg_ha_Fe_omni		x	x	x	x	
n_ha_Tol	x	x	x	x	x		perc_kgha_Fe_omni		x	x	x	x	
perc_nha_Tol	x	x	x	x			n_sp_Mi_long		x	x	x		
kg_ha_Tol	x			x			perc_sp_Mi_long		x				
perc_kgha_Tol	x	x	x	x			n_ha_Mi_long		x	x	x		
n_sp_Hab_wc	x	x	x		x		perc_nha_Mi_long		x	x			
perc_sp_Hab_wc							kg_ha_Mi_long		x	x			
n_ha_Hab_wc	x			x			perc_kgha_Mi_long		x	x			
perc_nha_Hab_wc	x	x					n_sp_Mi_potad		x	x	x		
kg_ha_Hab_wc	x			x			perc_sp_Mi_potad		x	x	x		
perc_kgha_Hab_wc	x	x	x	x			n_ha_Mi_potad		x	x	x		
n_sp_Hab_b	x	x		x			perc_nha_Mi_potad		x	x			
perc_sp_Hab_b	x			x			kg_ha_Mi_potad		x	x			
n_ha_Hab_b	x	x	x		x		perc_kgha_Mi_potad		x	x	x		
perc_nha_Hab_b	x	x	x				n_sp_hist		x	x	x		
kg_ha_Hab_b	x	x	x		x		perc_sp_hist		x	x	x		
perc_kgha_Hab_b	x	x	x				perc_histsp_intol		x	x	x		
n_sp_Hab_rh	x	x	x	x	x		perc_histsp_tol		x		x		
perc_sp_Hab_rh	x	x	x	x	x		perc_histsp_hab_wc		x	x	x		
n_ha_Hab_rh	x	x	x		x		perc_histsp_hab_b		x	x	x		
perc_nha_Hab_rh	x	x	x	x	x		perc_histsp_hab_rh		x	x	x		
kg_ha_Hab_rh	x	x	x	x			perc_histsp_hab_li		x	x	x	x	
perc_kgha_Hab_rh	x	x	x	x			perc_histsp_hab_eury		x		x		
n_sp_Hab_li	x	x	x	x			perc_histsp_re_lith		x	x	x		
perc_sp_Hab_li	x	x	x	x			perc_histsp_re_phyt		x	x	x		
n_ha_Hab_li	x	x	x	x	x		perc_histsp_lon_ll		x		x		
perc_nha_Hab_li	x	x	x	x			perc_histsp_lon_si		x	x	x		
kg_ha_Hab_li	x	x	x	x	x		perc_histsp_fe_pisc				x		
perc_kgha_Hab_li	x	x	x	x			perc_histsp_fe_insev		x	x	x	x	
n_sp_Hab_eury	x	x	x	x			perc_histsp_fe_omni		x	x		x	

perc_sp_Hab_cury	x x x x	x x x x
n_ha_Hab_cury	x x x x	x x x x
perc_nha_Hab_cury	x x x x	
kg_ha_Hab_cury	x	x
perc_kgha_Hab_cury	x x x	
n_sp_Re_lith	x x x x x	
perc_sp_Re_lith	x x x x x	
n_ha_Re_lith	x x x x x	
perc_nha_Re_lith	x x x x x x	
kg_ha_Re_lith	x x x x x	
perc_kgha_Re_lith	x x x x x x	
n_sp_Re_phyt	x x x x x	
perc_sp_Re_phyt	x x x x x	
n_ha_Re_phyt	x x x x x	
perc_nha_Re_phyt	x x x x x	
kg_ha_Re_phyt	x x x x	
perc_kgha_Re_phyt	x x x x x	
n_sp_Lon_ll	x x x x x	
perc_sp_Lon_ll	x x x x x	
n_ha_Lon_ll	x x x x x	
perc_nha_Lon_ll	x	x
kg_ha_Lon_ll	x x	x
perc_kgha_Lon_ll	x x x x x	
n_sp_Lon_sl	x x x x x	
perc_sp_Lon_sl		
n_ha_Lon_sl	x x	x
perc_nha_Lon_sl	x	
kg_ha_Lon_sl	x x x	x
perc_kgha_Lon_sl	x	x

Annex 2 : List of “*sentinel species metrics*” correlated with impact class (Spearman correlation, $P<0.0002$ after Bonferroni correction).

metric	Fish type						metric	Fish type					
	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6
density_sp_sentinel_Abr_bra							perc_0plus_Huc_huc						
density_sp_sentinel_Alb_bip							perc_0plus_Leu_car						
density_sp_sentinel_Asp_asp							perc_0plus_Leu_cep						
density_sp_sentinel_Bar_bar							perc_0plus_Leu_idu						
density_sp_sentinel_Bar_bab					x	x	perc_0plus_Leu_leu						x
density_sp_sentinel_Bar_boc							perc_0plus_Leu_ple						
density_sp_sentinel_Bar_com							perc_0plus_Leu_pyr						
density_sp_sentinel_Bar_cyc							perc_0plus_Leu_sou						
density_sp_sentinel_Bar_gra							perc_0plus_Lot_lot						
density_sp_sentinel_Bar_gui							perc_0plus_Pho_pho						
density_sp_sentinel_Bar_haa							perc_0plus_Pse_sty						
density_sp_sentinel_Bar_mer			x				perc_0plus_Rut_rut						
density_sp_sentinel_Bar_pel							perc_0plus_Sal_flu						
density_sp_sentinel_Bar_scl							perc_0plus_Sal_sal						
density_sp_sentinel.Cho_arr							perc_0plus_Sal_far				x	x	x
density_sp_sentinel.Cho_lem							perc_0plus_Sal_tru						
density_sp_sentinel.Cho_mie							perc_0plus_Sal_lac						
density_sp_sentinel.Cho_nas			x				perc_0plus_Sal_alp						
density_sp_sentinel.Cho_pol							perc_0plus_San_luc						
density_sp_sentinel.Cho_tox				x			perc_0plus_Sil_gla						
density_sp_sentinel.Cho_will							perc_0plus_Squ Alb						
density_sp_sentinel.Cot_gob	x		x	x	x		perc_0plus_Thy_thy						
density_sp_sentinel.Cot_poe							perc_0plus_Vim_vim						
density_sp_sentinel.Eco_pyg			x	x			biom_sp_sentinel_Abr_bra						
density_sp_sentinel.Eso_luc							biom_sp_sentinel_Alb_bip						
density_sp_sentinel.Huc_huc							biom_sp_sentinel_Asp_asp						
density_sp_sentinel.Leu_car							biom_sp_sentinel_Bar_bar						
density_sp_sentinel.Leu_cep							biom_sp_sentinel_Bar_bab				x	x	
density_sp_sentinel.Leu_idu							biom_sp_sentinel_Bar_boc						
density_sp_sentinel.Leu_leu			x	x	x		biom_sp_sentinel_Bar_com						
density_sp_sentinel.Leu_ple							biom_sp_sentinel_Bar_cyc						
density_sp_sentinel.Leu_pyr							biom_sp_sentinel_Bar_gra						
density_sp_sentinel.Leu_sou							biom_sp_sentinel_Bar_gui						
density_sp_sentinel.Lot_lot							biom_sp_sentinel_Bar_haa						
density_sp_sentinel.Pho_pho							biom_sp_sentinel_Bar_mer				x		
density_sp_sentinel.Pse_sty							biom_sp_sentinel_Bar_pel						
density_sp_sentinel.Rut_rut							biom_sp_sentinel_Bar_scl						
density_sp_sentinel.Sal_flu							biom_sp_sentinel.Cho_arr						
density_sp_sentinel.Sal_sal							biom_sp_sentinel.Cho_lem						
density_sp_sentinel.Sal_far	x	x	x	x	x	x	biom_sp_sentinel.Cho_mie						
density_sp_sentinel.Sal_tru							biom_sp_sentinel.Cho_nas				x		
density_sp_sentinel.Sal_lac							biom_sp_sentinel.Cho_tox					x	
density_sp_sentinel.Sal_alp							biom_sp_sentinel.Cho_will						
density_sp_sentinel.San_luc							biom_sp_sentinel.Cot_gob	x	x	x	x		
density_sp_sentinel.Sil_gla							biom_sp_sentinel.Cot_poe						
density_sp_sentinel.Squ Alb													

density_sp_sentinel_Thy_thy	x	x						
density_sp_sentinel_Vim_vim							x	x
density_0plus_Abr_bra								
density_0plus_Alb_bip								
density_0plus_Asp_asp								
density_0plus_Bar_bar			x					
density_0plus_Bar_bab							x	x
density_0plus_Bar_boc								
density_0plus_Bar_com								
density_0plus_Bar_cyc								
density_0plus_Bar_gra								
density_0plus_Bar_gui								
density_0plus_Bar_haa								
density_0plus_Bar_mer		x						
density_0plus_Bar_pel								
density_0plus_Bar_scl							x	x
density_0plus_Cho_arr								
density_0plus_Cho_lem								
density_0plus_Cho_mie								
density_0plus_Cho_nas		x						
density_0plus_Cho_pol								
density_0plus_Cho_tox								
density_0plus_Cho_will								
density_0plus_Cot_gob	x	x	x	x			x	x
density_0plus_Cot_poe								
density_0plus_Eco_pyg								
density_0plus_Eso_luc								
density_0plus_Huc_huc								
density_0plus_Leu_car								
density_0plus_Leu_cep								
density_0plus_Leu_idu								
density_0plus_Leu_leu		x						
density_0plus_Leu_ple								
density_0plus_Leu_pyr								
density_0plus_Leu_sou								
density_0plus_Lot_lot								
density_0plus_Pho_ph								
density_0plus_Pse_sty								
density_0plus_Rut_rut								
density_0plus_Sal_flu								
density_0plus_Sal_sal								
density_0plus_Sal_far							x	x
density_0plus_Sal_tru								
density_0plus_Sal_lac								
density_0plus_Sal_alp								
density_0plus_San_luc								
density_0plus_Sil_gla								
density_0plus_Squ_alb								
density_0plus_Thy_thy								
density_0plus_Vim_vim								
presence_0plus_Abr_bra								
presence_0plus_Alb_bip								
presence_0plus_Asp_asp								
presence_0plus_Bar_bar								
presence_0plus_Bar_bab							x	
presence_0plus_Bar_boc								
presence_0plus_Bar_com								
presence_0plus_Bar_cyc								
presence_0plus_Bar_gra								
presence_0plus_Bar_gui								
presence_0plus_Bar_haa								
presence_0plus_Bar_mer								
presence_0plus_Bar_pel								
presence_0plus_Bar_scl								
presence_0plus_Cho_arr								
presence_0plus_Cho_lem								
presence_0plus_Cho_mie								
presence_0plus_Cho_nas							x	
presence_0plus_Cho_pol								
presence_0plus_Cho_tox								
presence_0plus_Cho_will								
presence_0plus_Cot_gob								
presence_0plus_Cot_poe								
presence_0plus_Eco_pyg								
presence_0plus_Eso_luc								
presence_0plus_Huc_huc								

perc_0plus_Alb_bip
 perc_0plus_Asp_asp
 perc_0plus_Bar_bar
 perc_0plus_Bar_bab
 perc_0plus_Bar_boc
 perc_0plus_Bar_com
 perc_0plus_Bar_cyc
 perc_0plus_Bar_gra
 perc_0plus_Bar_gui
 perc_0plus_Bar_haa
 perc_0plus_Bar_mer
 perc_0plus_Bar_pel
 perc_0plus_Bar_scl
 perc_0plus.Cho_arr
 perc_0plus.Cho_lem
 perc_0plus.Cho_mie
 perc_0plus.Cho_nas
 perc_0plus.Cho_pol
 perc_0plus.Cho_tox
 perc_0plus.Cho_will
 perc_0plus_Cot_gob
 perc_0plus_Cot_poe
 perc_0plus_Eco_pyg
 perc_0plus_Eso_luc

			x	
			x	
x	x	x	x	

presence_0plus_Leu_cep
 presence_0plus_Leu_idu
 presence_0plus_Leu_leu
 presence_0plus_Leu_car
 presence_0plus_Leu_ple
 presence_0plus_Leu_pyr
 presence_0plus_Leu_sou
 presence_0plus_Lot_lot
 presence_0plus_Pho_pho
 presence_0plus_Pse_sty
 presence_0plus_Rut_rut
 presence_0plus_Sal_flu
 presence_0plus_Sal_sal
 presence_0plus_Sal_far
 presence_0plus_Sal_tru
 presence_0plus_Sal_lac
 presence_0plus_Sal_alp
 presence_0plus_San_luc
 presence_0plus_Sil_gla
 presence_0plus_Squ_alb
 presence_0plus_Thy_thy
 presence_0plus_Vim_vim

				x
x	x	x	x	x