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Distribution of the European and American Mink in France

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Monitoring mink's populations: a basis for conservation actions

The 3rd National Action Plan (NAP) for the European Mink conservation in France 2021-2031 set two high priorities: define and lead a translocation strategy and fight against the spread of the American Mink.

Both need a good knowledge of species' distributions and their development, acquired through the involvement of a large partners network.



European Mink *Mustela lutreola*

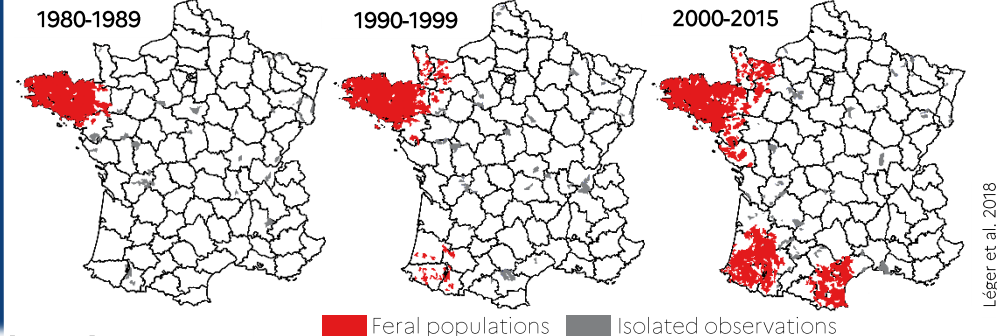
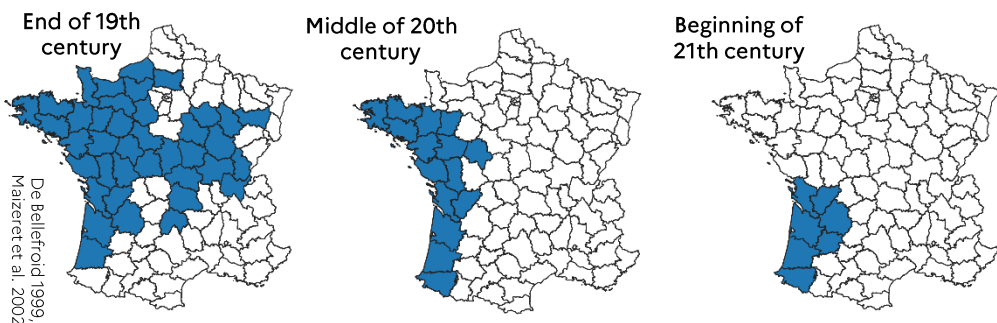
American Mink *Mustela vison*



Context

Drastic decline during the XXth century from 38 departments occupied to less than 11 now

Continuous expansion since the 1960's, 3 main populations surrounding European mink



Method

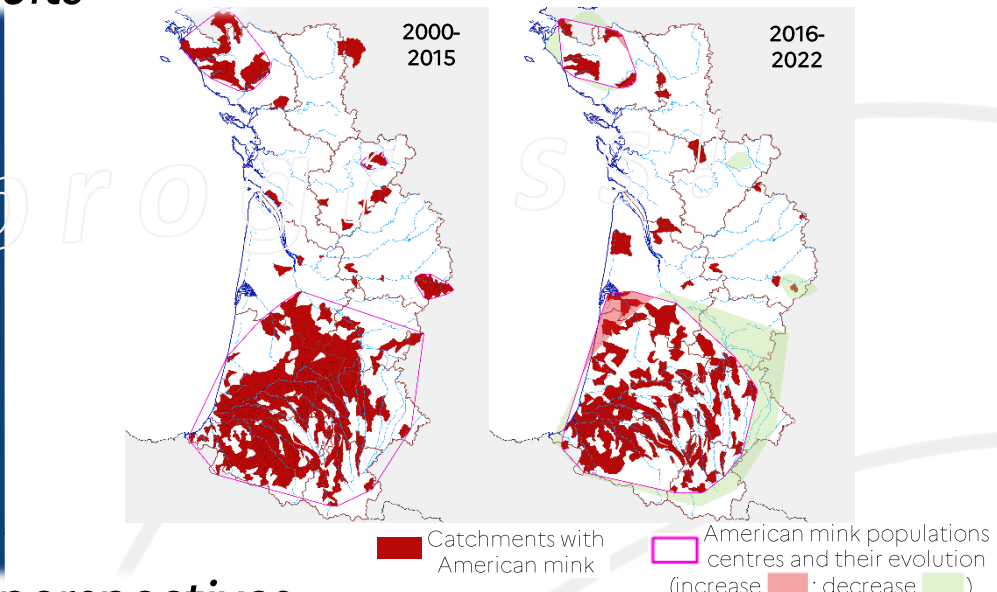
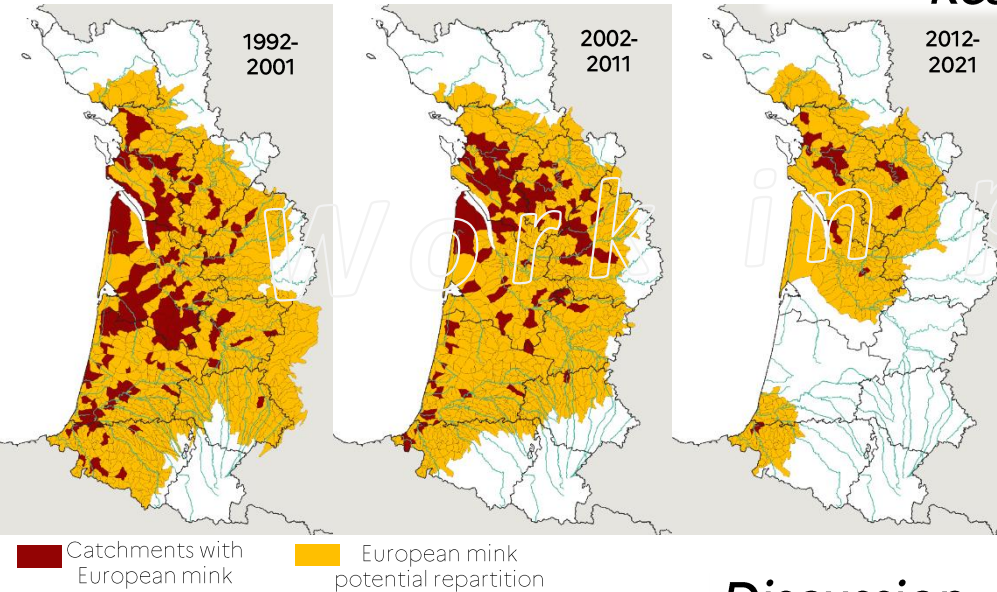
Available data: ongoing monitoring programs (trapping campaigns, hair and photo traps), road casualties, opportunistic observations - presence data 1992-2021

Available data: ongoing monitoring and control program (mink rafts deployed), trapping data, road casualties and opportunistic observations - presence data 2000-2022

Buffer around each data (35km – size under discussion), selection of intersected and surrounded catchments (scale under discussion): potential species repartition

Selection of catchments with presence data included in the NAP perimeter, population centres identified (MCP method – method and scale under discussion)

Results



Discussion - perspectives

American Mink presence all over European Mink repartition

European Mink still present in the South-western American Mink population centre!

Decrease of American Mink repartition on NAP perimeter: an efficient control program?

Monitoring of Mink's populations still needed for:

- Taking the European Mink into consideration in development and territory management plans
- Identify the best areas for future European Mink translocations
- Assess and improve the American Mink control strategy

Acknowledgement:
These results speak for the involvement of all the partners for European Mink conservation.

Photographic credits:
S. Beillard, GREGE

Cartographic framework:
BD Carto, BD Carthage, BD Topage

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