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Interactive comment on "Spatio-temporal assessment of the PCB sediment contamination in the four main French River Basins (1945–2018)" *by* André-Marie Dendievel et al.

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Many thanks to RC1 for his comments and critiques, which allowed to improve the quality of the manuscript. Based on your comments, major changes will be made to clarify and better explain the methodology of data collection and the handling of values below the quantification levels (in parts 2.2 and 2.4). The title of the paper will be modified as follows: "Spatio-temporal assessment of the PCB sediment contamination in four major French river corridors (1945-2018)". We will revise the design of the study regarding the presentation of socio-environmental data by summarizing or improving the elements of the new version of fig. 2 - spatial comparison of PCBs concentrations

C1

with geographical and socio-environmental drivers (former fig. 3 of the draft; see figure 1 attached to this answer). We will prepare a new version of fig. 5 – PCBi specific fluxes and load histograms (former fig. 6 of the draft; see figure 2 attached to this answer). In parallel, we will review part 3 (results) of the draft. The former fig. 1 will be converted into a supplementary figure (suppl. Fig. 1 - see figure 3 attached). We also propose to develop and add more references about the interpretations of the pollution sources on the Lower Seine River. We will revise the text dealing with the interpretations of PCBs production and emission along the Rhône River. Then, we will rewrite the second part of the discussion (part 4.2) to include a comparison between the contamination of the sediment by PCBs and the implications for biota from the source to the estuary on the studied rivers.
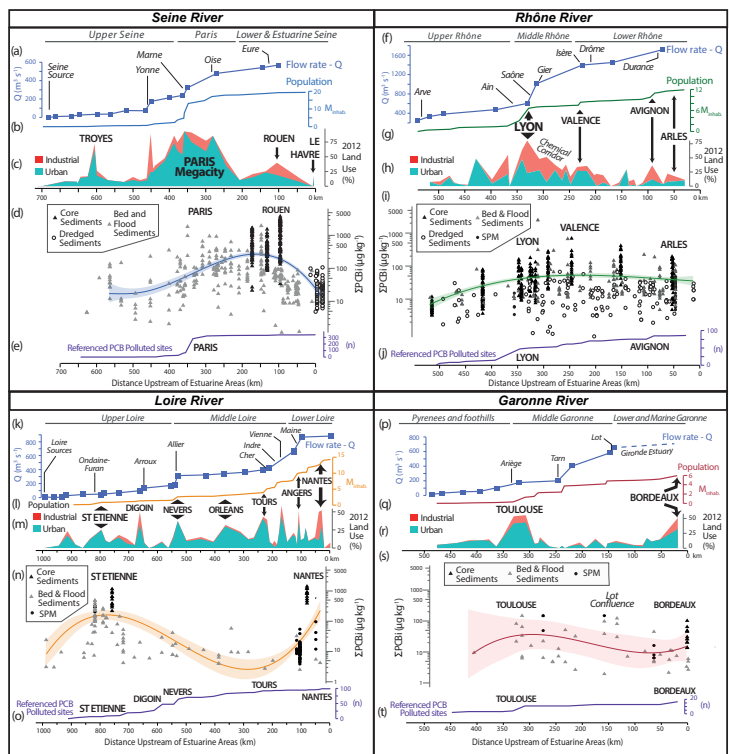
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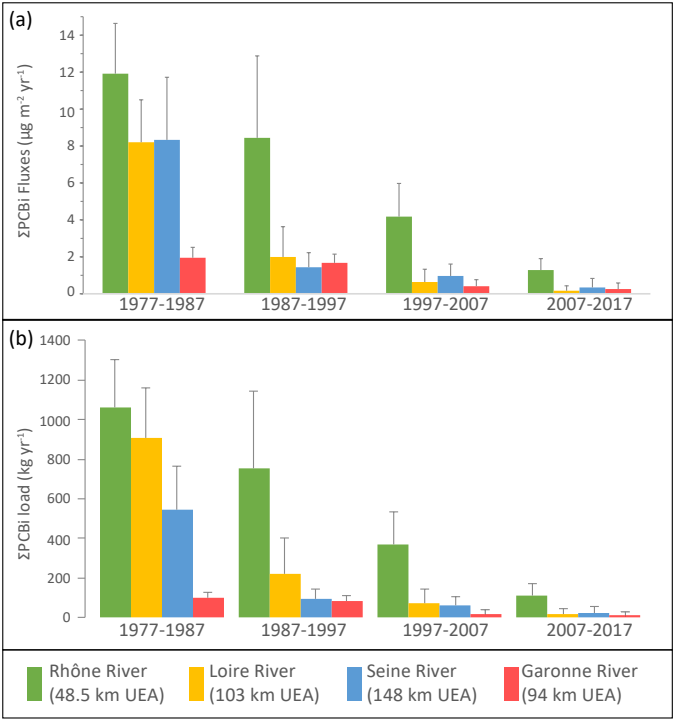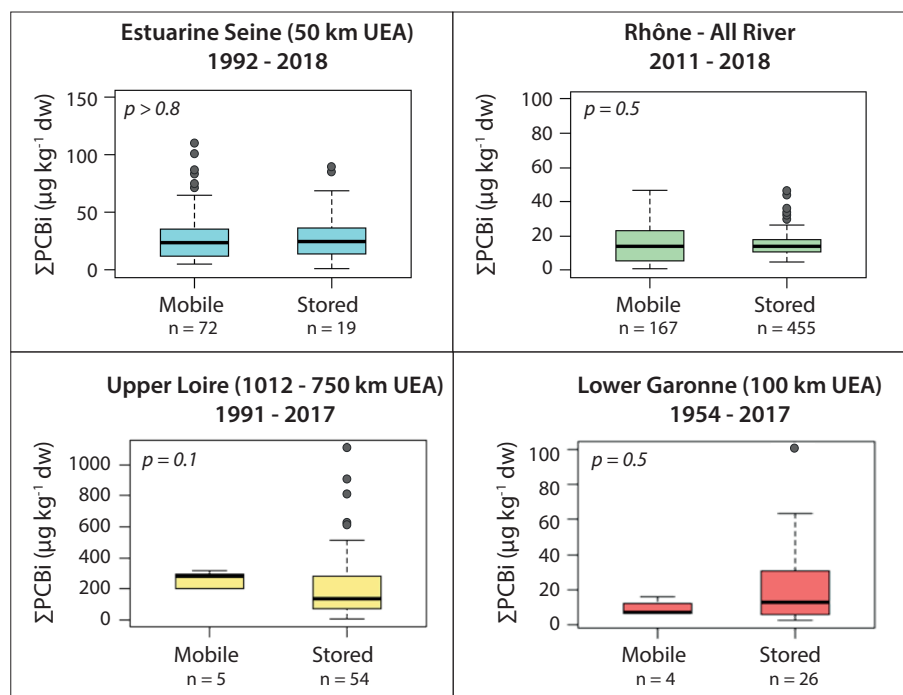
Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

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