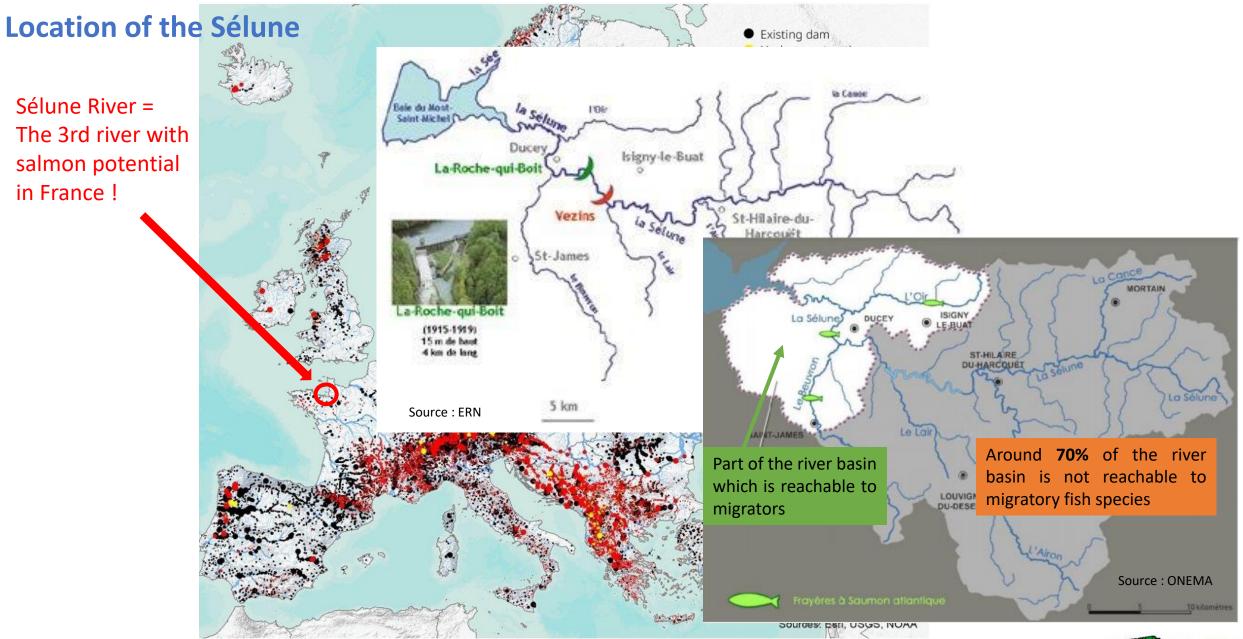
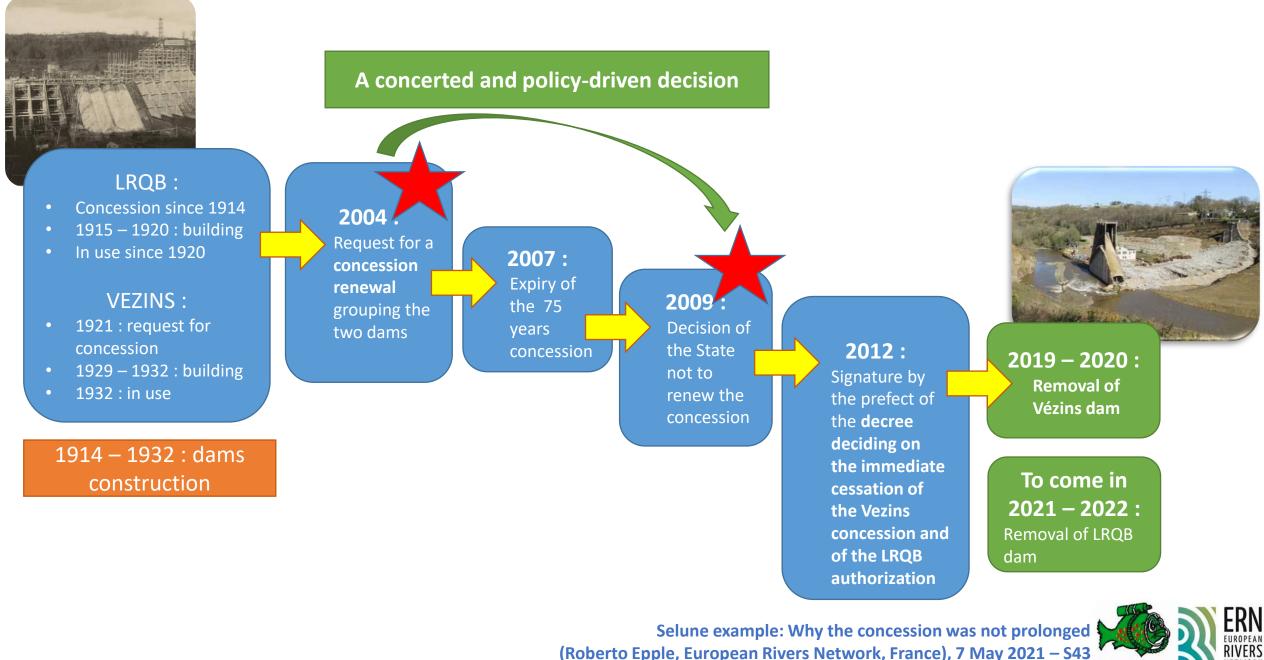
Selune example: Why the concession was not prolonged (Roberto Epple, ERN, France)







Timeline of the Vézins and La-Roche-qui-Boit (LRQB) dams removal



(Roberto Epple, European Rivers Network, France), 7 May 2021 – S43

Details of the decision process and the stakeholders

2009:

Decision not to renew the concession **2012**: Signature of the decree for dam removal

2010

The Sélune is considered as a **national example** in the framework of the **convention for sustainable hydroelectricity.**

The Sélune river is classified in the **priority protection zone for eels.**

The state, which is the owner of the Vézins dam, is **required to restore continuity by 2013** (such as EDF previously)



2006

Cost/benefit analyses are made. The conclusion is unfavourable to the maintenance of dams.

Implementation of the law for water and aquatic environments which provides the legal framework for the restoration of the Sélune.

EDF is **required by the prefect** to restore continuity.

2007

EDF states that it is **technically impossible** to restore continuity.

End of the Concessions.

The State approves the Sélune management plan and thus **the removal of the dams.**

2005

The Local Water Commission takes position in favor of the removal of the two dams by 2013.



What are the arguments for the removal of the dams?

Environmental arguments :

- Continuity :
 The Selune river is the 3rd french river with salmon potential, and also hosts other protected migratory species, but only 30% of the basin is open to migratory fish
- The studies state that
 there is no technical
 solution to restore
 continuity



Legislation :

- **Continuity**:
- Classified in priority protection area for the european eel
 - Art. L.432-6 classification
 - It is impossible to achieve
 the 2015 objectives of the
 Water Framework Directive
 if the dams are maintained,
 regarding water quality and
 aquatic ecosystems
 conservation.

Social and economical arguments :

- Hydropower :
- Low capacity of the plants
- Social benefits :
- Fishing
- other renewable energy sources
- Conversion of tourism





Main dams in the Loire River Basin and their status : in use, refurbished, removed, abandoned

