



MEGA-BASINS TOUR

In preparation for the mobilization from July 16th to 21st, 2024,
in the Poitou region of France

Who are we ?



BASSINES NON MERCI

Informal collective:

- fighting against the construction of mega-basins,
- very active in Poitou region
- made up of citizens, and dozens of organizations (associations, unions, political parties, etc).



A united common front since August 2021



LES SOULÈVEMENTS DE LA TERRE

A composition of heterogeneous forces at the crossroads of :

- protesting territories
- the environmentalist movement
- farmers' unionism
- youth in revolt

What is a mega-basin?



- Craters up to 20 hectares in size and 10 meters high, fully plasticized
- Mega-basins are not filled by rainwater
- They pump directly from the groundwater table and from river in winter
- They are 70% subsidized by public money (which represents over €75 million in total)



What is a mega-basin?





Mega-basins feed agro-industry, not human beings

- They benefit only 5% of the farms in France.
- They were invented to maintain intensive production agriculture alive, with corn monocultures and animal battery-farms. They feed large-scale farms serving a mainly export-oriented model that does not contribute to food sovereignty.
- They are inadequate summer crops, requiring ever more water when it is least available.
- They are crops fed by chemical inputs sold by Monsanto and others.



What consequences ?

- Resources are overexploited
- Rivers dry up more than half the year
- Ecosystems are destroyed (wetlands, loss of biodiversity, artificialization of land, etc.)
- Inequitable water sharing and drinking water supply problems
- Degradation of water quality (linked to synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, eutrophication of water, etc.)



Tourbière du Bourdet à sec 06/08/2020 - Zone protégée par un arrêté de protection de biotope



Why act now ?

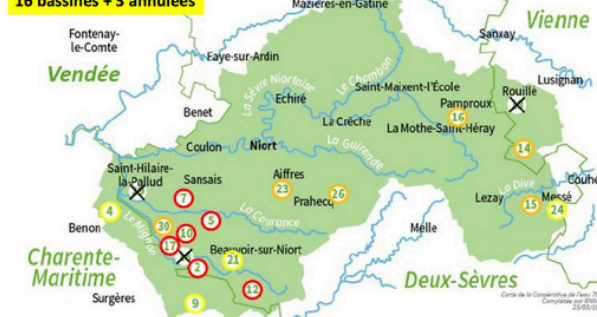
- The aim is to extend these projects to the whole of France.
- 93 of these mega-basins are planned in the Poitou region over the next 2 years
- A thousand are planned in France within the decade
- In the department 79 of France, work on the first mega-basin at Mauzé-sur-le-Mignon is complete, those of Sainte-Soline and Priaires are underway, and the one of Epannes has just started !



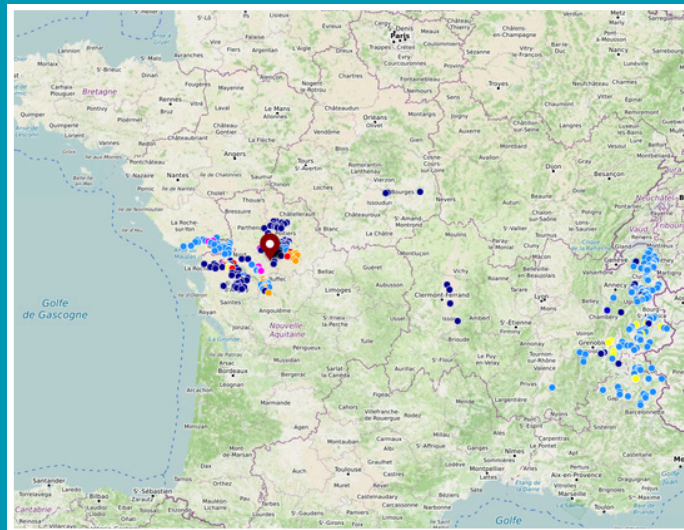
Carte des Bassins du projet Sèvre Niortaise - Mignon

Phases de construction mentionnées dans le protocole d'accord signé le 18/12/18

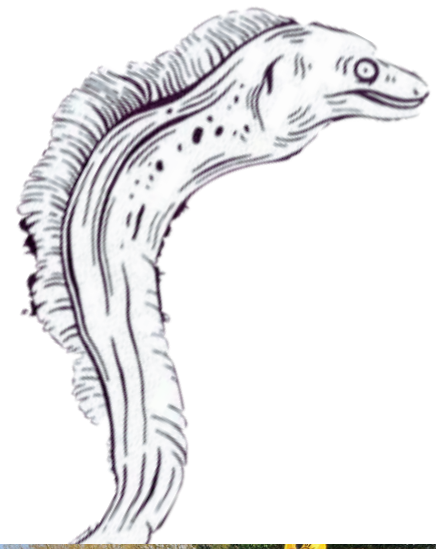
16 bassines + 3 annulées



- Phase 1 : Priaires (n°2), Epannes (n°5), Amuré (n°7), Mauzé (n°10), Belleville (n°12), Mauzé (n°17)
- Phase 2 : Mauzé (n°30), Mougou (n°26), Aiffres (n°23), St Sauvant (n°14), Ste Soline (n°15), Salles (n°16)
- Phase 3 : La Grève (n°4), St Félix (n°9), Messé (n°24), Prissé la charrière (N°21)
- × Annulées : Rouillé (n°13), St Hilaire (n°29), Useau (n°18)



Reviving past actions !



**Not one basin more !
Not here, not
anywhere !**



Since September 2021, a united front has been gaining strength to halt mega-basin projects.



September, the 21st

2021

Construction shutdown!

- A tractor convoy takes the road to Niort
- 750 people for the Gathering-Banquet in Niort
- Invasion of the construction site with people and animals
- A machine is repainted
- the PSIG (specialized units of the French Gendarmerie Nationale) is pushed back



November, the 6th

Taking the basin!

- Great mobilization with more than 4,000 people present and 20 tractors!
- One of the pumps feeding the illegal Cramchaban basin is dismantled by farmers
- Demonstrators invade the basin and collectively dismantle it
- A full and resounding victory, a demonstration of strength that we are a people's movement, fighting in large numbers for a socially and ecologically just society.



March, the 25/26/27th

2022

Maraichin Spring

- 7,000 people at La Rochénard
- Disarming the supply network for the future basin in Epannes, which will draw water to the detriment of the drinking water needs of Vallans residents.
- Prefectural bans did not mar the unprecedented scale and determination of this gathering



October, the 29/30th

**Not one basin more !
Sainte-Soline #1**

- Large-scale mobilization, with over 8,000 opponents and 150 organizations succeeding in gaining access to the biggest basin construction site currently underway
- 3 processions managed to successively overtake and pass numerous police lines and roadblocks
- Worksite at a standstill for ten days
- On Sunday, the pipes feeding the Sainte-Soline basin were disarmed by a thousand opponents



March, the 24/25/26th

2023

Sainte-Soline #2

- 30,000 demonstrators from all over France and beyond
- Fierce repression by the police, with 200 injured, 40 of them seriously, and 2 people in comas with life-threatening conditions
- Attempt by Interior Minister Darmanin to dissolve the SDT, sparking incredible solidarity and the creation of 200 local committees



July, from the 18th to the 24th

Water Convoy

- 700 bikes and dozens of tractors set off from the outskirts of Sainte-Soline to reach the Loire-Bretagne Water Agency, in several stages, to denounce the basin industry



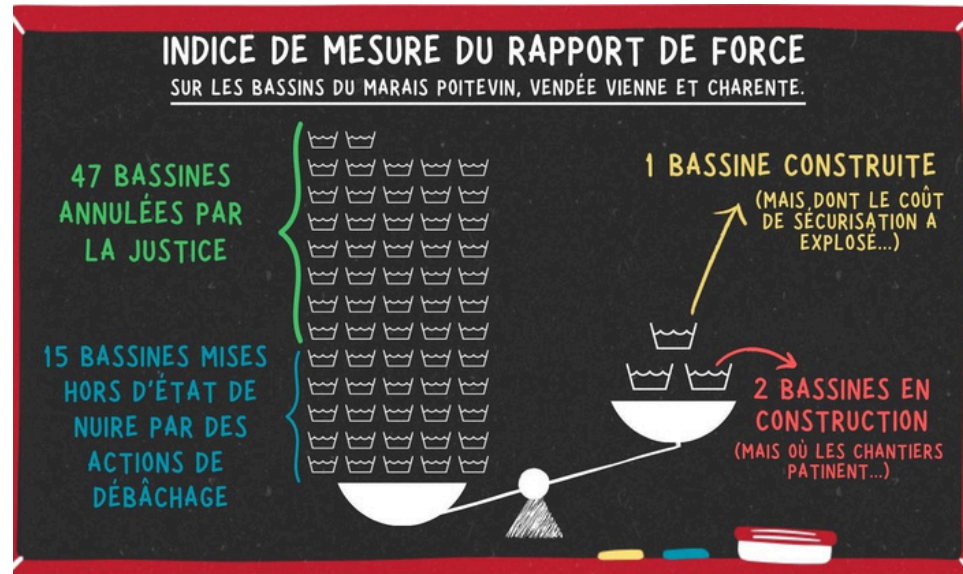
September, the 8th and November, the 28th

“Justice for Water” trial

- 3000 people, 4 trade unions (Confédération paysanne, CGT, Solidaires and FSU), alongside political organizations, associations and activists, expressed their unwavering support for the 9 defendants and their collective commitment to defending freedoms and water as a common good

What also happened during those 3 years !

- Legal action to cancel 16 basin projects in the Deux-Sèvres department
- 47 basins canceled by the administrative court in the Poitou region
- 15 basins disarmed in the Poitou region
- Tribunes of support (200 personalities + 65 scientists in rebellion)
- Counter-expertise of BRGM (Geological and Mining Research Bureau) study by the hydrogeologist Anne-Morwenn Pastier
- Decree dissolving SDT canceled
- 210 local SDT committees and 158,485 people declared their support for the SDT



What we want !

For our organizations and movements, a victory means the end of mega-basins and a return to collective, democratic water management that protects and shares water for priority and essential uses.



EAU
BIEN
COMMUN

- An immediate end to mega-basin projects and a halt to all work underway
- Support for farmers in the implementation of farming practices that retain water in the soil and keep irrigation requirements to a minimum
- Unlike current practice, the establishment of Territory Projects for Water Management (PTGE) free from the control of irrigators. The PTGE is not limited to agricultural uses of water, but covers all these uses, and even prioritizes the search for solutions to limit negative impacts on the resource
- We are calling for a prioritization of water uses towards animal watering and agricultural production that relocates food supplies and promotes agricultural employment, particularly in market gardening
- This prioritization must be accompanied by a radical reform of irrigation volume allocation systems. For all existing or future water consumptions, the volume granted must be capped according to the number of assets on the farm and the type of production. Ceilings must be determined at local level, according to the soil, climate and hydrogeological conditions of the area, and in line with water-saving practices

Next mobilization from the 16th to the 21st of July

2024



- **15-17: Autonomous convoys to denounce the Basin system (agro-industry, financiers, impact on the environment, etc.)**
- **16-21: A village to meet, show solidarity, prepare, act and build the future of our struggles**
- **19-20: Large-scale demonstrations and concerts on Saturday evening**

At a time when :

- legal victories are piling up,
- actions in the field continue,
- mobilizations are growing and collectives are being formed everywhere
- the scientific world has proven the unsuitability of these projects regarding global warming

LET'S PUT AN END TO MEGA-BASINS AND GET OUT IN FORCE THIS SUMMER IN THE POITOU REGION

STOP MEGA-BASINS



Teaser Video

STOP MEGA-BASINS

International mobilization from July 16 to 21, 2024

PRE-PROGRAM

WATER VILLAGE

Throughout the week at the water village, participate in :

- **Activist training** : care, legal, protest techniques, ...
- Meetings, film screenings, and workshops on 'basins', agro-industry, extractivism, river and soil life...
- Assemblies of collectives fighting against toxic industries: factory farms, concrete industry, logistics warehouses, high-speed networks, quarries...
- Collective support workshops for agricultural installation
- Storytelling walks, naturalistic and landscape walks
- Information booths from activist, associative, trade union, and political organizations
- Meeting for a planetary alliance of watersheds (Wednesday and Thursday by registration)
- Childcare with a space for families and childcare times

ROUND TABLES

with local and international guests

TUESDAY 16/07

WATER, QUALITY, QUANTITY:
STATE OF AFFAIRS AND TRANSCONTINENTAL RESISTANCE

Morning: Water quality and agriculture: from groundwater pollution to regenerative hydrology

Afternoon: Drought and water grabbing policies: impacts and uprisings in Spain and Latin America

THE EVENING

- **EVENING: TALES AND STORIES EVENING**

WEDNESDAY 17/07

ORGANIZING FOR WATER AND
LAND SHARING AT THE SCALE OF A WATERSHED

Morning: Water sharing, agri-tech, and resistance in the Jordan River Basin (Middle East)

Afternoon: Large dams: ending these weapons of domination. Stories of uprisings, dismantling, and Castor operations

THE EVENING

- **CONCERT: Gosseyn** (experimental music, blue jazz oriental rock), Z,z and z (super crazy rock)
- **CABARET QUEER** with Tata band.e and Cabaret Bad Bitch

THURSDAY 18/07

DISARMING MEGA-BASINS,
OPENING A BREACH IN THE AGRO-INDUSTRIAL MODEL

Morning: Piercing the mega-basin and its supply chain. Our counter-expertises

Afternoon: Global agricultural market and peasant revolts: what perspectives for agriculture?

IN THE EVENING

- **TRADITIONAL DANCE: Ciac boum** (neo-trad' from Poitou), Clume (polyphonic dance songs)
- **CONCERT: Eustache Mc Queer** (Lyrical electro-pop) • DJ's

FRIDAY 19/07

PROTEST ACTIONS

THE EVENING

- **CONCERT: Johnny Montreuil** (rock'n'roll), Billie Brelok (rap), Ultra-Moderne (feminist electro punk)

SATURDAY 20/07

PROTEST ACTIONS

THE EVENING

- **CONCERT: Orchestre tout puissant Marcel Duchamp** (jazz-punk-afro-beat-fanfare-trance), Lo Barrut (Occitan polyphonic songs), Beat Bouet Trio (Trad/Rap-Bagga)
- **CABARET: Le grand zanimo** (popular animal-themed ball) • Dance Floor and DJ's sets

SUNDAY 21/07

BUILDING COMMON PERSPECTIVES

Morning: Social security of food, alternative agricultural chamber, community water management: avenues for developing a peasant, nourishing, and sustainable agriculture

Afternoon: Declaration for a planetary alliance and grand assembly of water movements

To support the struggle: :

<https://www.helloasso.com/associations/association-pour-la-defense-des-terres/formulaires/4>

+ More info :

bassinesnonmerci.fr
lesmouvementsdelaterre.org



<https://line.me/STOPmegabassins>



PRACTICAL INFORMATION



**High naturalistic and groundwater protection stakes,
very low impact required on site**



**Use natural,
eco-friendly hygiene products**



Take your reusable cup



No swimming on site



No dogs on site



**No car camping on the village site,
trucks will be parked a few
kilometers away from the site**



ALL THE INFORMATION



Facebook
[Facebook BNM](#)
[Facebook SDT](#)

Twitter
twitter.com/BassinesNon
twitter.com/lessoulevements



Site

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