

African Swine fever in wild boar in Belgium

PAFF Committee 19-20 November 2020



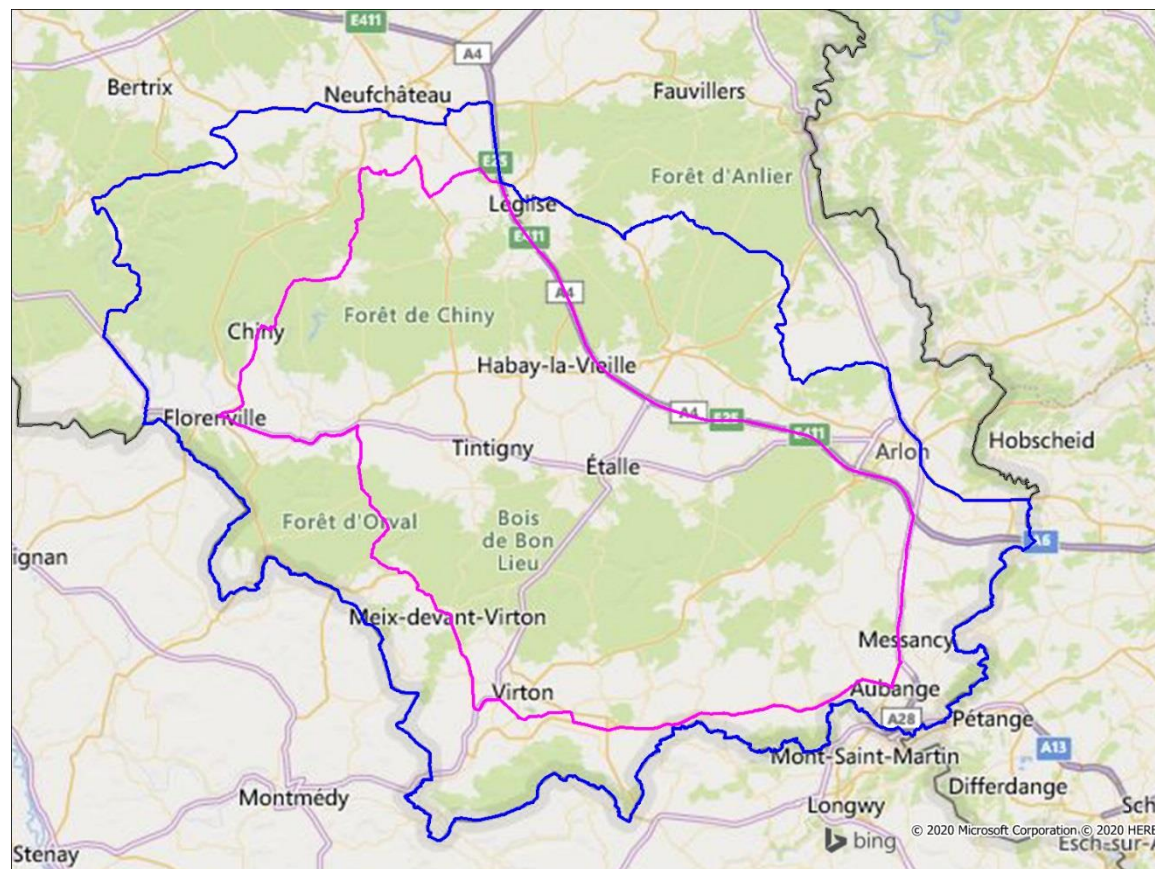
Short history

- First case in wild boar confirmed on 14 September 2018
- Immediate delimitation of a provisional infected zone
- Zones in Belgium added to part I and II of the annex of Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU on 27 November 2018
- Several extensions to the west and the north
- 15 May 2020: first reduction of the area in part II of the annex of CID 2014/709/EU



Areas in the annex of Decision 2014/709/EU

as modified by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/662 of 15 May 2020



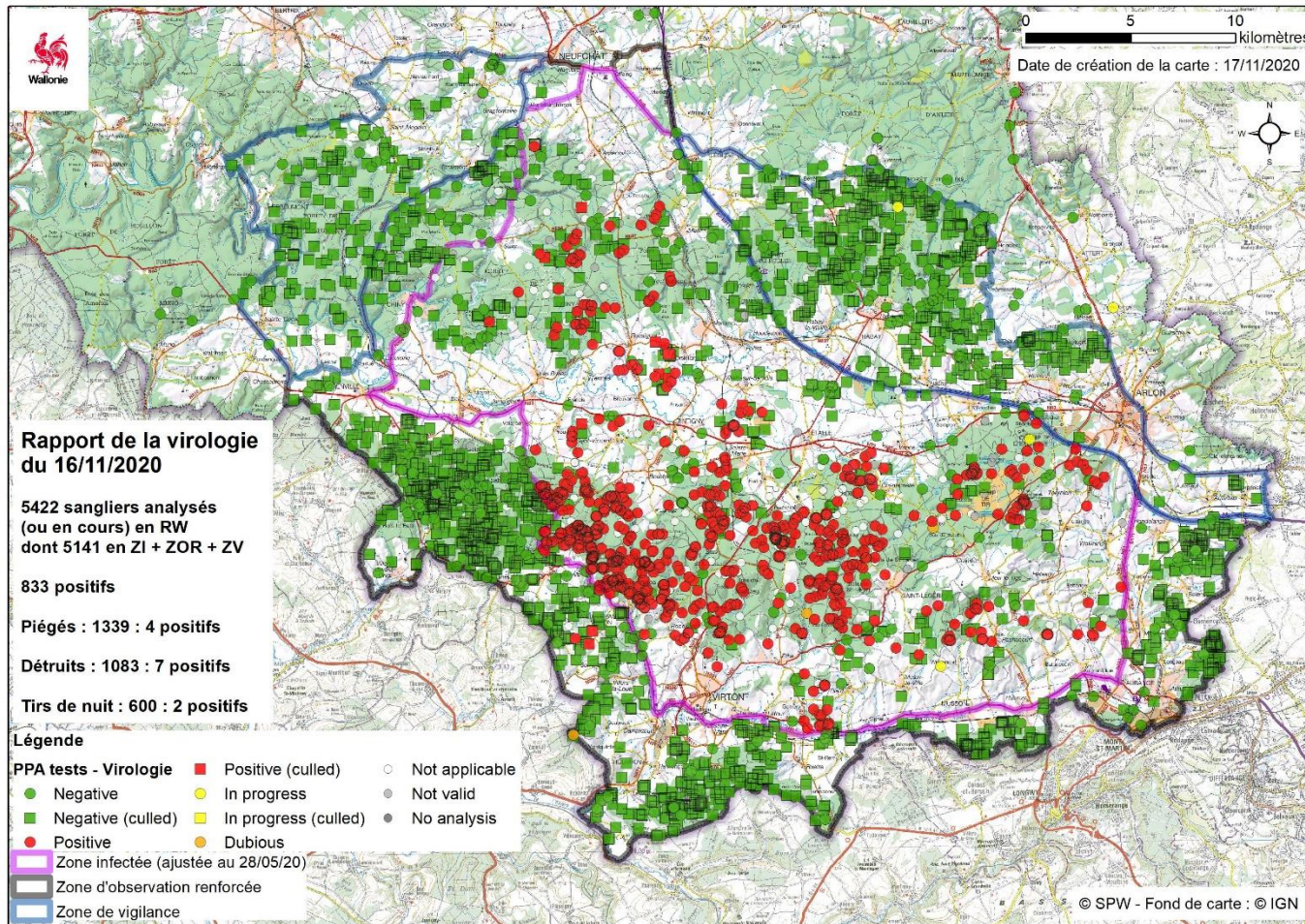
Confirmed cases in wild boar in the restricted zones

On 16 November 2020 :

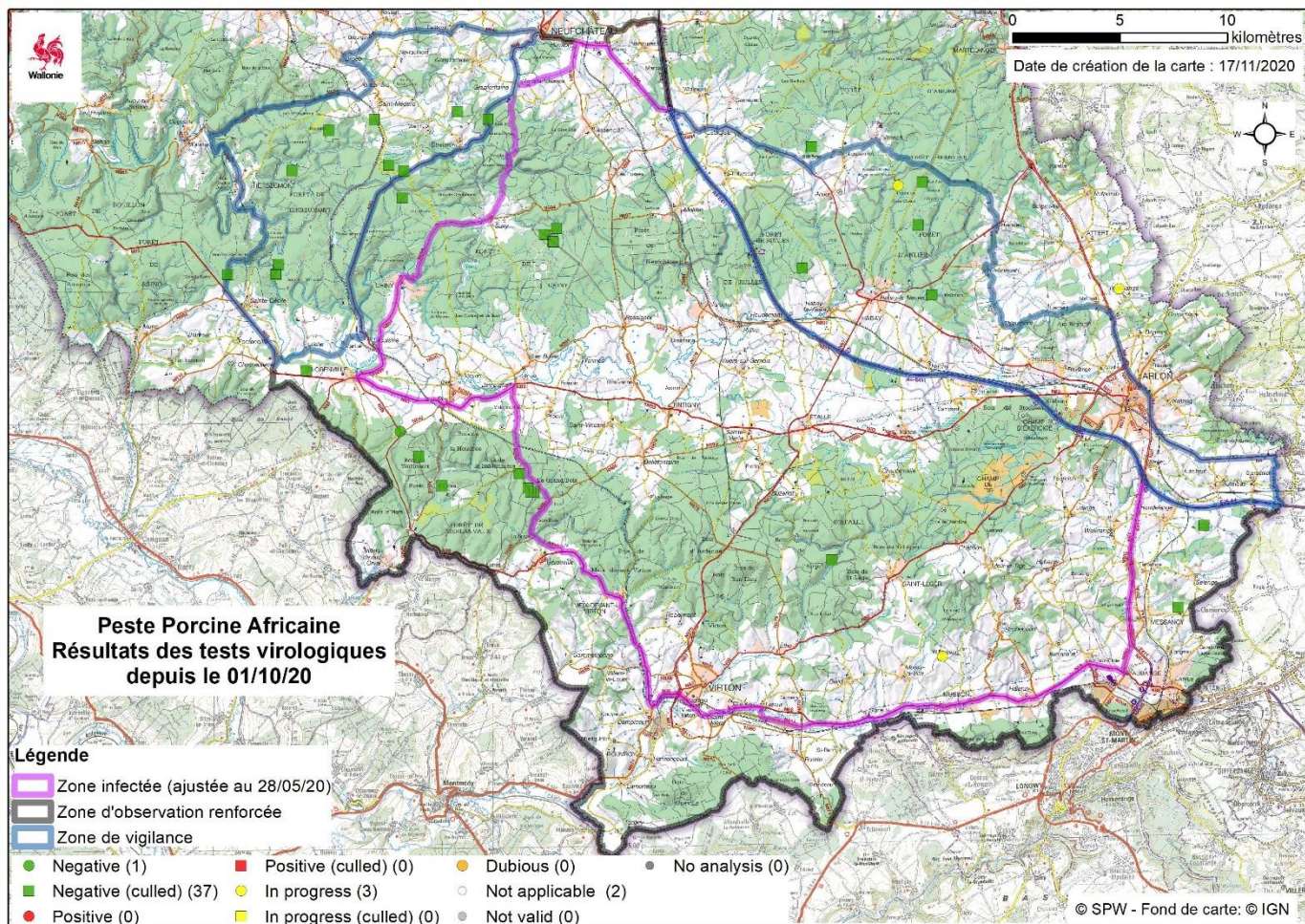
- 5 141 wild boars sampled in the restricted zones
- 833 confirmed cases of ASF in wild boar
- 1 083 wild boar culled: 7 positive for ASF (last one 11/08/2019)
- 1 339 wild boar captured: 4 positive for ASF (last one 21/06/2019)
- 600 wild boar shot at night: 2 positive for ASF (last one 15/04/2019)



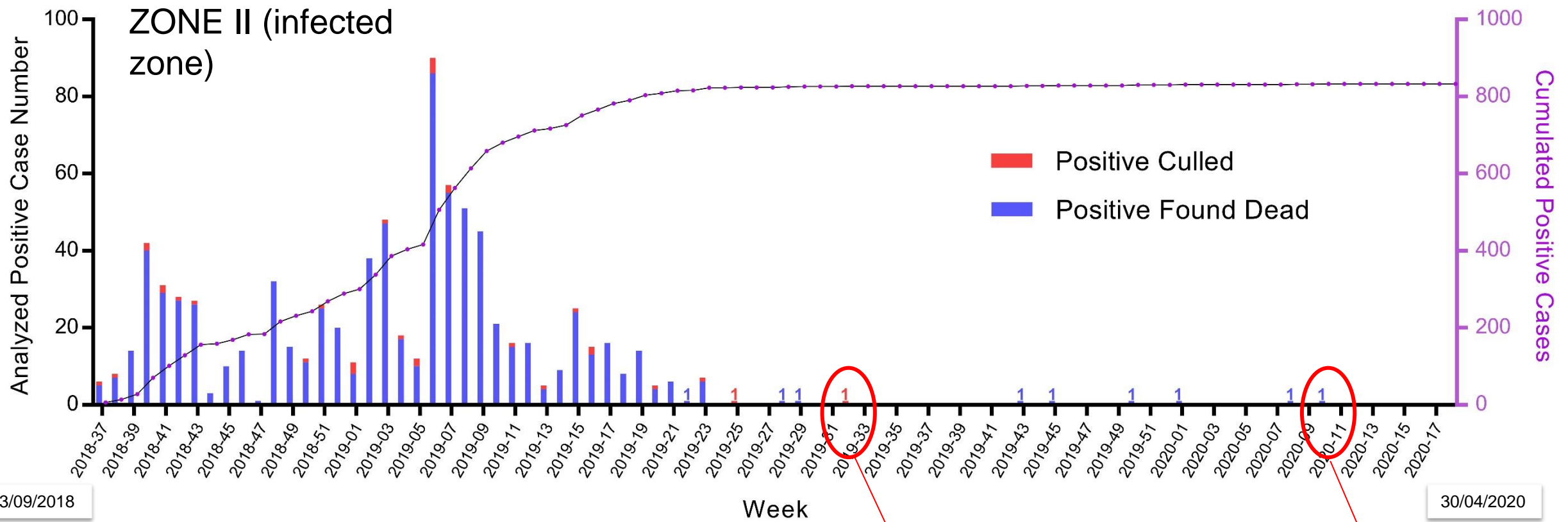
Confirmed cases in wild boar



Confirmed cases in wild boar since 1 October 2020



Weekly evolution of ASFV + → 30/04/2020



13/09/2018

30/04/2020

Last fresh ASFV + August 2019

Last bone ASFV + March 2020

A. Linden

Safety

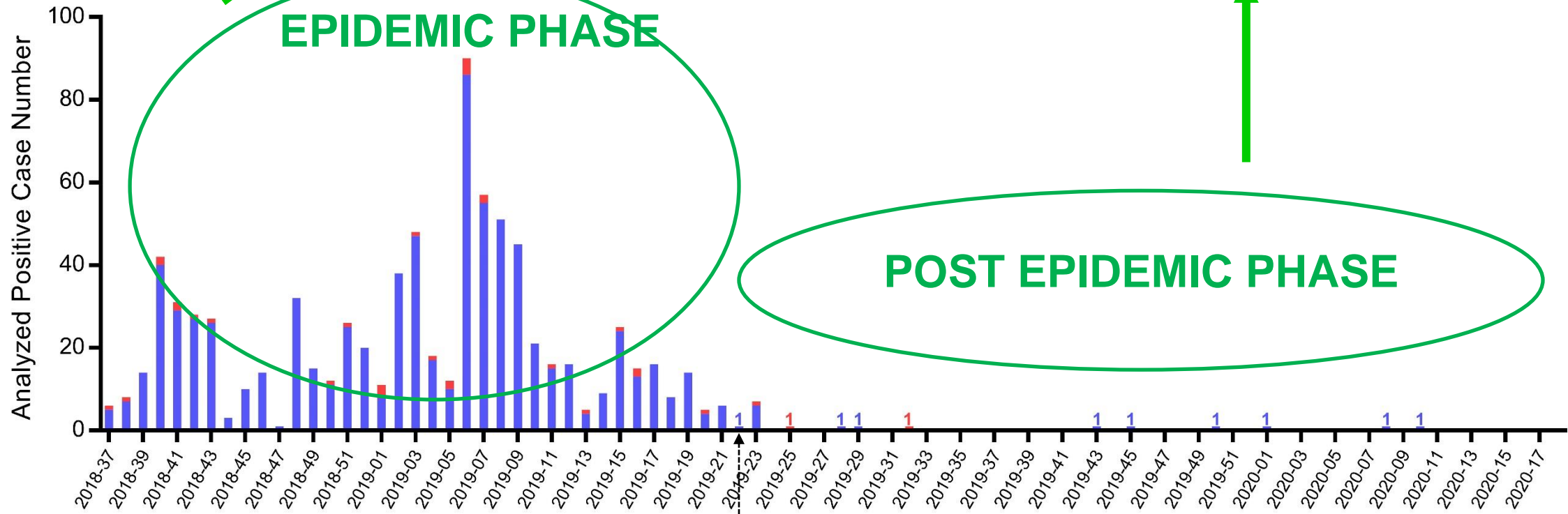


Adaptation of control measures to the epidemiological situation and the zones

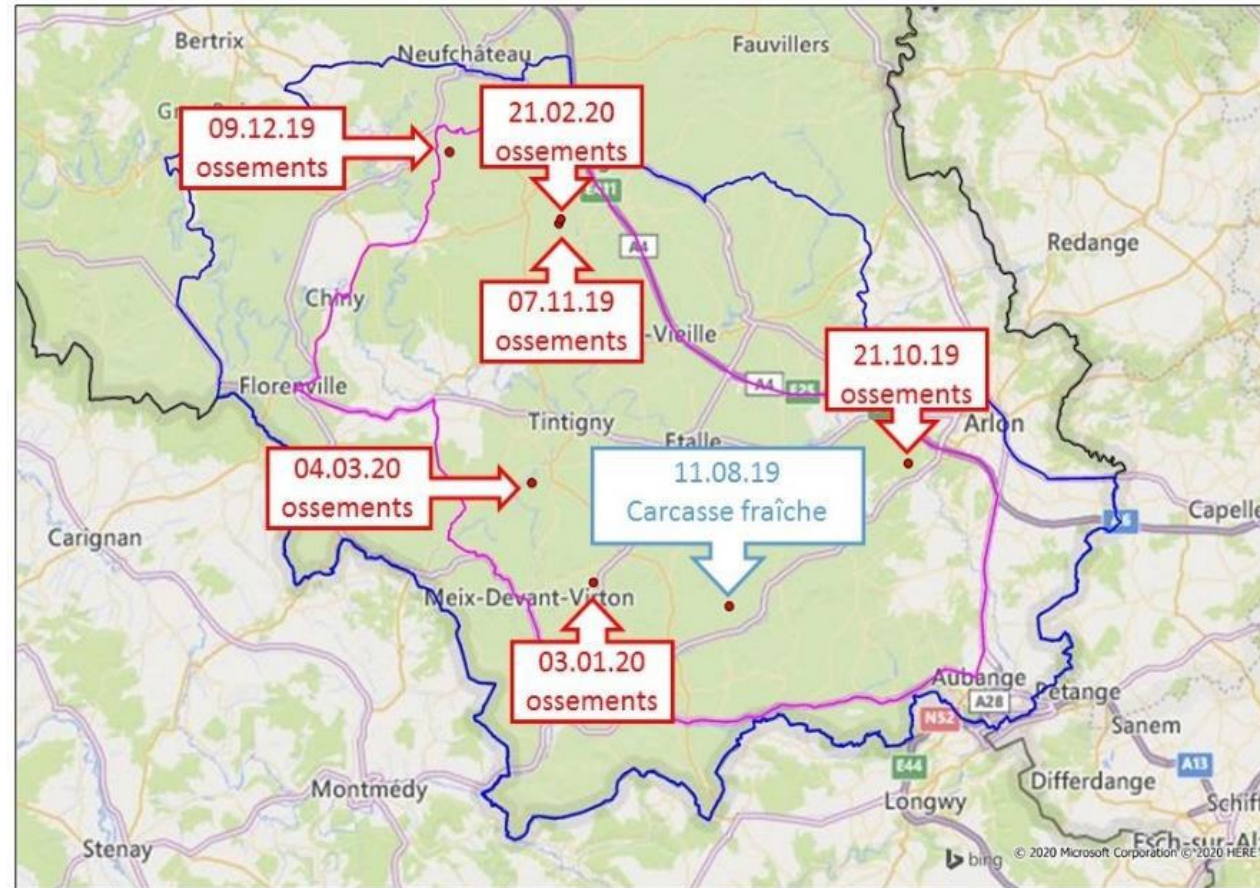
ZONE II (infected zone)

Early in the epidemic : ban on destruction

Today : full destruction of the « last » WB in the areas in part II to avoid endemic situation



Confirmed cases in wild boar since the 11th of August 2019



01-08-2019 - 31-08-2020



Confirmed cases in wild boar after the 11th of August 2019

6 cases:

- Dry bones
- qPCR ASFV were only slightly positive (Ct > 34)
- qPCR beta-actin (internal control) were negative (Ct > 45)
- Virus isolation negative at EURL
- Bones likely > 6 months old and no longer infectious

ASF virus has no longer been circulating in Belgium for the past 12 months



Main measures in the infected zone - Wild boar (Wal. Region)

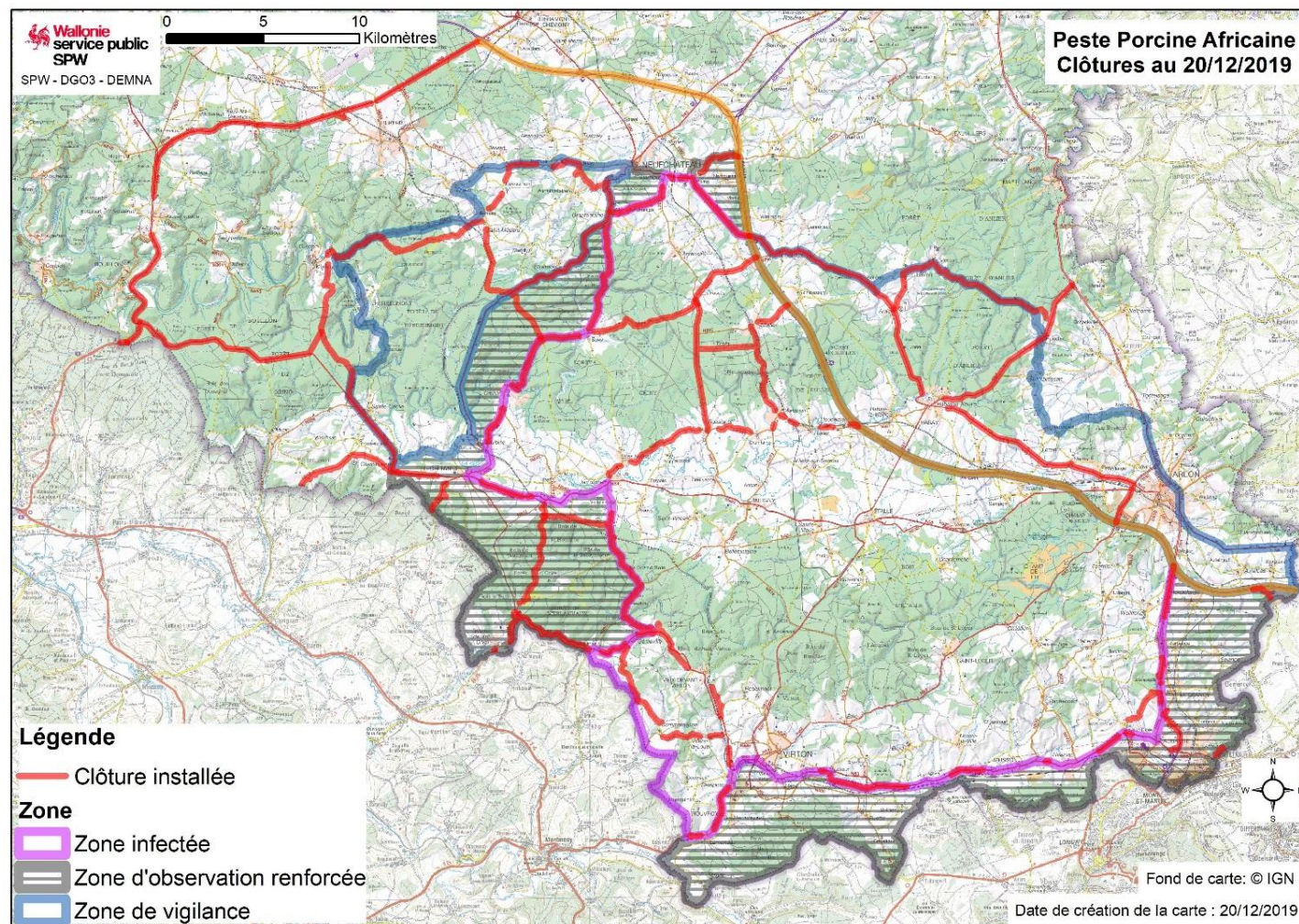
- Avoid disturbance of wild boar
- Searching, collection, testing and safe removal of all wild boar found dead
- All wild boar carcasses are destroyed (not allowed for consumption or trophies)
- Limiting the movements of wild boar by fencing
- Depopulation after the epidemic phase: trapping and culling of wild boar (night shot)
- Objective: elimination of all wild boar: 100-150 wild boar left in part II: fewer than 0.2 wild boar/km²



Main measures in the infected zone Wild boar (Wal. Region)

**Fences
Completed**

>300 km!



No outbreaks in domestic pigs!



National measures - Pigs

- Additional measures following the introduction of ASF
 - All assemblies of pigs prohibited (except for pigs for slaughter)
 - Only 1-1 transports of pigs (except to the slaughterhouse)
 - No visitors allowed to pig farms if not needed
 - All introduced pigs must pass quarantine
 - Increased surveillance: no treatment of sick pigs without sampling for ASF tests: 22 840 pigs tested on 2 959 pig farms: all negative!
 - Additional biosecurity requirements for small pigs farms as of 19 June 2020
 - Yearly biosecurity check of all pig farms by farm veterinarian (soon)
- Raising awareness of farmers, hunters and vets
- Biosecurity: special action in 2020



National action plan on wild boar management (in preparation)

- Passive and if needed active surveillance all over the country
- Fence network will remain in place at least until end of March 2022
- Population reduction of wild boar over the whole of Belgium will be continued: intensified hunting



Conclusions

- Measures for the control and surveillance of ASF are in place
- All concerned partners are actively involved
- Close collaboration with neighboring countries
- No virus circulation > 12 months
- **ASF has been eradicated in wild boar**
- Increased surveillance in domestic pigs continued
- Prepared in case an new introduction would occur



Thank you for your attention

