



HELCOM Stakeholder Conference 2025
A 'one Baltic' approach towards a sea
unaffected by hazardous substances
31 March 2025

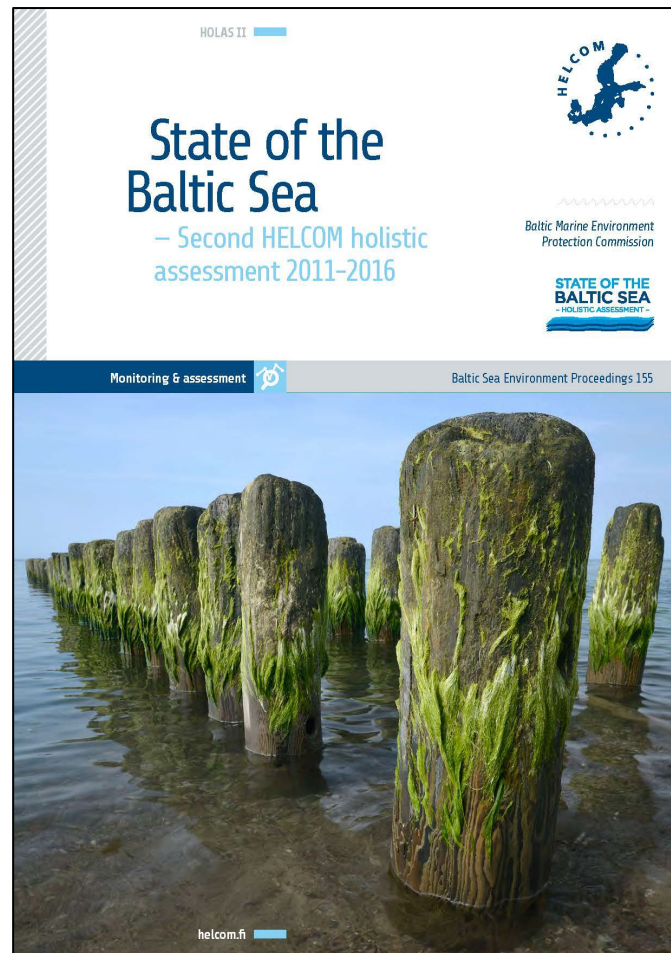
What is the current status of hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea?

Owen Rowe

HELCOM Secretariat

Holistic assessments

2018



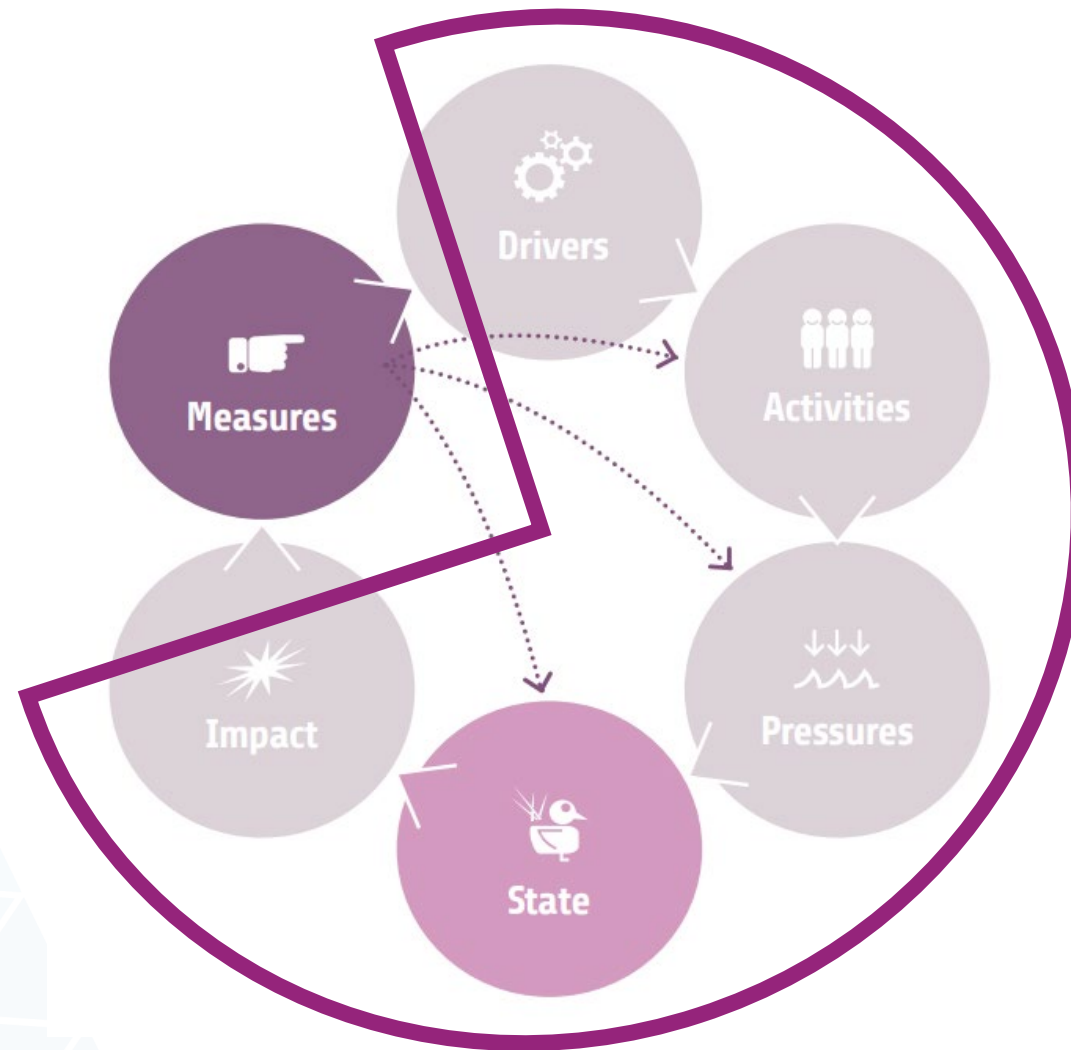
Data for 2011–2016

2023

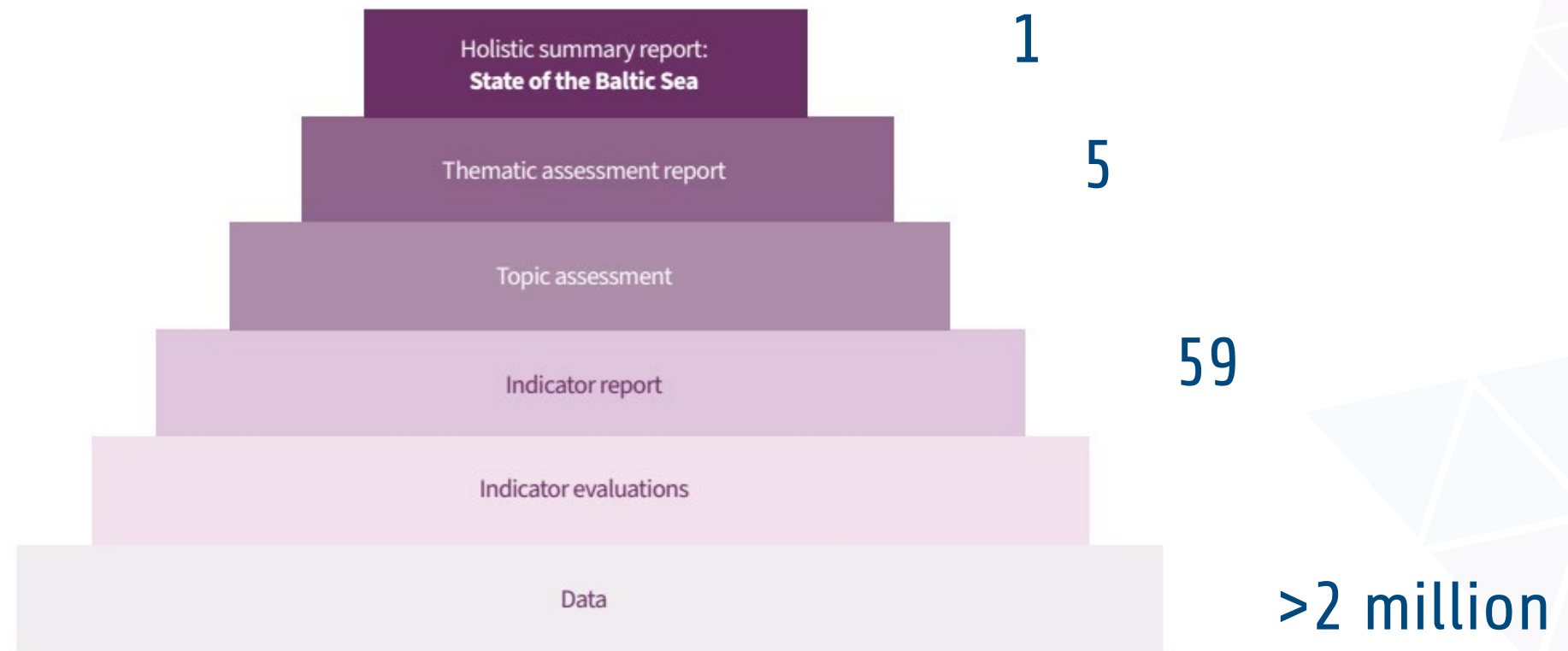


Data for 2016–2021

The DAPSIM conceptual management framework

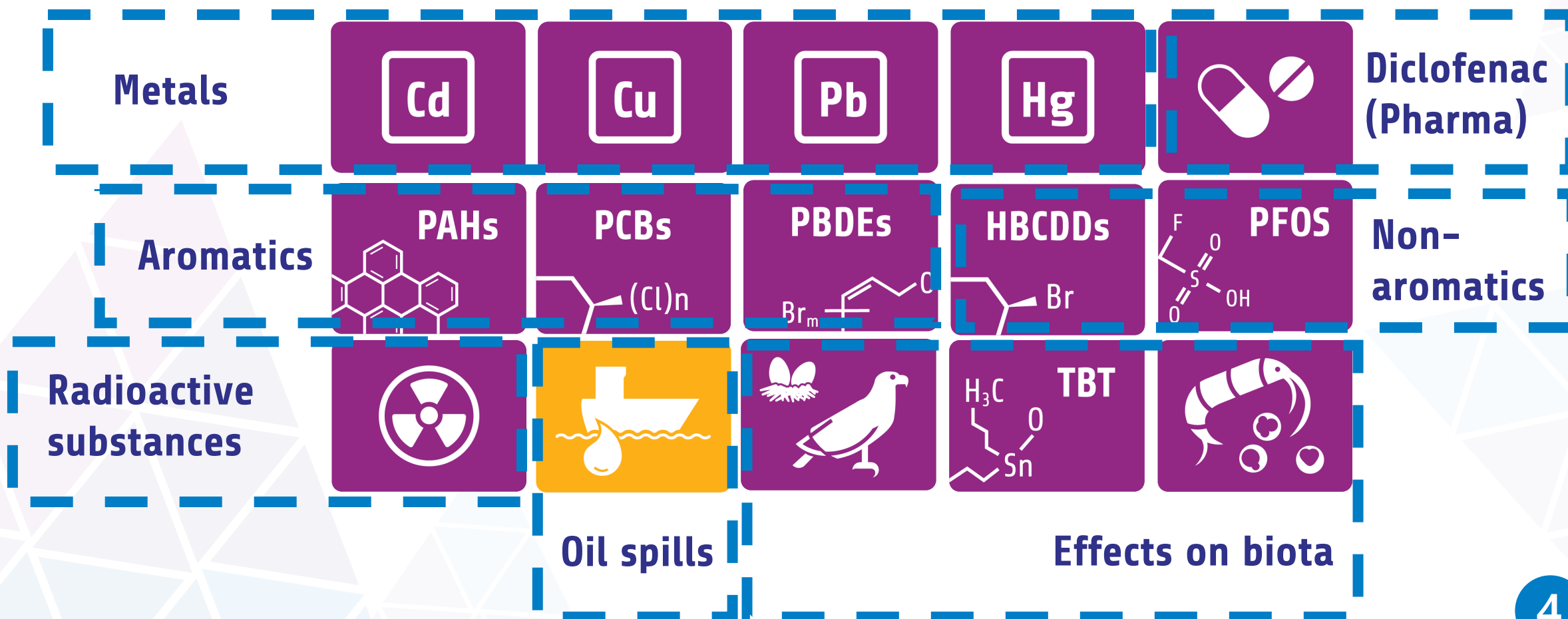


The structure of HOLAS 3



Close to 1000
regional experts

15 regionally agreed HELCOM indicators

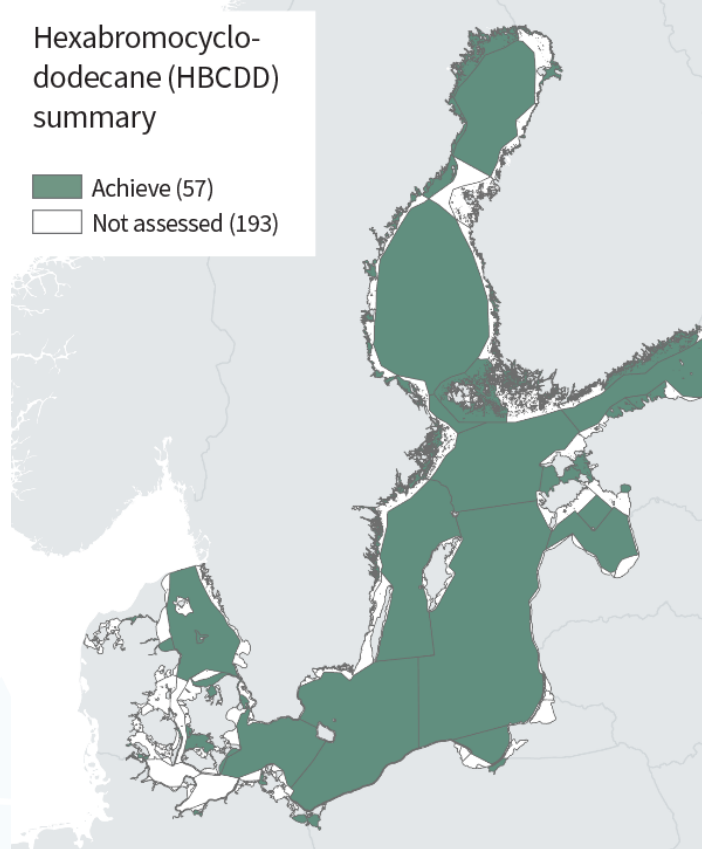


International assesment tool and regionally agreed threshold values



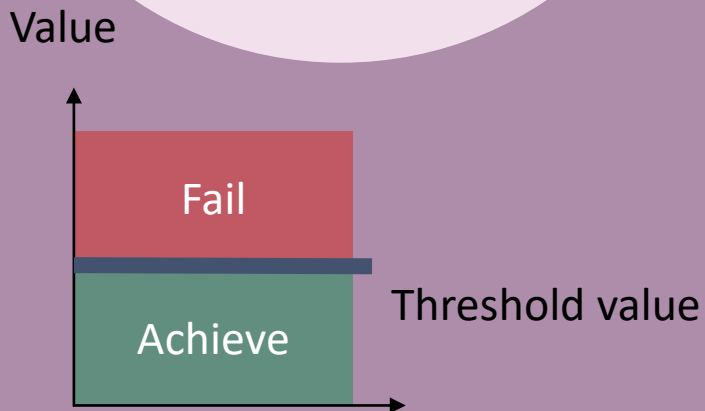
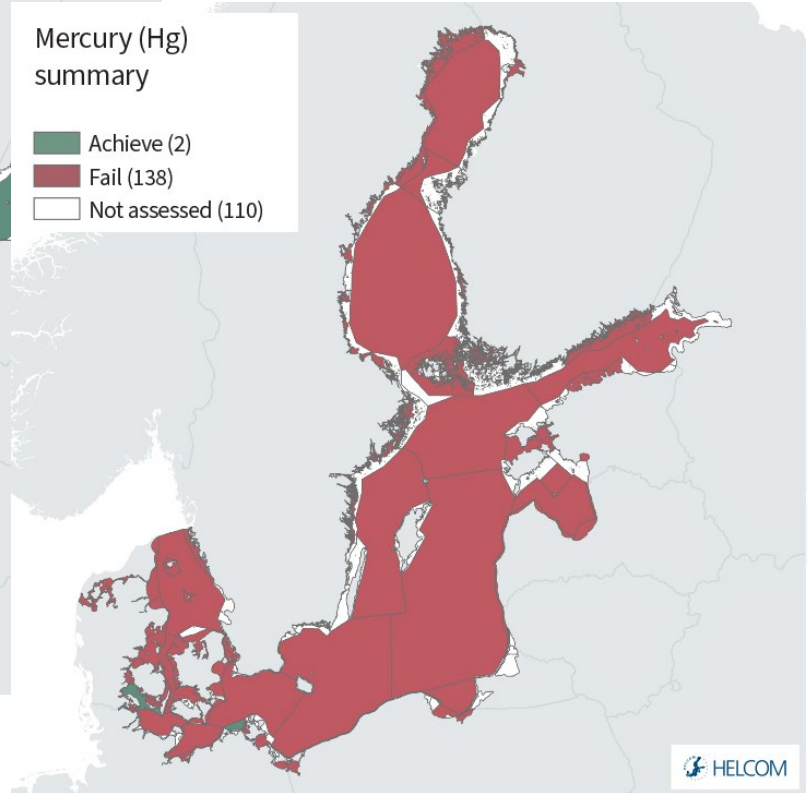
Hexabromocyclo-dodecane (HBCDD) summary

- Achieve (57)
- Not assessed (193)

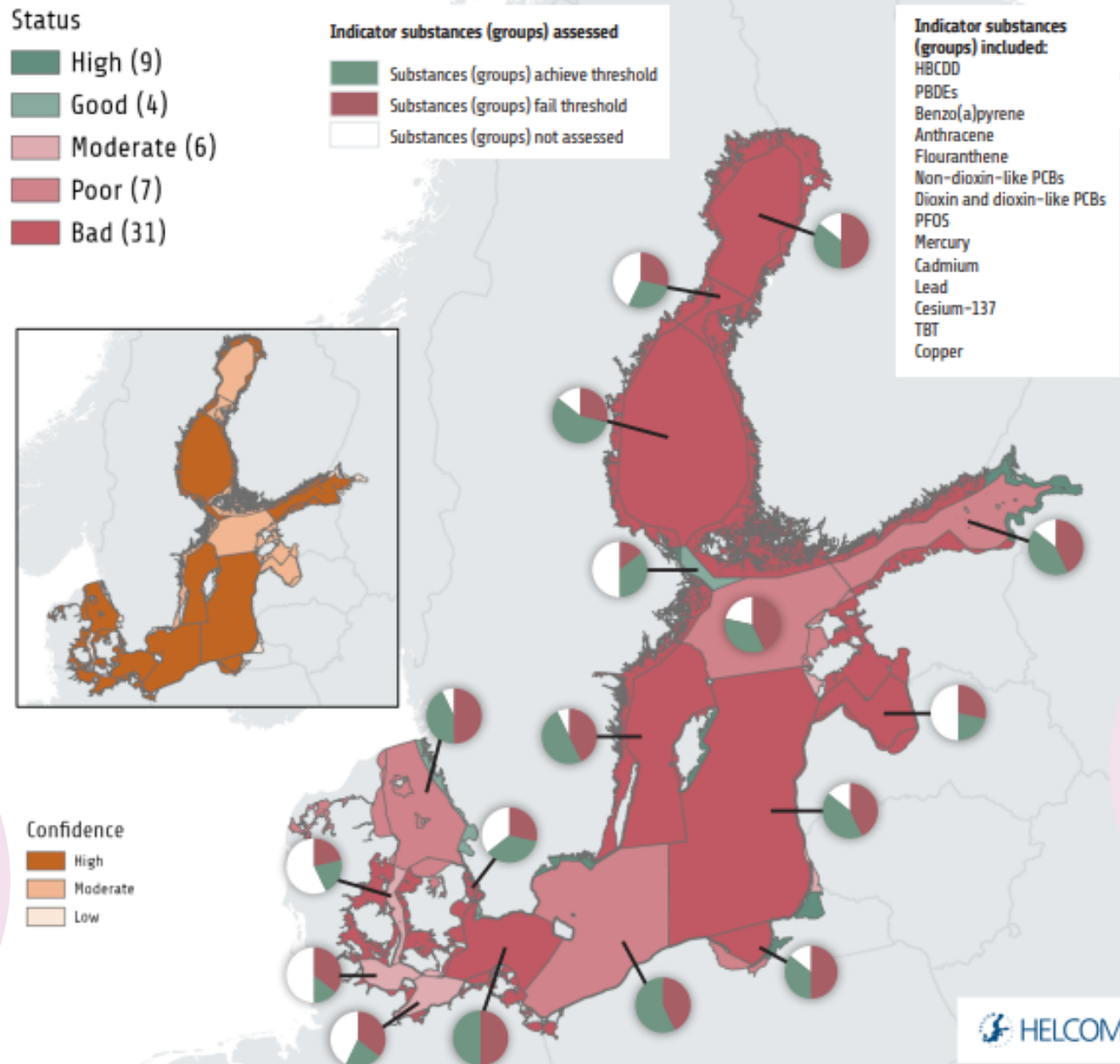


Mercury (Hg) summary

- Achieve (2)
- Fail (138)
- Not assessed (110)



Integrated Contamination Status Assessment



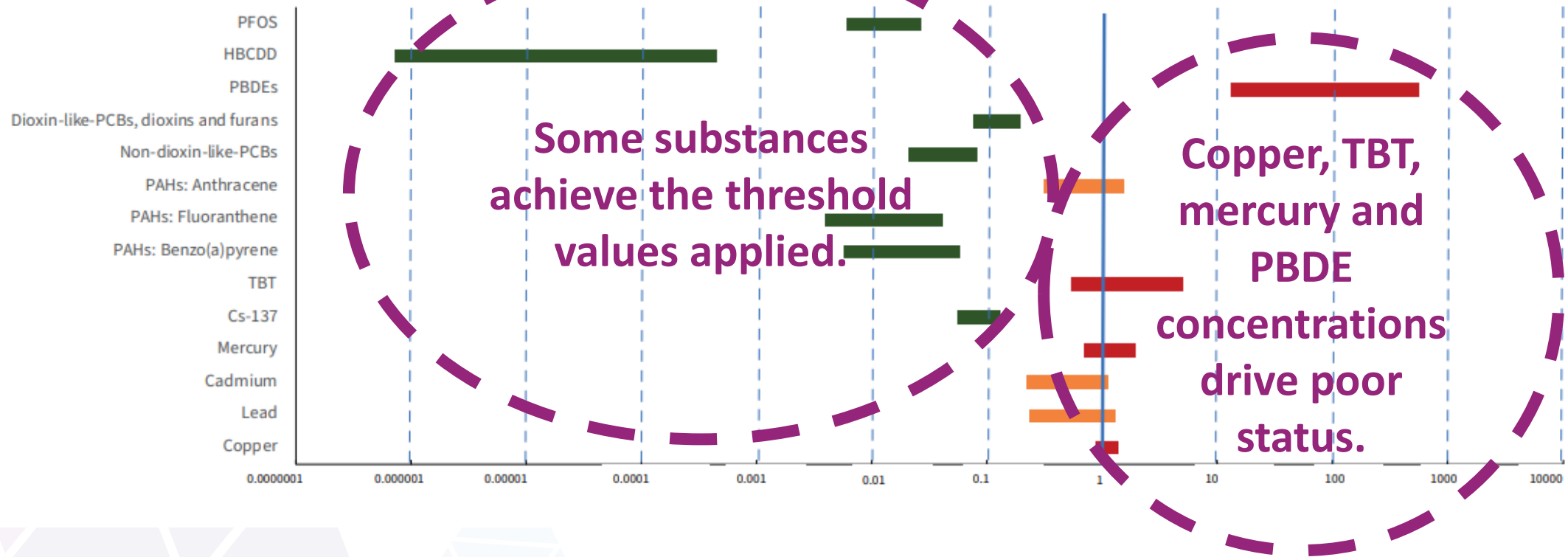
Integration of the indicators evaluating concentrations

Assessment confidence is generally high

Status is generally not good!

Many assessed units fall in the worst two categories.

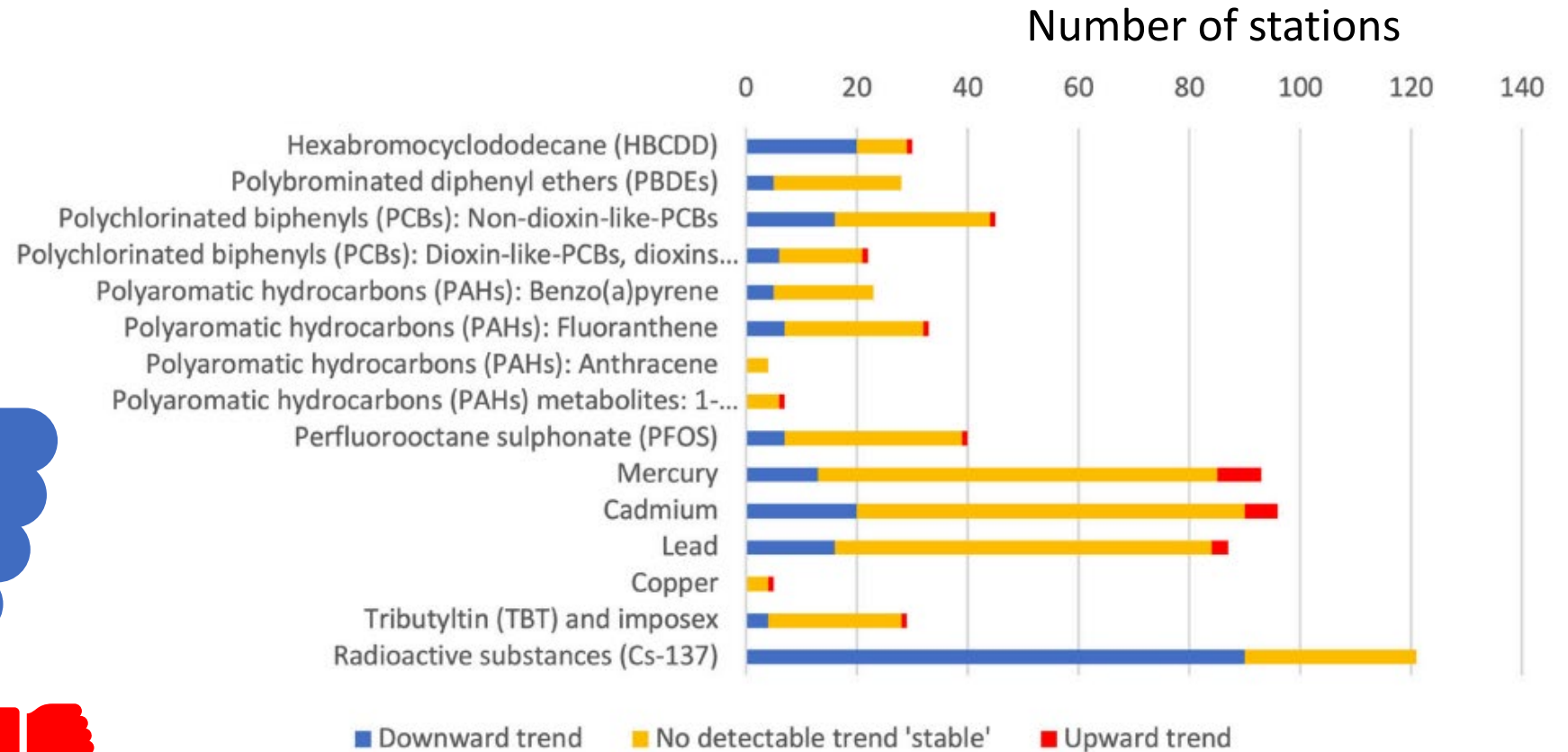
Not all substances contribute to poor status



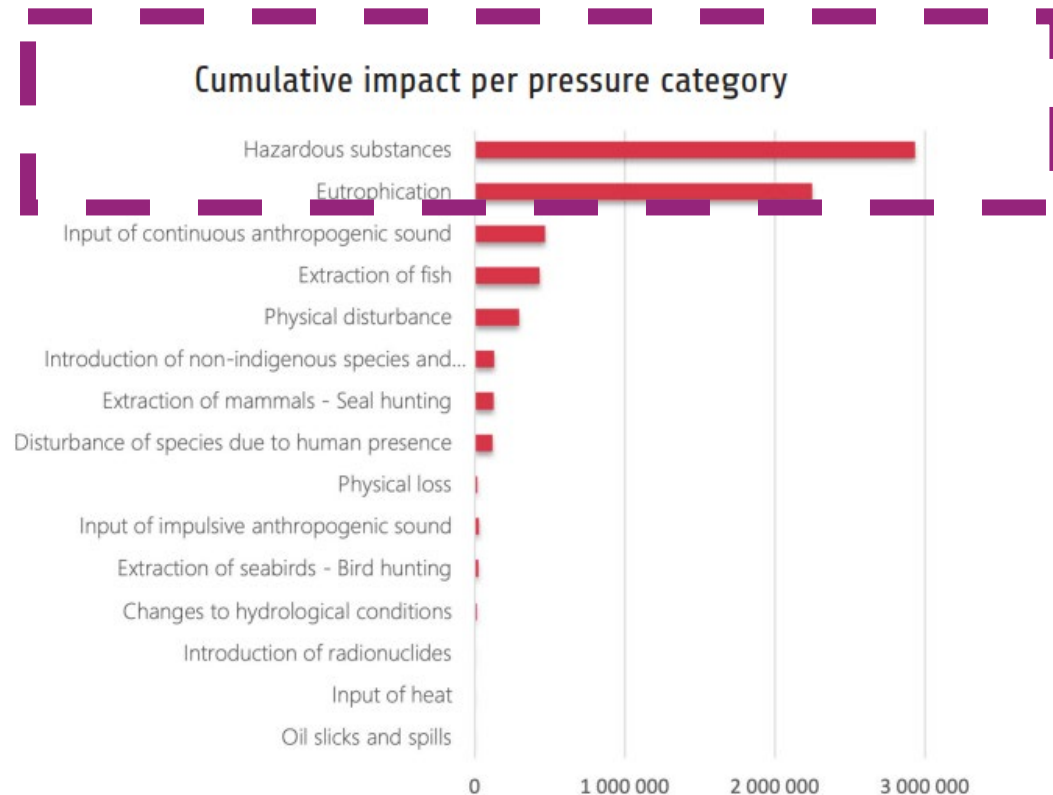
Some good news too – measures can work!



Fewer 



The bigger picture is also critical

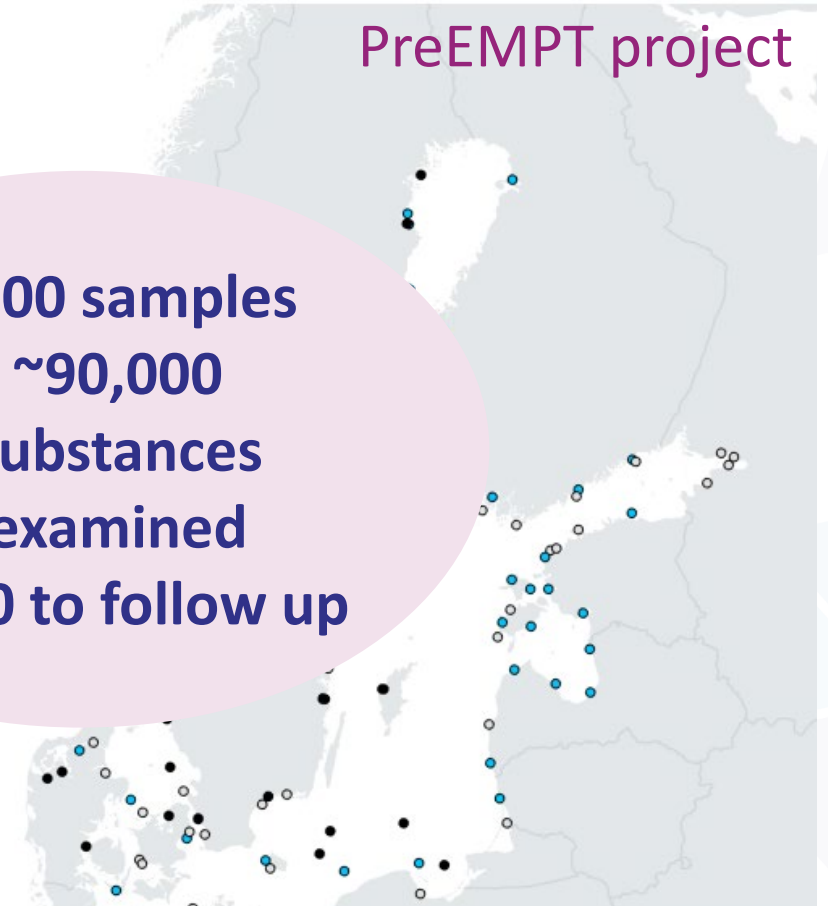


Matrix

- Fish (36)
- Mussels (39)
- Sediment (29)

PreEMPT project

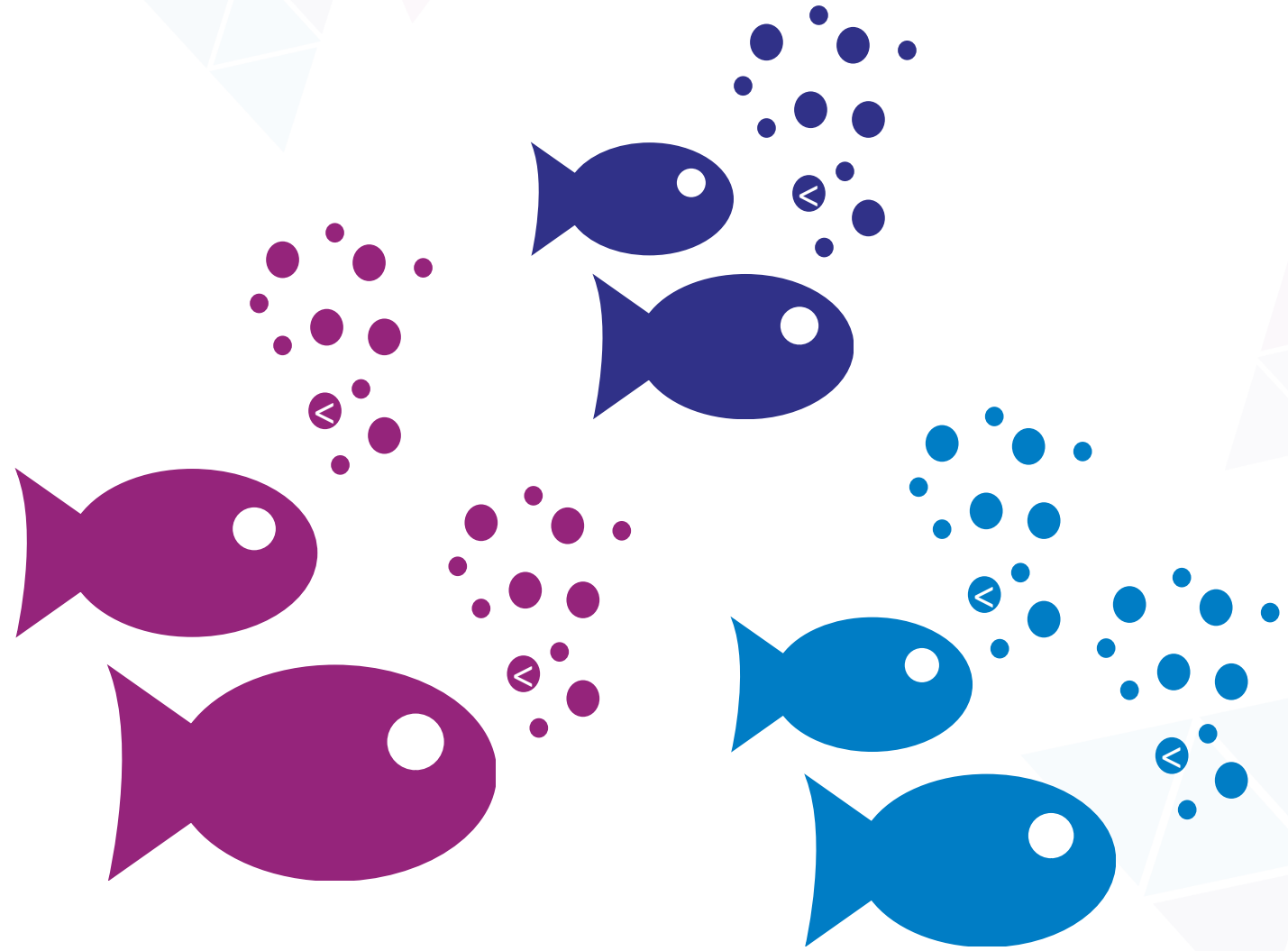
- >100 samples
- ~90,000 substances examined
- ~100 to follow up



Co-financed by NEFCO Baltic Sea Action Plan Fund analysed with the NORMAN Network



Thank you!



Acknowledging the work of
indicator leads and members of EG Haz,
EG MoRS and EG Surveillance.