

INTEGRATED RISK ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING OF MICRO-POLLUTANTS IN THE BELGIAN COASTAL ZONE

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Hazardous substances end up in the marine environment through riverine inputs (including harbours), direct discharges and/or atmospheric deposition. As such, marine systems are the ultimate repository for a cocktail of persistent chemicals. Organisms living in these ecosystems are thus exposed to a range of substances which have the potential to cause adverse effects which may lead to population and community level changes.

The INRAM project is an integrated project funded by the Belgian Science Policy aimed at assessing the risks of micropollutants occurring in the Belgian coastal zone. The transfer of micropollutants of three Belgian coastal harbours and the Scheldt Estuary to coastal waters, and their contribution to contamination and/or pollution is examined. The underlying objective of the INRAM project is to develop a novel, multidisciplinary methodology - based on a suite of chemical, biological and ecological measurements - to evaluate the health of marine ecosystems. This poster will present the approach and - along with multiple other posters presented at this conference - the main results of the INRAM project that are available at present.