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## **INRAM**

## Integrated Risk Assessment and Monitoring of Micropollutants in the Belgian coastal zone



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The INRAM project is an integrated project funded by the Belgian Science Policy to develop practical techniques and procedures to detect uction the risks of micropollutants occurring in the Belgian coastal zone. 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. To this end, an extended list of micropollutants will be analyzed in water, sediment and suspended solids of 18 sampling stations in the Belgian coastal harbours, the Belgian Continental Shelf and the Scheldt Estuary. In addition, body burdens of these compounds will be determined in biota (mussels, oysters, shrimps and flatfish). These will be linked with in situ biometric and biomarker responses in resident and transplanted organisms. Field samplings and in situ studies run over four years (January 2007 - December 2010). The field study allows an identification of potential problem chemicals which will be evaluated through laboratory exposures. Finally, an integrated ecological risk assessment will be performed to assess the health of the Belgian marine ecosystem.

