



# HOW DATA RICH AND INFORMATION POOR IS MONITORING? ANALYZING THE DUTCH NATIONAL MONITORING

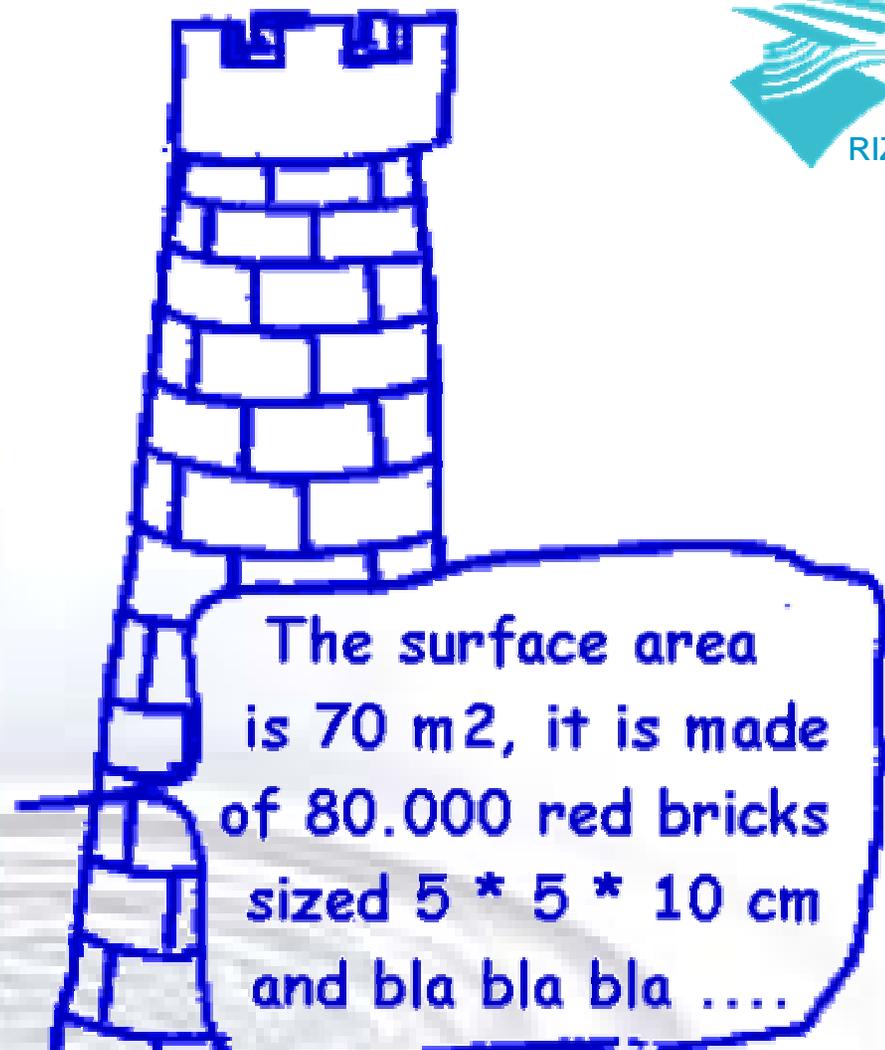
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How big is that tower?



©1999  
Seedlevarancers

What kind of information do you really want?

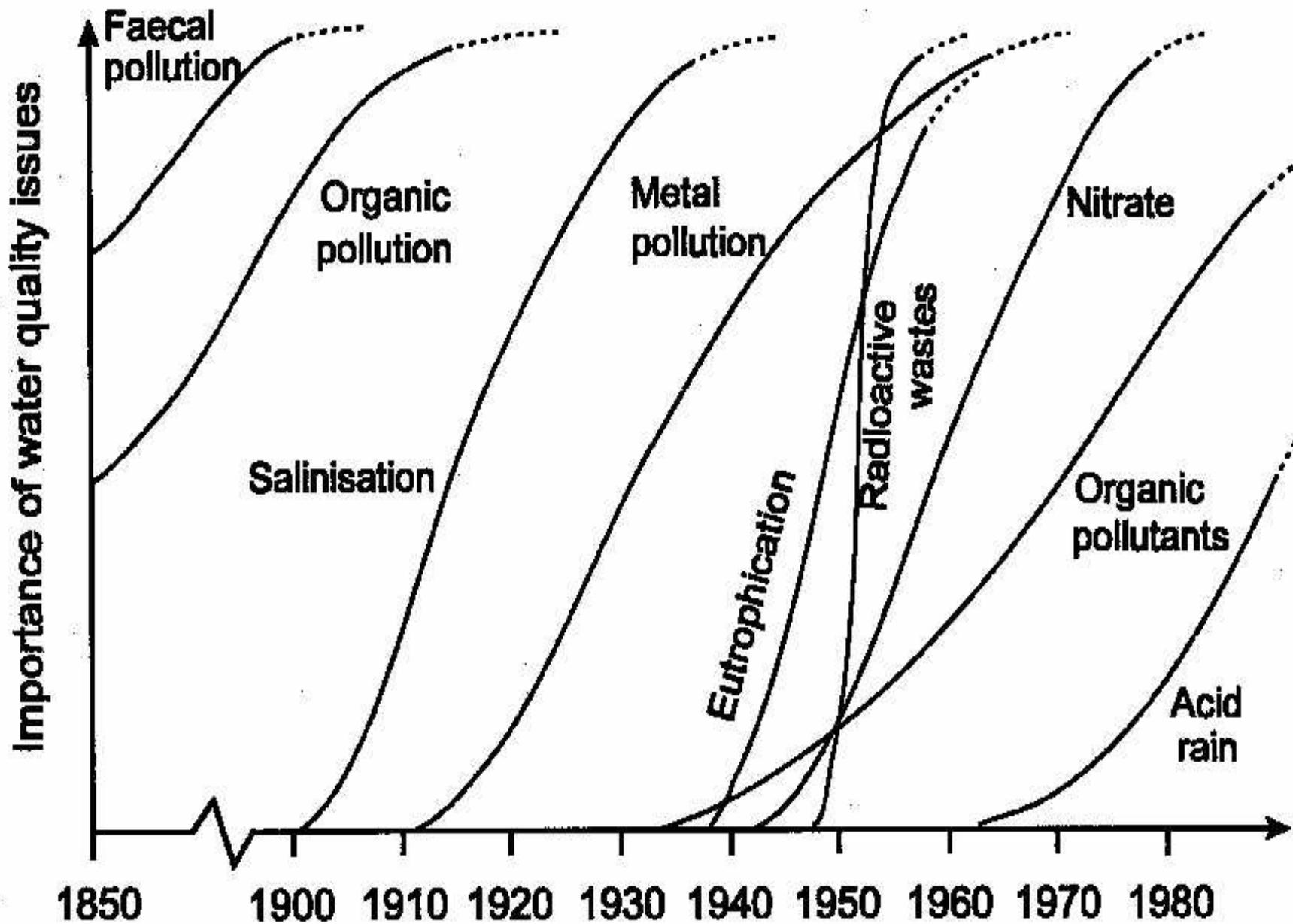


# Data-rich ↔ Information-poor



- Data-rich: more data are collected than necessary
  - Necessary:
    - Policy
    - Legislation
- Information-poor:
  - Information:
    - data – information – knowledge
    - externalised knowledge
  - Compliance ↔ ⇒ User satisfaction





(Meybeck and Helmer 1989)



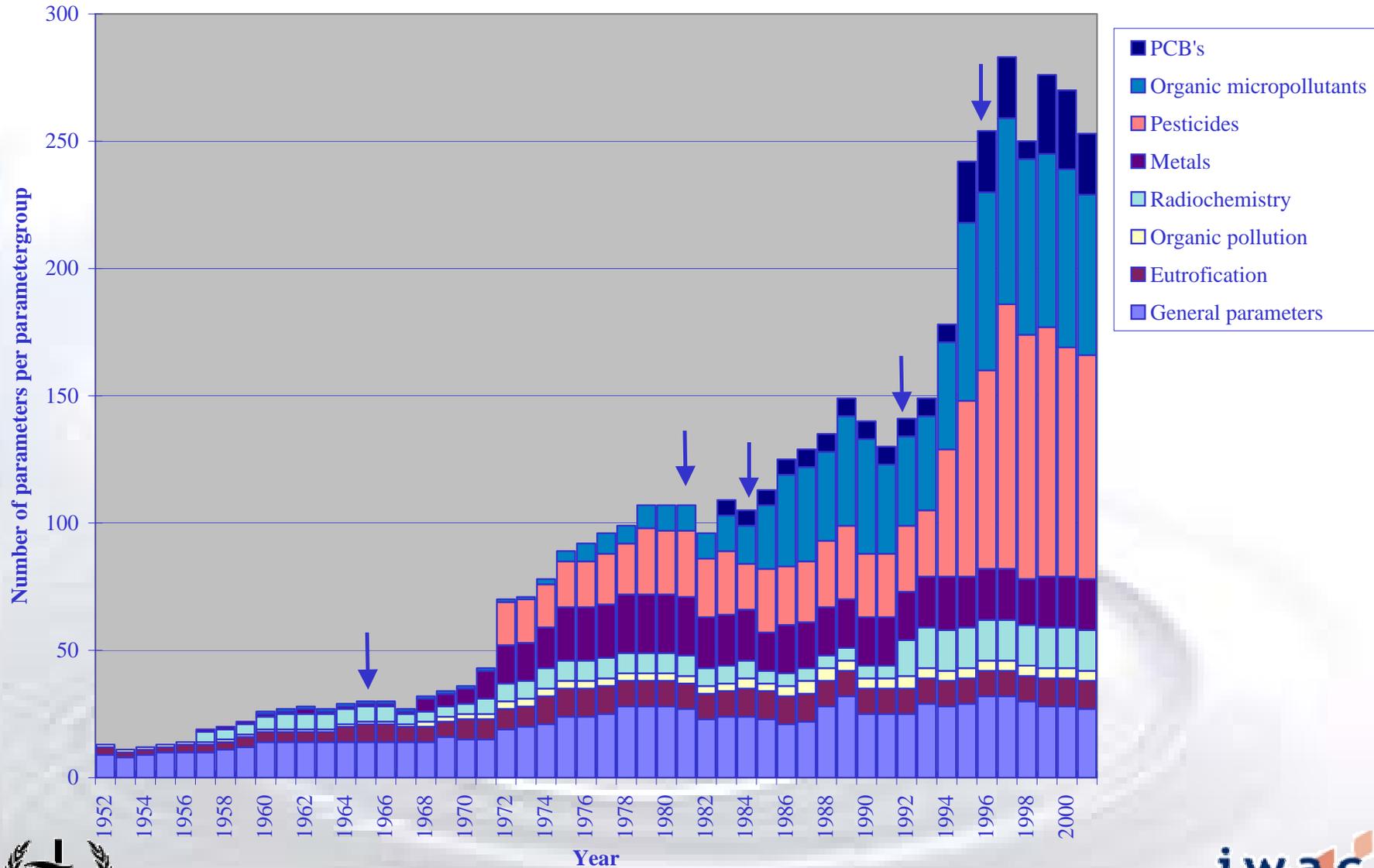
# Monitoring locations in the Netherlands

National water quality monitoring network

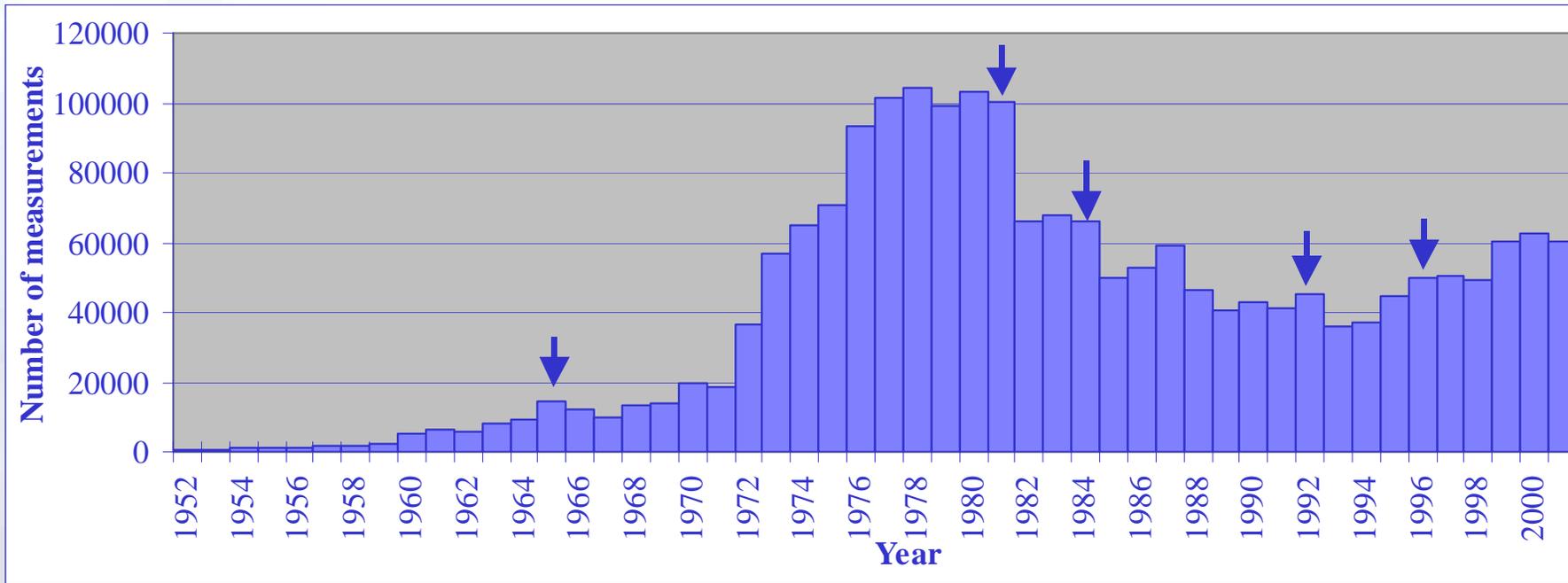
1996



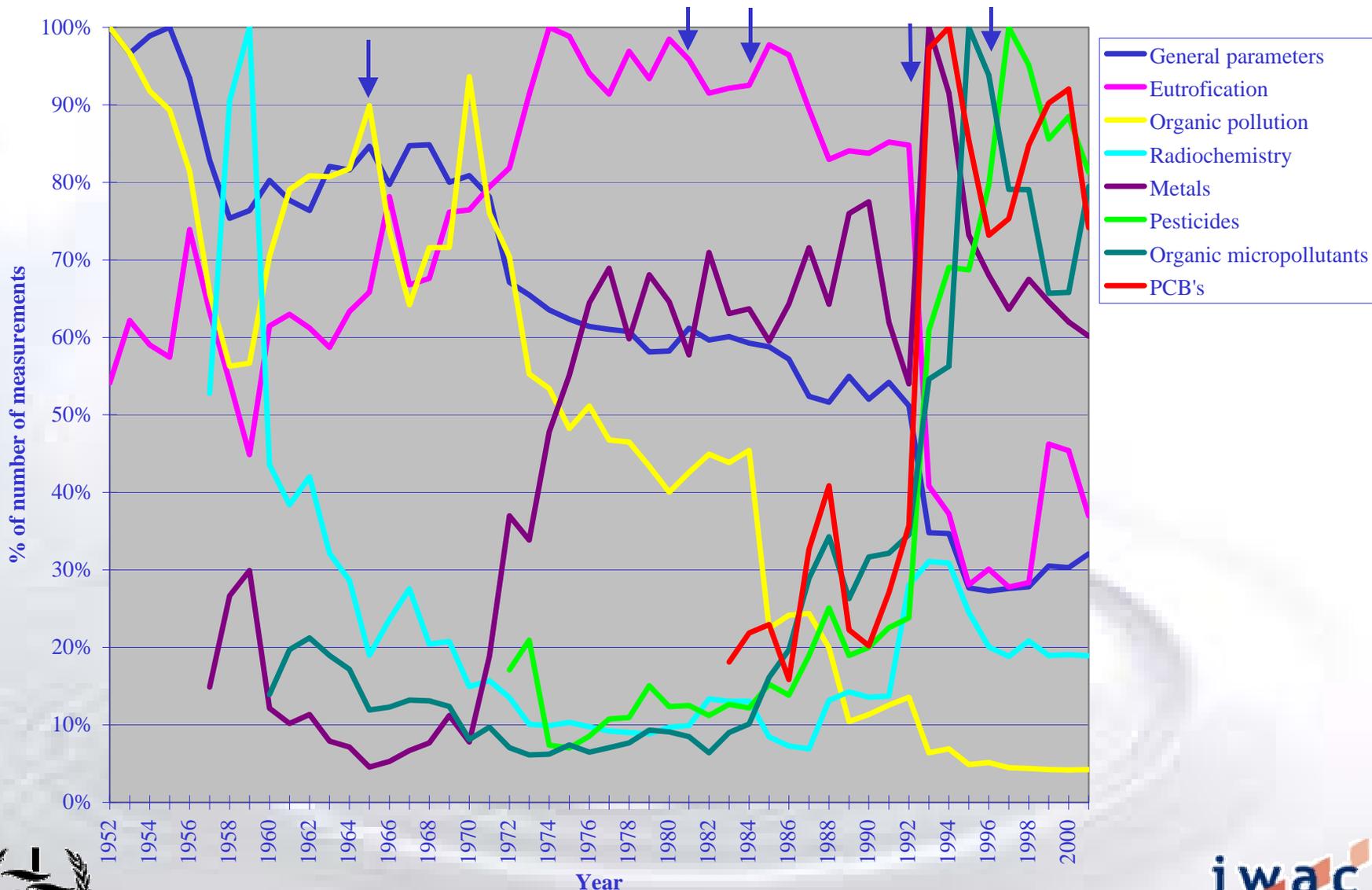
# Number of parameters



# Number of measurements



# Relative monitoring effort



# Legal requirements

- National legislation
- International agreements (Rhine, Meuse, Scheldt)
- European Union legislation
- All parameters in the network can be (directly or indirectly) attributed to this legislation



# Limiting legislation

- Rigid
- Example: Zinc
  - Main diffuse source: roof-gutter
  - Little change expected



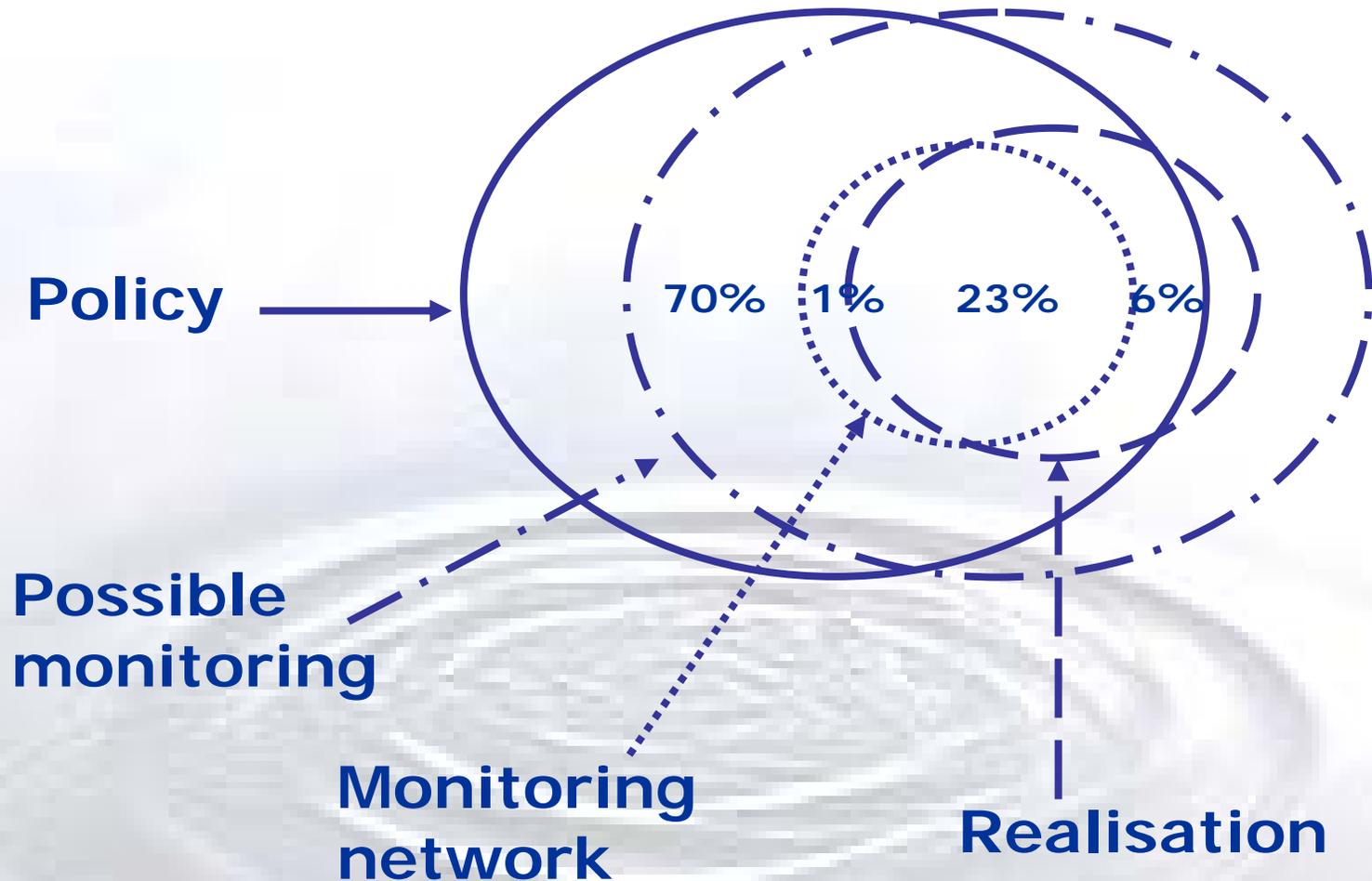
# Relation between policy and monitoring



- Dutch Waddensea
- National policy and management reports
- Policy statements:
  - unclear statements like 'pursue' and 'in principle' ⇒ no monitoring possible
  - vague statements like 'sufficient' and 'possibly' ⇒ monitoring possible
  - clear statements like 'no more than' and 'constant' ⇒ monitoring possible



# Relation between policy and monitoring



# Dutch national monitoring



## Organisation and implementation

- 2000: Strategic document:
  - Well received
  - Little implemented
- 2003: Study to revive strategy
  - Why lack of implementation?
  - Way forward



# Dutch national monitoring



- Findings:

- The demand side values monitoring information as unimportant; it should be there answering their policy- and management questions
- The demand side does not see their role as steering or determining the type of information produced

- Conclusions:

- Focus on interface demand ↔ supply
- Demand side should be party in the process
- *"but can this be required from them?"*



# Conclusions

- Data-rich?
  - Not from legal perspective
- Information-poor? Maybe
  - Monitoring provides useful information
  - Monitoring does not fulfil the expectations
- Make legal requirements more flexible
- Better link needed between supply and demand!

