

Northeast Regional Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load

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June 24, 2008



New England Interstate Water
Pollution Control Commission

The Problem

- 💧 **Statewide and regional fish consumption advisories in all states**
- 💧 **Over 10,000 impaired lakes, ponds, and reservoirs**
- 💧 **Over 46,000 impaired river miles**
- 💧 **Large portion of mercury deposition due to out-of-region sources**

The Strategy

💧 Regional Mercury TMDL

- 💧 7 states (New England and New York)
- 💧 Work with existing framework for regional collaboration
- 💧 Focus on need for out-of-region reductions
- 💧 Make the most of available resources

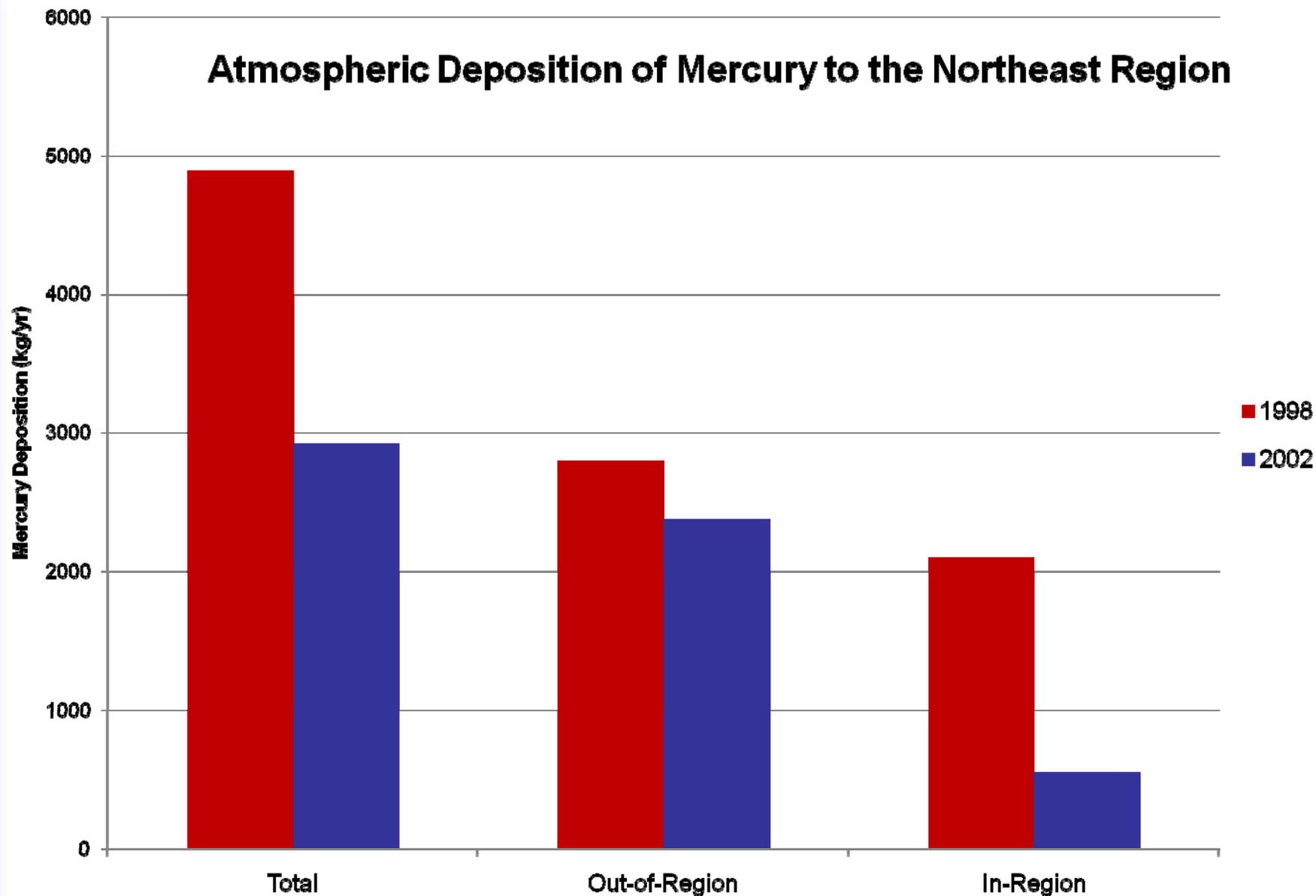
General Approach

- 💧 **Based on MN Statewide Mercury TMDL**
- 💧 **Assumes proportional relationship between reductions in mercury emissions, deposition, and fish tissue concentrations**
- 💧 **Accounts for deposition due to natural sources**

Necessary Data

- 🔹 **Fish tissue concentrations**
- 🔹 **Emissions and deposition loads**
- 🔹 **Wastewater concentrations and loads**

Atmospheric Deposition of Mercury to the Northeast Region



Source: NESCAUM

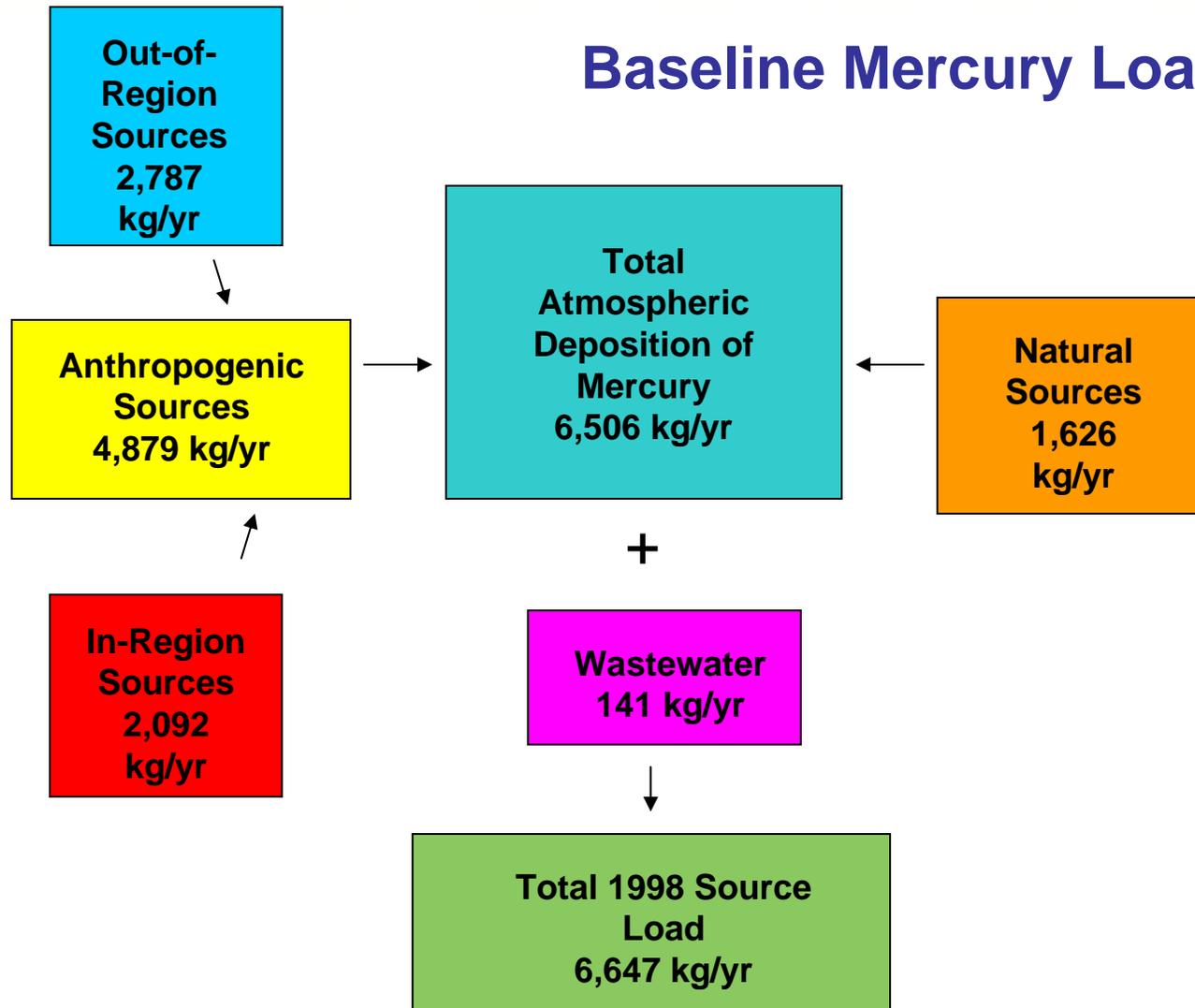
TMDL Framework

**Baseline (1998)
Fish Tissue
Levels
1.14 ppm**

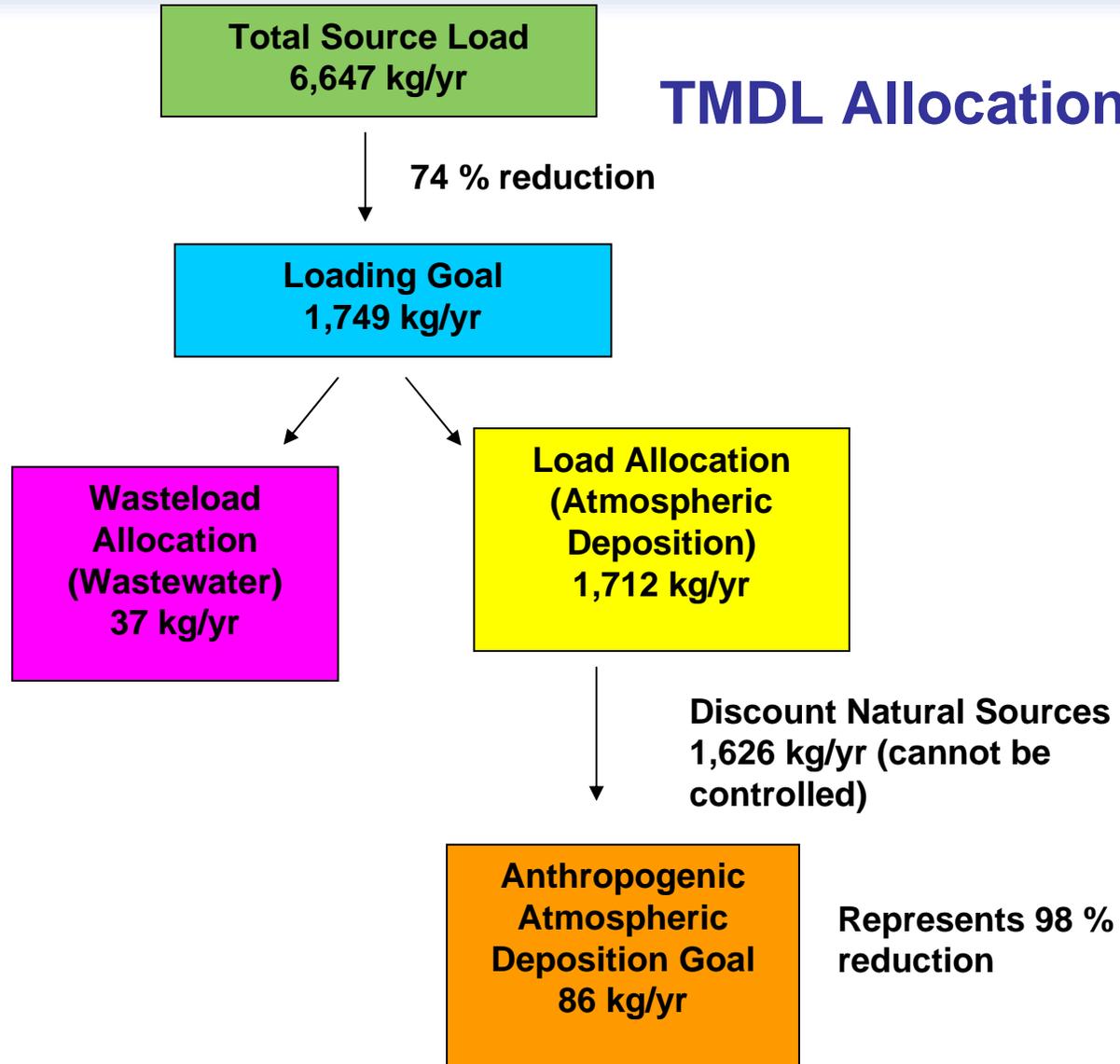
74% reduction

**Target Fish
Level
0.30 ppm**

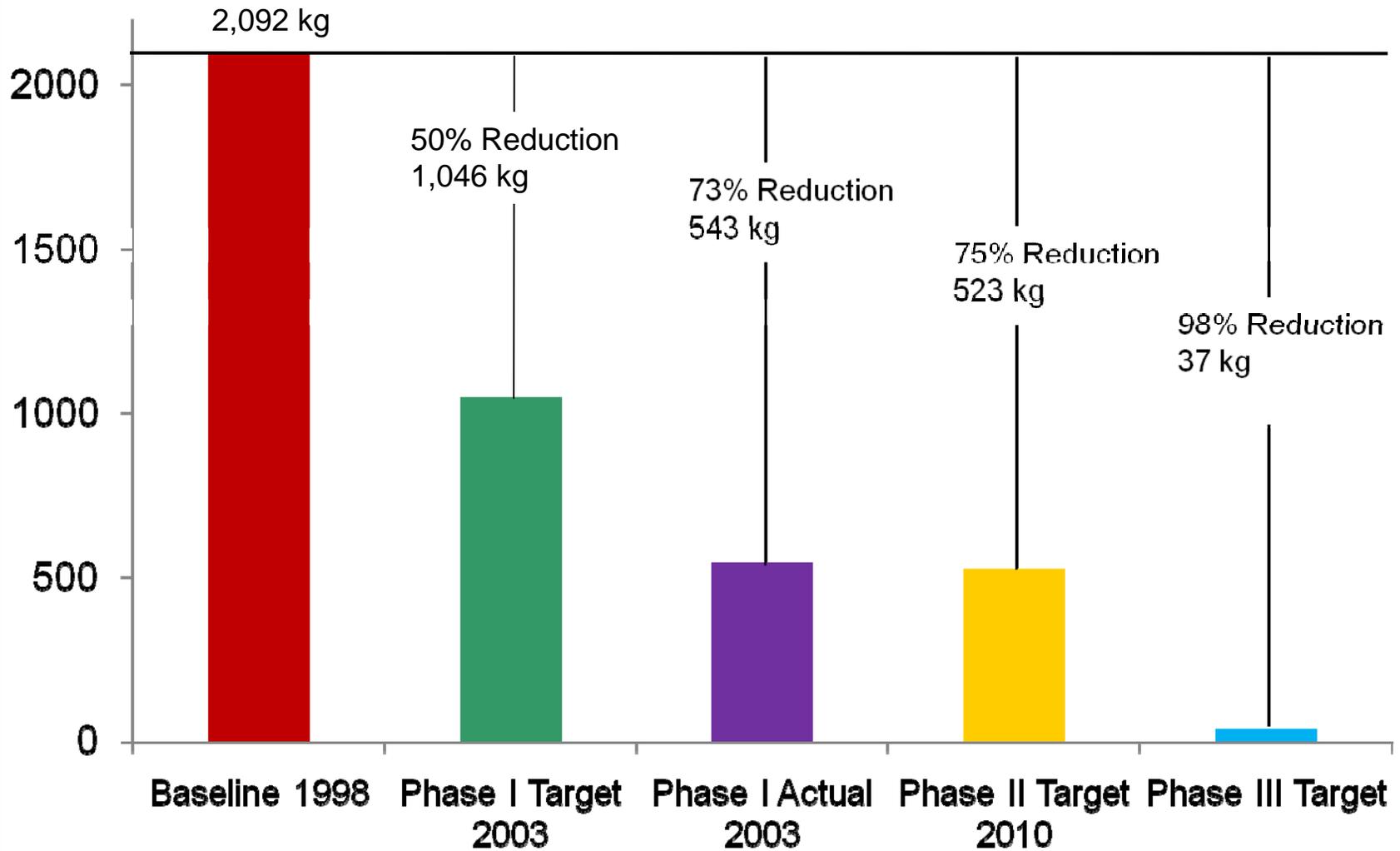
Baseline Mercury Load



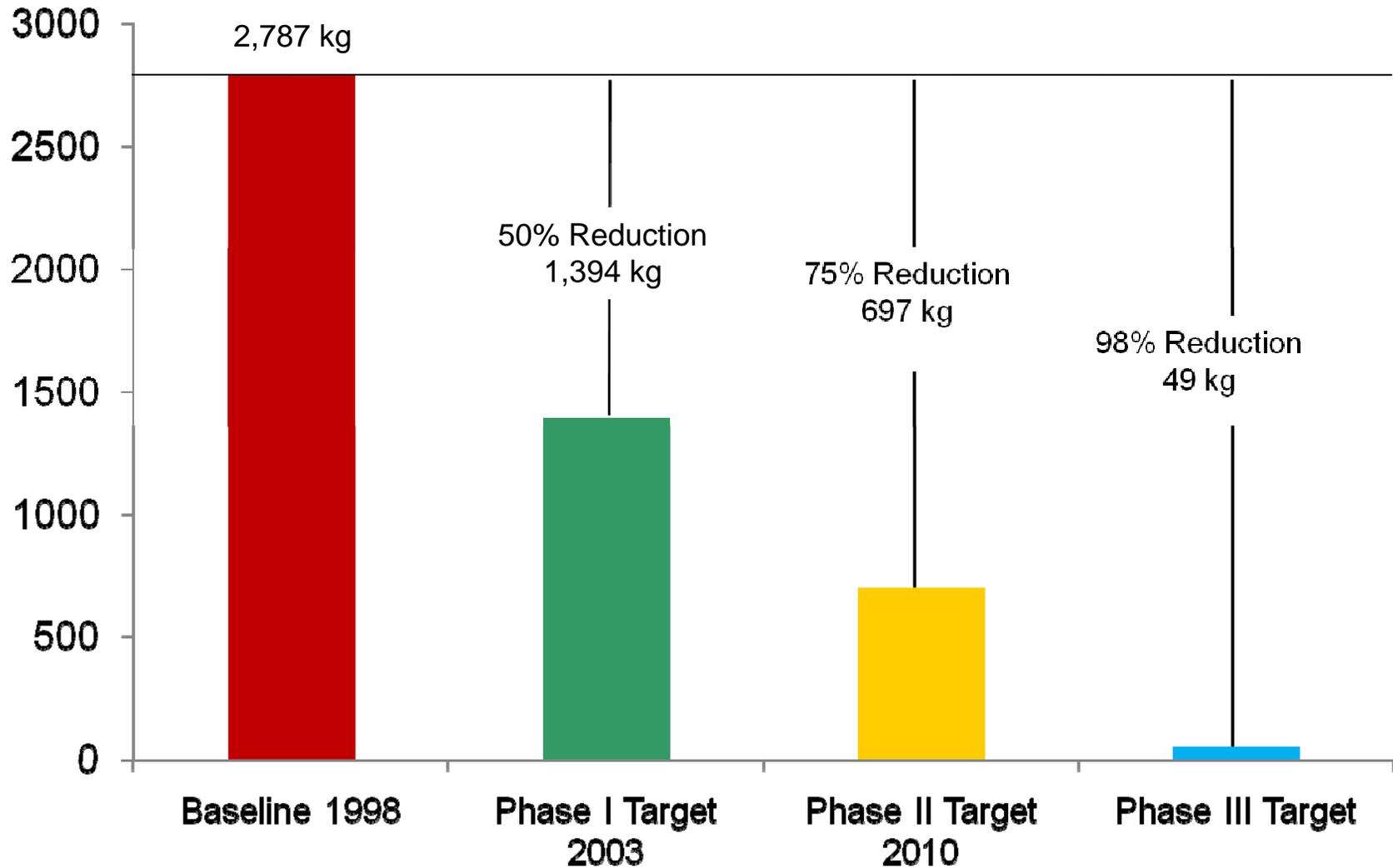
TMDL Allocations



Necessary In-Region Mercury Reductions



Necessary Out-of-Region Mercury Reductions



Adaptive Implementation

- 💧 All Northeast states will continue with mercury reduction initiatives in place
- 💧 Further investigation of out-of-region sources
- 💧 Re-evaluate fish tissue, emissions, and deposition data in 2010
- 💧 Reconsider end goal and timeline

Special Thanks to...

💧 **Traci Iott and Paul Stacey, CT
DEP**

💧 **Andy Fisk and Barry Mower, ME
DEP**

💧 **Rick Dunn, Russ Isaac, and
Mark Smith, MA DEP**

💧 **Gregg Comstock and Peg Foss,
NH DES**

💧 **Jay Bloomfield, Dick Draper,
Ron Entringer, and Scott Quinn,
NYS DEC**

💧 **Scott Ribas and Elizabeth
Scott, RI DEM**

💧 **Tim Clear and Neil
Kamman, VT DEC**

💧 **John Graham, NESCAUM**

💧 **Beth Card, NEIWPCC**

💧 **NEIWPCC Executive
Committee**



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