

Designation and the „changing“ of designation of HMWB

- a case study from Lower Saxony, Germany -

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HMWB definition

According to CIS Guidance doc No 2.2:

- Waterbodies which are „substantially
changed in character“
- Therefore cannot meet good ecological
status

Provisionally identified HMWBs

- **Statewide (Lower Saxony) survey 2004**

→ 43% HMWB/AWB

Criteria for HMWB-designation (2004)

- **Statewide mapping of hydromorphology**

→ **> 70% of a waterbody („very“)**

heavily/completely modified morphology

= HMWB

Finally Designation of HMWBs

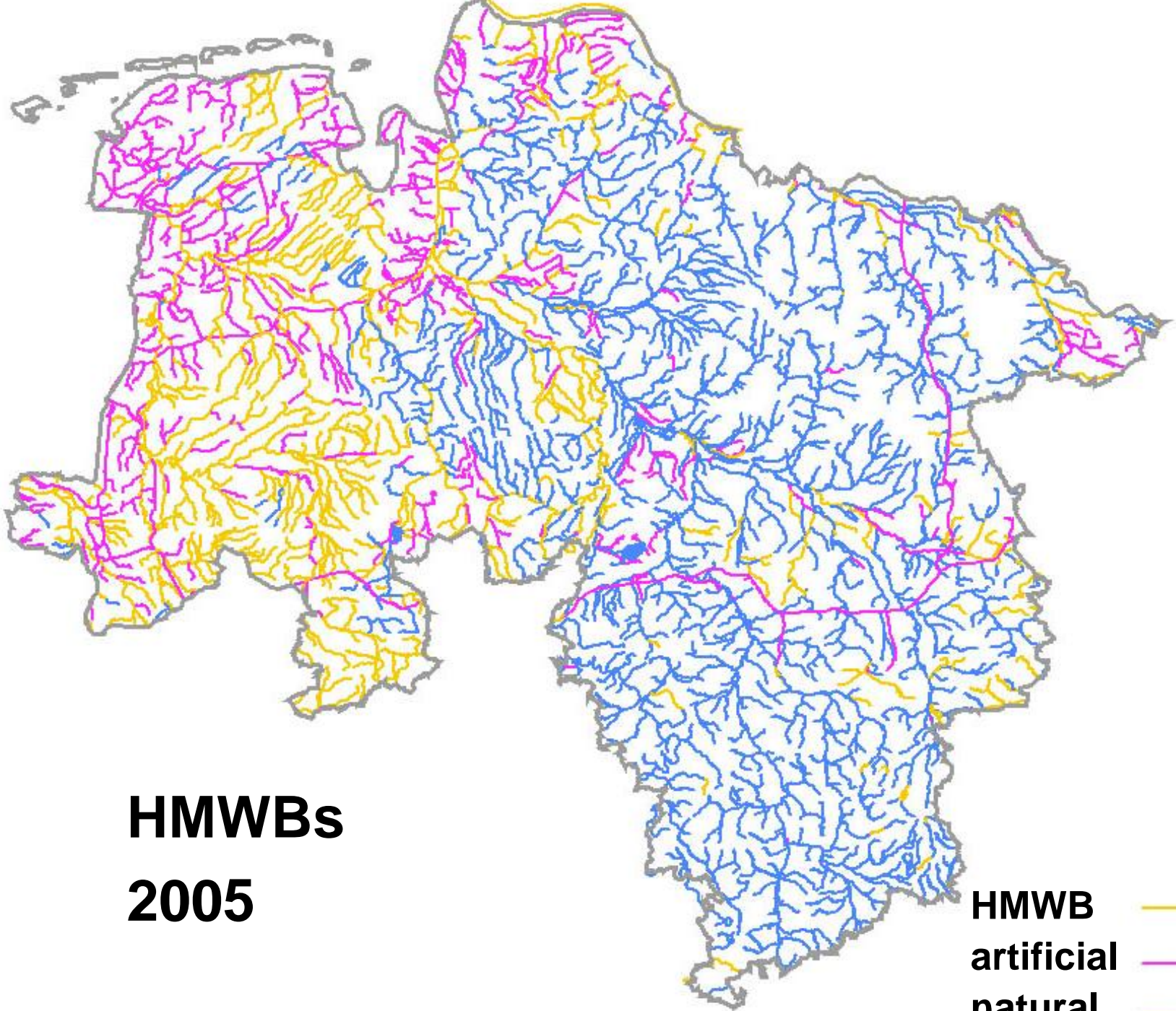
2007 „new assessment“

→ 84% HMWB / AWB

→ due to „changed“ CIS-Guidance document and designated by round tables (stake holder working group)

Additional check to CIS guidance document Step 4

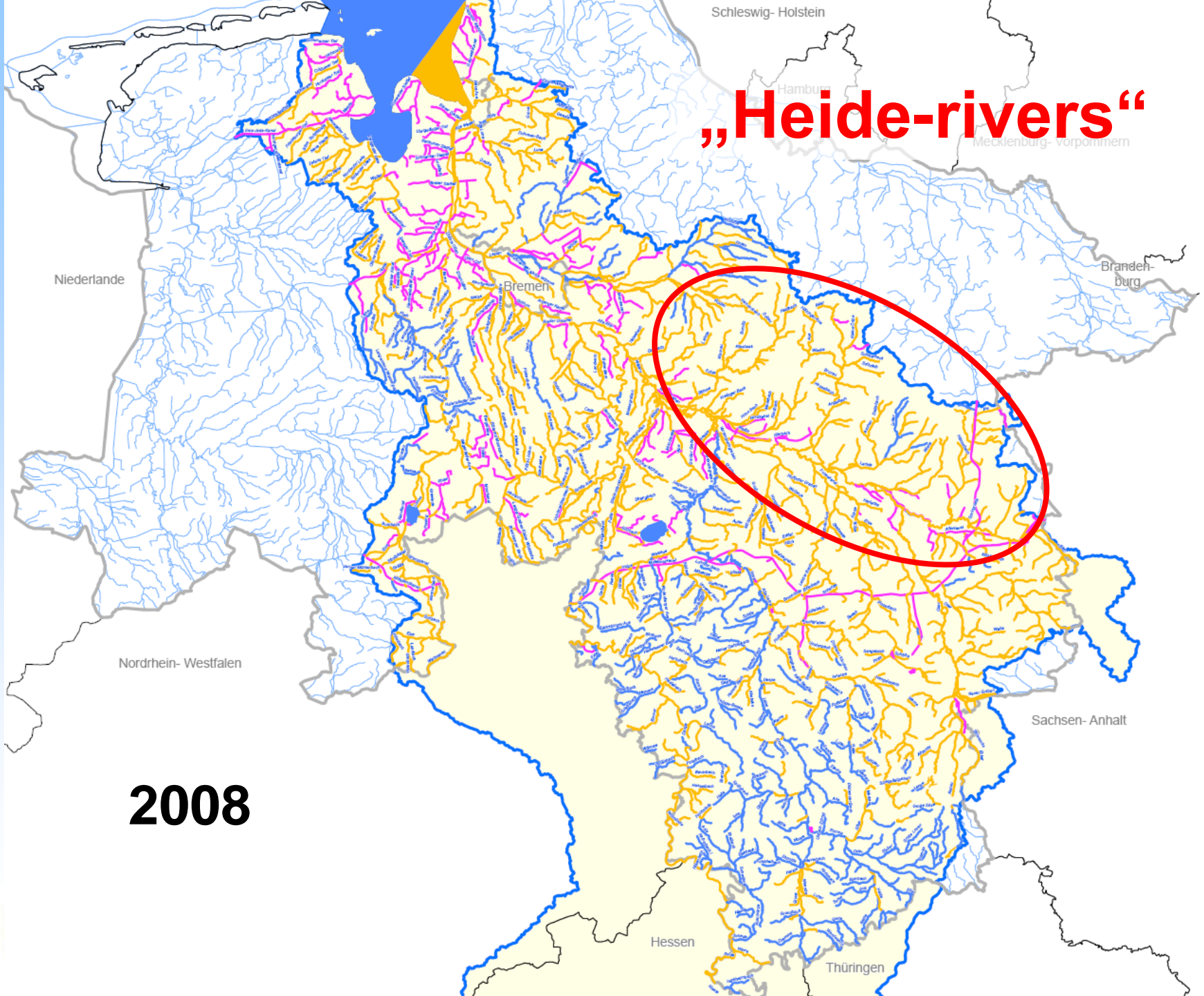
„Did any significant anthropogenic modifications (e.g. technical development) occur, compared to the primitive state of the water body?“



HMWBs
2005

HMWB —
artificial —
natural —

„Heide-rivers“



2008

„Lüneburger Heide“: Ecological treasures

- One of the last „natural“ watercourses
 - protected (Annex 1 & 2)
 - „natural“ attractive rivers of lower Saxonian (ent)
- Freshwater pearl mussel

HMNB???

HMWB/AWB in Germany

- Hesse: 7,4%
- Saarland: 21,1%
- Saxony: 24%
- Baden-W.: ca. 26%
- Rhineland-P.: 27%
- Thuringia: ca. 30%
- Mecklenb.-W.P.: 50%
- Bavaria: 23%+31% ?
- Northrhine-W.: 58%
- Schleswig-H.: 70%
- Saxony-Anhalt: 72%
- Lower Saxony: 84%

Conclusions

- **Urgent need of transparent and scientifically-founded criteria**
- **New designation is necessary**

Conclusions

- **achieve a transparent definition of the GEP based on biological quality elements**
- **Actively promote public participation**



Thank you for your attention!

fotos: Reinhard Altmüller