

# ISIMIP LAKE SECTOR

06/05/2025

Wim Thiery, Don Pierson, Daniel Mercado-Bettín, Ana Ayala & Robert Ladwig



VRIJE  
UNIVERSITEIT  
BRUSSEL



**CEAB**  
Centre d'Estudis Avançats de Blanes



UPPSALA  
UNIVERSITET



AARHUS UNIVERSITY



# Content of today

## Introduction

ISIMIP3 Local Lake Sector:

- Hydrothermal data
- Water quality data

## ISIMIP Paper Repository

## Simulation Status

## Project Updates

- Don Pierson – MEWS project
- Ana Ayala – Modelling the burial of organic carbon in lakes within the ISIMIP framework
- Jie Chen – Pan-Arctic lakes
- Haoran Shi – Subsurface heatwaves in lakes
- Lipa Nkwale – Acceleration of global lake anoxia under climate change
- Jorrit Mesman - Lake model calibration

## New Publications

## LakeEnsemblIR Push

## Group Discussion

- Improving the lake sector — we aim to develop a concrete plan, including co-authorship opportunities for ISIMIP3-based papers.
- New analyses or ideas

# Local Lake hydrothermal and water quality data

## Hydrothermal Simulations

### 73 Local Lakes

- Hypsographic curve
- Measured temperature profiles for calibration

### Outputs

- Water temperature
- Thermal structure

## Water Quality Simulations

### 11 Local Lakes

- Hydrothermal parameters
- Data to support simulation of dissolved oxygen
- Data to support simulation of organic carbon
- Data to support full biogeochemical simulations
- nutrients

### Outputs

- Calibrated lake models that can be evaluated in a manor similar to the hydrothermal simulations
- Basis for future climate simulations using future
  - Climate forcing
  - Watershed forcing

## Local Lakes Available for Water Quality Simulations

- **Erken:** Temperature, Chlorophyll (CH), Total Phosphorus (TP), PO<sub>4</sub>, Total Nitrogen (TN), NO<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>
- **Arendsee:** O<sub>2</sub>
- **Bosumtwi:** Temperature, Chlorophyll (CH), Total Phosphorus (TP), PO<sub>4</sub>, Total Nitrogen (TN), NO<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>
- **Feeagh:** Hydrothermal, Dissolved Organic Carbon (DOC), Eutrophication, Oxygen
- **Groß Glienicker:** Temperature, O<sub>2</sub>
- **Harp:** Temperature, O<sub>2</sub>
- **Scharmützelsee:** O<sub>2</sub>
- **Vendyurskoe:** Chlorophyll-a (Chl-a), O<sub>2</sub>, Photosynthetically Active Radiation (PAR), Temperature
- **Villasjön:** Temperature, CH<sub>4</sub> concentration, total CH<sub>4</sub> flux, diffusive CH<sub>4</sub> flux, ebullition CH<sub>4</sub> flux
- **Inre Harrsjön:** O<sub>2</sub>, Temperature, CH<sub>4</sub> concentration, total CH<sub>4</sub> flux, diffusive CH<sub>4</sub> flux, ebullition CH<sub>4</sub> flux
- **Mellersta Harrsjön:** CH<sub>4</sub> concentration, total CH<sub>4</sub> flux, diffusive CH<sub>4</sub> flux, ebullition CH<sub>4</sub> flux



## Data sources local and global simulations

Local lake data for ISIMIP3 hydrothermal calibration: [https://github.com/icra/ISIMIP\\_Local\\_Lakes](https://github.com/icra/ISIMIP_Local_Lakes)

Input water quality data local lakes:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1VK6JPFfgrDAi2nmvNqbRtw9FWAEDG5ew>

Input climate data local lakes:

ISIMIP3a

<https://data.isimip.org/search/tree/ISIMIP3a/InputData/climate/atmosphere/>

ISIMIP3b:

<https://data.isimip.org/search/tree/ISIMIP3b/InputData/climate/atmosphere/>

Lake morphology for ISIMIP3 global runs: [https://github.com/icra/ISIMIP\\_Lake\\_Sector](https://github.com/icra/ISIMIP_Lake_Sector)

# Status of local and global simulations

Model name	Type	Contact person	Run	Status May 2023	Remarks
PCLake	Water quality	Annette Janssen	global	planning	Not started (yet); No coherent nutrient loading data available (to be discussed,)
CLM5	Hydrothermal	Wim Thiery	global	ongoing	Preprocessing ongoing
LAKE	Hydrothermal	Victor Stepanenko	both	ongoing	Planning to start the full-scale runs in the beginning of 2023 (last status on October 2022)
ALBM	Hydrothermal	Zeli Tan	global	completed	Available at <a href="https://data.isimip.org/search/tree/ISIMIP3b/OutputData/lakes_global/">https://data.isimip.org/search/tree/ISIMIP3b/OutputData/lakes_global/</a>
air2water	Hydrothermal	Sebastiano Piccolroaz & Bronwyn Woodward	local	completed	Available at <a href="https://data.isimip.org/search/tree/ISIMIP3b/OutputData/lakes_local/">https://data.isimip.org/search/tree/ISIMIP3b/OutputData/lakes_local/</a>
GOTM	Hydrothermal	Daniel Mercado-Bettin	global	completed	Available at <a href="https://data.isimip.org/search/tree/ISIMIP3b/OutputData/lakes_global/">https://data.isimip.org/search/tree/ISIMIP3b/OutputData/lakes_global/</a>
FLake_LER	Hydrothermal	Jorrit Mesman	local	completed	Available at <a href="https://data.isimip.org/search/tree/ISIMIP3b/OutputData/lakes_local/">https://data.isimip.org/search/tree/ISIMIP3b/OutputData/lakes_local/</a>
GLM_LER	Hydrothermal	Jorrit Mesman	local	completed	Available at <a href="https://data.isimip.org/search/tree/ISIMIP3b/OutputData/lakes_local/">https://data.isimip.org/search/tree/ISIMIP3b/OutputData/lakes_local/</a>
GOTM_LER	Hydrothermal	Jorrit Mesman	local	completed	Available at <a href="https://data.isimip.org/search/tree/ISIMIP3b/OutputData/lakes_local/">https://data.isimip.org/search/tree/ISIMIP3b/OutputData/lakes_local/</a>
Simstrat_LER	Hydrothermal	Jorrit Mesman	local	completed	Available at <a href="https://data.isimip.org/search/tree/ISIMIP3b/OutputData/lakes_local/">https://data.isimip.org/search/tree/ISIMIP3b/OutputData/lakes_local/</a>
VIC-LAKE	Hydrothermal	Annette Janssen	global	ongoing	Runs 3b are almost finished and soon we start post-processing; 3a is still under discussion
Simstrat	Hydrothermal	Bo Gai	Local global	ongoing	Finishing Local and Planning Global
GLM	Hydrothermal	Daniel Mercado-Bettin	global	planning	Waiting to finish GOTM simulations
CE-QUAL-W2	Hydrothermal	Josef Hejzlar	local	planning	Currently planned for one reservoir only
FLake	Hydrothermal	Tom Shatwell & Georgiy Kirillin	local	planning	To start in the next months

## Overview ongoing/planned analyses using ISIMIP data

- Don Pierson – MEWS project, using ISIMIP to support Water4All
- Ana Ayala – Modelling the burial of organic carbon in lakes within the ISIMIP framework
- Jie Chen – Pan-Arctic lakes
- Haoran Shi – Subsurface heatwaves in lakes
- Lipa Nkwilale – Acceleration of global lake anoxia under climate change
- Jorrit Mesman - Lake model calibration

## Objectives

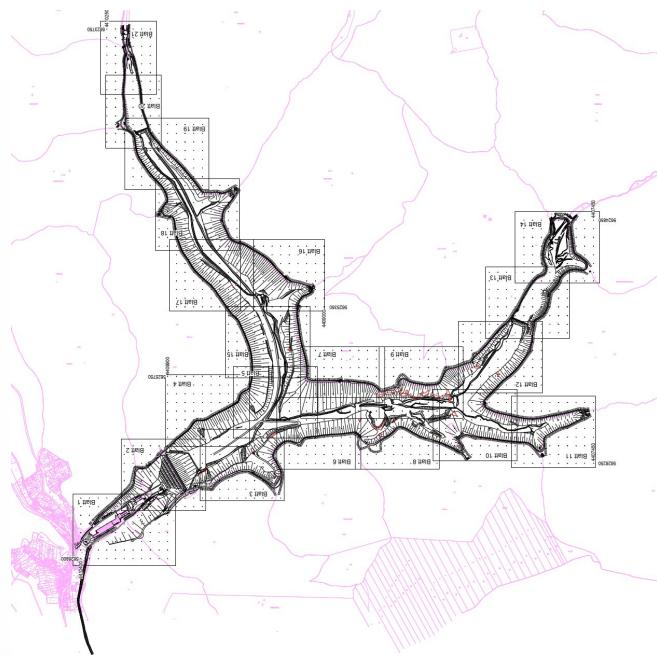
- To develop a freely available comprehensive modelling tool that will allow stakeholders to evaluate the effects of extreme hydro-climatic events on drinking water quality.
- To co-develop the modelling system with stakeholders from each demonstration site, including scenarios, workflows, documentation and training
- To increase our understanding of the complex regulation of the effects of extreme events and antecedent conditions on water quality at the water supply withdrawal under present and future conditions.

## Use of ISIMIP data

- ISIMIP3 climate scenarios are being used by the project as the inputs to watershed and lake model simulations where scale is appropriate.
- MEWS sites are in a sense similar to ISIMIP Local lakes, and will be added to the local lake database One (Ekoln) already is a local lake site
- MEWS Illustrates how ISIMIP data can be used to support a variety of projects while still providing valuable data to the ISIMIP archive

# MEWS Project Sites

## Ohra Reservoir Germany

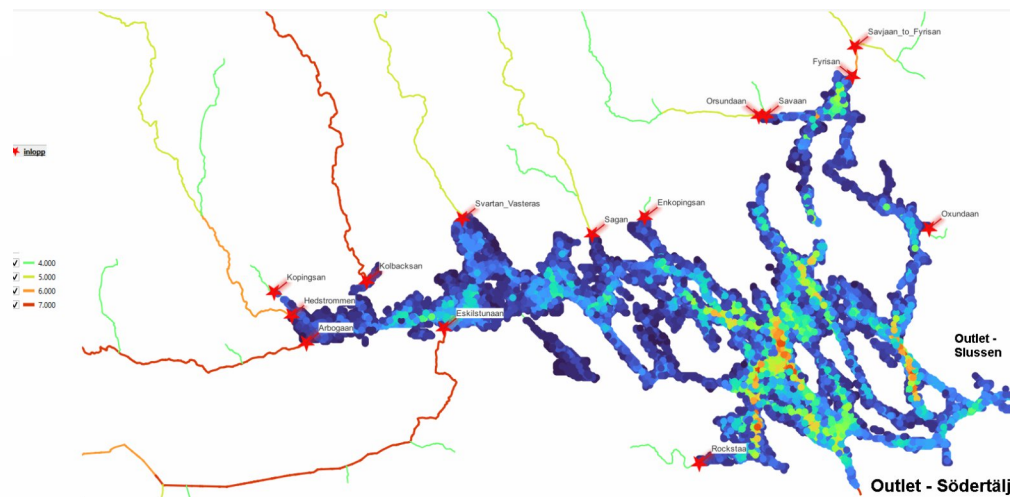


Surface Area 0.82 km<sup>2</sup>  
Residence Time ~ 1 yr  
Population Served ~ 400 000

OWL University of Applied  
Sciences and Arts



## Lake Mälaren Sweden

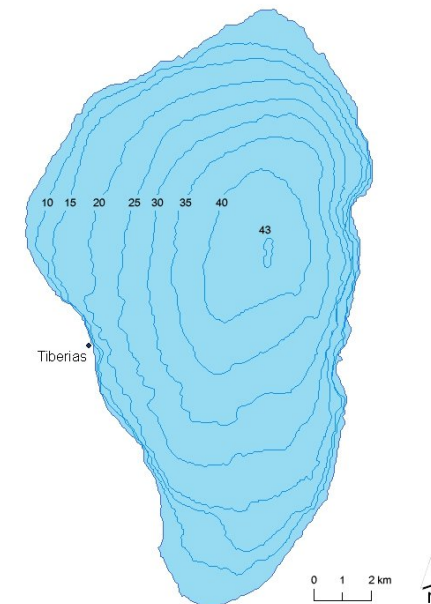


Surface Area 1140 km<sup>2</sup>  
Residence Time 2.2 yr  
Population Served ~ 2 000 000

Uppsala University Sweden &  
Swedish University of Agricultural  
Sciences



## Lake Kinneret Israel



Surface Area 166 km<sup>2</sup>  
Residence Time 4.8 yr  
Population Served ~ 1 900 00 +  
contributions to Jordan

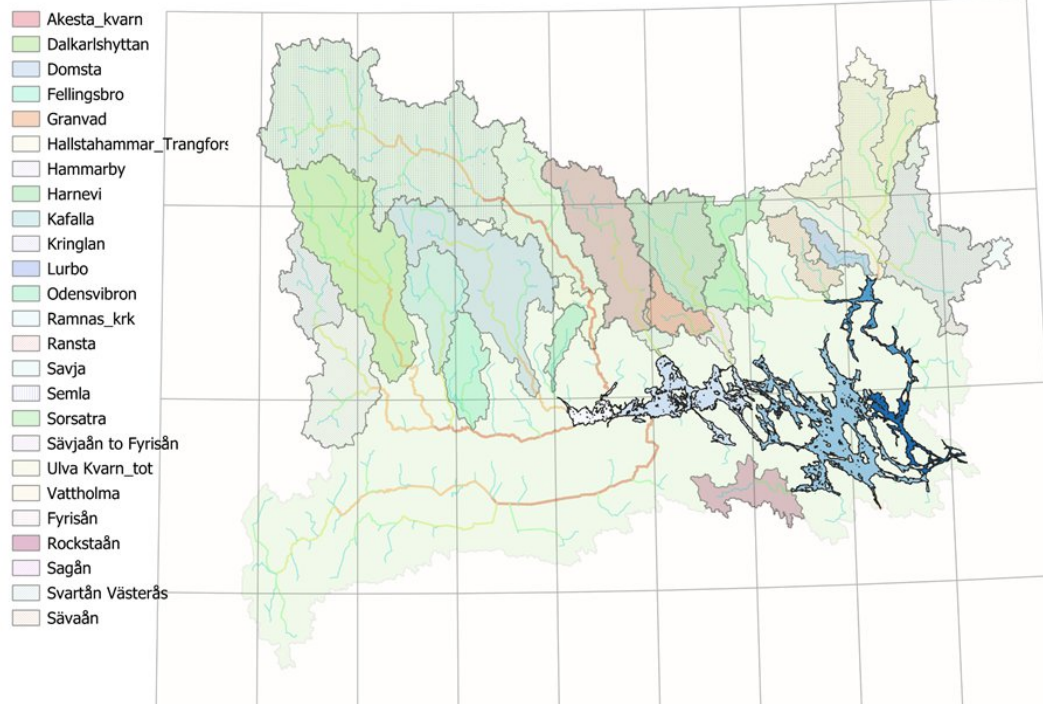
Israel Oceanographic Limnological  
Research



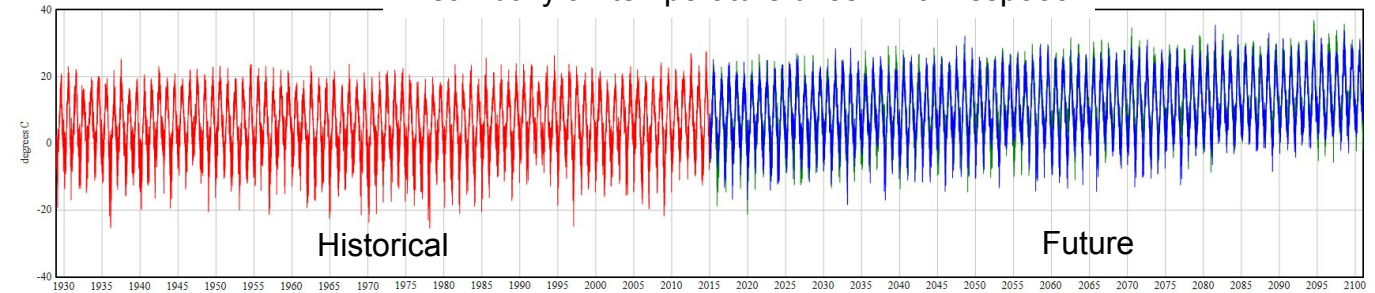


# Use of ISIMIP3 Data in Sweden

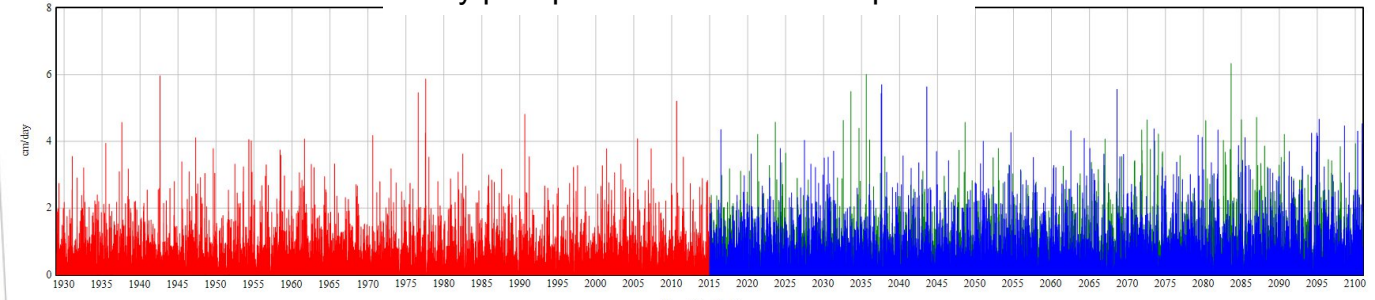
## Calibrated Watersheds and ISIMIP Grid



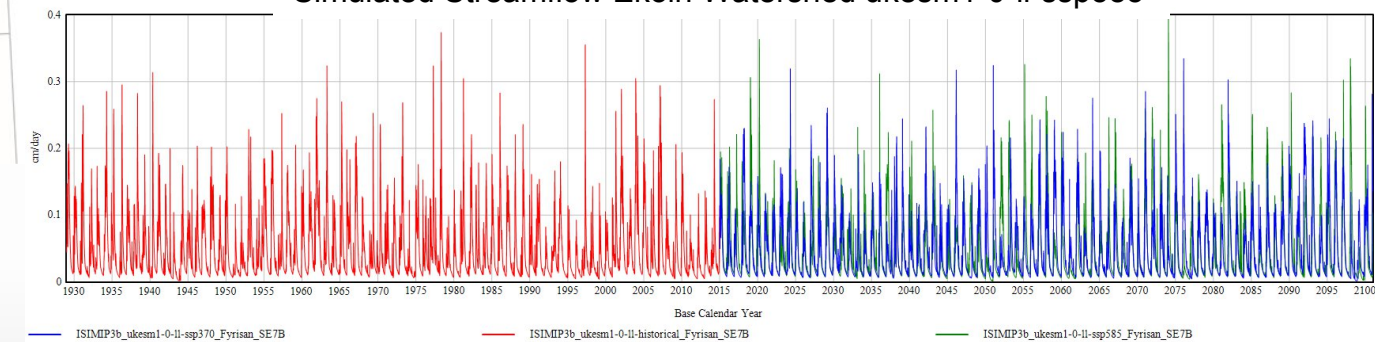
## Mean daily air temperature ukesm1-0-II-ssp585



## Daily precipitation ukesm1-0-II-ssp585

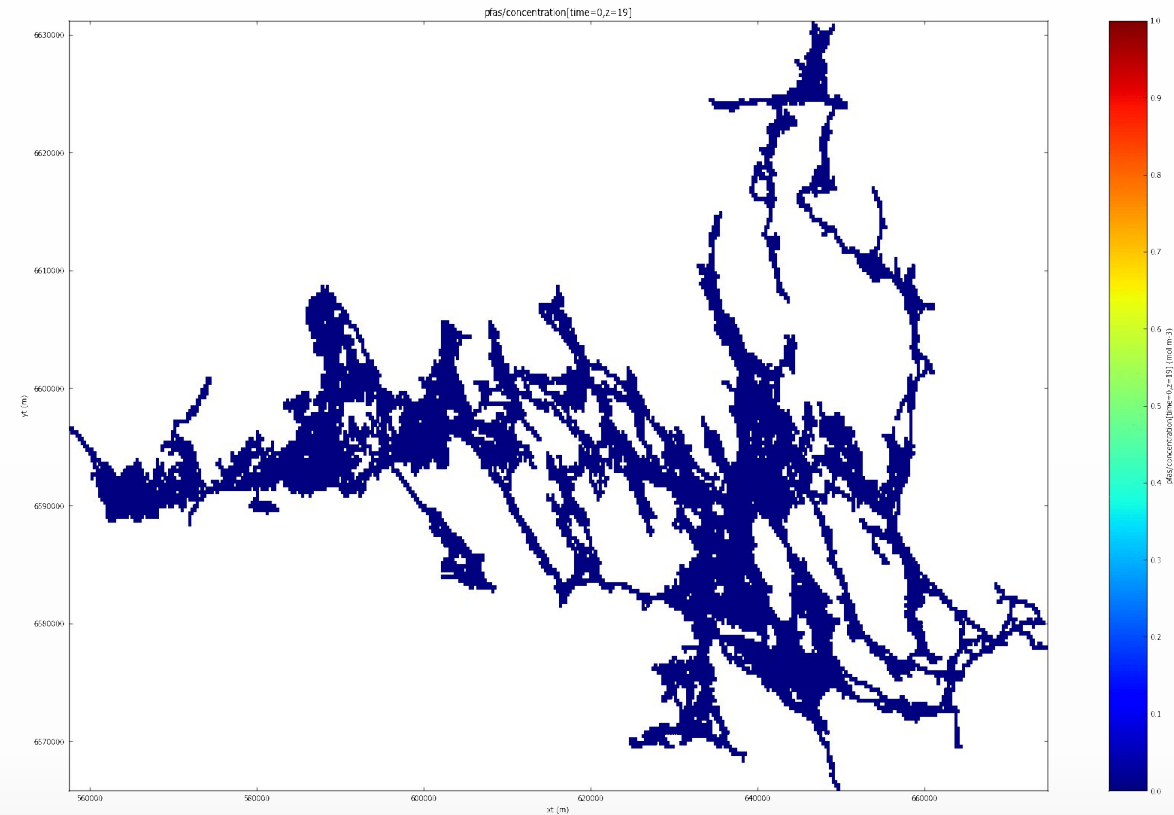


## Simulated Streamflow Ekoln Watershed ukesm1-0-II-ssp585



For More Information:

<https://mews-water.com/>



# Modelling the burial of organic carbon in lakes within the ISIMIP framework

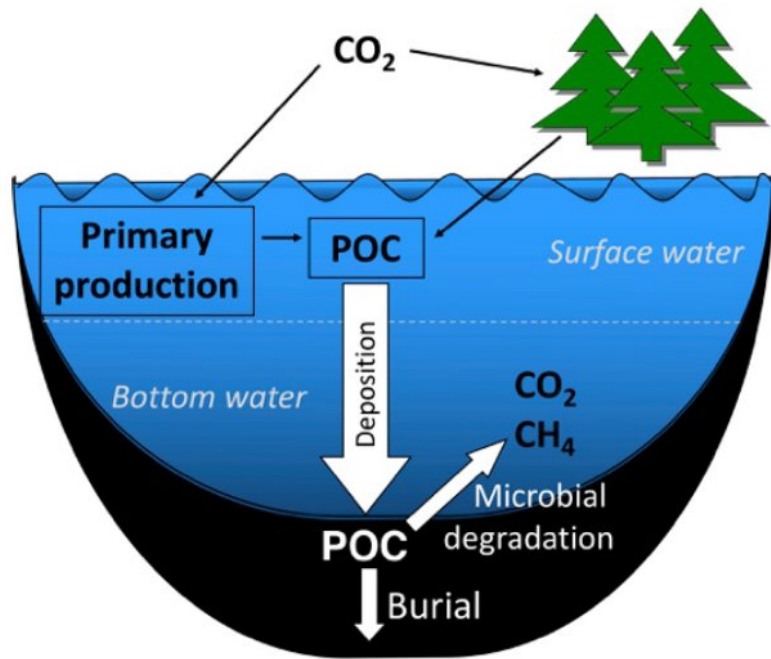
Ana I. Ayala, Donald C. Pierson and Sebastian Sobek

ISIMIP Lake Sector

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

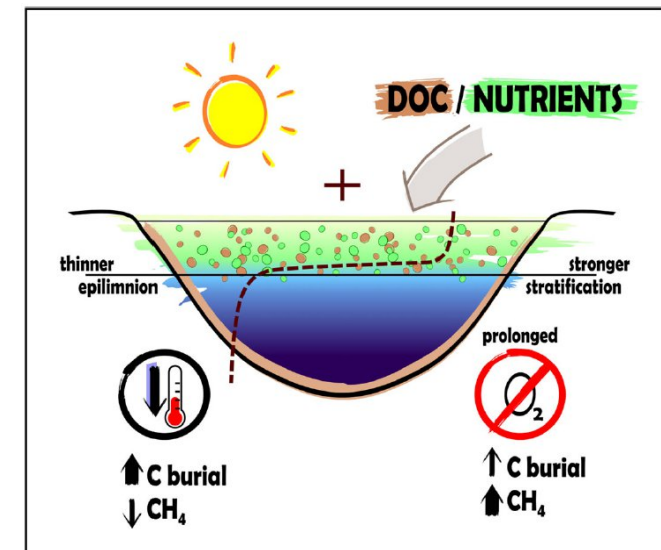


# Introduction

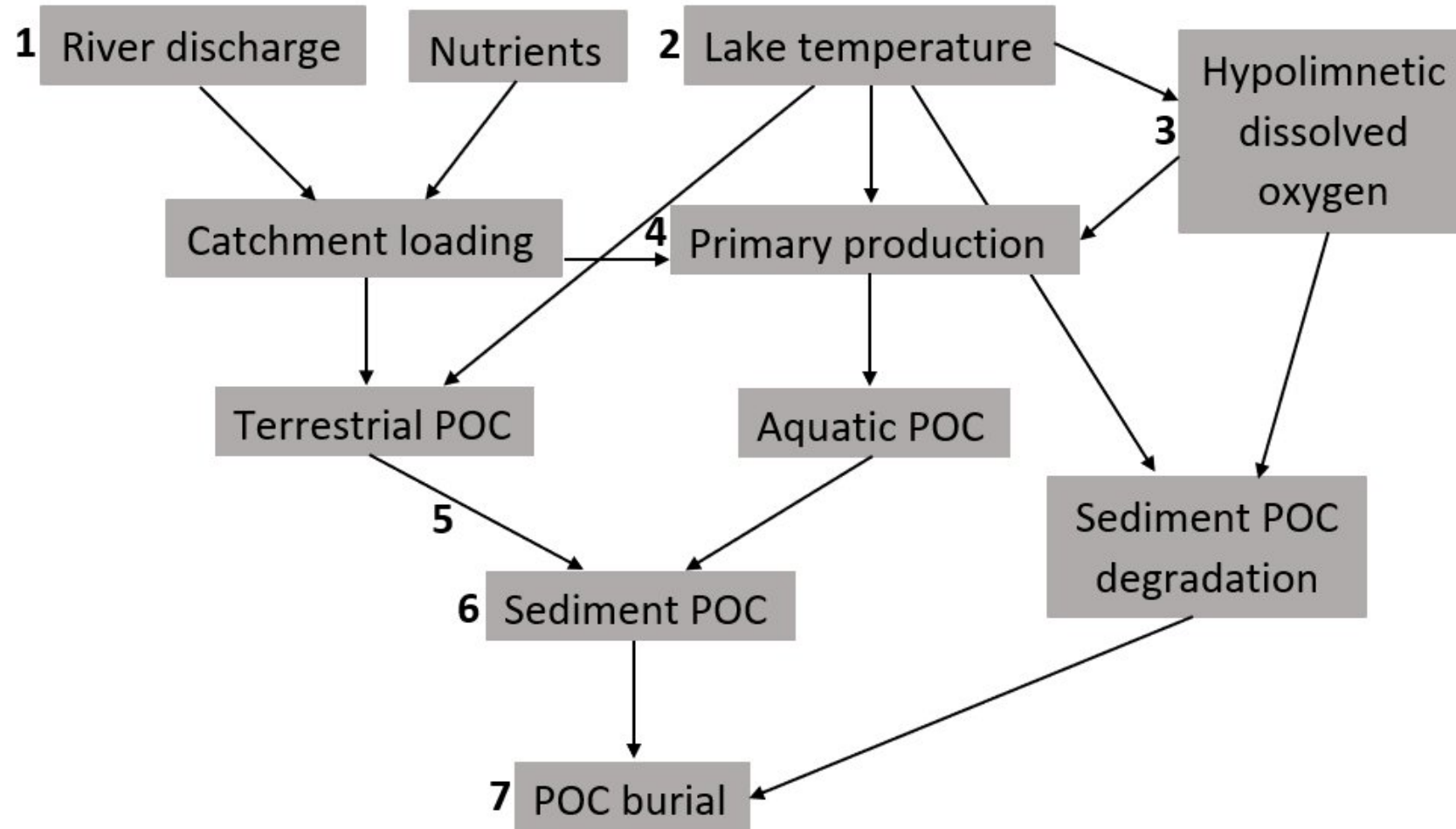


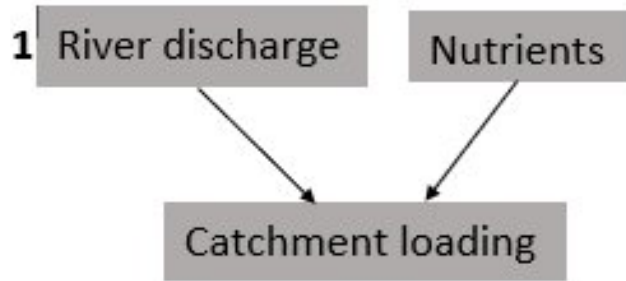
Mechanism regulation microbial degradation:

- Low temperature
- Short oxygen exposure
- Complex chemical composition of the organic matter
- Source of POC (from land or internal primary production)



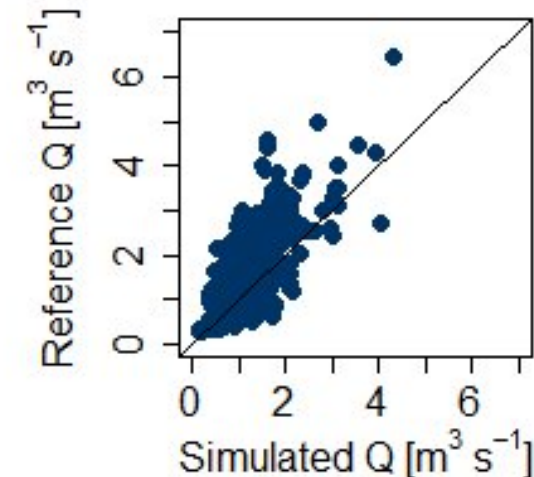
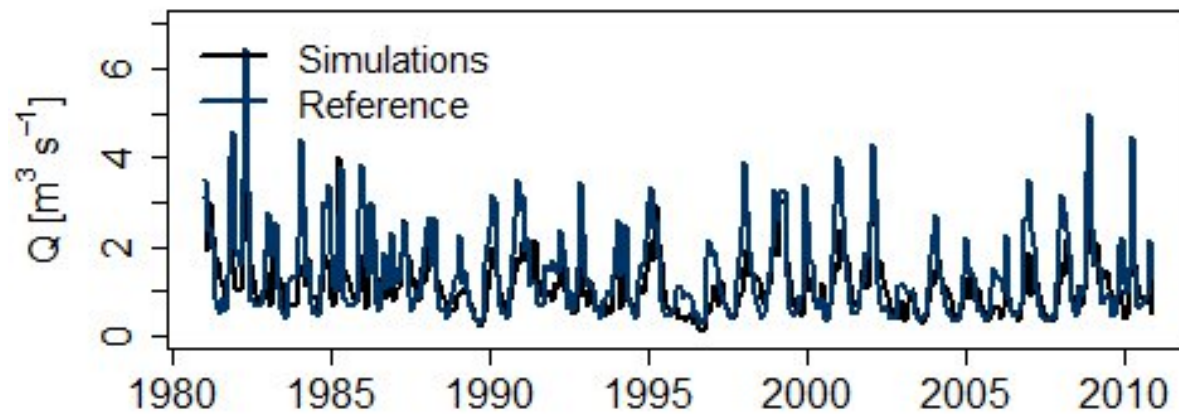
# Modelling framework





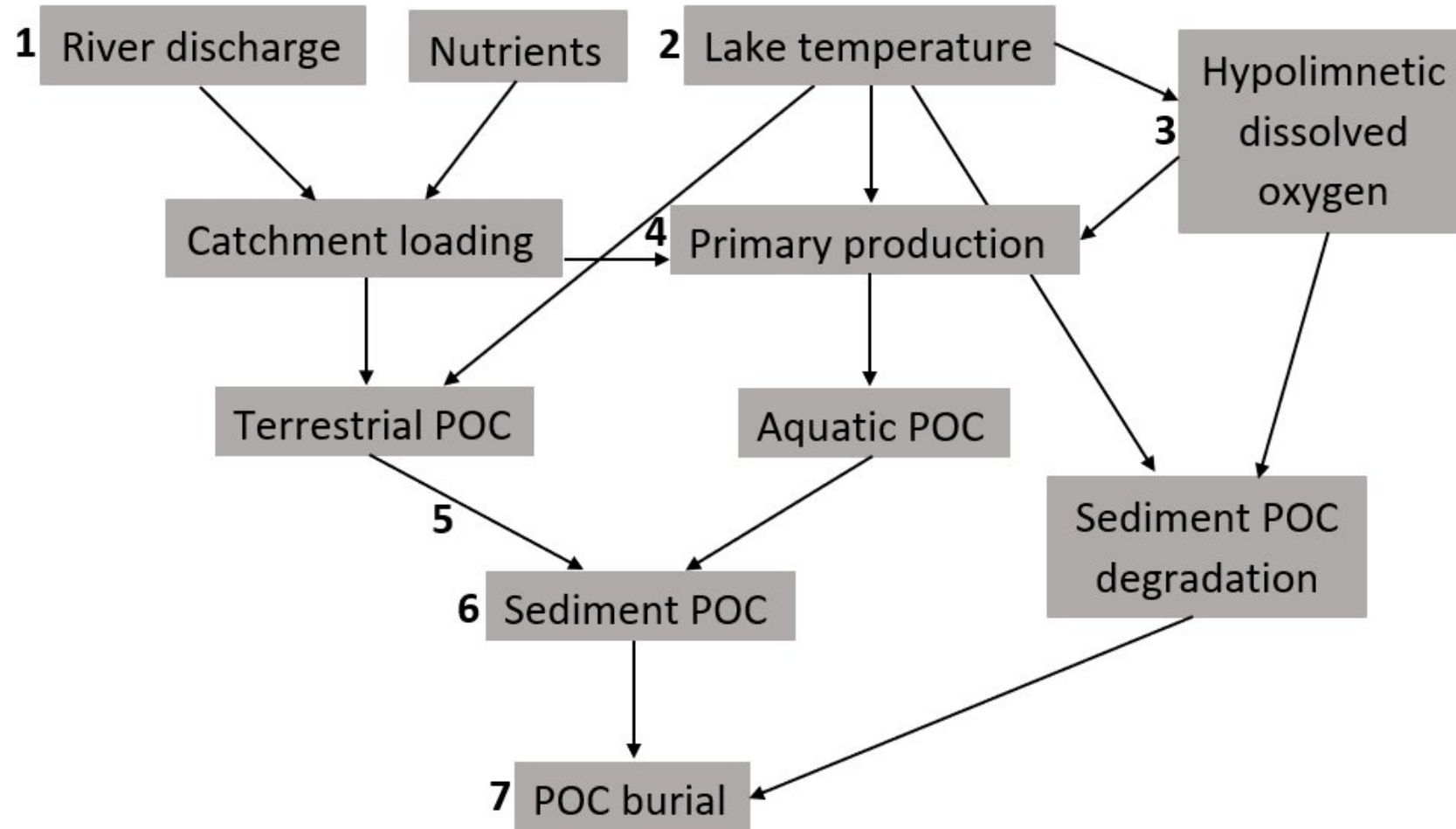
GLOBAL NEWS2: Nutrient export from land to river (Mayorga et al., 2010)

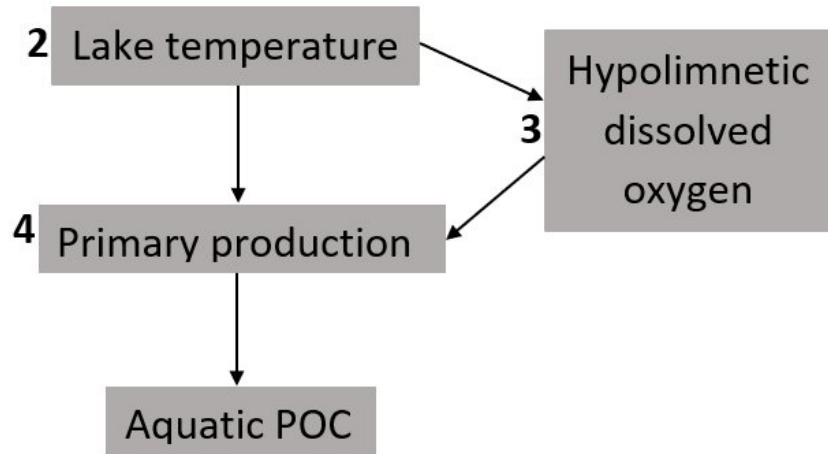
1. Scaling 0.5° grid streamflow from Global Water Sector to catchment scale using WaterGAP2.2e outputs (Ayala et al., in prep.)



$KGE=0.63$   
 $KGE_r=0.75$   
 $KGE_b=0.80$   
 $KGE_g=0.83$

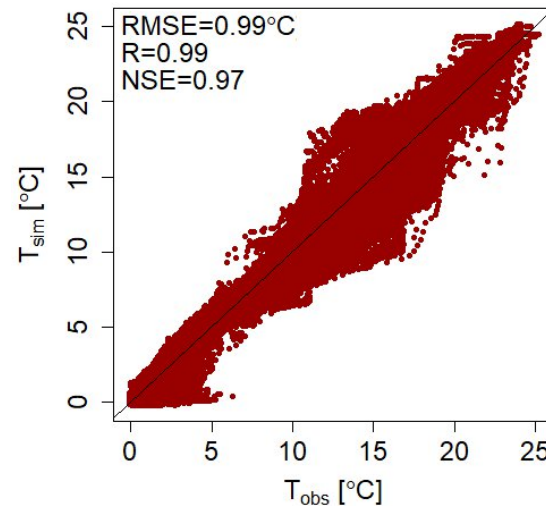
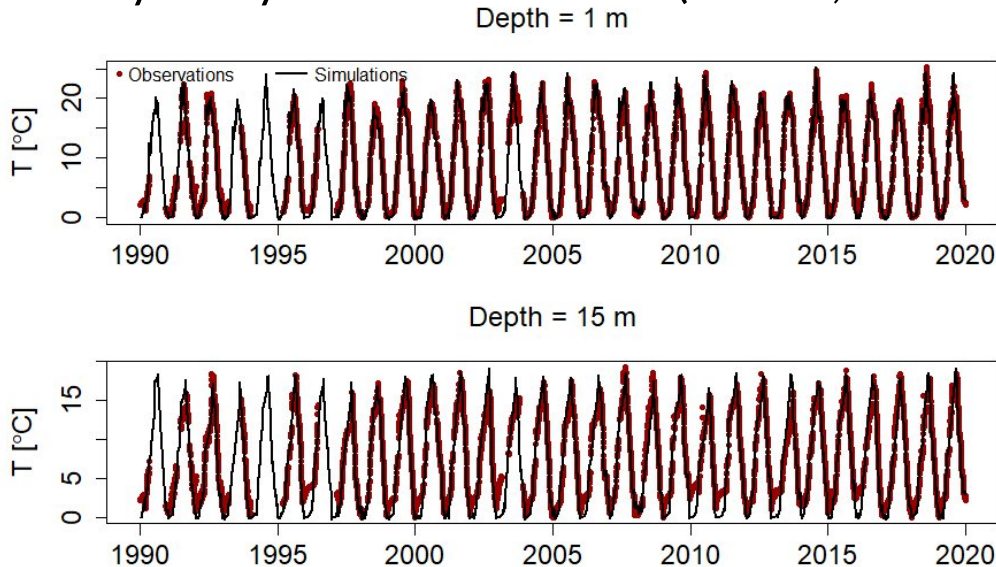
# Modelling framework





## 2. Water temperature, stratification and mixing dynamics

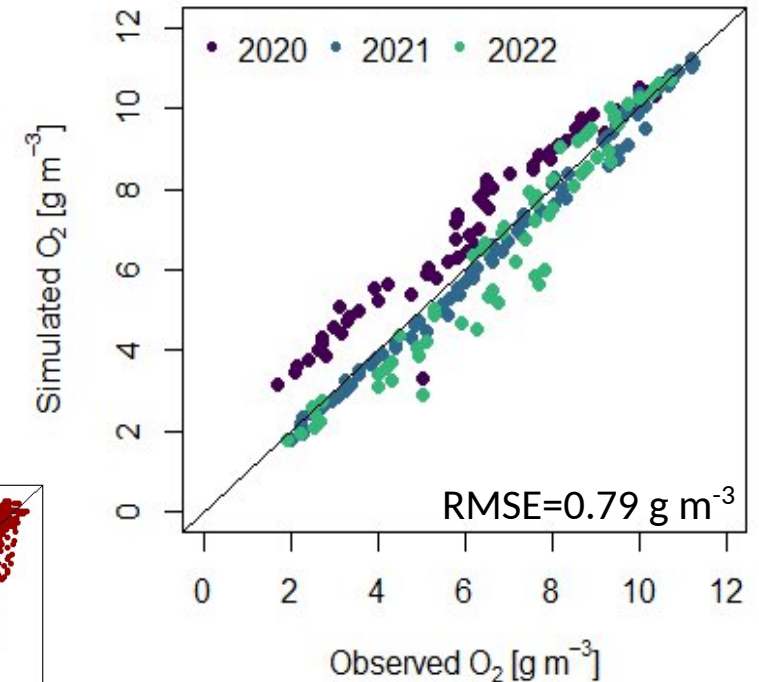
### 1D hydrodynamic lake model (GOTM; Burchard et al., 1999)



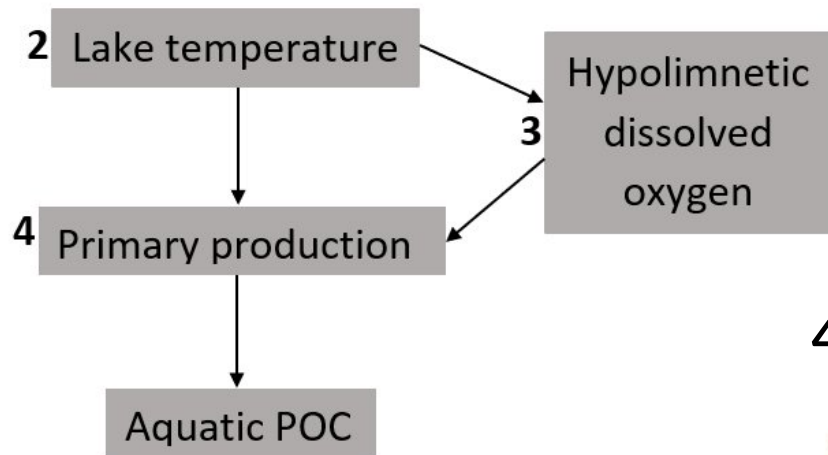
## 3. Hypolimnetic dissolved oxygen

### Livingstone and Imboden (1996)

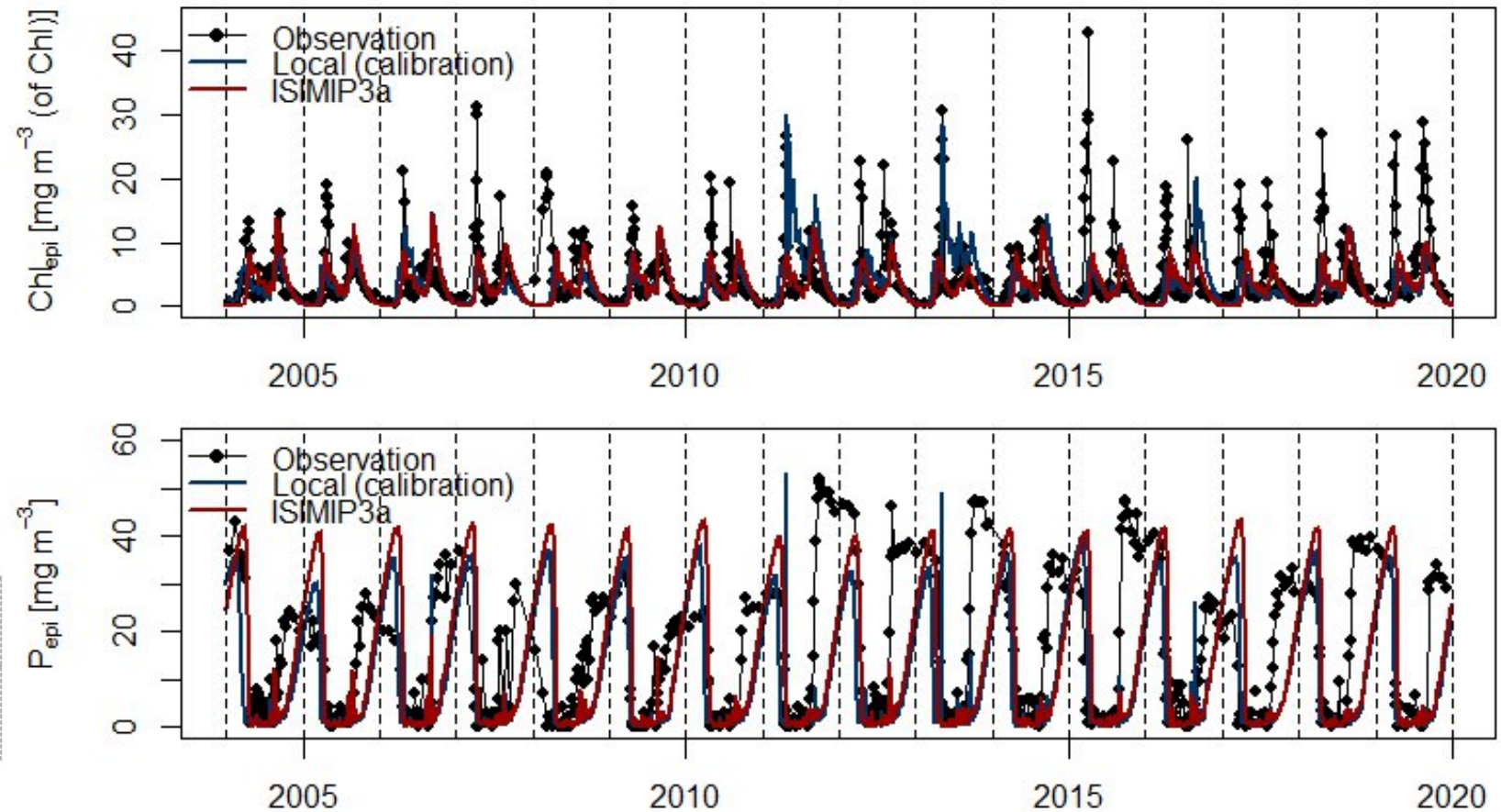
$$\frac{\partial O_2(z, t)}{\partial t} = -(J_v + J_A \cdot \alpha(z)) \cdot \theta^{T_{hyp}(z, t) - 20}$$





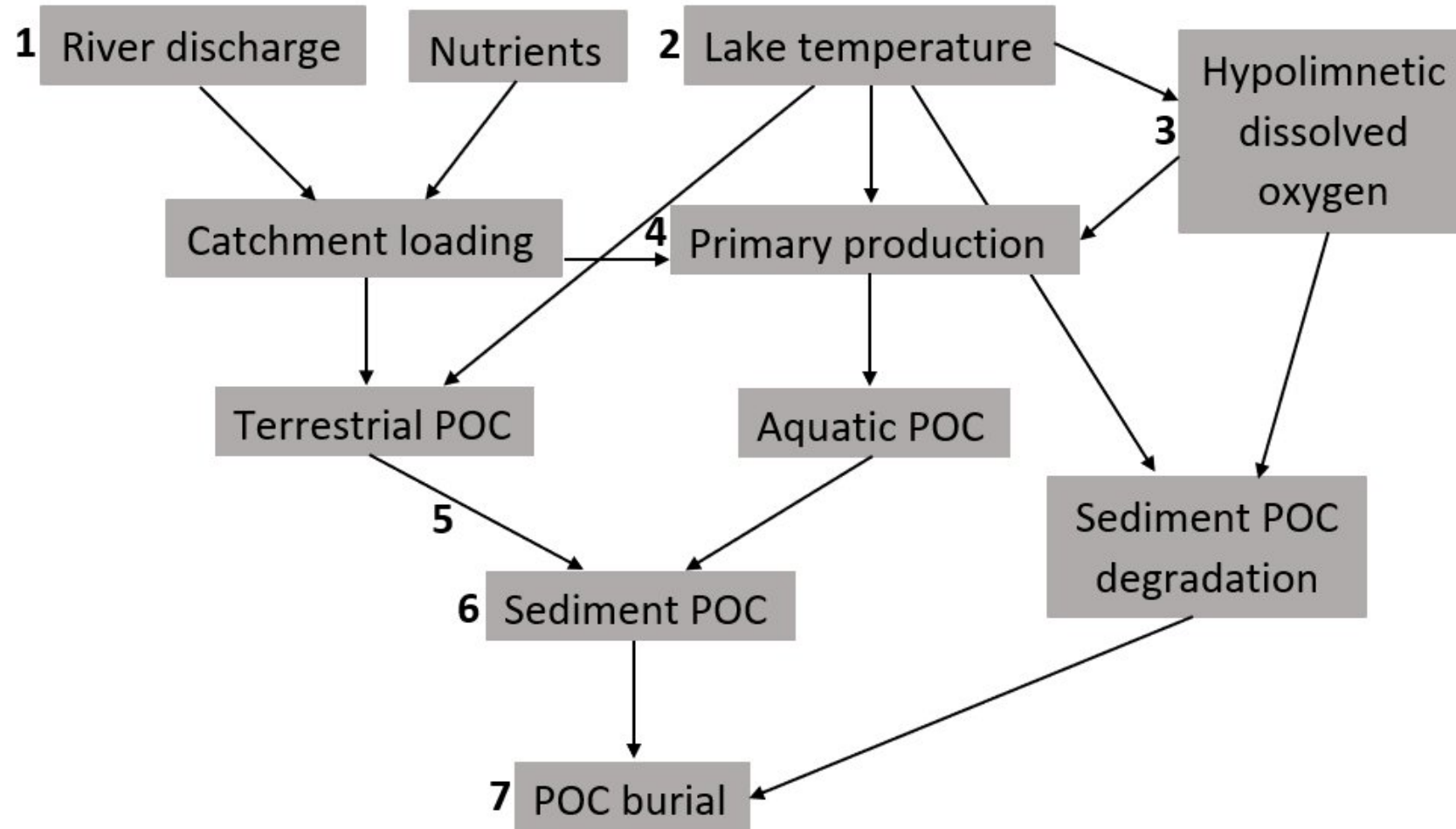


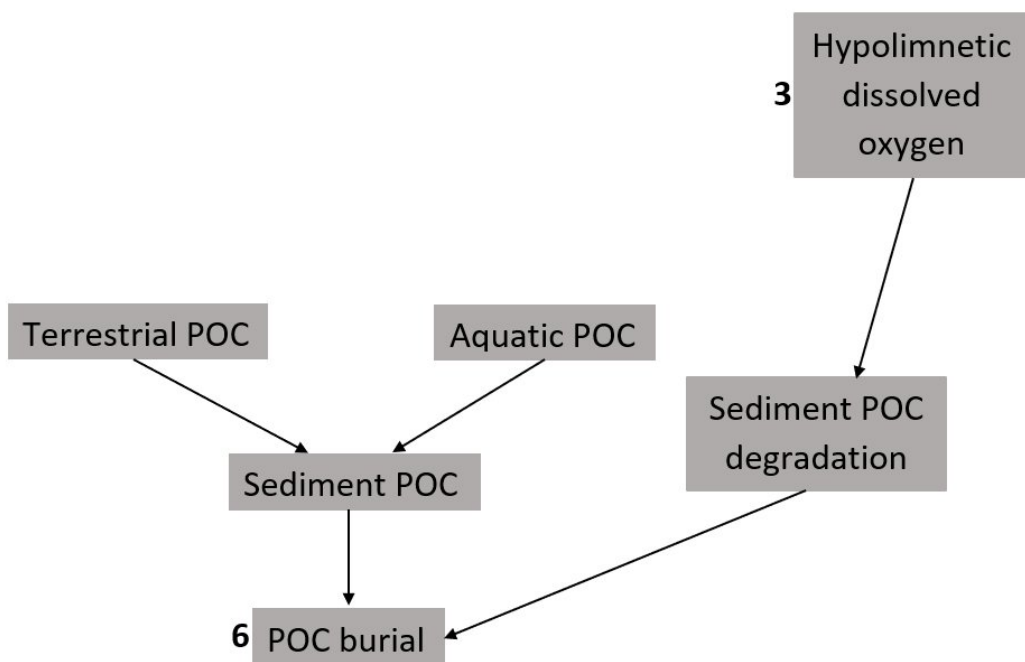
#### 4. Lake primary production



	Local (calibration)		ISIMIP3a	
	NRMSE	RMSE	NRMSE	RMSE
$Chl_{epi}$	0.16	6.64 mg m <sup>-3</sup>	0.15	6.36 mg m <sup>-3</sup>
$P_{epi}$	0.28	14.37 mg m <sup>-3</sup>	0.28	14.56 mg m <sup>-3</sup>

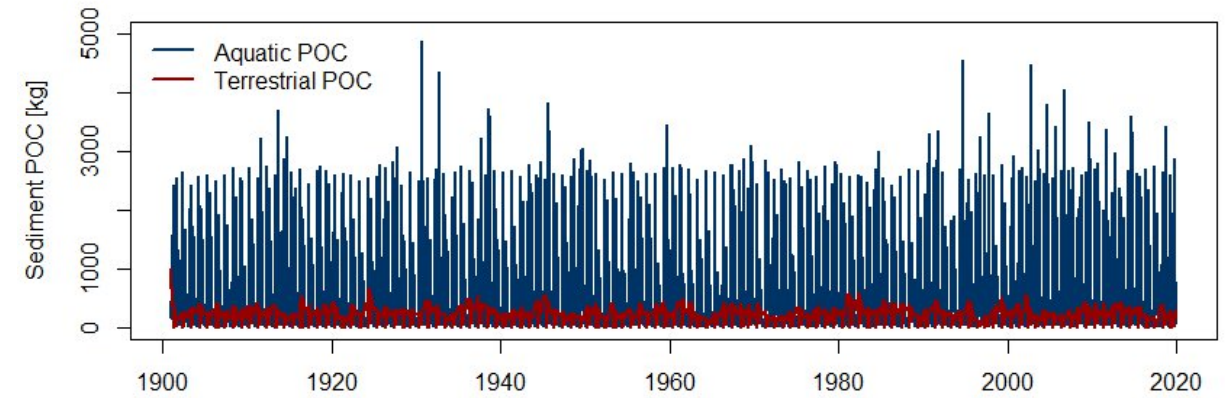
# Modelling framework



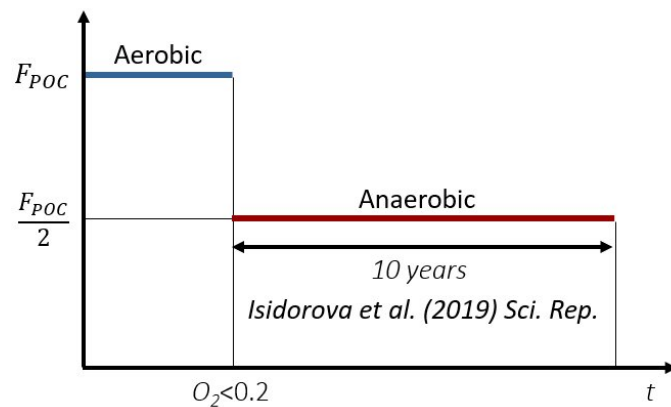


## Sediment POC

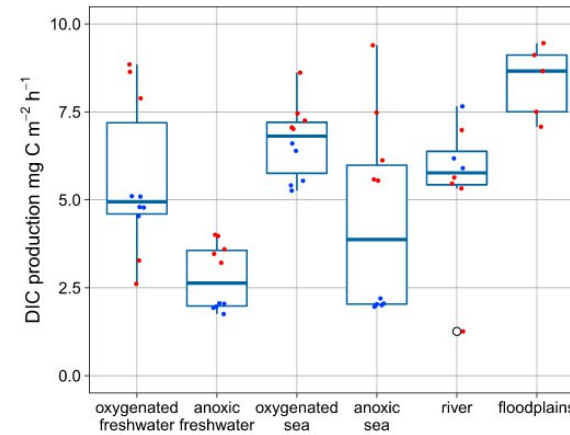
$POC_{auto} = 72.3\%$  of total POC  
 $POC_{allo} = 27.7\%$  of total POC



## 6. Sediment diagenesis



$$F_{POC} = f(J_A)$$



*Isidorova et al. (2019) JGR Biogeo*

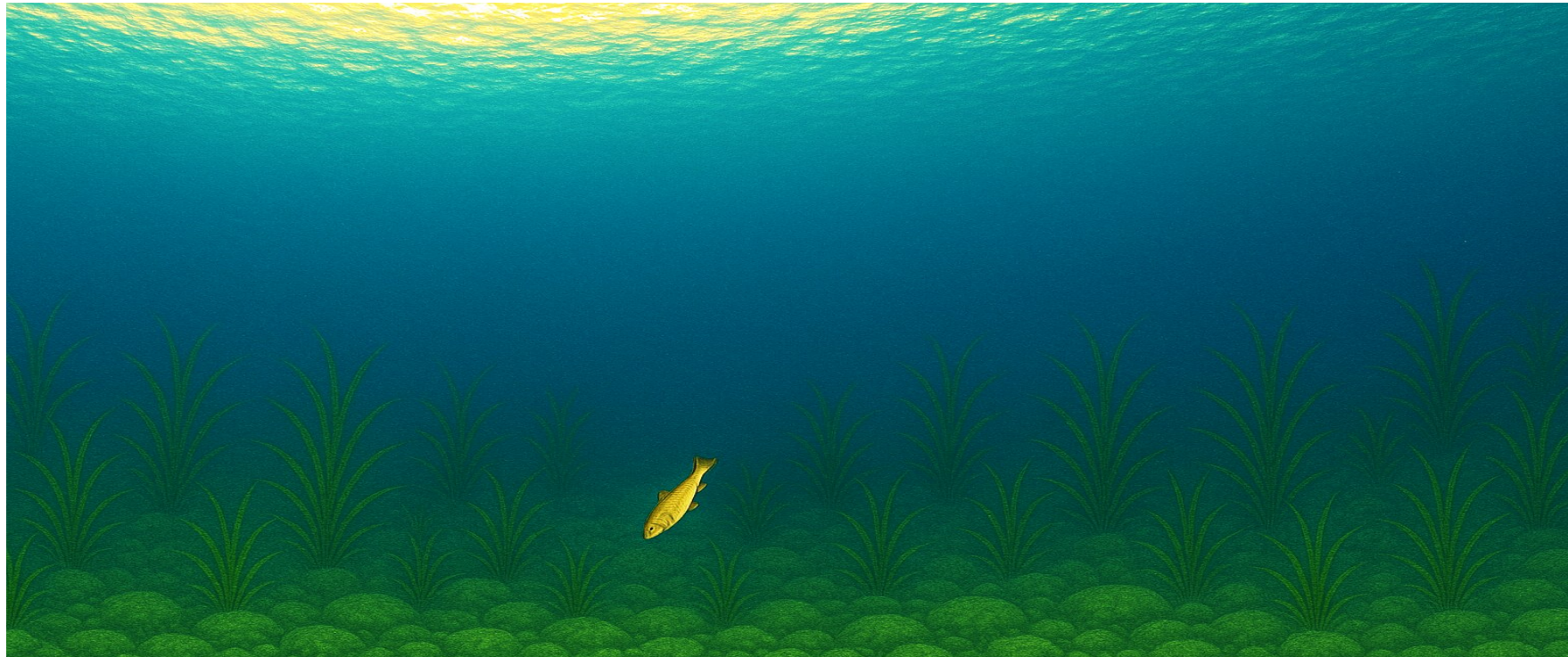


# Subsurface heatwaves in lakes

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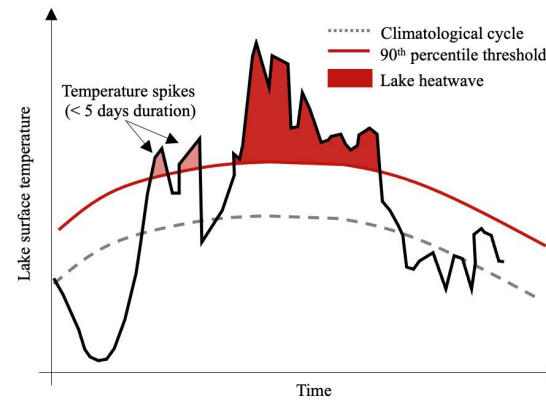
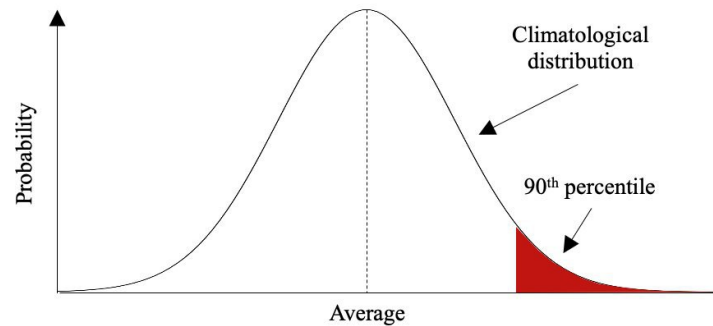
ISIMIP Lake Sector Meeting

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025



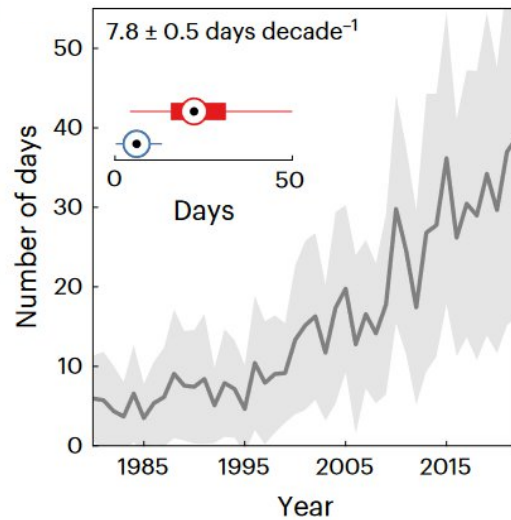
Reporter: **Haoran Shi** on behalf of **Dr. Iestyn Woolway**

## Lake Surface Heatwaves

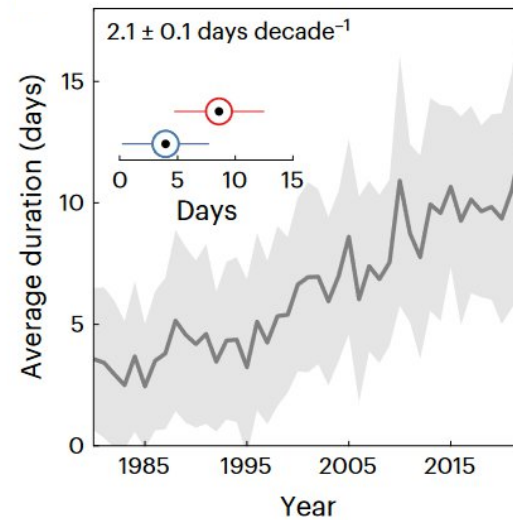


Some species can migrate downwards to escape from the heatwaves while the others cannot.

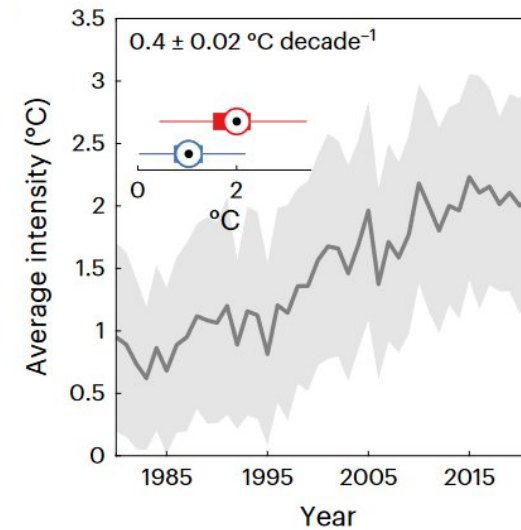
Surface heatwaves are increasing !



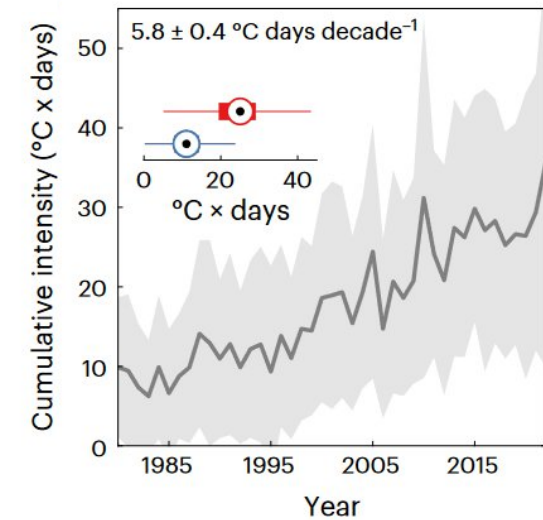
occurrence



duration

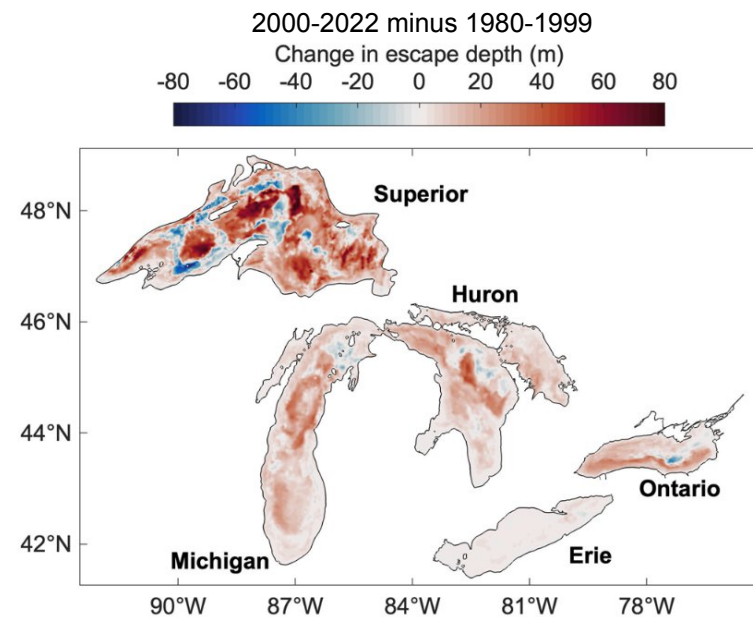
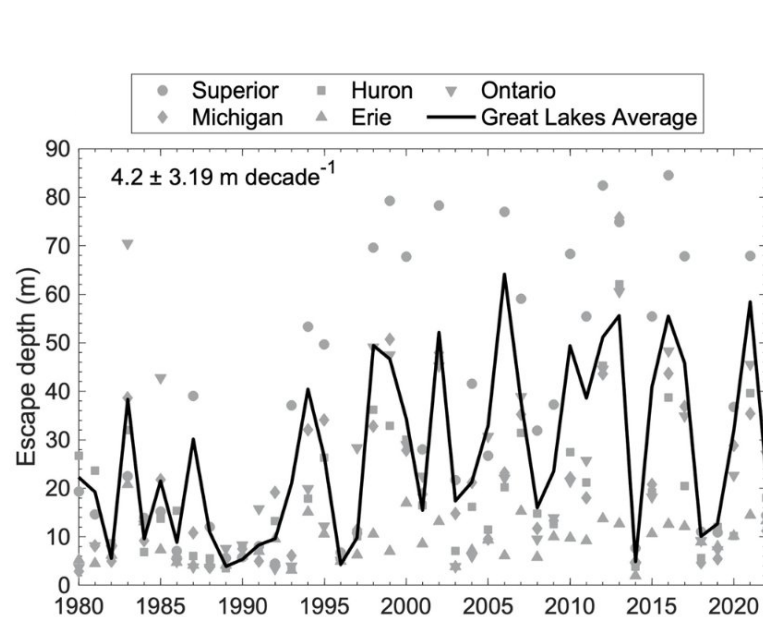
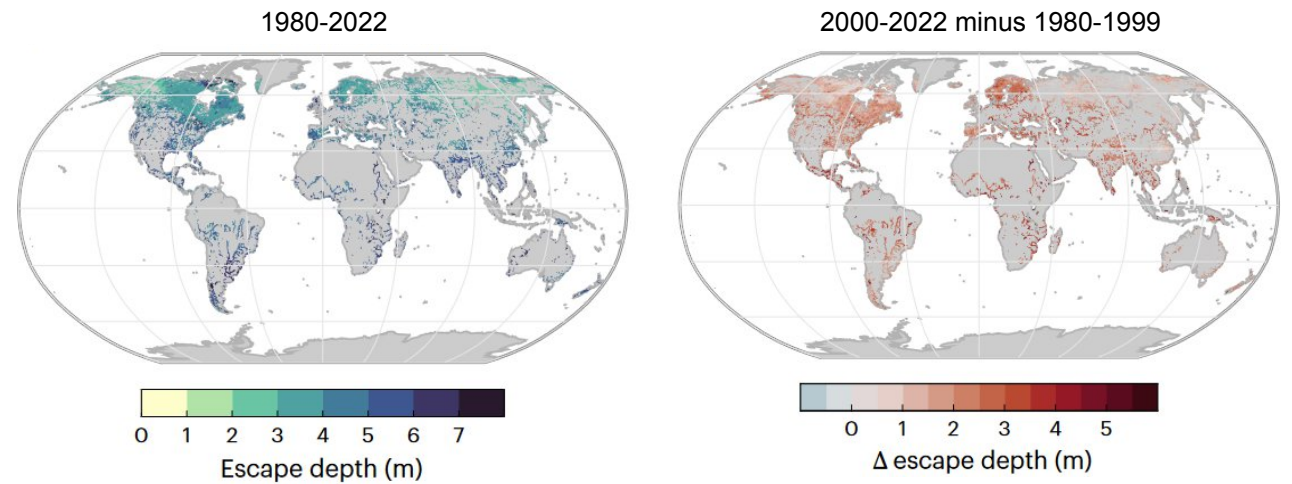
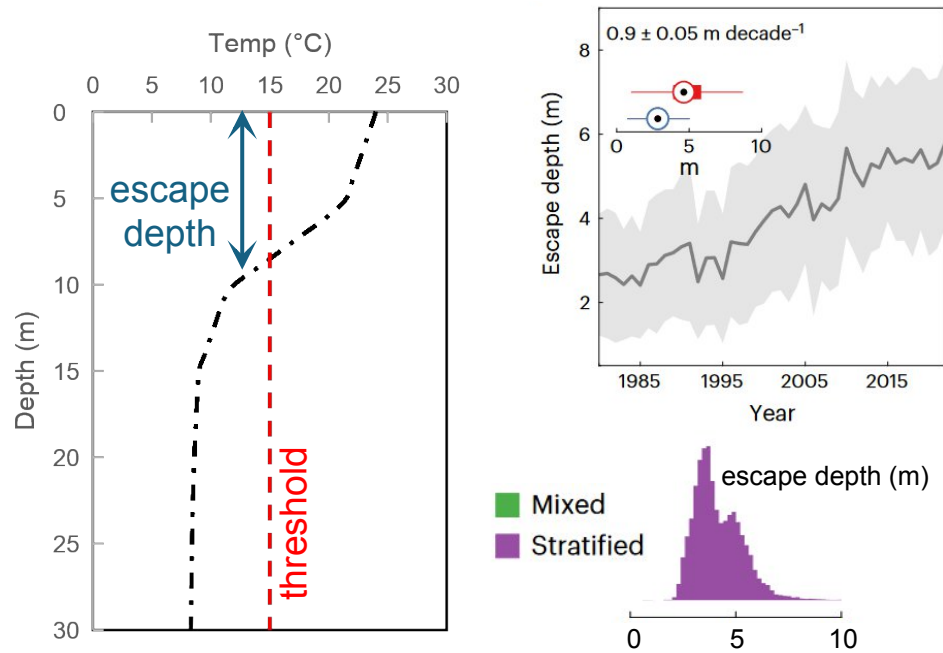


intensity



cumulative intensity

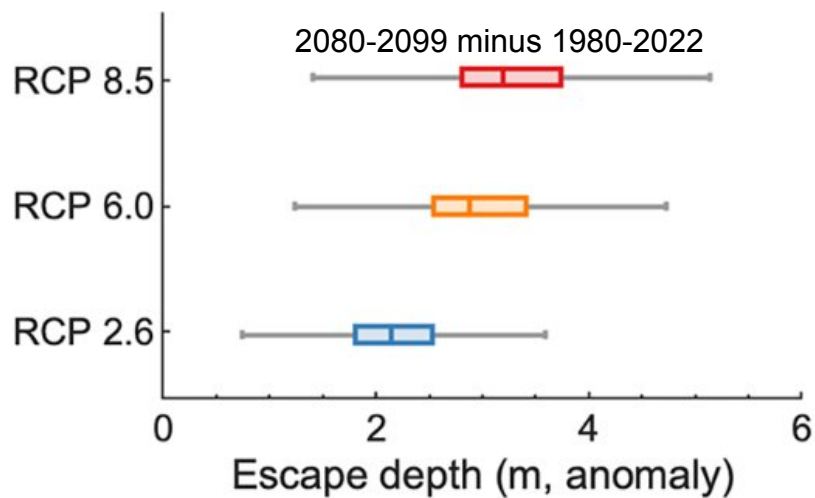
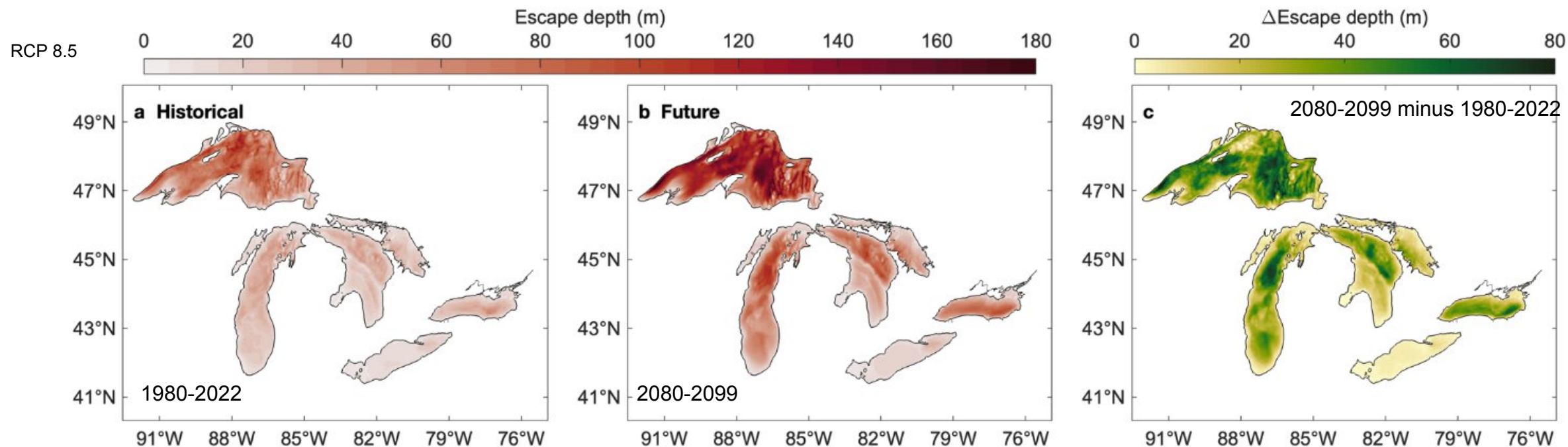
# Vertical escape depth



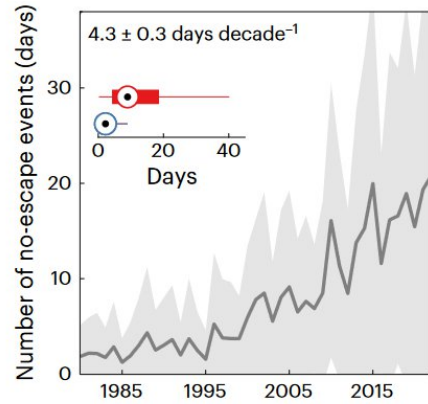
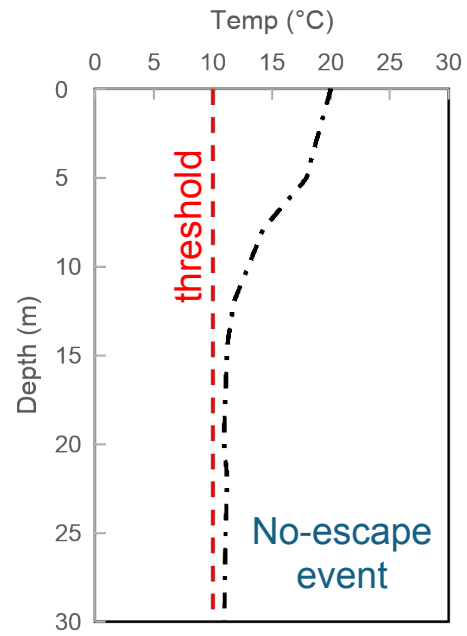
2000-2022 minus 1980-1999



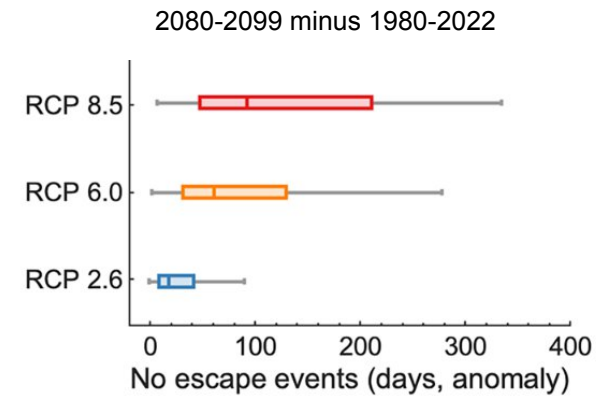
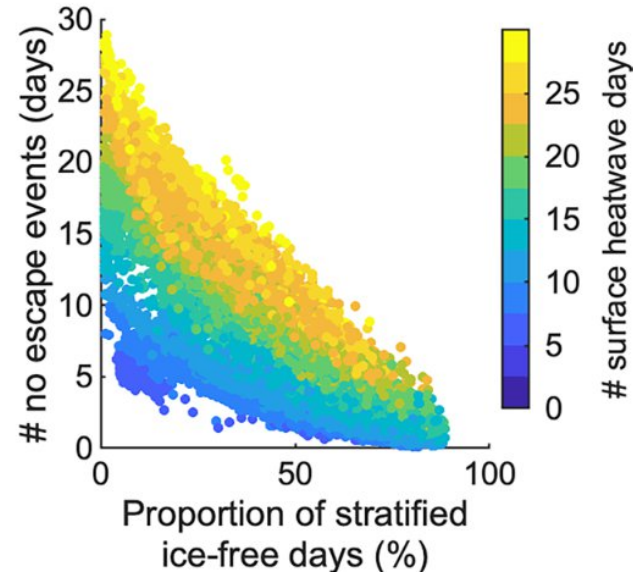
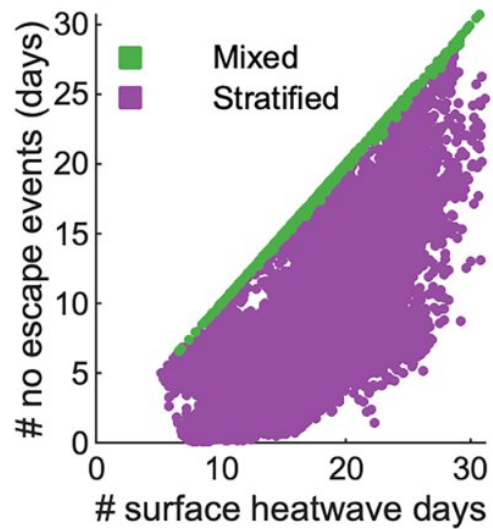
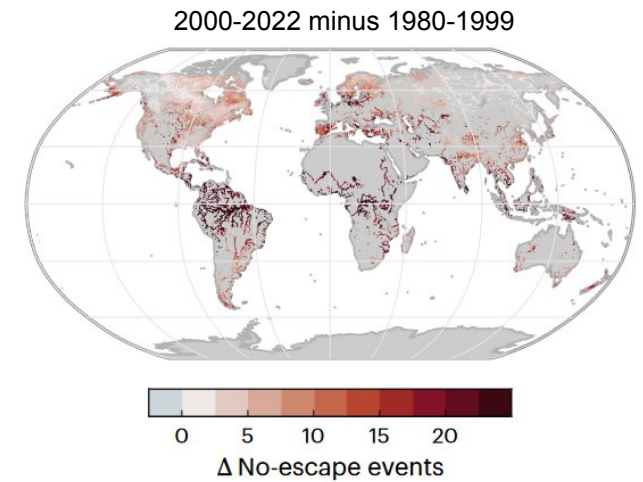
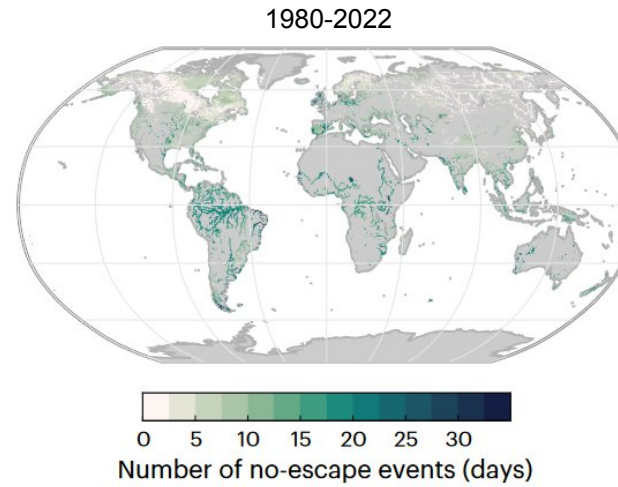
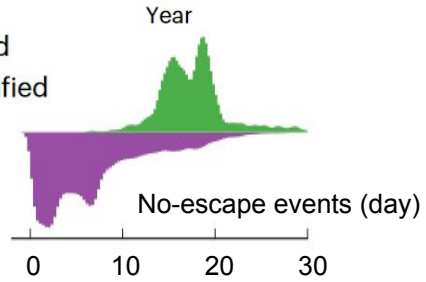
# Vertical escape depth



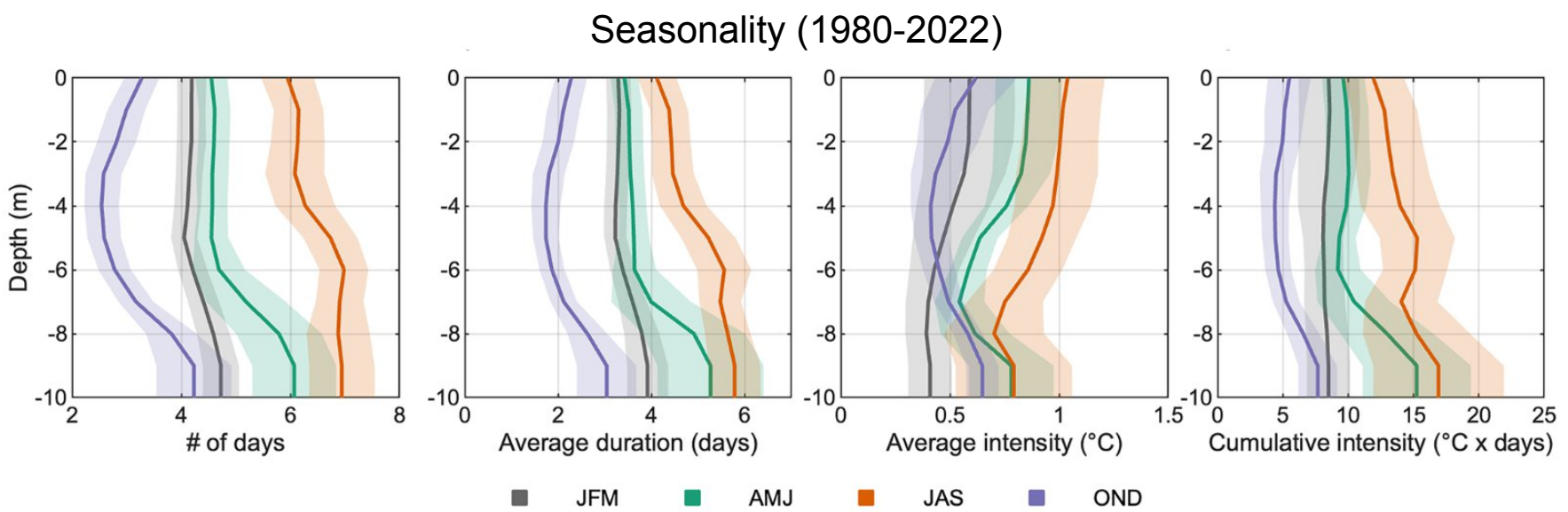
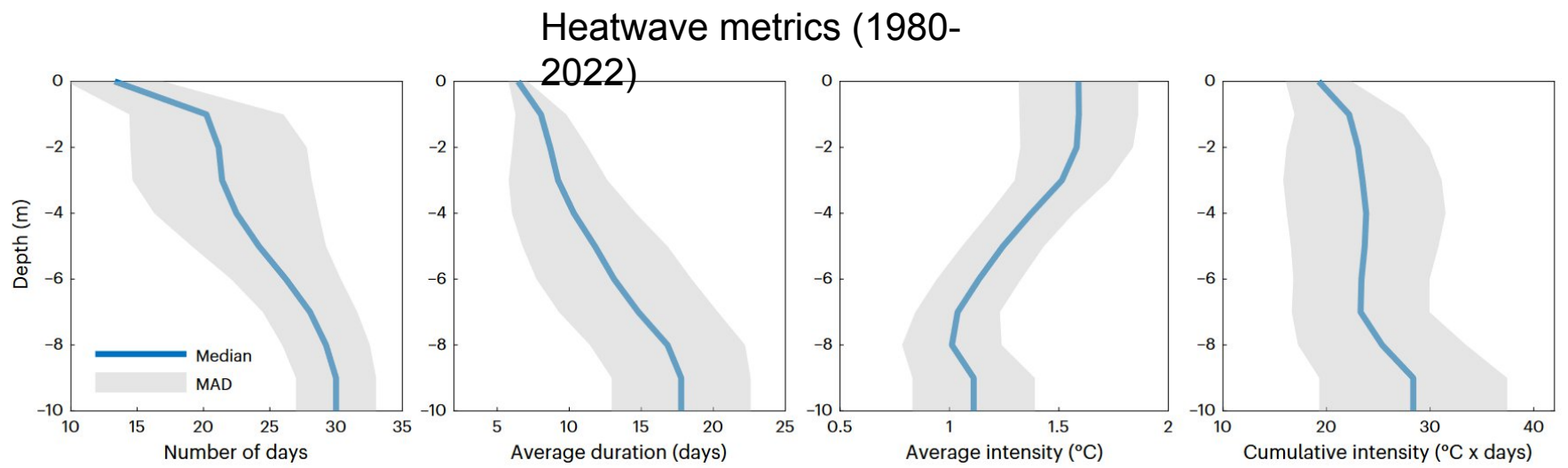
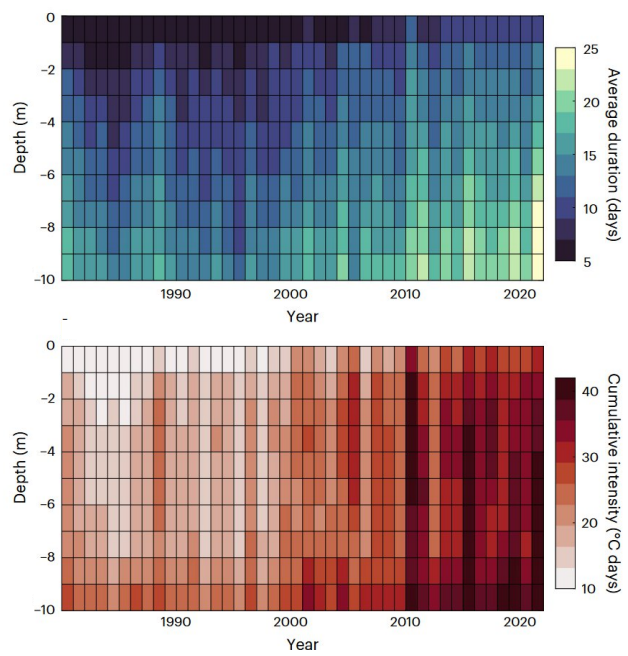
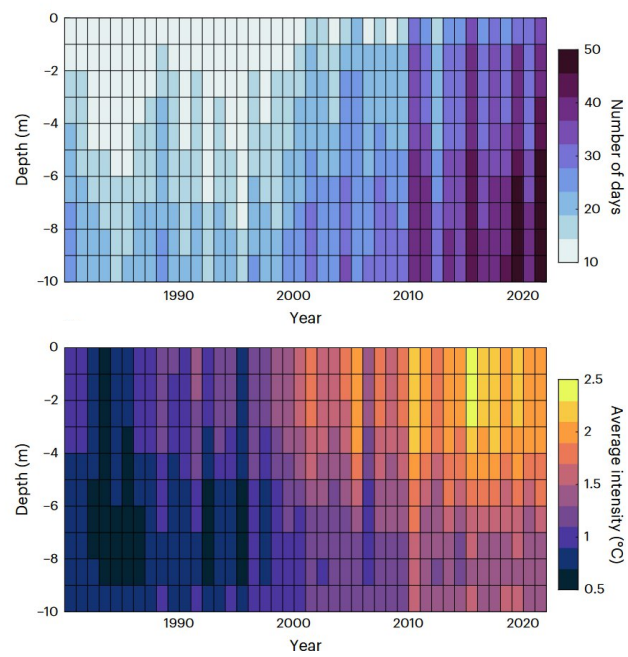
# No-escape events



Mixed  
Stratified

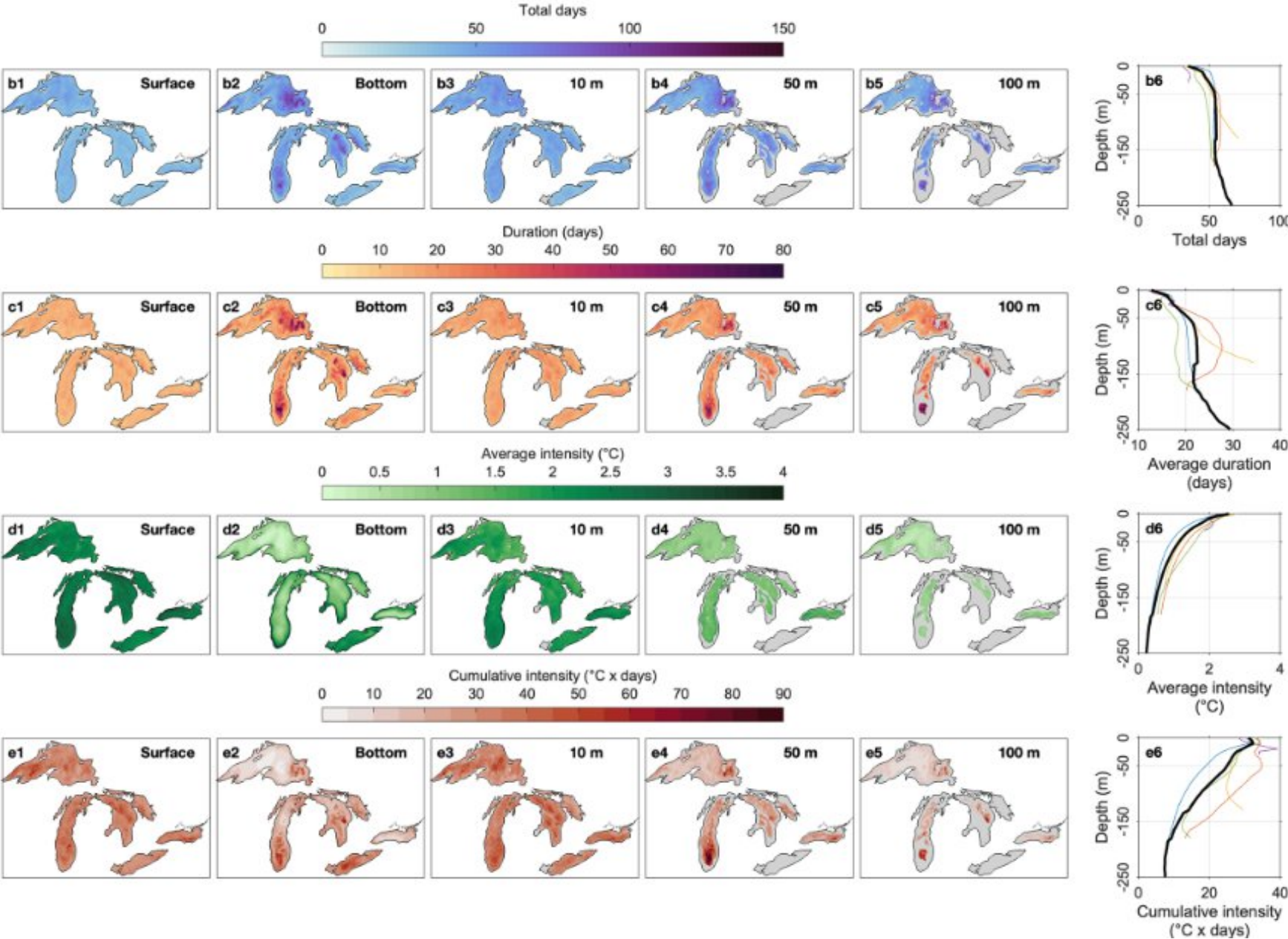


# Subsurface heatwaves



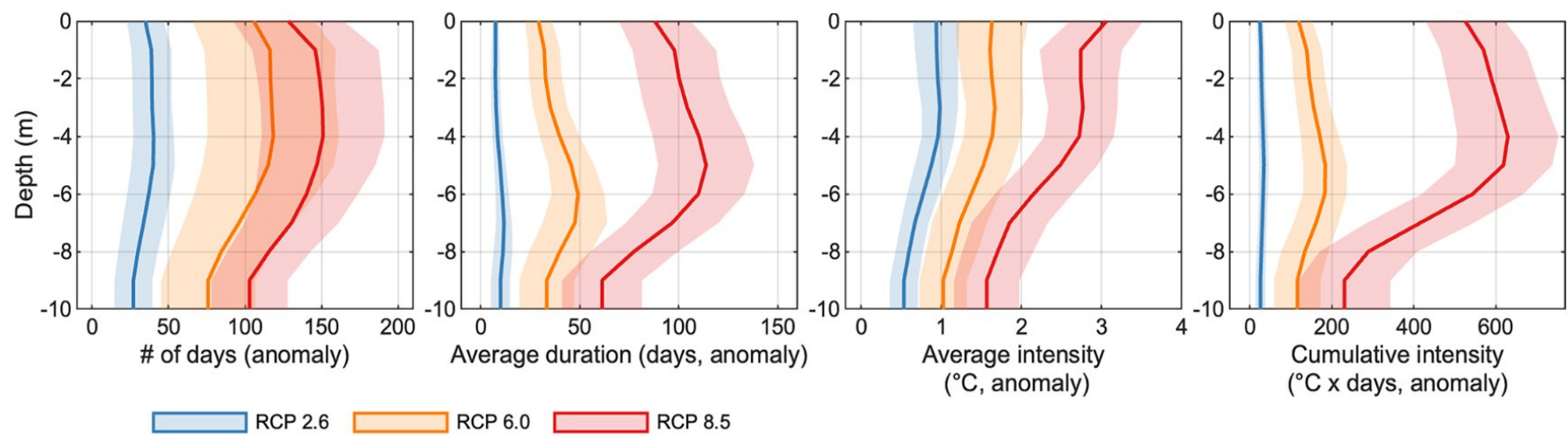


# Subsurface heatwaves

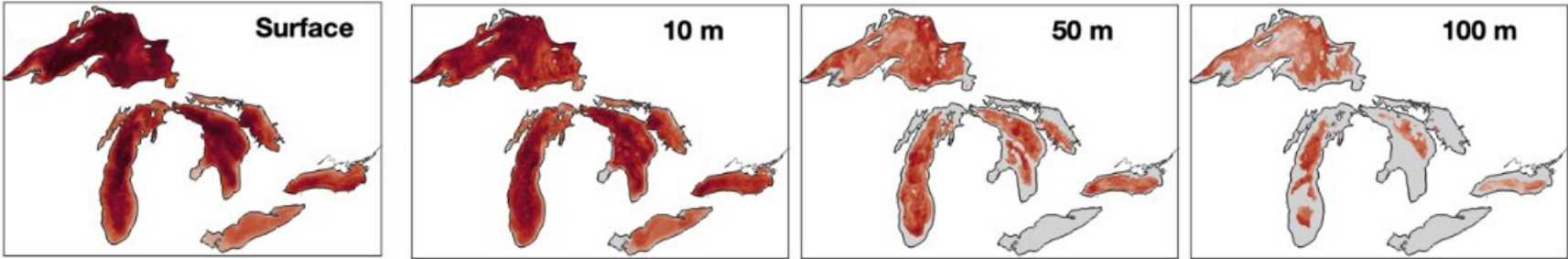


# Subsurface heatwaves

Heatwave metrics (2080-2099 minus 1980-2022)

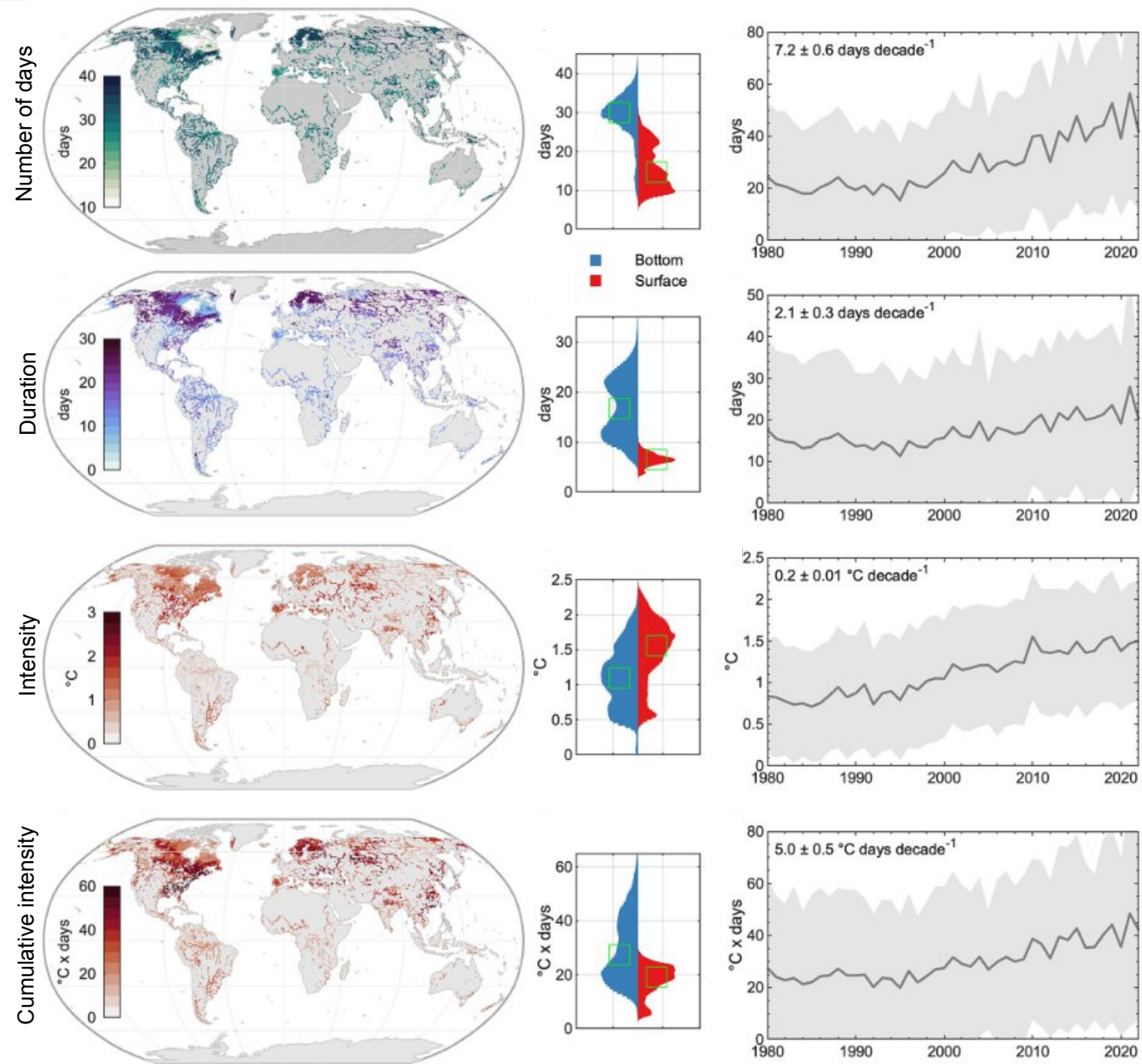


RCP 8.5

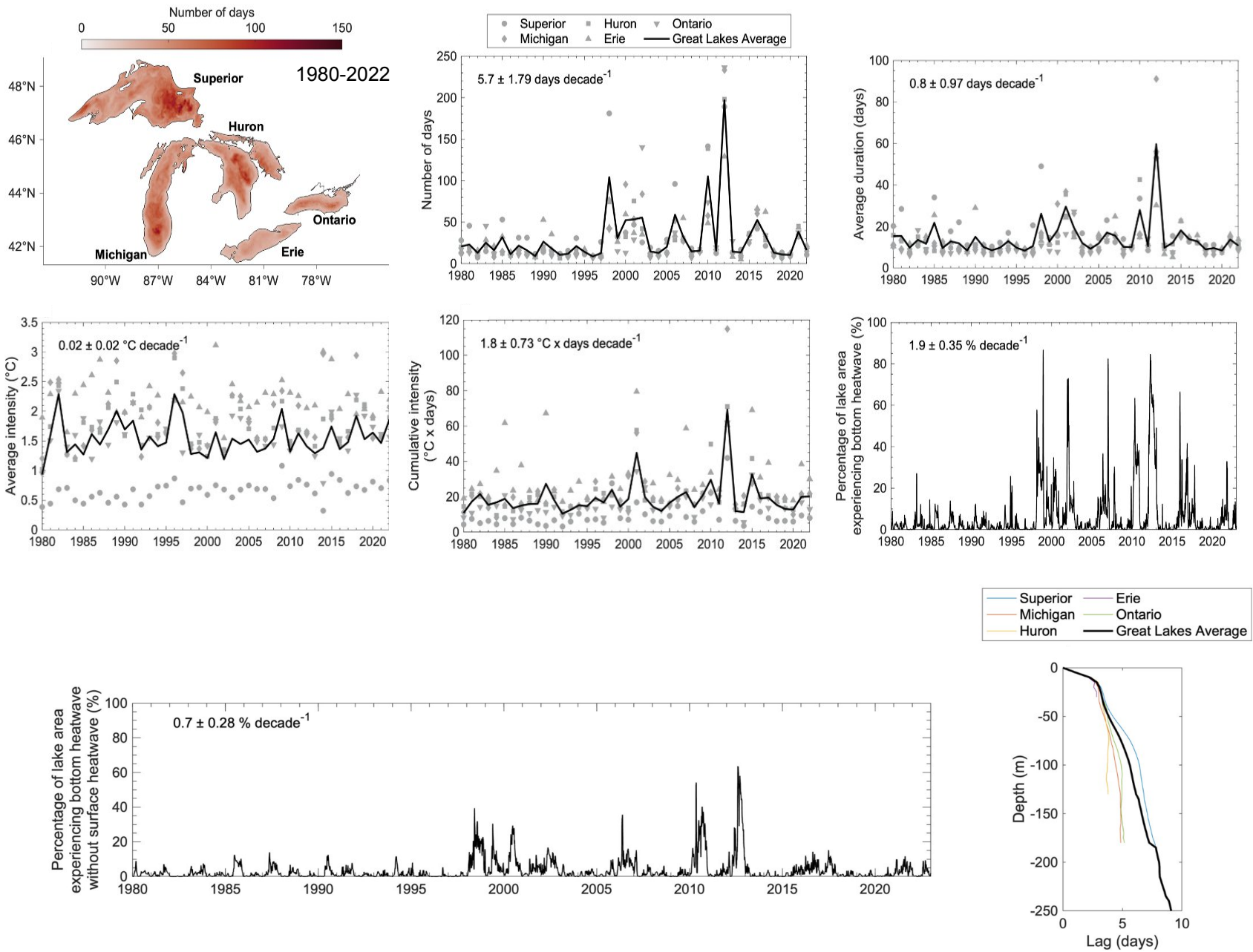




# Bottom heatwaves

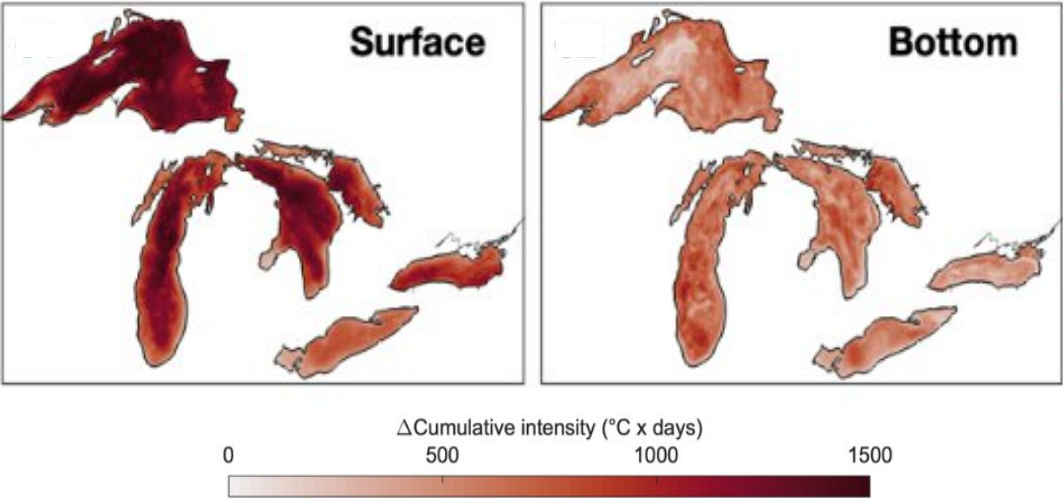
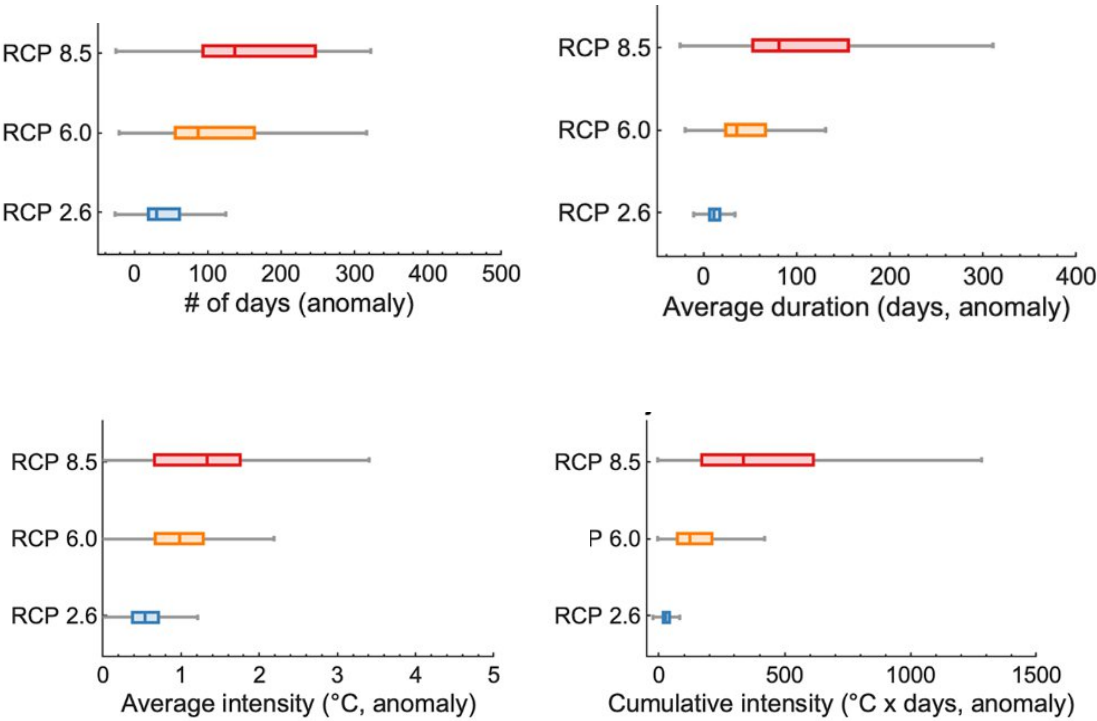


# Bottom heatwaves

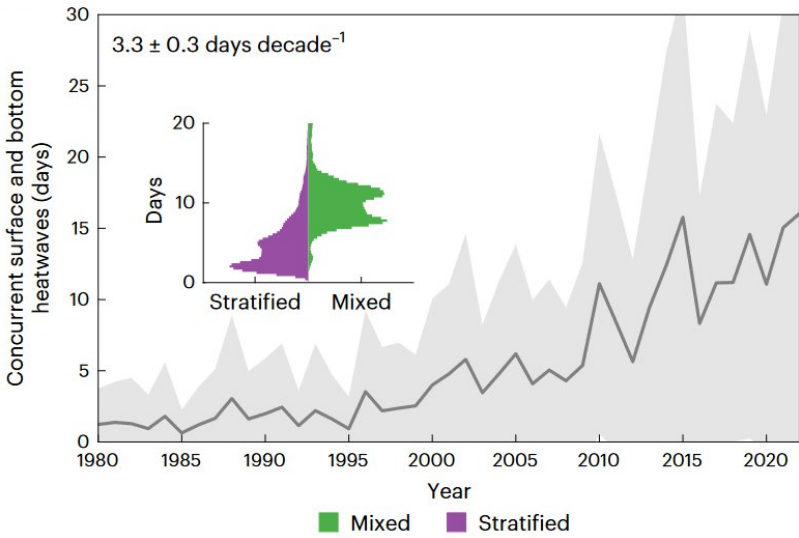
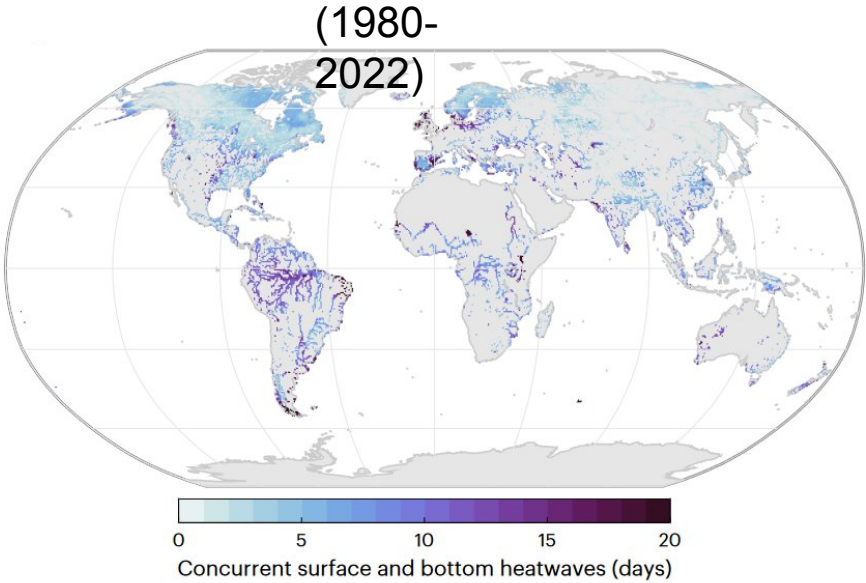


# Bottom heatwaves

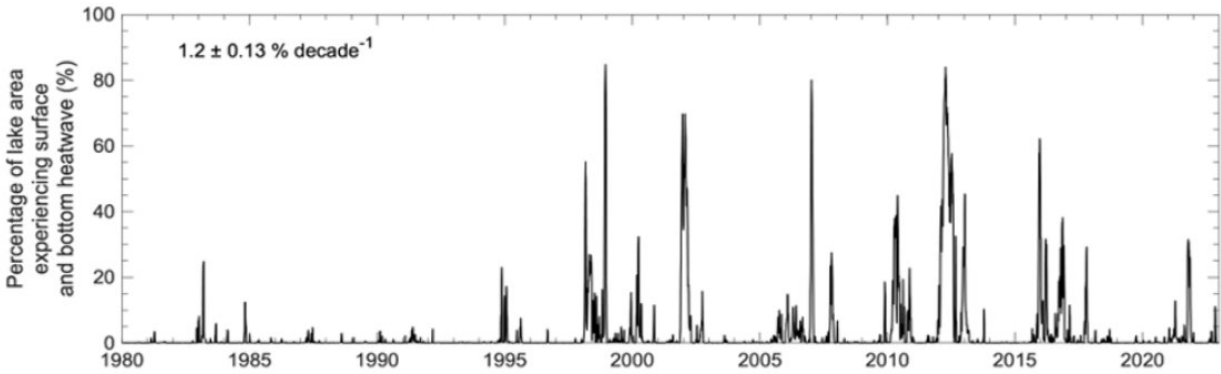
Heatwave metrics (2080-2099 minus 1980-2022)



# Concurrent surface and bottom heatwaves



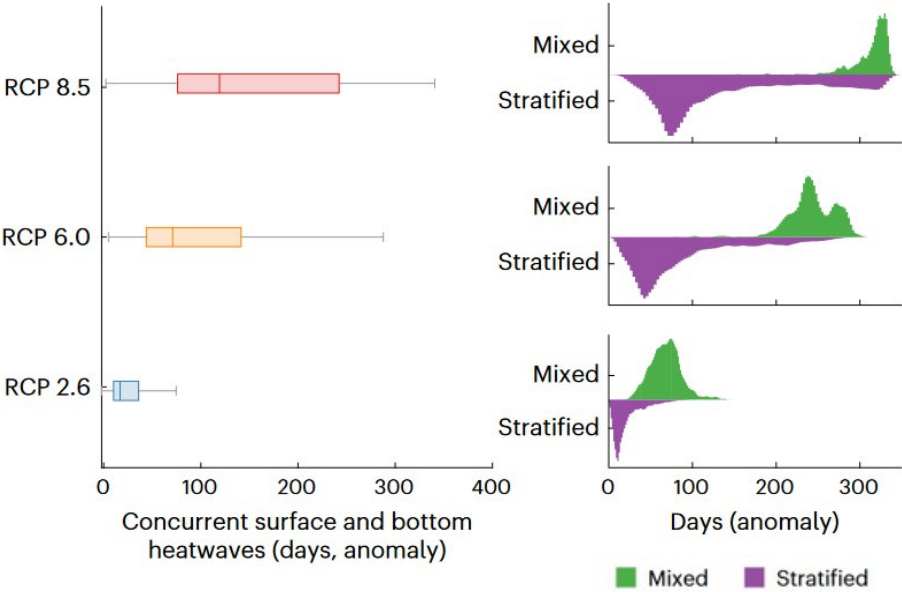
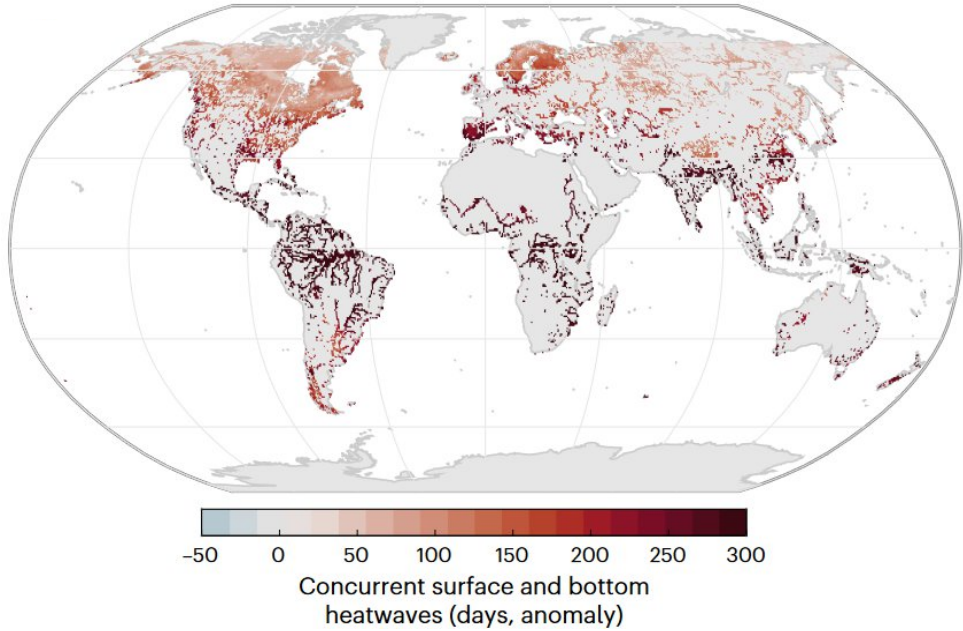
Great





# Concurrent surface and bottom heatwaves

2080-2099 minus 1980-2022



- ❑ Escape depth is increasing due to climate warming.
- ❑ No-escape events occur in large amounts of lakes, especially in mixed lakes.
- ❑ No-escape events are increasing due to climate warming.
- ❑ The intensity of subsurface/bottom heatwaves is usually smaller than the surface, but the duration is usually longer, resulting into larger cumulative intensity.
- ❑ Subsurface heatwaves can occur without surface heatwave, which might because of the time lag between surface and subsurface heatwave

nature climate change



Article

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-025-02314-0>

## Subsurface heatwaves in lakes

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R. Iestyn Woolway<sup>1</sup>✉, Miraj B. Kayastha<sup>2,3</sup>, Yan Tong<sup>4</sup>, Lian Feng<sup>4</sup>,  
Haoran Shi<sup>1</sup> & Pengfei Xue<sup>2,3,5</sup>✉


# ACCELERATION OF GLOBAL LAKE ANOXIA UNDER CLIMATE CHANGE

*L. Nkwalale, K. Rinke, J. Feldbauer, J. Mesman, T. Bucak, T. Shatwell,  
D. Mercado-Bettin, R. Ladwig*



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under the Marie Skłodowska Curie grant agreement No. 956623

# A simple model for predicting oxygen depletion of lakes under climate change

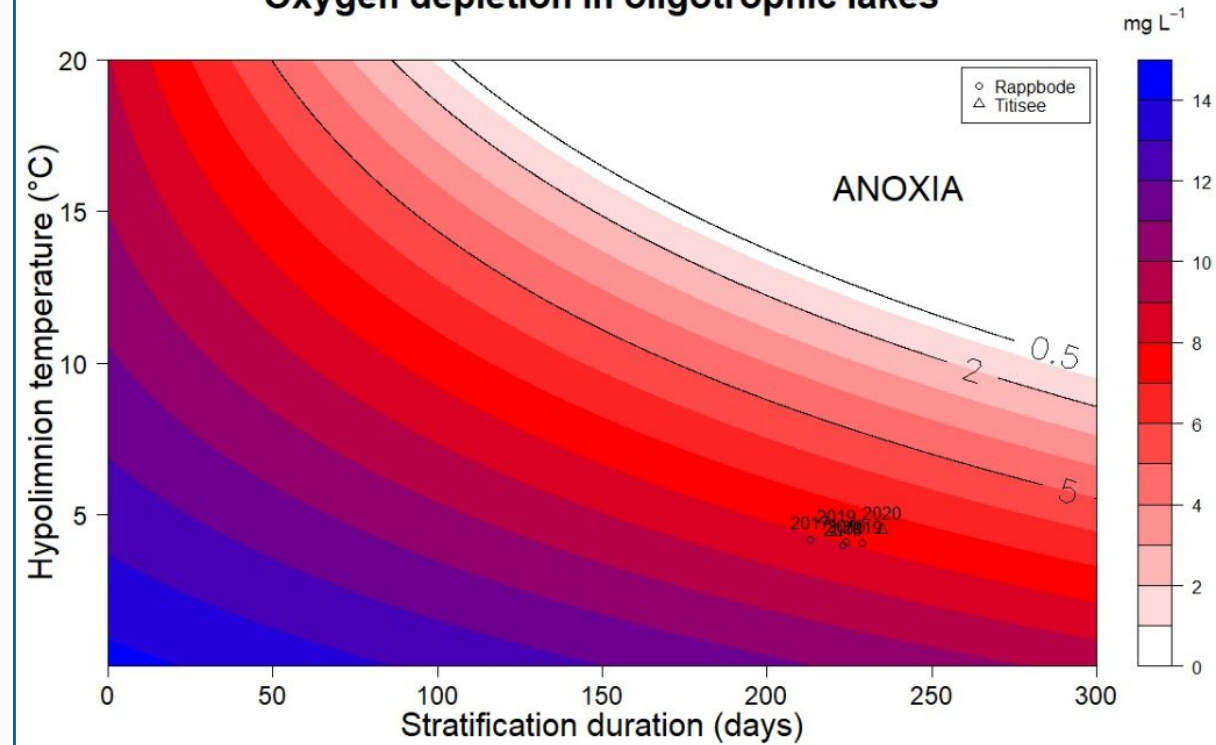
Lipa Nkwale , Robert Schwefel, Mahtab Yaghouti & Karsten Rinke

Received 04 Jul 2023, Accepted 04 Jan 2024, Accepted author version posted online: 19 Jan 2024

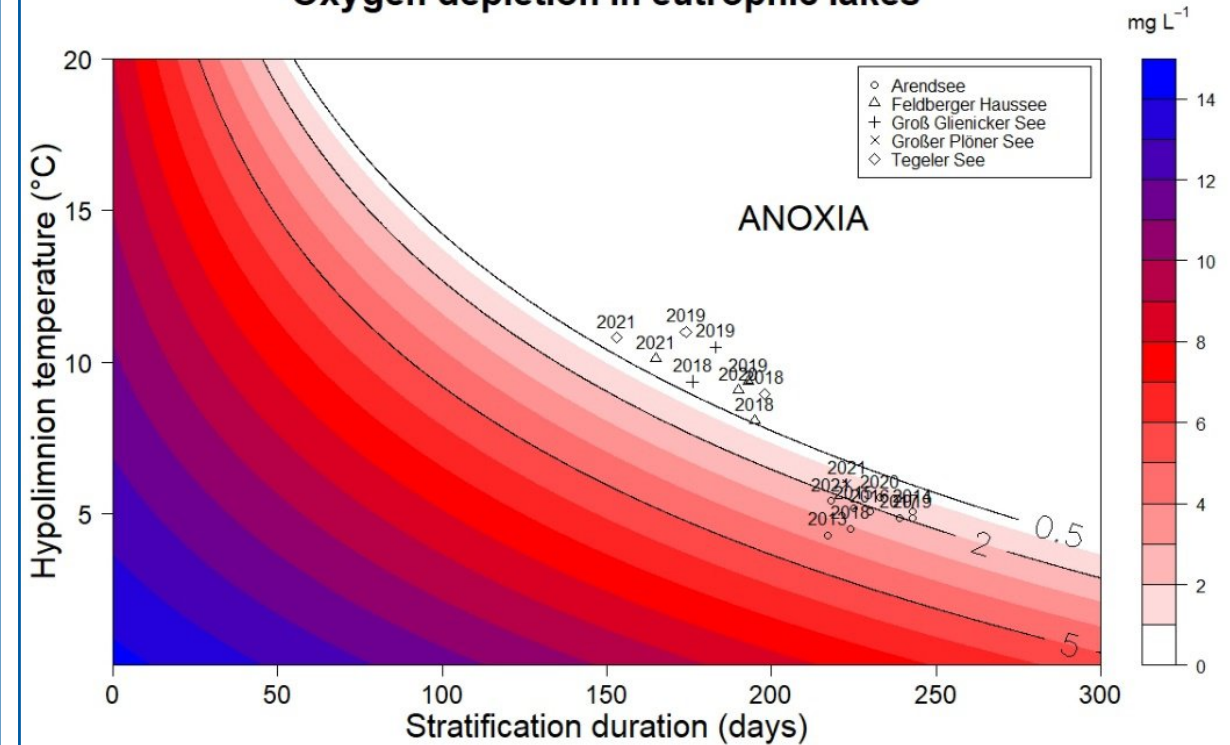
 Cite this article  <https://doi.org/10.1080/20442041.2024.2306113>



Oxygen depletion in oligotrophic lakes



Oxygen depletion in eutrophic lakes



$$O_2(t) = O_2(t_0) - t_{\text{stratification}} * VHOD_T$$




# Temperatures and hypolimnetic oxygen in German lakes: Observations, future trends and adaptation potential

Climate Adaptation of Inland Waters | [Open access](#) | Published: 05 July 2024

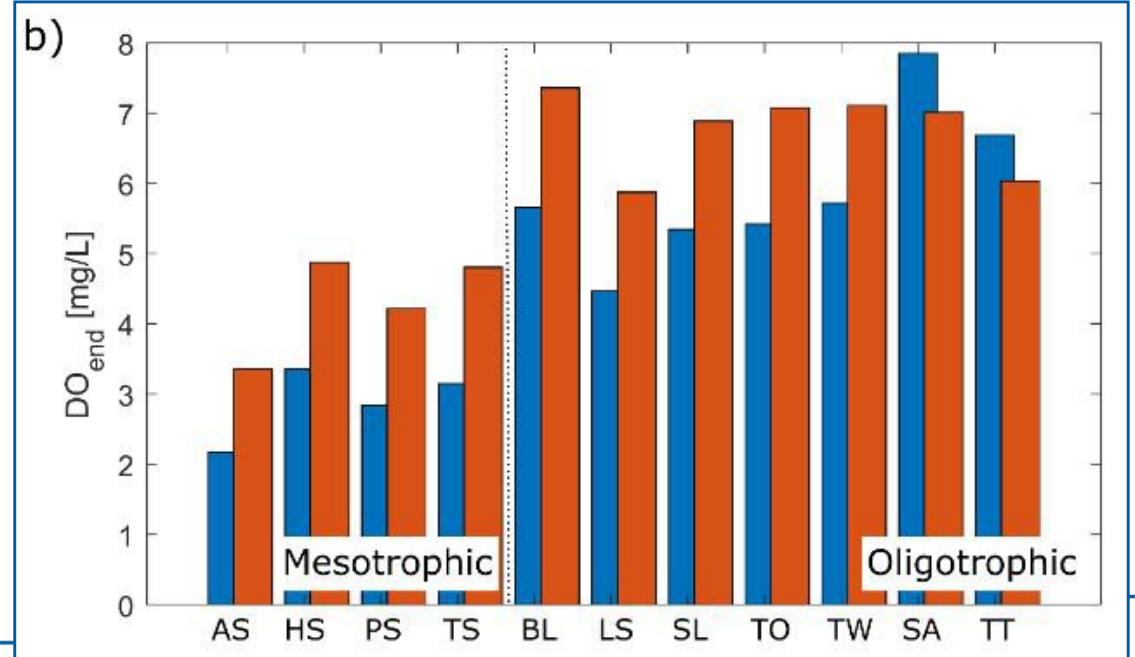
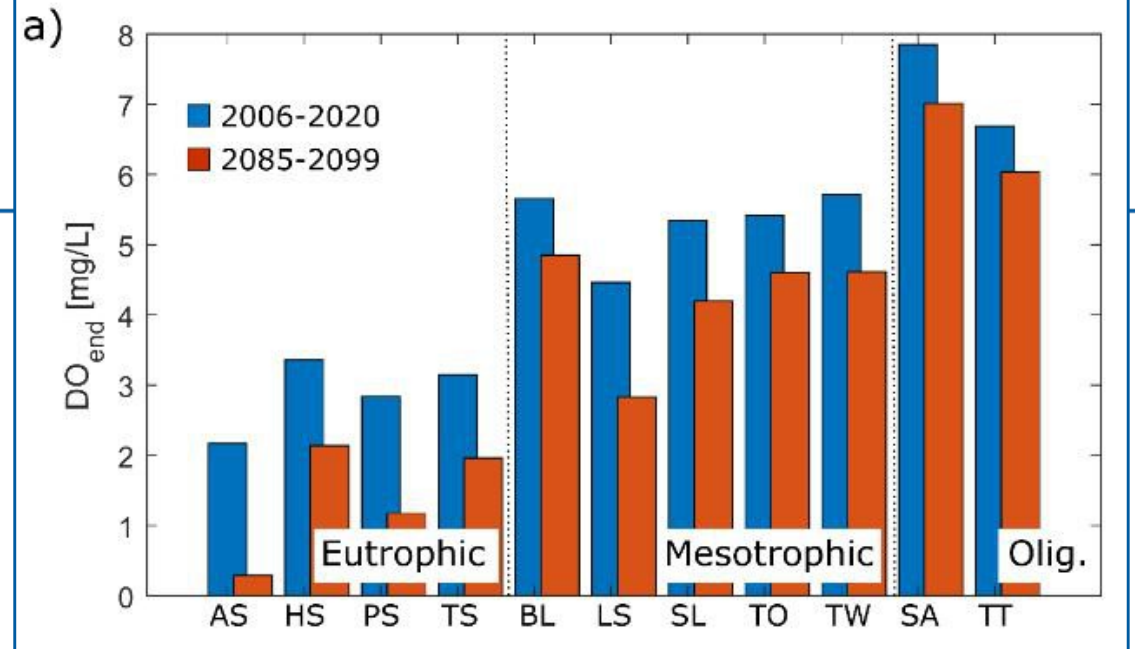
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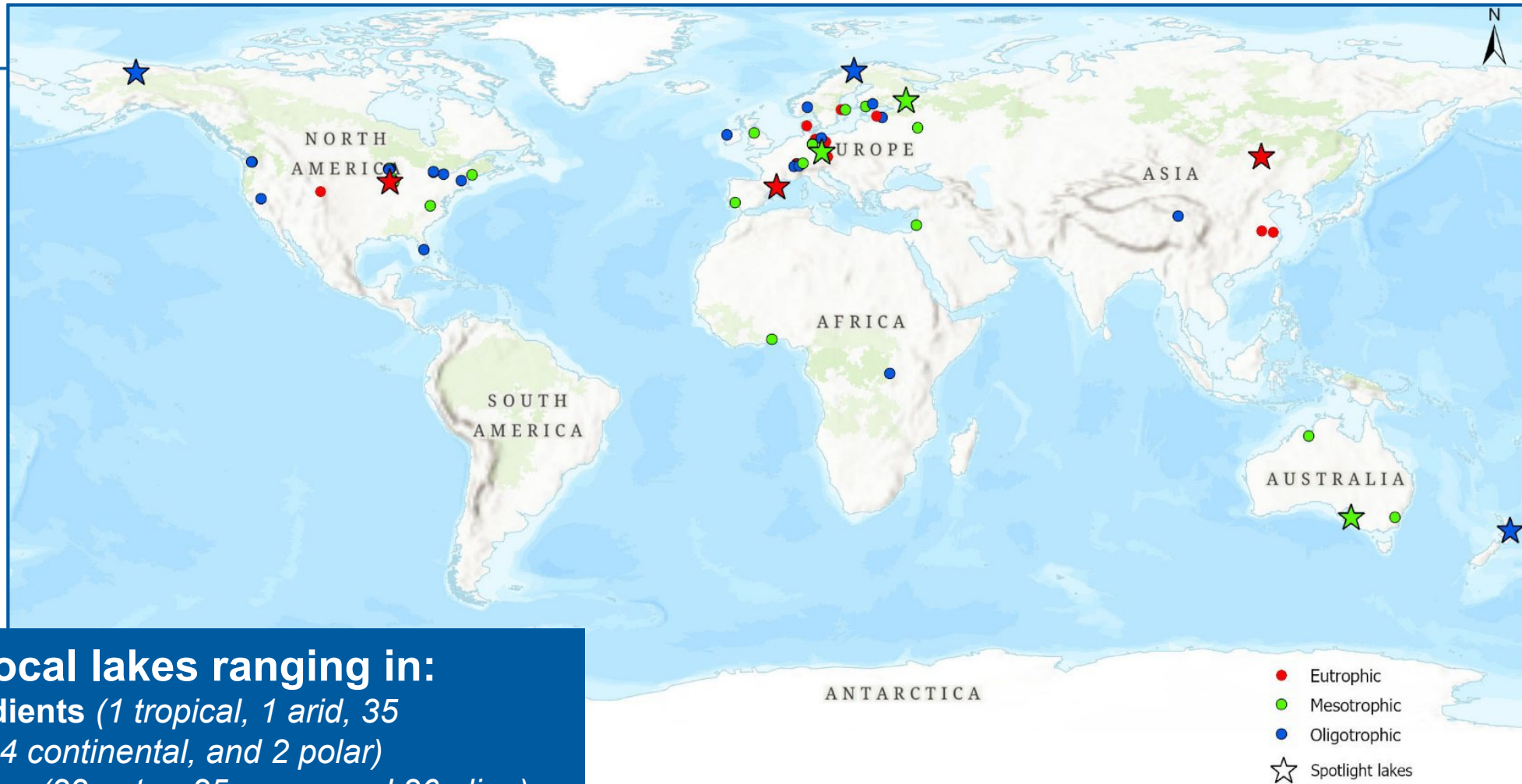
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Robert Schwefel , Lipa G. T. Nkwilale, Sylvia Jordan, Karsten Rinke & Michael Hupfer

- O<sub>2</sub> projection for 11 dimictic German lakes
- IPCC scenarios RCP 8.5
- Constant trophic state in scenario A
- adaptation intervention scenario B.



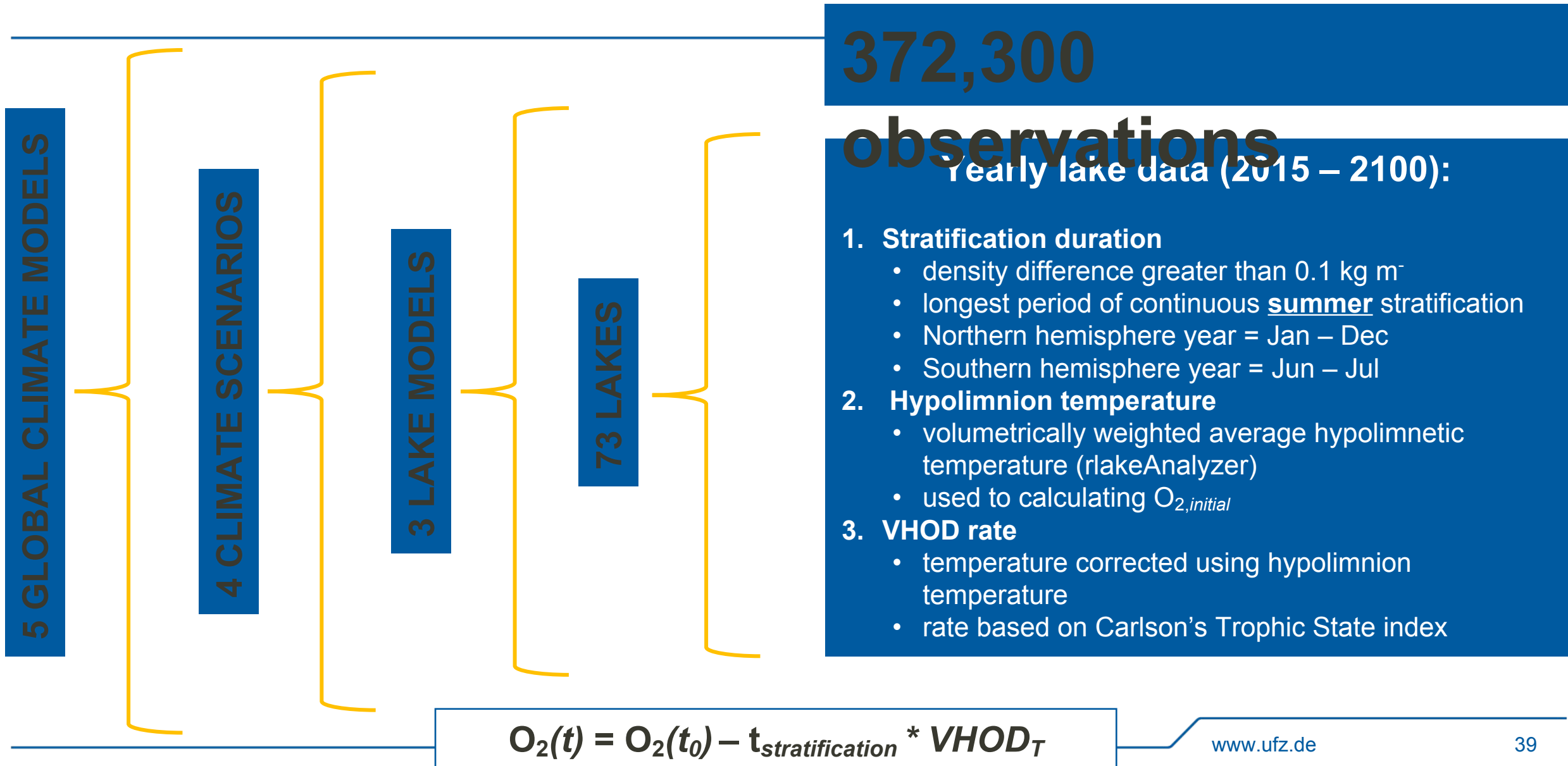
# How about we apply it globally?



## 73 ISIMIP local lakes ranging in:

- climate gradients (1 tropical, 1 arid, 35 temperate, 34 continental, and 2 polar)
- trophic states (22 eutro, 25 meso, and 26 oligo)
- mean depths (i.e. 1.7m – 304.8m)
- elevation (i.e. -210m – 4300m)
- area (i.e. 0.01km<sup>2</sup> – 2700km<sup>2</sup>)


# Step 1: Processing O<sub>2</sub> model inputs



# Step 2: Recalibrating O<sub>2</sub> model

Research Article

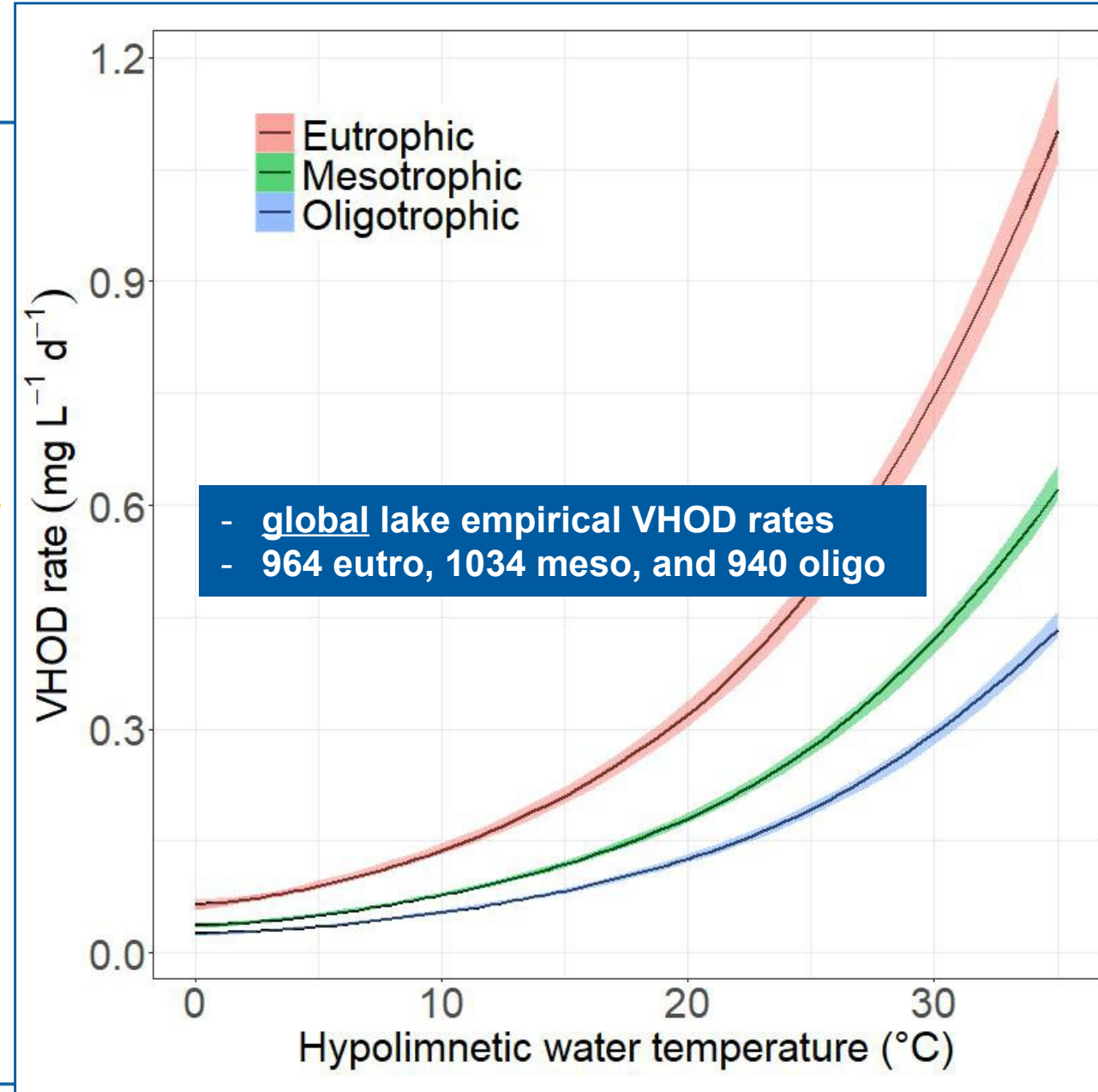
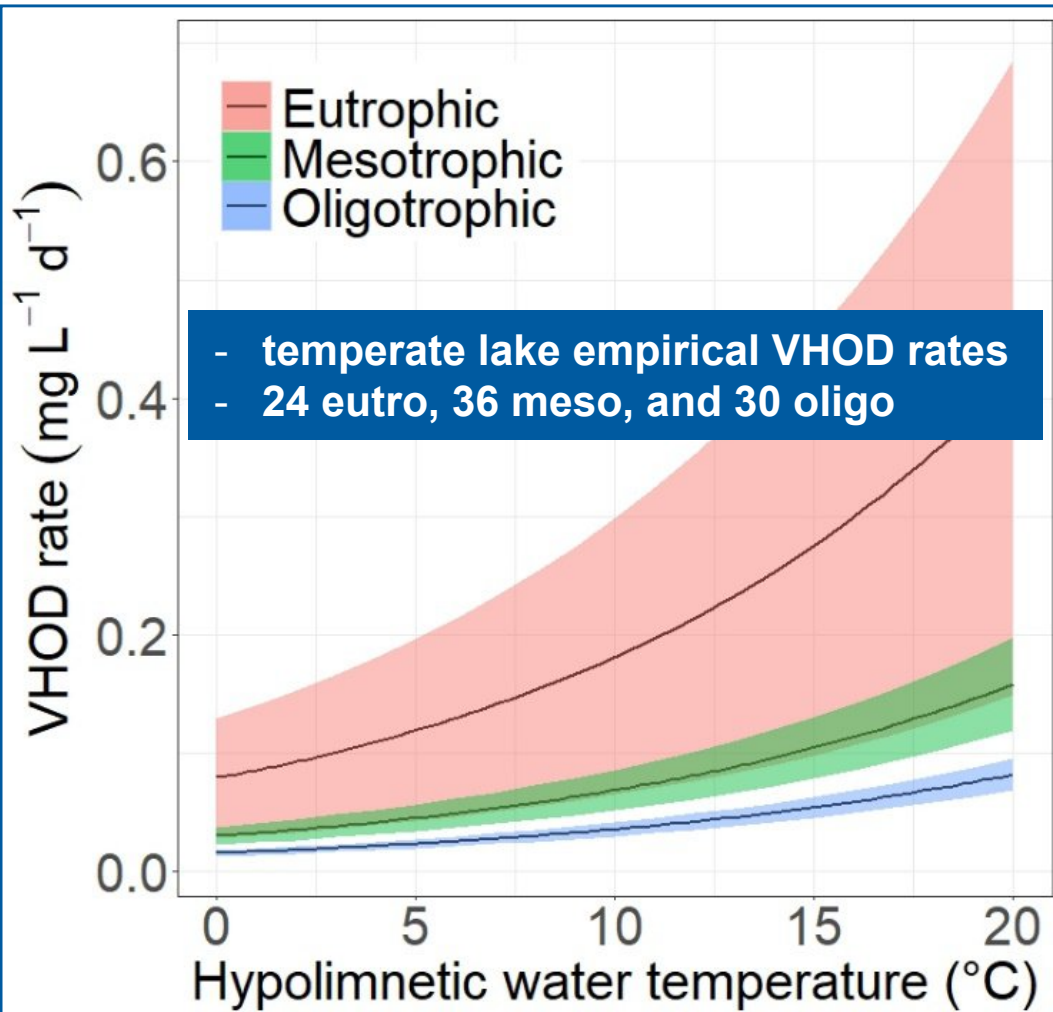
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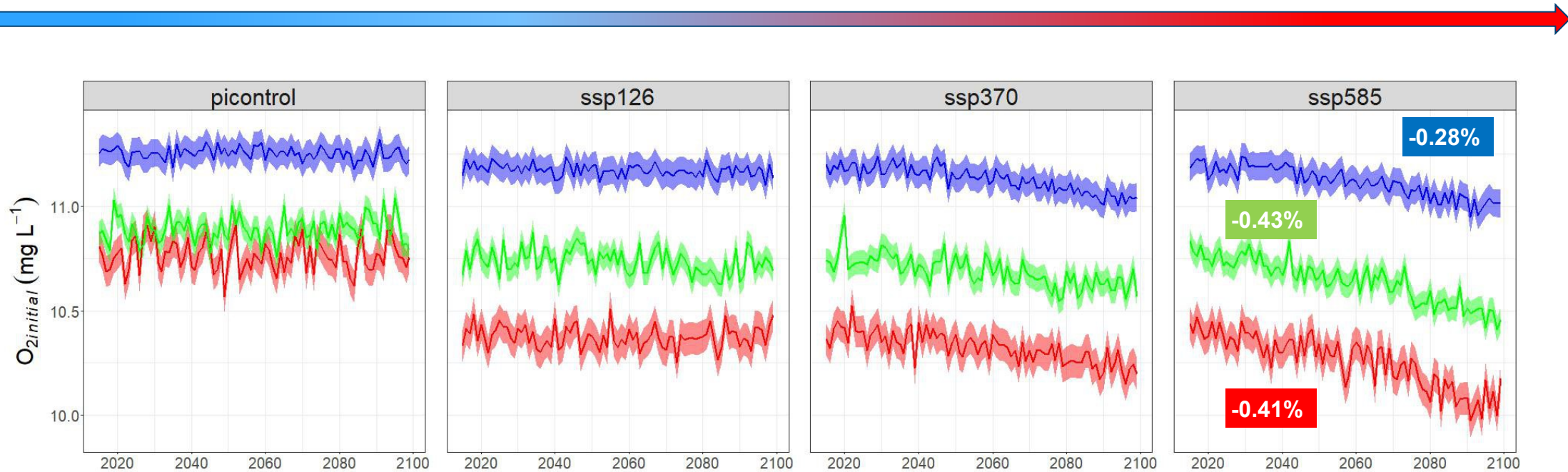
 Cite this article  <https://doi.org/10.1080/20442041.2024.2306113>

 Check for updates



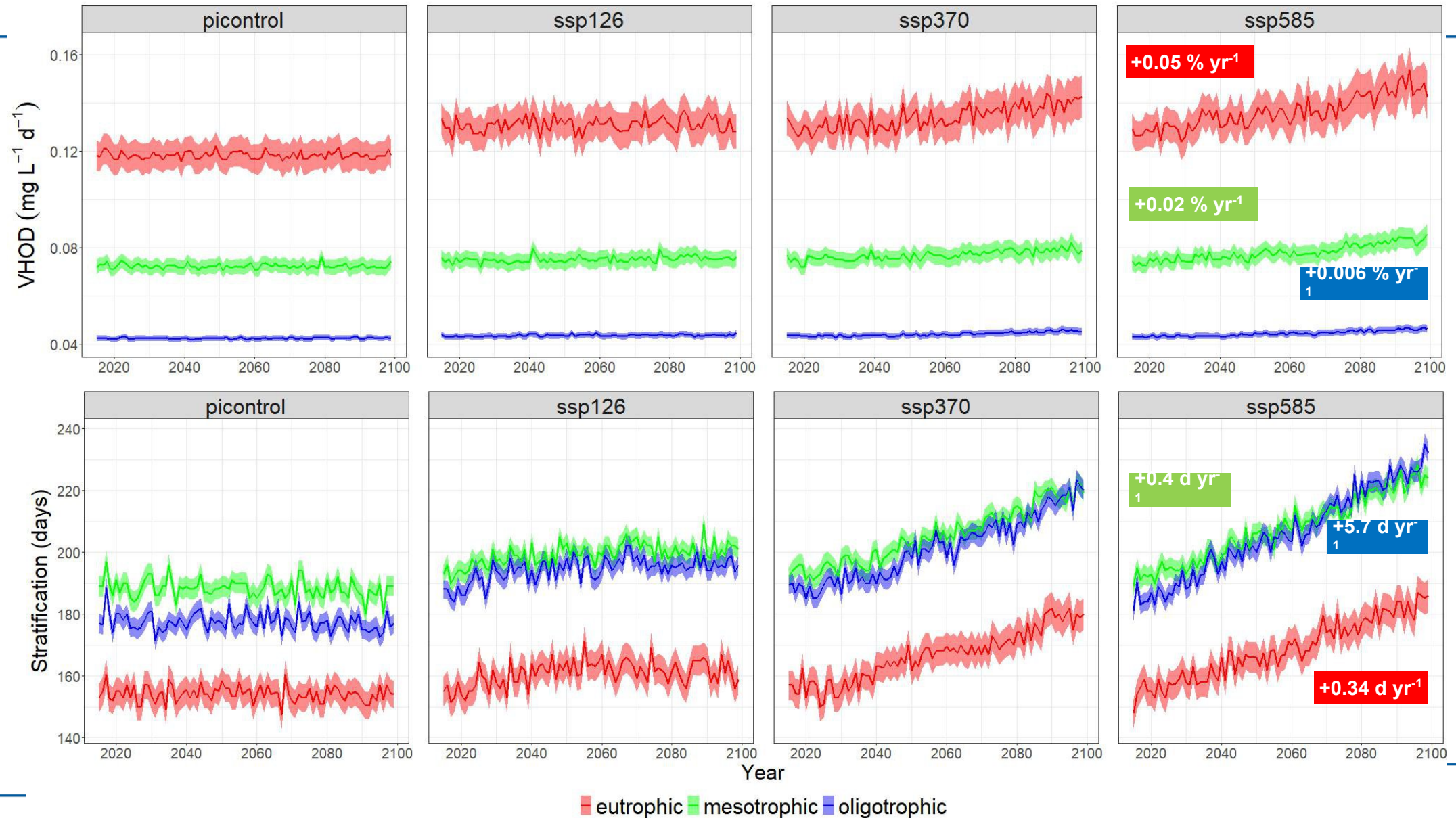


# O<sub>2</sub> model inputs' future projections



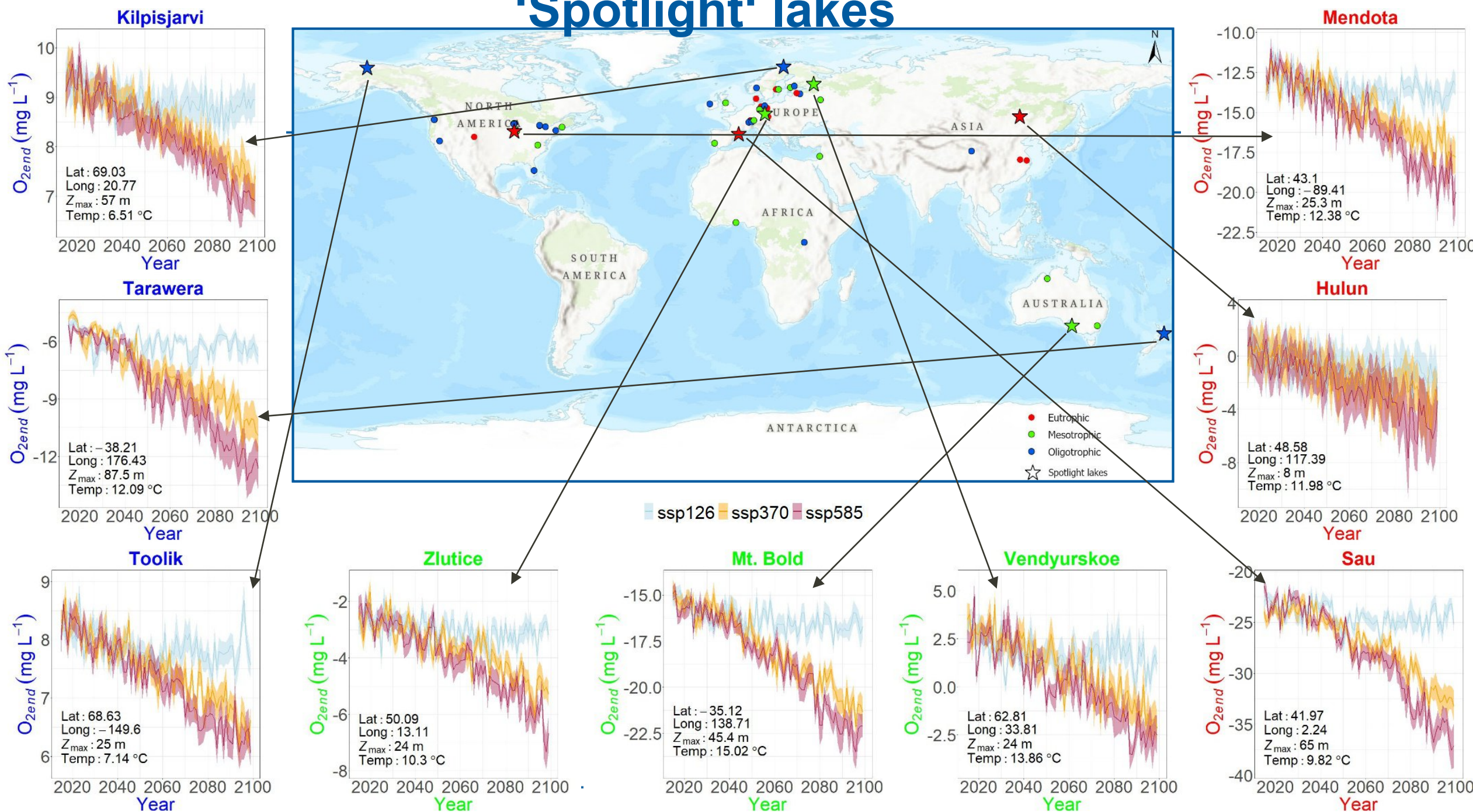


# O<sub>2</sub> model inputs' future projections



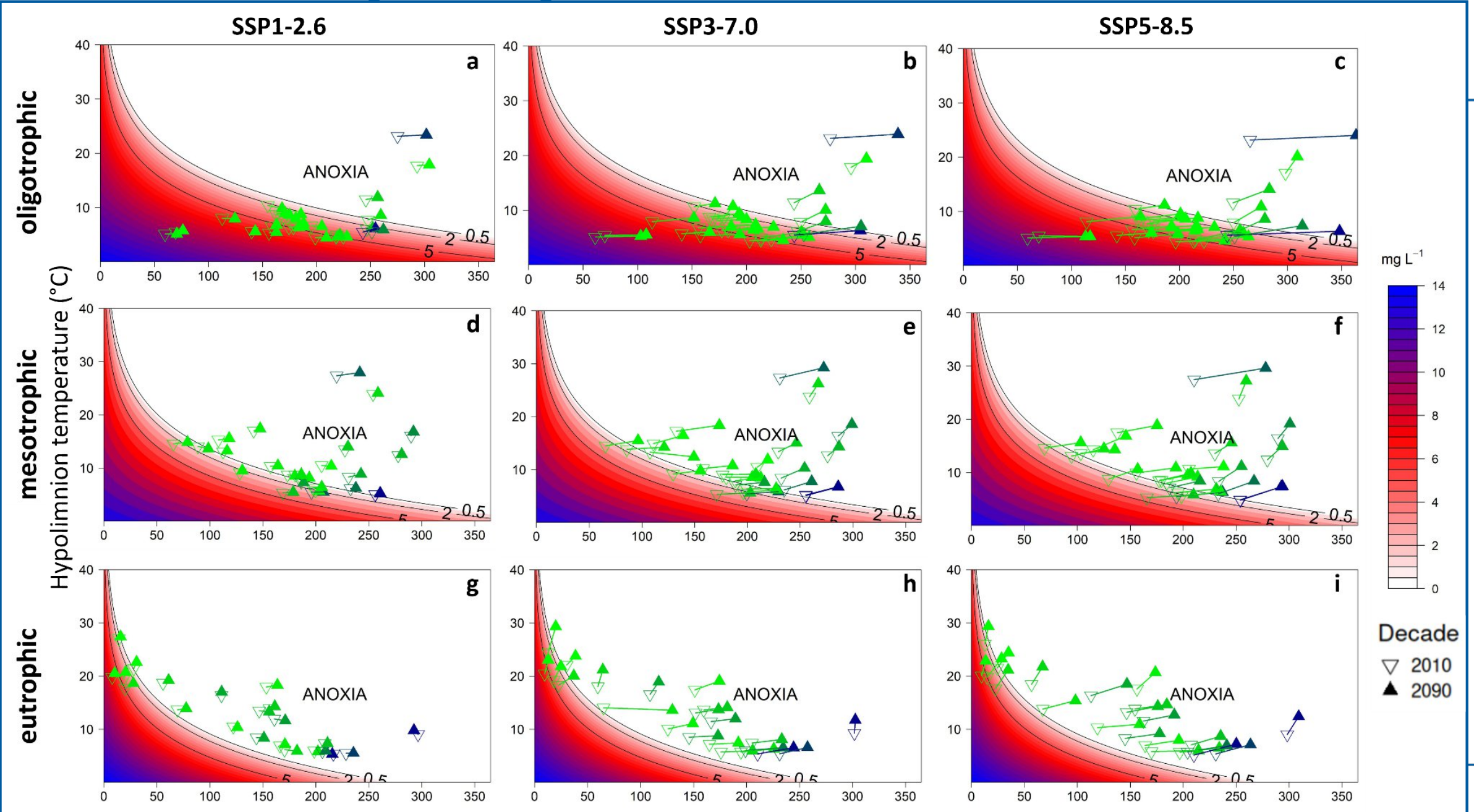


# 'Spotlight' lakes





# Future O<sub>2</sub> trajectory of lakes



# Key takeaways

- Elongated stratification period critical for O<sub>2</sub> concentrations.
- Hypolimnion temperature affects both initial O<sub>2</sub> concentrations and O<sub>2</sub> depletion rates.
- Longer stratification and rising temperatures increase O<sub>2</sub> depletion.
- Focus on lowering trophic states to counter climate change impacts on O<sub>2</sub> concentration dynamics.



Thank you!

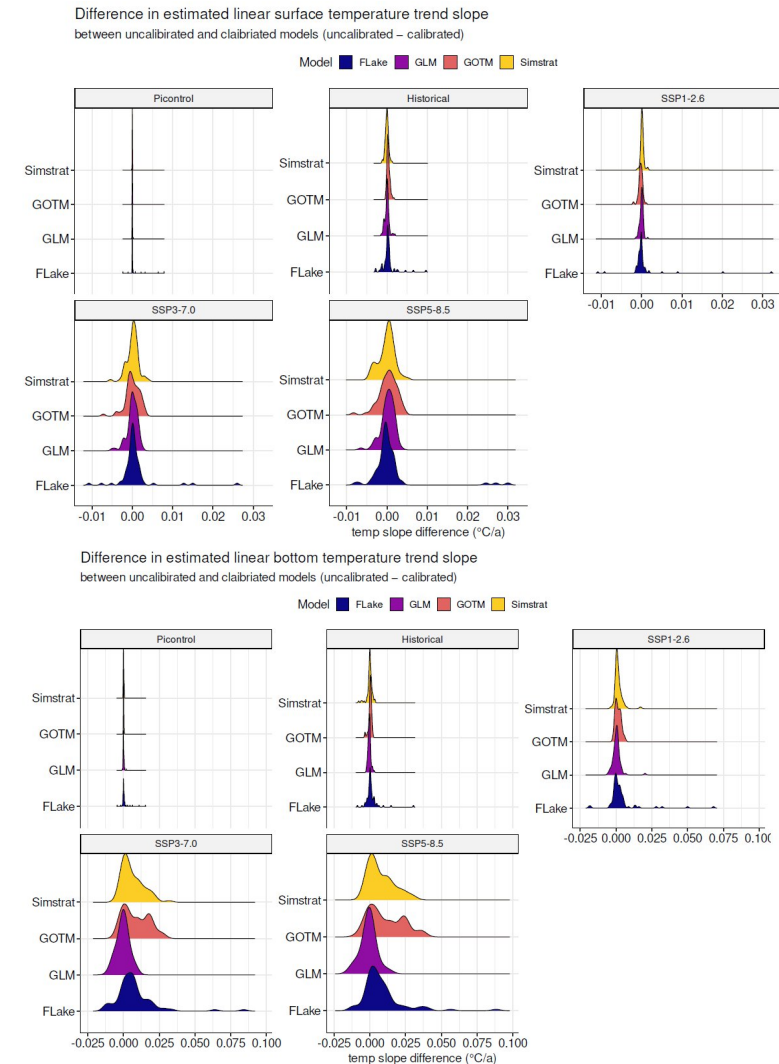
[lipa.nkwalale@ufz.de](mailto:lipa.nkwalale@ufz.de)



# ISIMIP lake model calibration project

Feldbauer, Mesman, Mercado-Bettín, Piccolroaz, Schmid, Gai, Bärenbold, Lorimer, Marcé, Donini, Shikhani, Shatwell

- Impact of calibrating lake models on climate impact simulations
  - Initial project lead: Tom Lorimer
- Local lakes
  - But important for global lakes
- Current models
  - FLake, GLM, GOTM, Simstrat, air2water
  - Modellers already working on local lakes are welcome to join





## Initiative to run LER on HTC

Currently working on integrating the LakeEnsemblR framework on HTC in Brussels

Would allow the configuration and parallel simulations using GLM, Simstrat, FLake, MyLake, and GOTM → potential for future water quality simulations

Still in early steps

Anyone interested, please email Robert, [rladwig@ecos.au.dk](mailto:rladwig@ecos.au.dk)

(we also plan to host a joint MSc thesis project between Aarhus and Trento to integrate additional models, i.e., air2water)

## New Papers

Woolway, R. I., M. B. Kayastha, Y. Tong, L. Feng, H. Shi, and P. Xue. 2025. Subsurface heatwaves in lakes. *Nature Climate Change*.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-025-02314-0>

Feldbauer, J., J. P. Mesman, T. K. Andersen, and R. Ladwig. 2025. Learning from a large-scale calibration effort of multiple lake temperature models. *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.* **29**:1183-1199.

<https://hess.copernicus.org/articles/29/1183/2025/>

Qiu, Y., Chen, J., Chen, D. *et al.* Enhanced heating effect of lakes under global warming. *Nat Commun* 16, 3954 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-025-59291-3>

## Open questions: discussion and comments from the audience.

1. Which scientific aspect of the lake sector you think needs improvements?
2. Co-authorship for ISIMIP3 papers
3. How can we boost the simulations of water quality variables in the lake sector?
4. How can we establish connections between the lake sector and other sectors of ISIMIP (water quality, water global, water regional)?
5. New Analysis or Ideas

THANK YOU!



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**ISIMIP**  
Inter-Sectoral Impact Model  
Intercomparison Project