



# Great Lakes HABs models

**Speakers:**

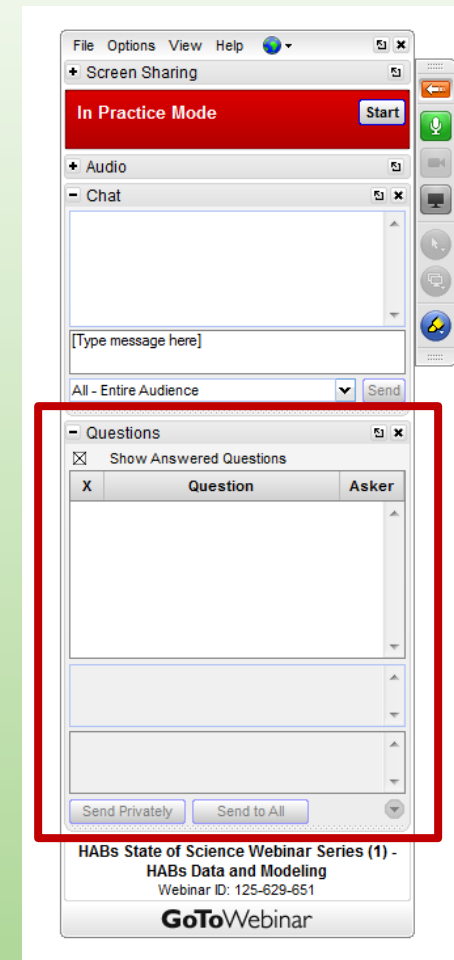
Ed Verhamme, LimnoTech

Serghei Bocaniov, University of Michigan



# GoToWebinar Housekeeping Items

- Submit your text questions and comments using the Questions Panel
- Note: This webinar is being recorded and will be posted on the HABs Collaboratory website





# Why a modeling webinar?

- Interest in a more in-depth webinar focused on modeling from summer “State of the Science” webinar series.
- Cross-system comparisons within the Great Lakes.
- Better understand what models are available to model HABs.
- Conversation between modelers and scientists.
  - Comparison between computational model and conceptual model.



# Summary of Survey

- 20 survey participants.
- 2 question survey
  - What is the largest scientific knowledge gap related to HABs?
  - What questions can models help answer that your data can't alone?





# What is the largest scientific knowledge gap related to HABs?

- Environmental triggers for growth and toxicity of HABs.
- Ability to measure the effect of incremental changes in nutrient loading on bloom frequency.
- Role of nitrogen in HAB formation.
- Impact of HABs on ecosystem.



# What questions can models help answer that your data can't alone?

- Predicting the timing, location, and toxicity of HABs.
- How much of a nutrient reduction is needed to reduce/eliminate HABs?
- Potential climate change effects.
- Project future status of the lake.
- Synthesize the effects of multiple parameters on HABs.
  - Temperature, nutrient loading, etc.



# Presenters

- Ed Verhamme, LimnoTech
- Serghei Bocaniov, University of Michigan



# Western Lake Erie Ecosystem Model – An operational model for the management community

Ed Verhamme, John Bratton, Joseph V.  
DePinto, Todd Redder, and Derek Schlea





# Why Model Lake Erie?

- Dynamic system
  - Field sampling captures brief snapshots of current conditions
  - Interactions among sources & within system are difficult to separate
- Large spatial gradients
  - Difficult to capture full snapshot with station data
  - Satellites help, but are limited by clouds and time
- Overwhelming amount of physical, chemical, biological data
- Many hypothesis/questions to answer

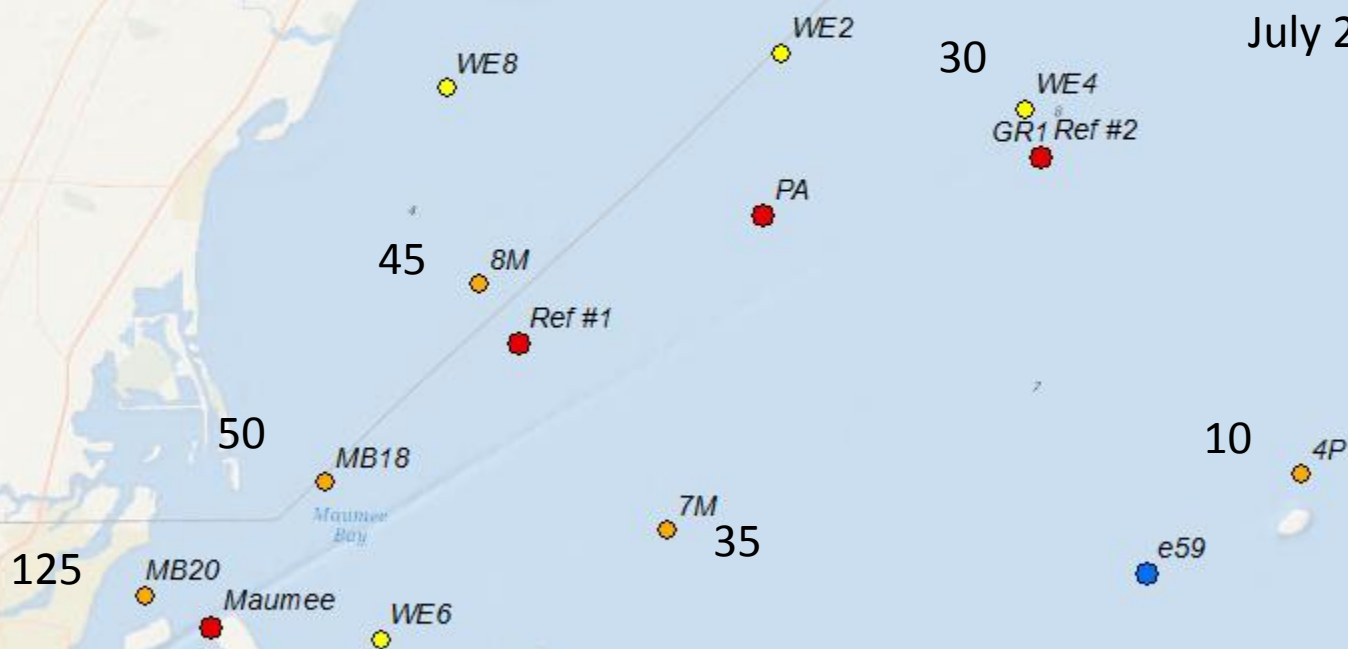


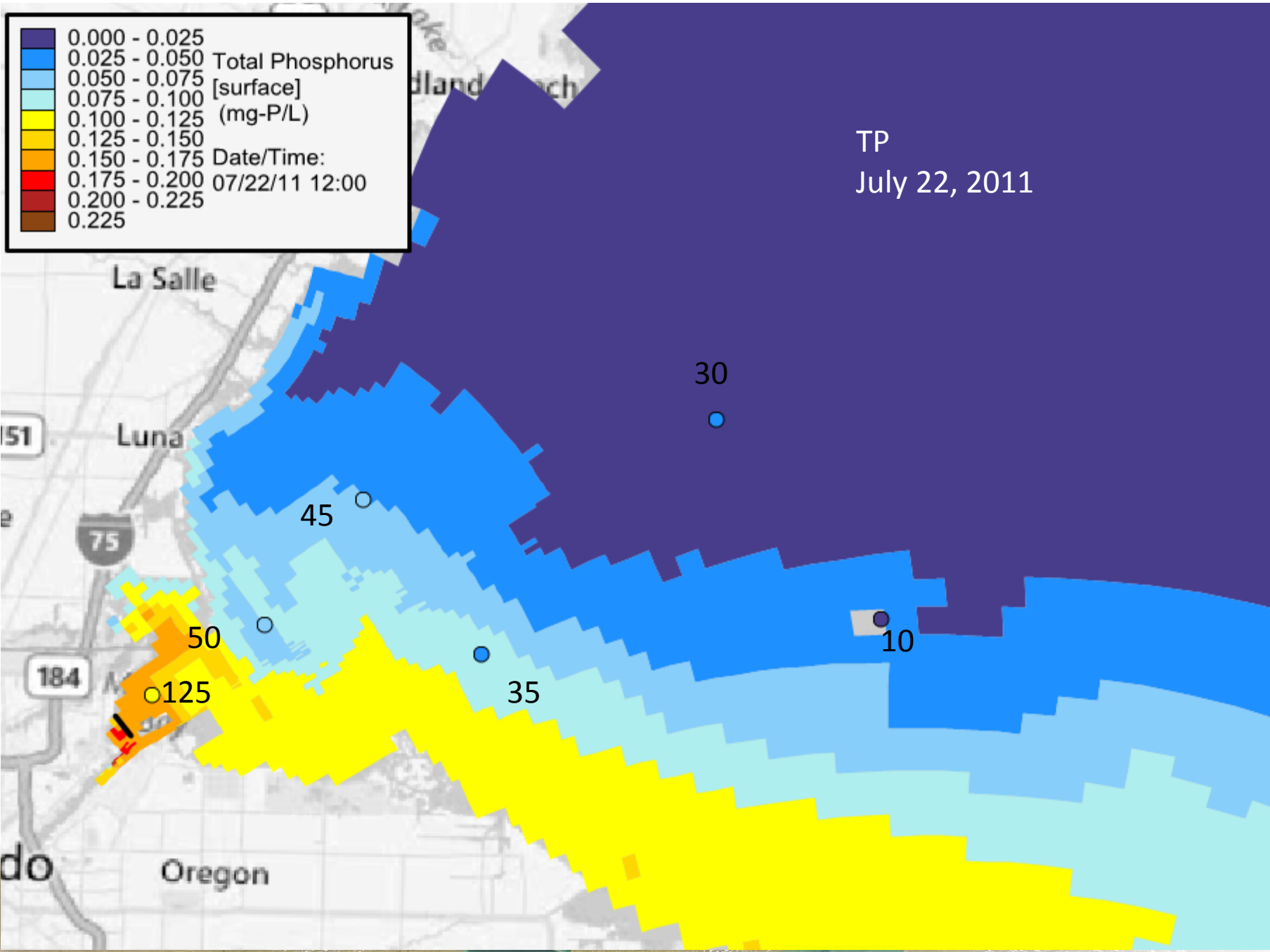
# DRAFT - Lake Erie Stations Map

- LimnoTech
- U of Toledo
- NOAA GLERL
- USEPA GLNPO

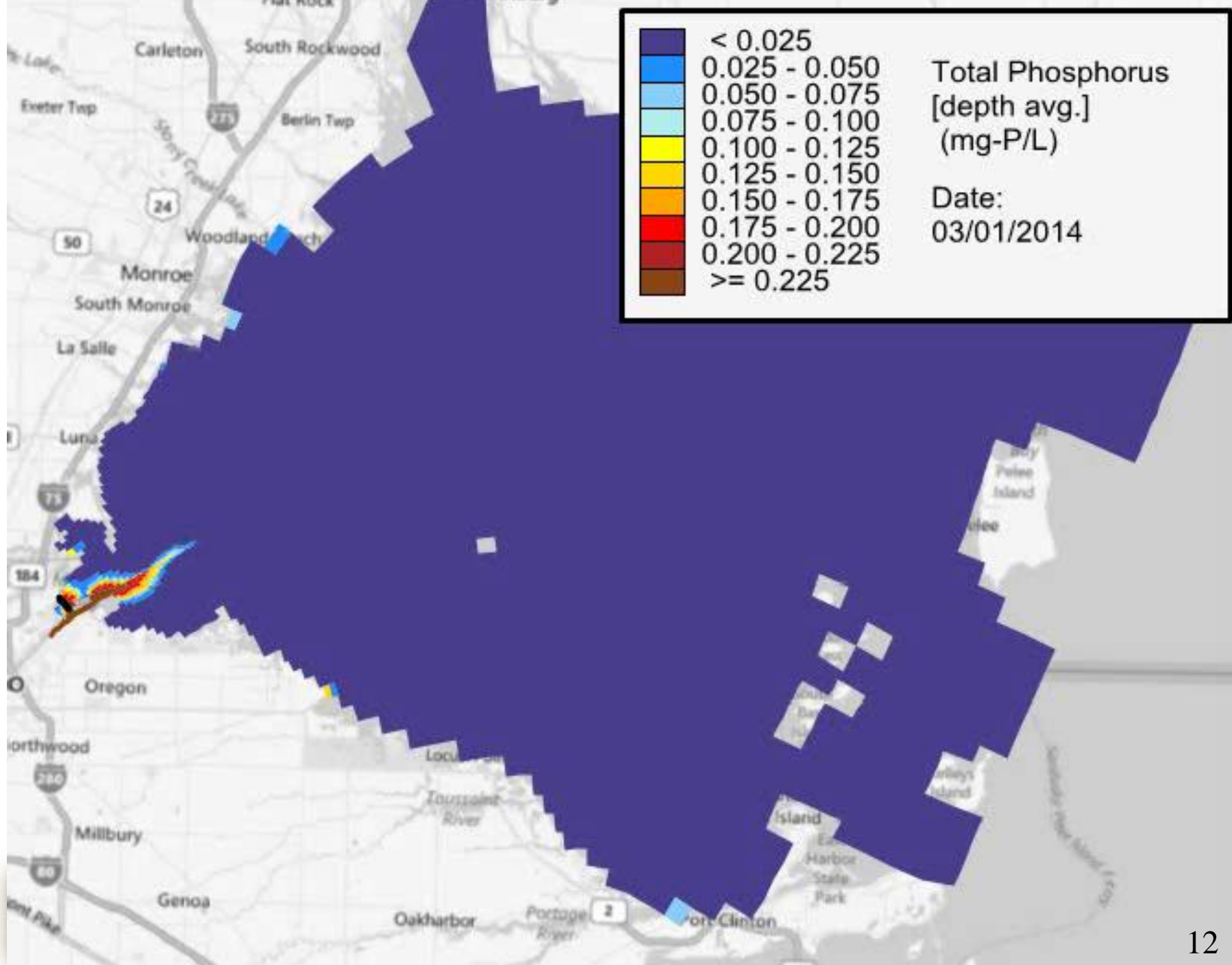


Tom Bridgeman  
UToledo  
TP  
July 22, 2011











# Western Lake Erie Ecosystem Model (WLEEM)

“Simulating Waves  
Nearshore”  
(SWAN)

Fermi Power Plant, MI

EFDC Model

## Hydrodynamics

- Water level
- Current velocity

Hydrodynamic  
Sub-Model

- Current  
velocity

Wind-Wave  
Sub-Model

## Wind-Waves

- Significant height
- Direction
- Frequency

Shear  
Stress

Sediment Transport  
Sub-Model

## Water Quality Linkage

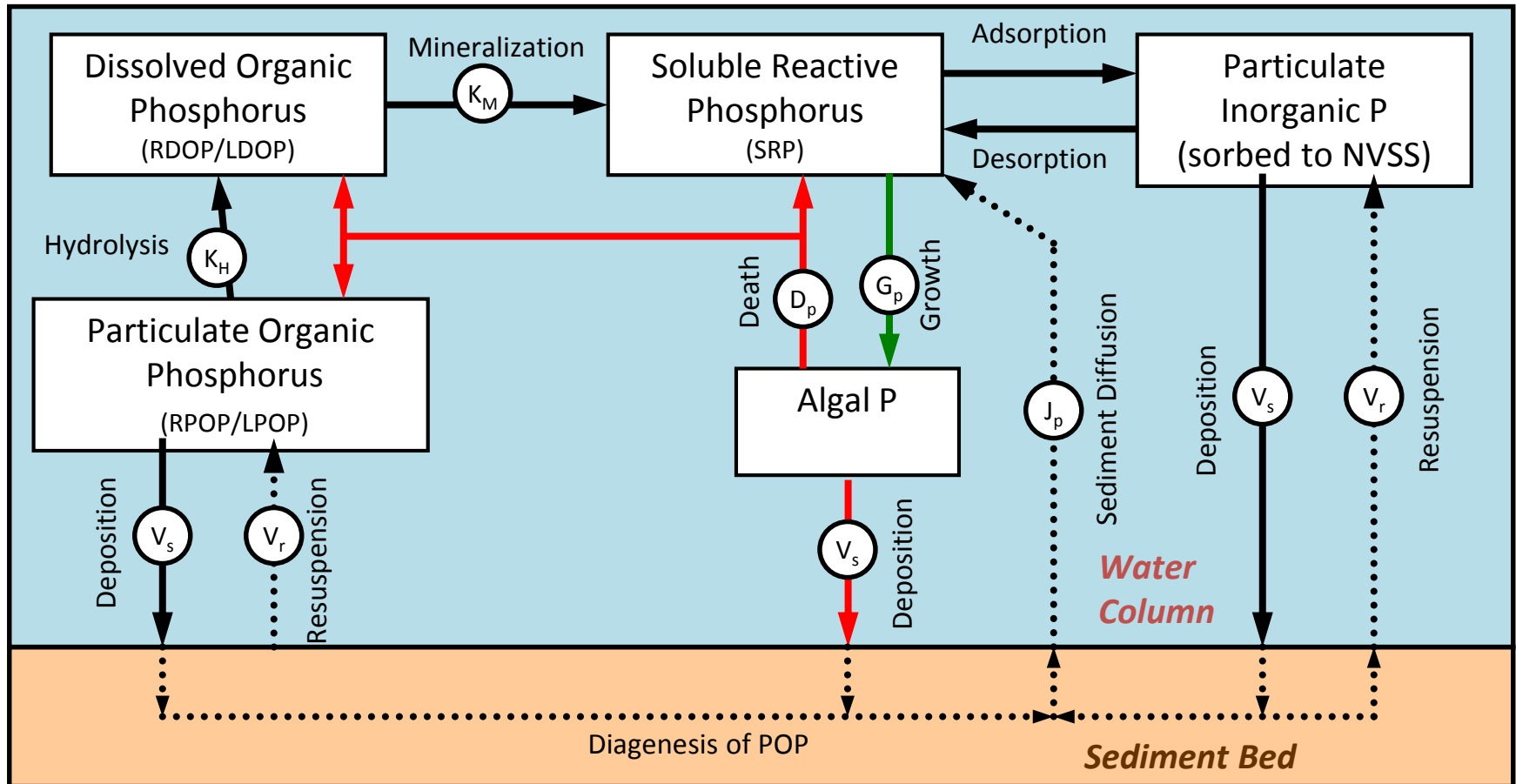
- Flows
- Suspended solids
- Settling/resuspension rates

Nutrient &  
Eutrophication  
Sub-Model (A2EM)

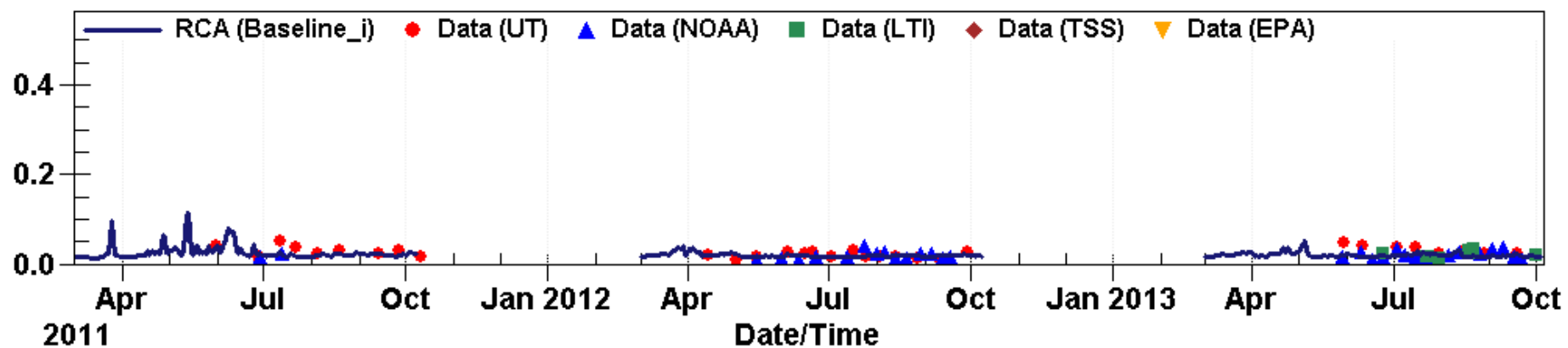
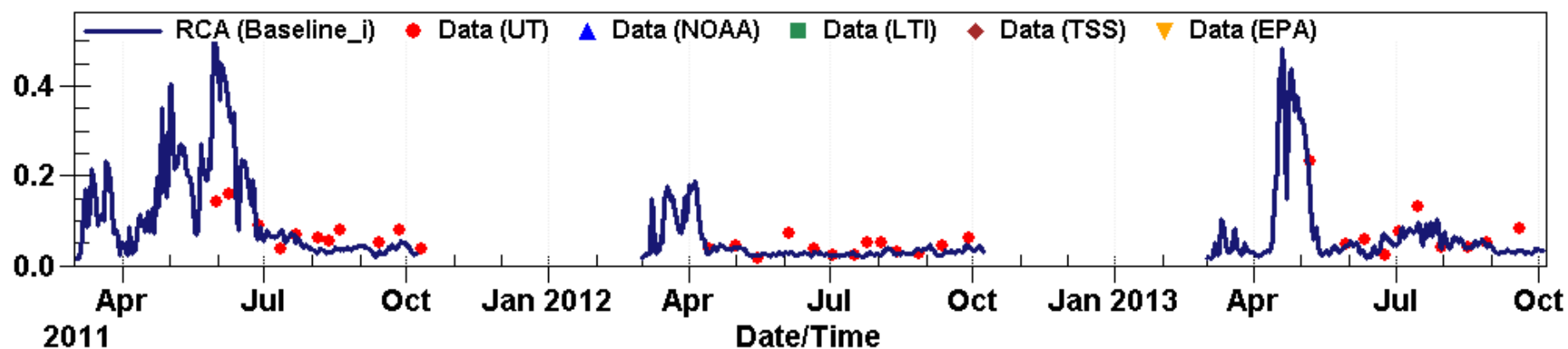
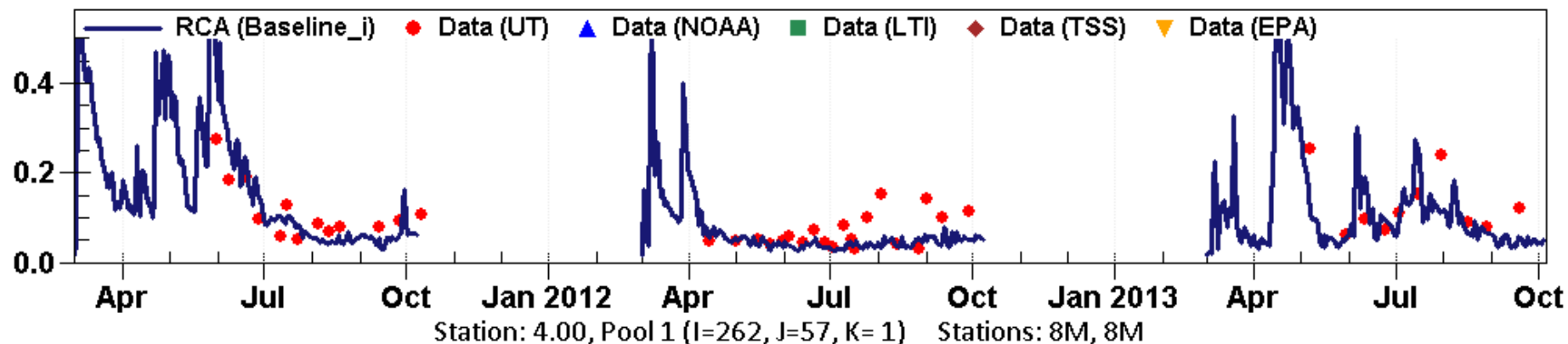




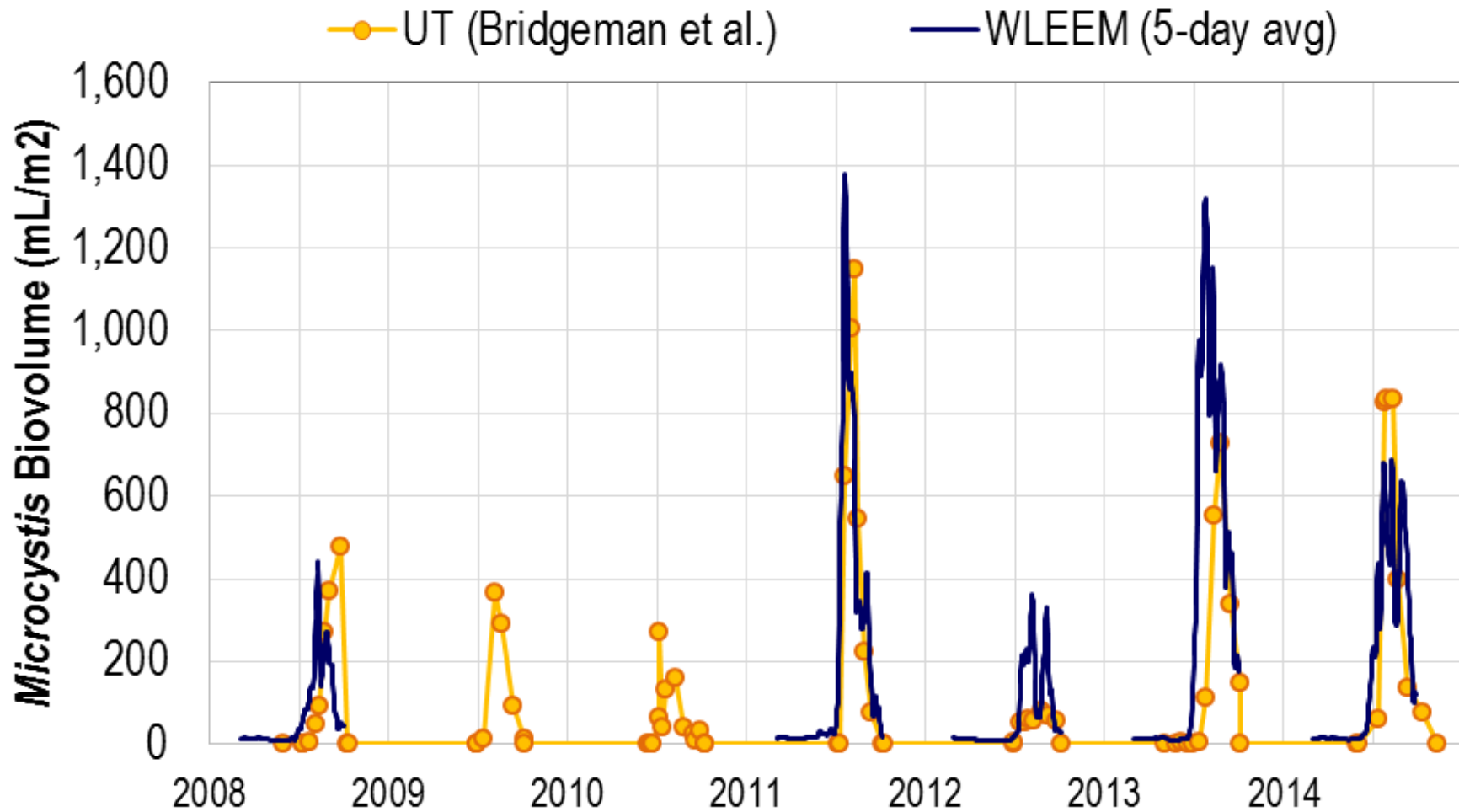
# Phosphorus Cycling in WLEEM



Total Phosphorus (mg/L) Station: 2.00, Pool 1 (I=245, J=54, K= 1) Stations: MB18, MB18

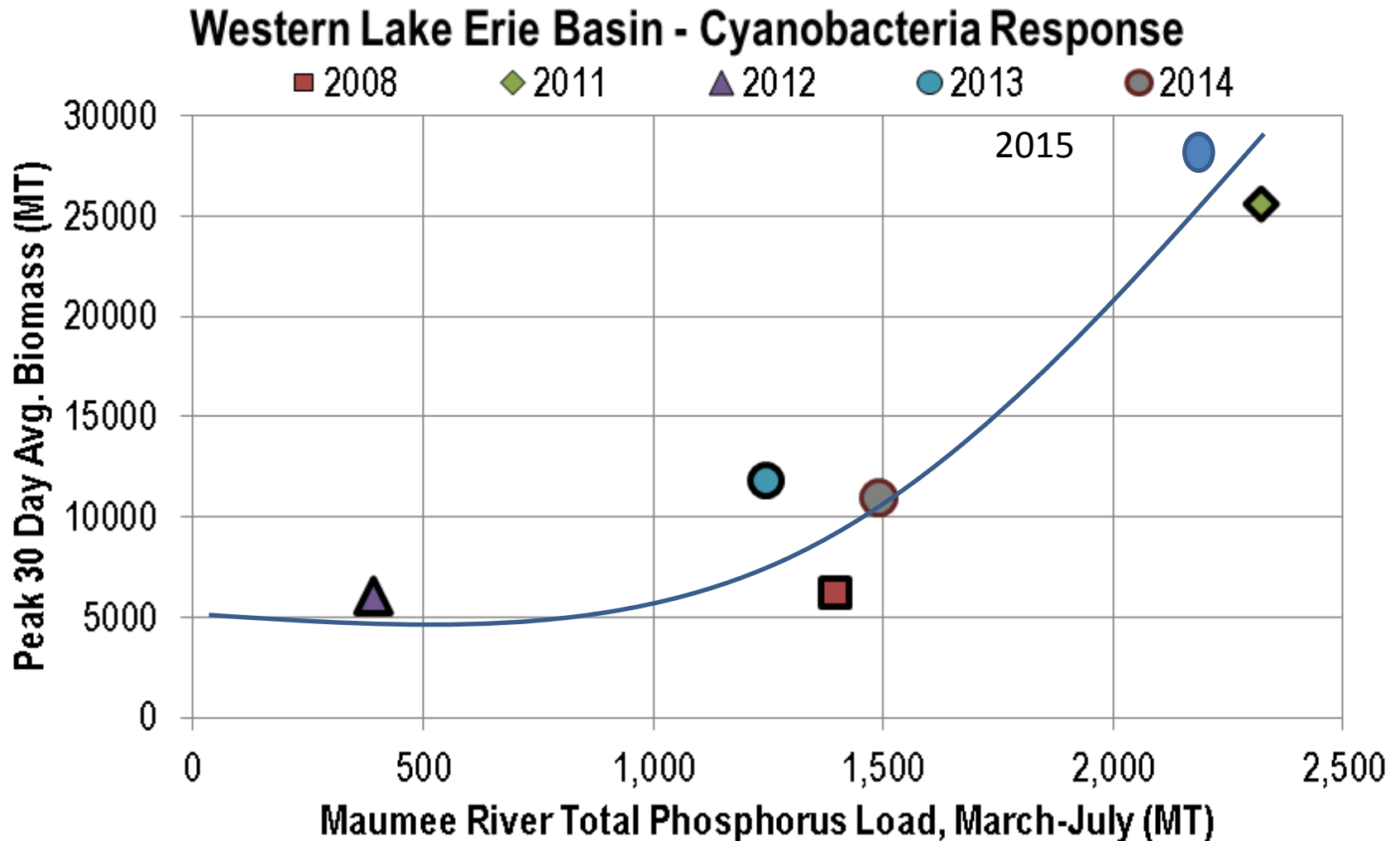


## Average *Microcystis* Biovolume (stations 4P, 7M, 8M, GR1)

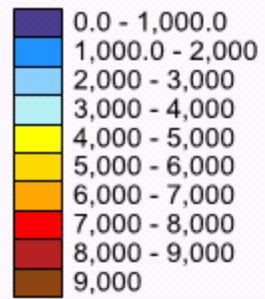


Data Credit: T. Bridgeman, University of Toledo

# Baseline Load-Response Points

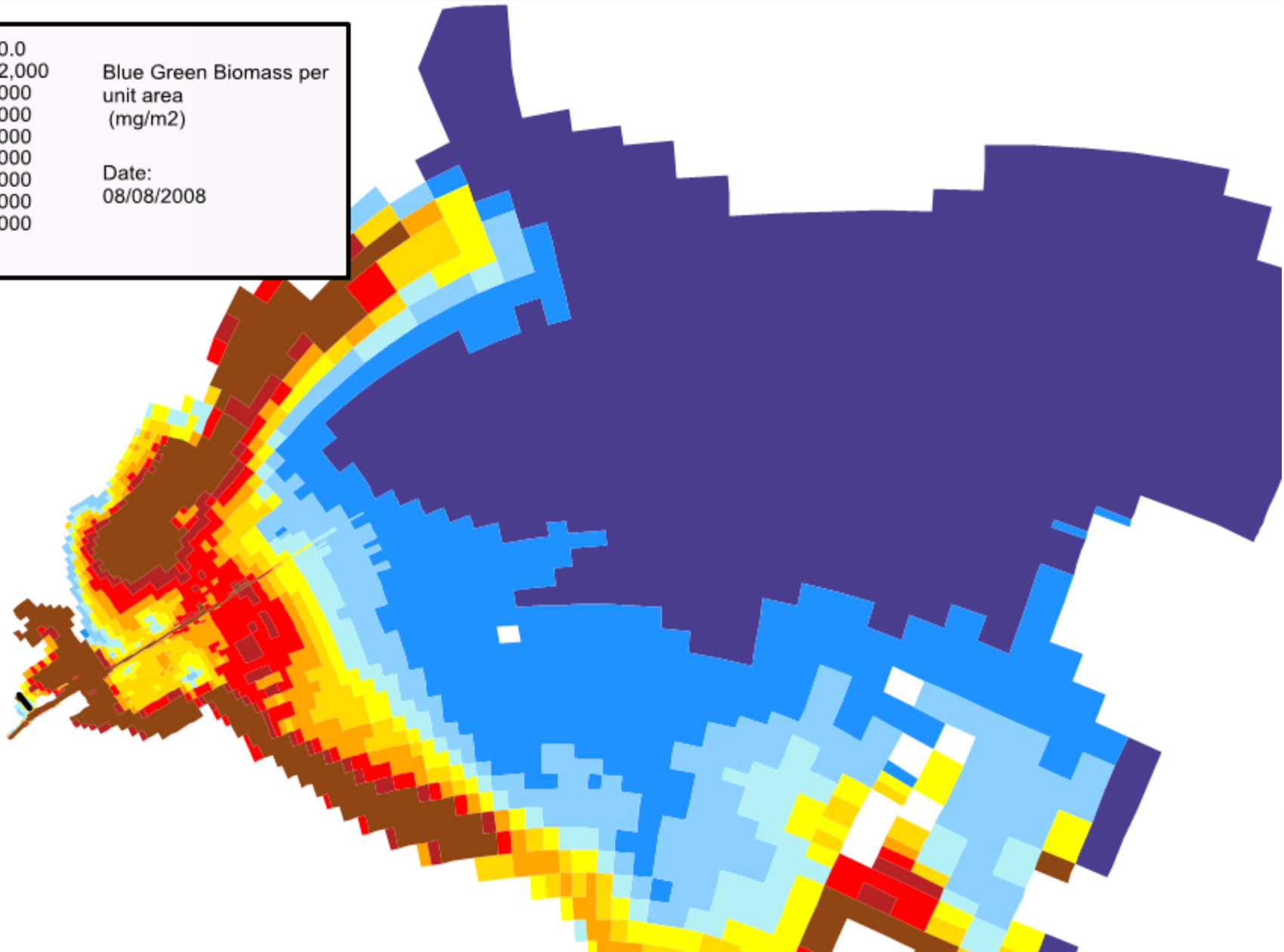


# Baseline



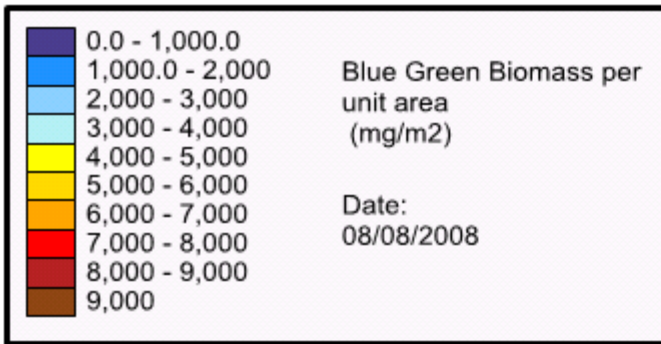
Blue Green Biomass per  
unit area  
(mg/m<sup>2</sup>)

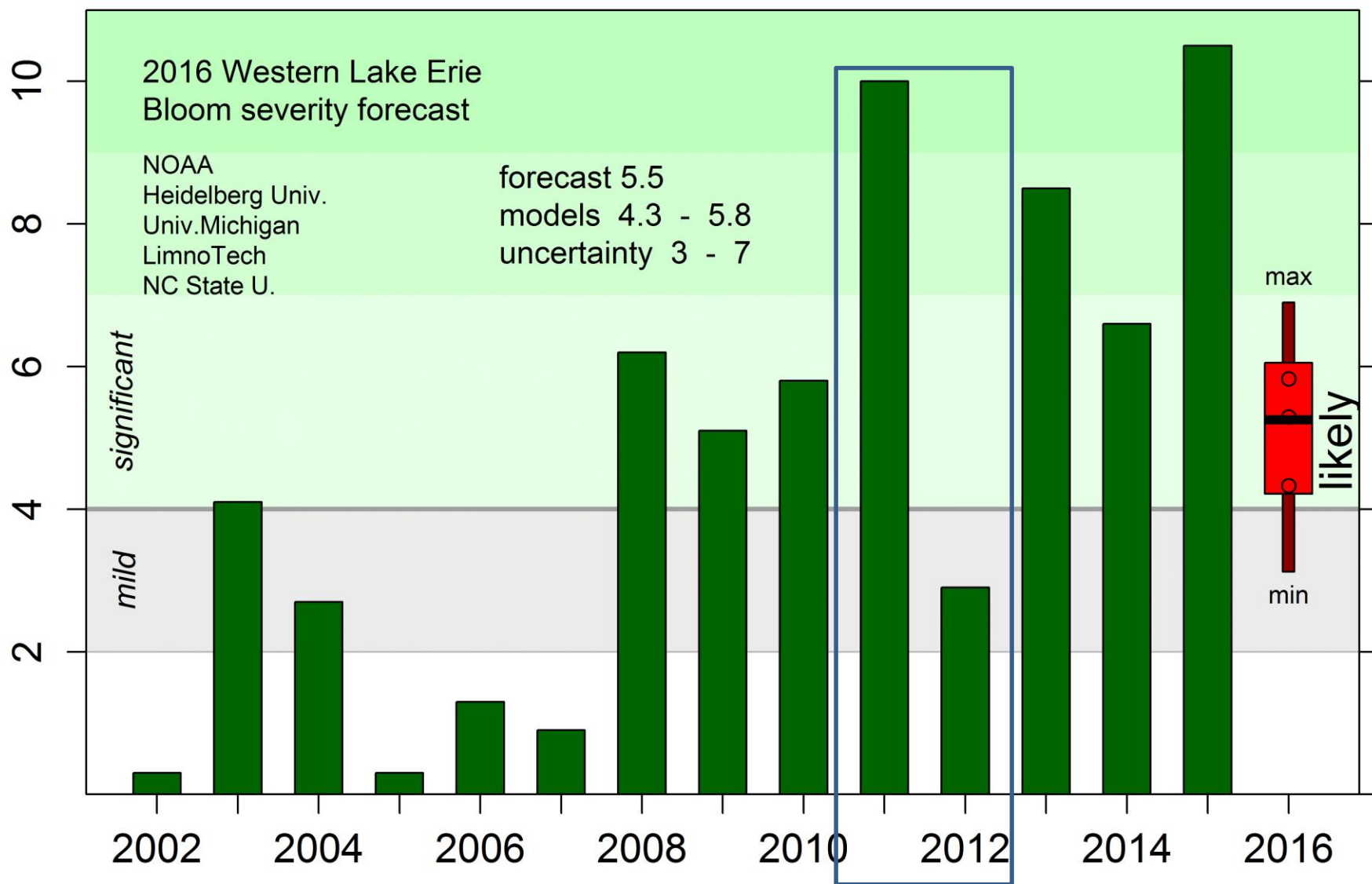
Date:  
08/08/2008



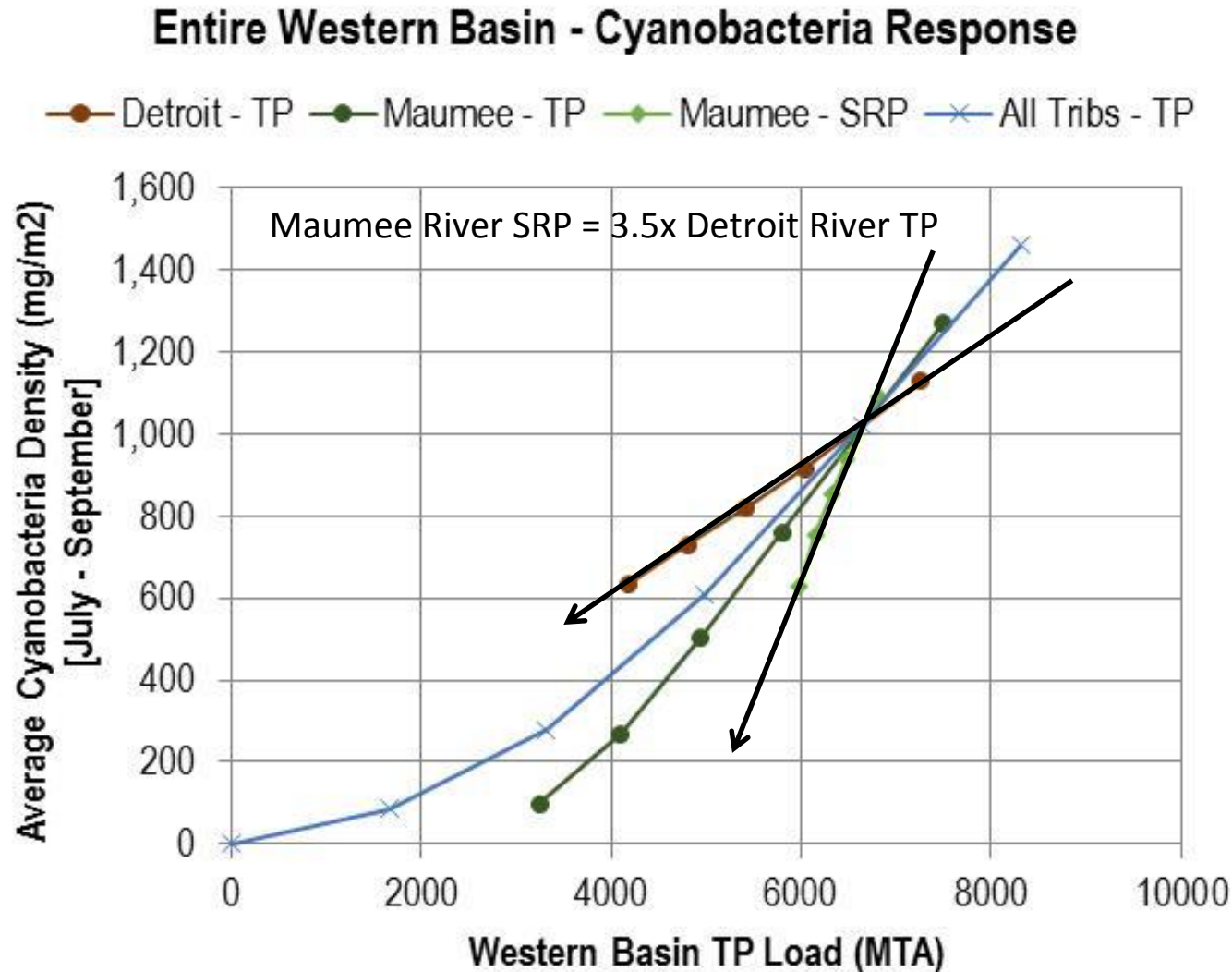


# All Tribs 50% Reduction



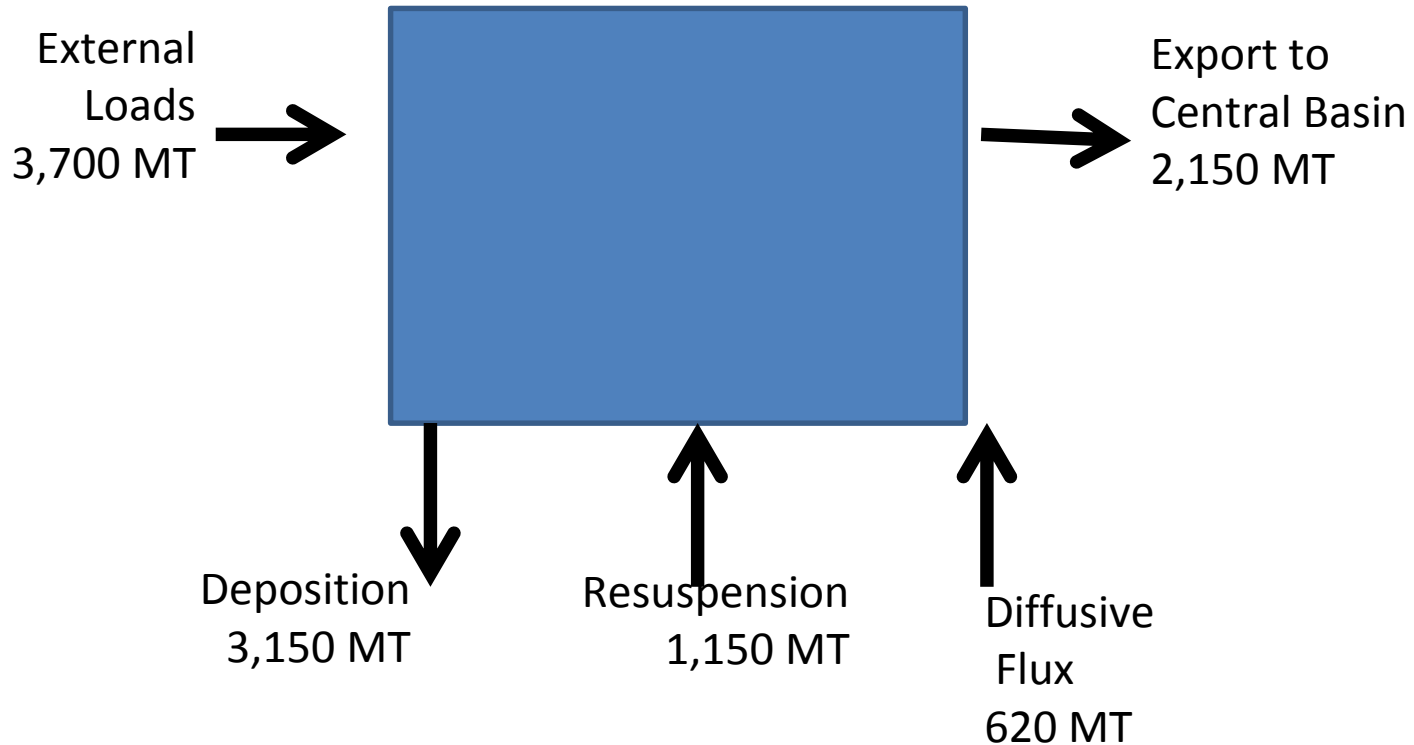


# Load Source Diagnostics



# Phosphorus Mass Balance

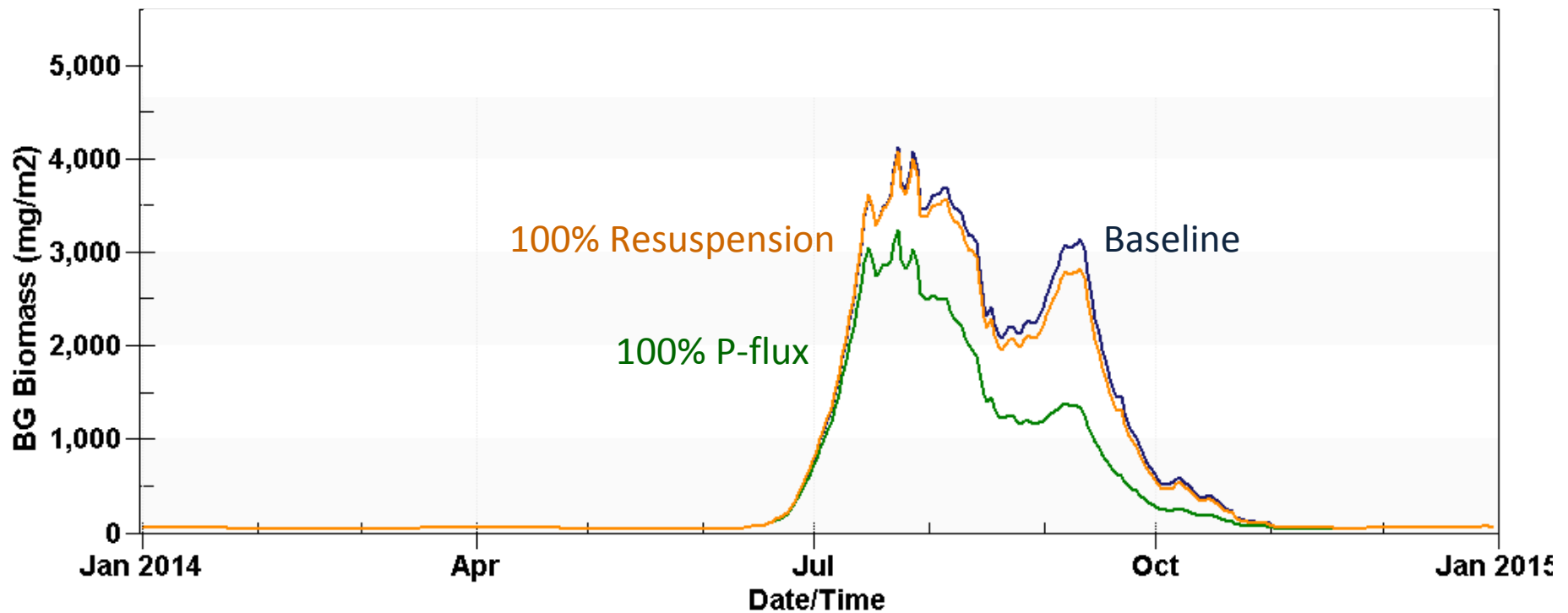
## Mar-Sept 2014



# Model Diagnostic Scenarios

## *TP Load Reduction Scenarios: Internal Loads*

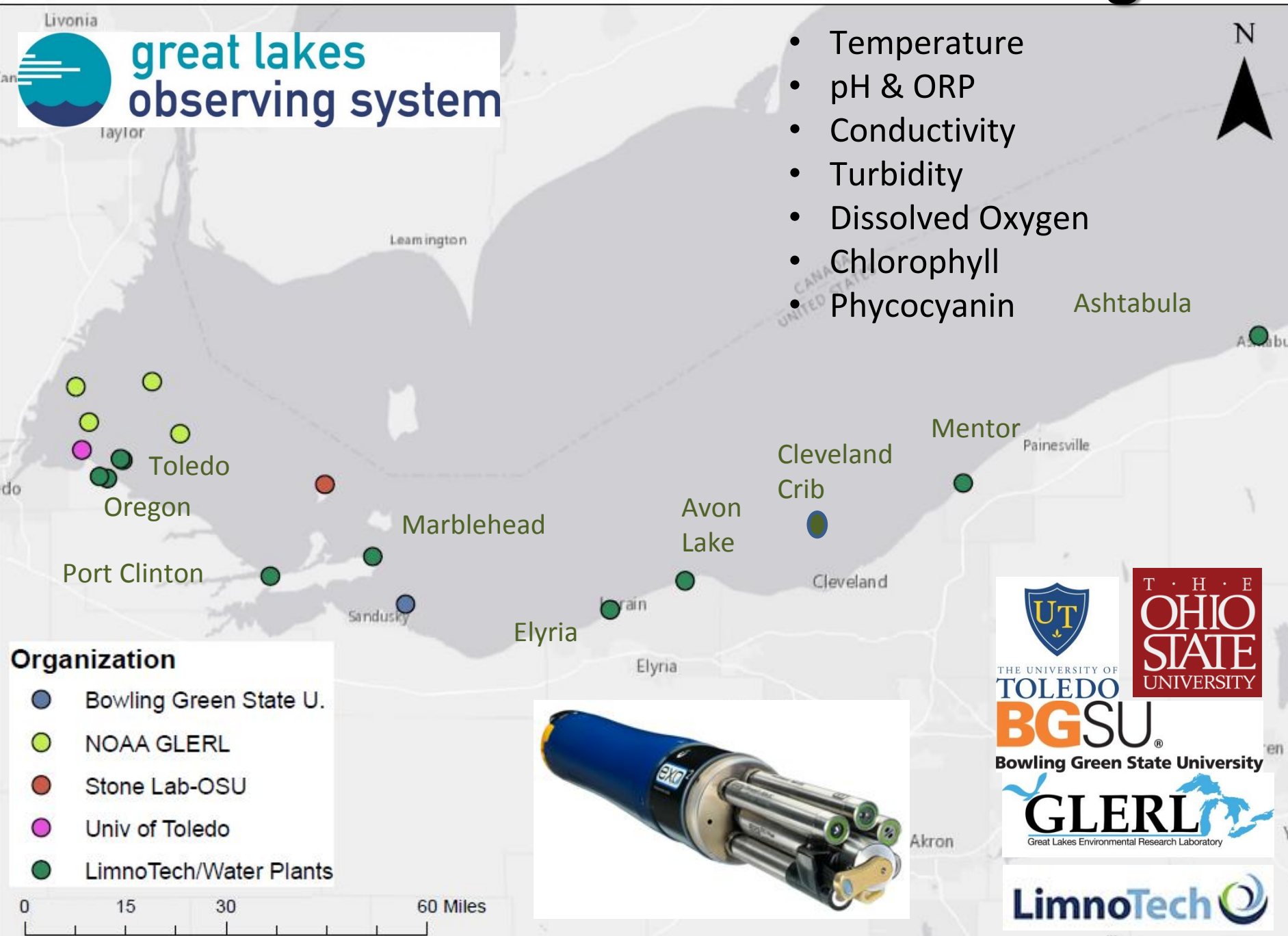
Zone #1: Western Lake Erie Basin



# 2016 HABs Real-time Monitoring



- Temperature
- pH & ORP
- Conductivity
- Turbidity
- Dissolved Oxygen
- Chlorophyll
- Phycocyanin



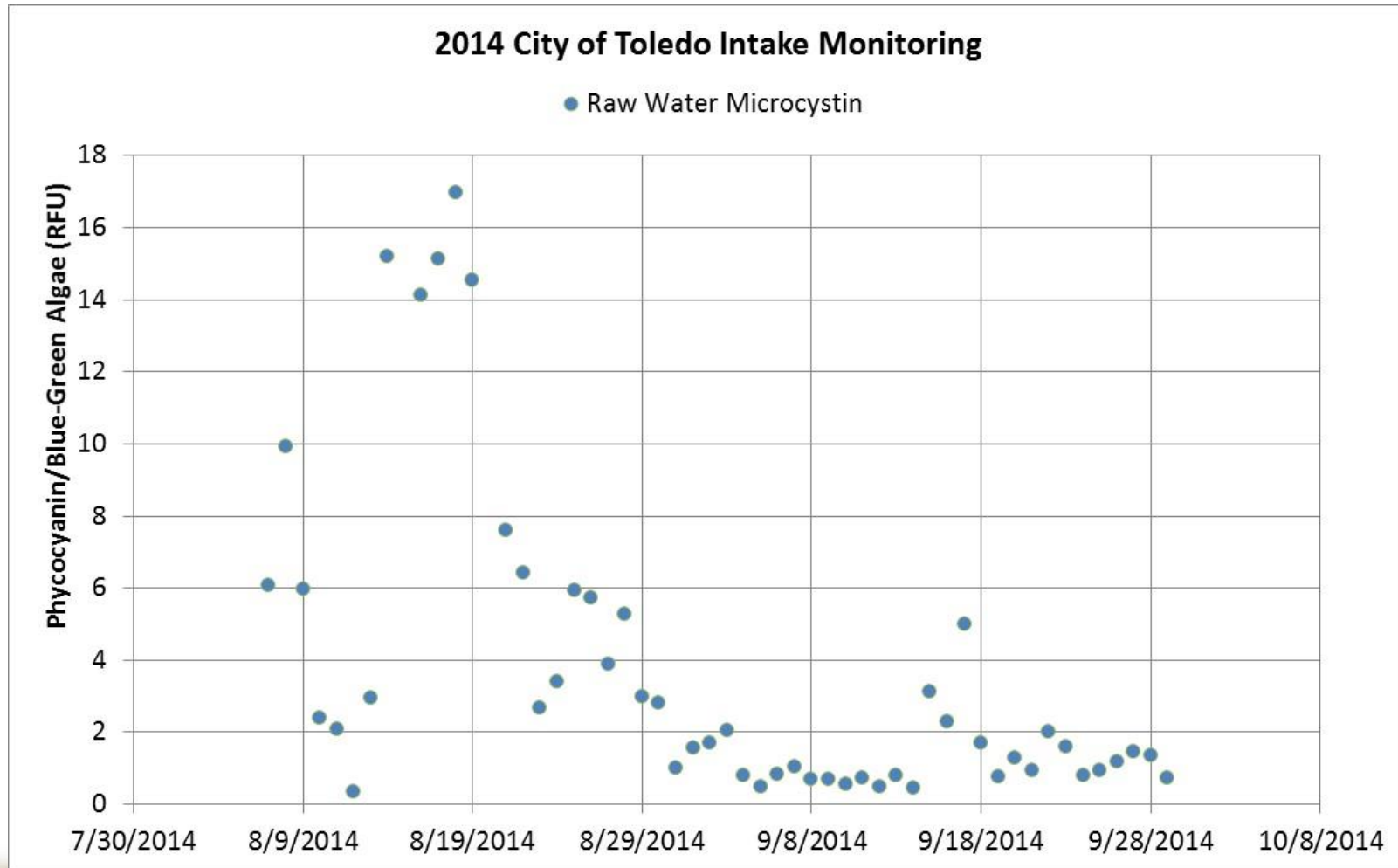
## Organization

- Bowling Green State U.
- NOAA GLERL
- Stone Lab-OSU
- Univ of Toledo
- LimnoTech/Water Plants



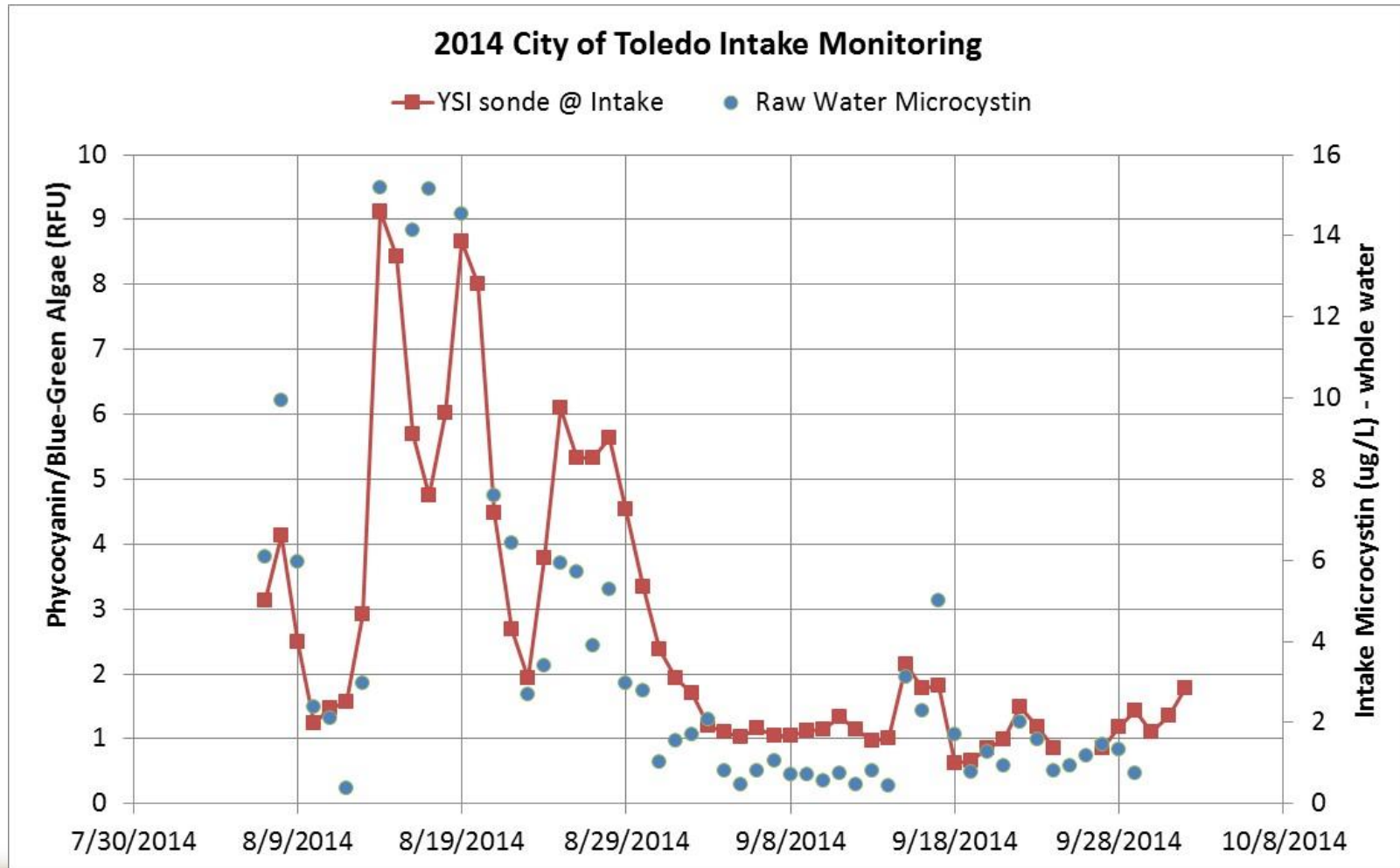


# 2014 City of Toledo Lake Monitoring

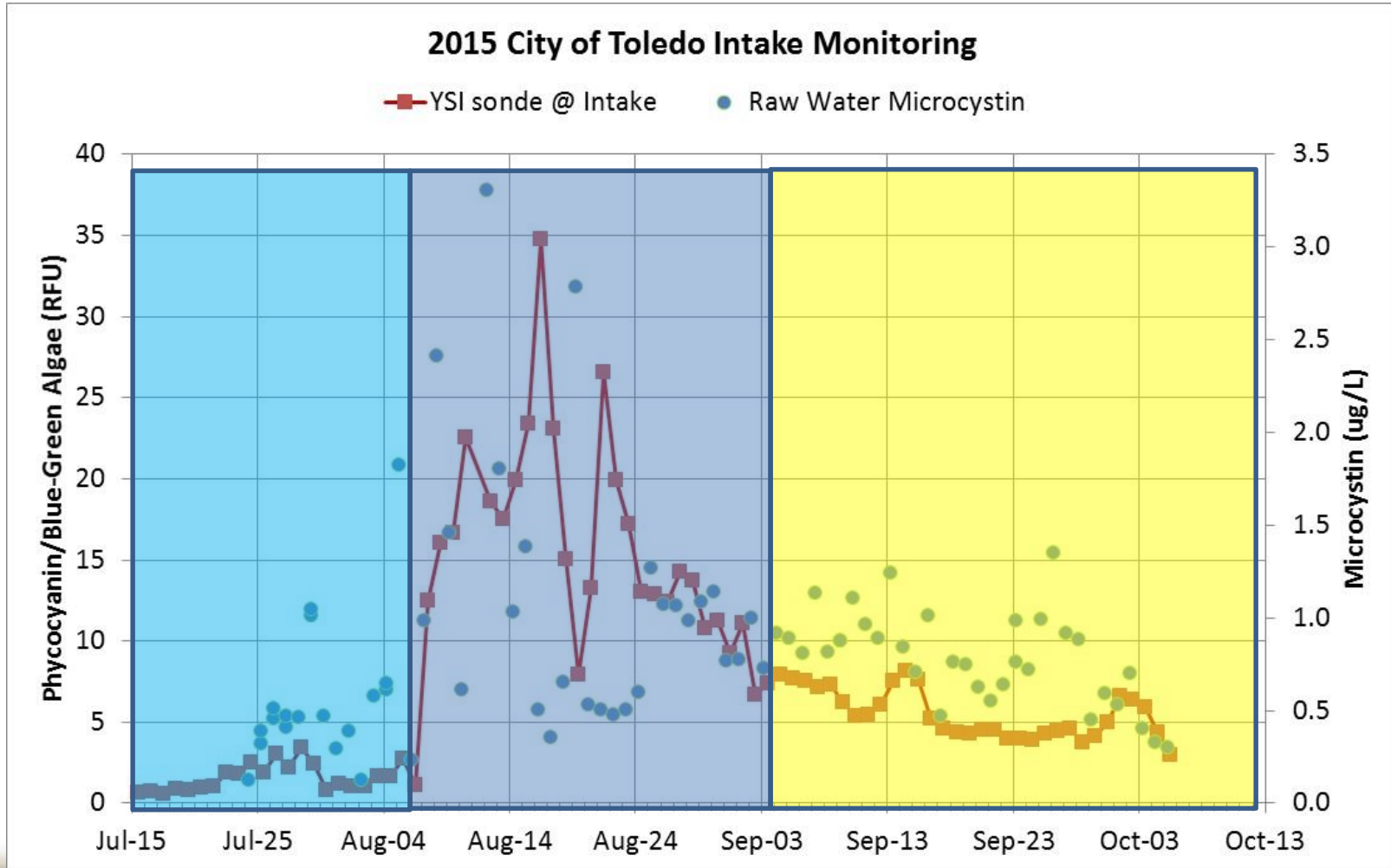




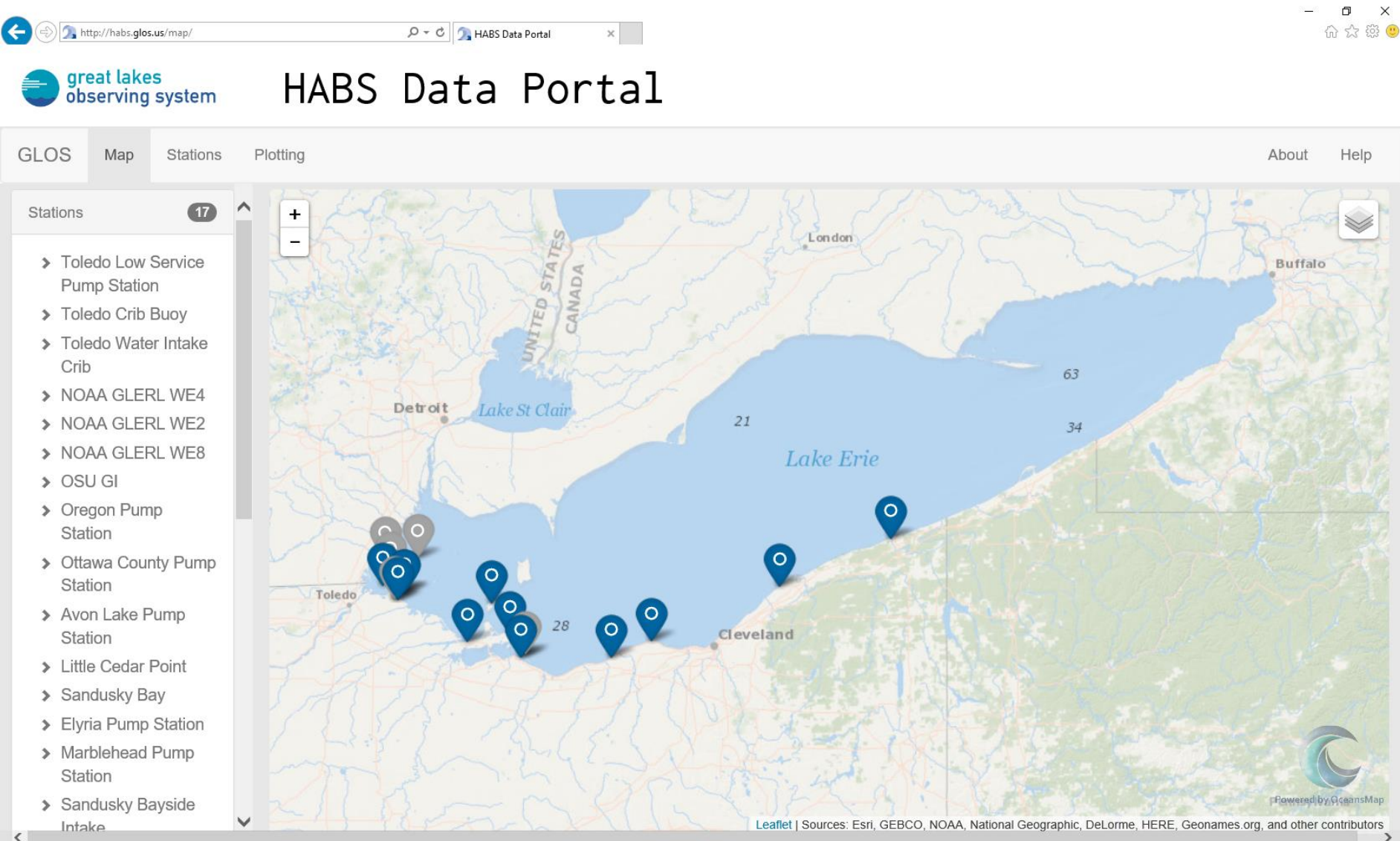
# 2014 City of Toledo Lake Monitoring



# 2015 City of Toledo Lake Monitoring



# GLOS HABs Data Viewer



<http://habs.glos.us>



# (Operational) Ecosystem Model

- **2010: USACE** - Wind driven resuspension is responsible for a significant portion of deposition in Toledo Harbor channel
- **2012: USACE** - Phosphorus from Maumee is a significant contribution to HABs in Western Lake Erie
- **2013: NSF** – Increased spring runoff will increase HABs
- **2014: USACE** - Open-lake placement does not contribute to HABs
- **2015: USEPA** – Annex 4, P reductions WILL reduce HABs severity (~40% needed)
- **2016: USEPA** - Internal loading, while not insignificant, has minimal affect on size and severity of HAB
- 2017 - ???



# Questions

Ed Verhamme

LimnoTech

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Water | Scientists  
Environment | Engineers



# Three-dimensional modelling of the impact of invasive Dreissenid mussels in Lake Erie



Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zebra\\_mussel#/media/File:Dreissena\\_polymorpha1.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zebra_mussel#/media/File:Dreissena_polymorpha1.jpg)

S. Bocaniov<sup>1,2</sup>, R. Smith<sup>2</sup>, C. Spillman<sup>3</sup>,  
M. Hipsey<sup>4</sup>, D. Scavia<sup>1</sup>, L. Leon<sup>2,5</sup>

1. Graham Sustainability Institute, University of Michigan
2. University of Waterloo
3. Australian Bureau of Meteorology
4. University of Western Australia
5. Environment and Climate Change Canada




source:  
: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zebra\\_mussel#](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zebra_mussel#)

March 7, 2017

# Presentation outline

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- main objective
  - feedback on modeling webinar survey & answers
  - 3D model of Lake Erie
  - previous model applications to Lake Erie
  - modeling mussels in Lake Erie
- 



# Main objective:

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To present the process-based 3-dimensional coupled hydrodynamic and ecological model of Lake Erie that includes mussels as a state variable (*Bocaniov et al., 2014; Hydrobiologia 731, 151-172*)

The model is potentially very useful for modeling and understanding of HABs in western basin of Lake Erie (e.g. includes mussels, and/or could be coupled to a 3D ecological model of Lake St. Clair)

The 3D Lake Erie model can be coupled to a newly developed 3D ecological model of Lake St. Clair\* to improve our understanding of the role of Lake St. Clair in the development of HABs in Lake Erie

Ecological 3D model of Lake St. Clair

Lake St. Clair

Ecological 3D model of Lake Erie

Lake Erie

\* Detroit River Nutrient Project (Graham Sustainability Institute, University of Michigan)


3D model Lake St. Clair



3D model of Lake Erie

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- 

# Feedback on modelling webinar survey & responses:

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❑ Q1: What is the largest scientific knowledge gap related to HABs?

- **Environmental triggers for growth and toxicity of HABs;**
- **Ability to measure the effect of incremental changes in nutrient loading on bloom frequency;**
- **Role of nitrogen in HAB formation.**


❑ Q2: What questions can models help answer that your data alone cannot?

- **Predicting the timing, location and toxicity of HABs;**
- **How much of nutrient reduction is needed to control HABs;**
- **Potential climate change effects & future status of the lake.**



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- main objective
  - feedback on modeling webinar survey & answers
  - **3D model of Lake Erie**
  - previous model applications to Lake Erie
  - modeling mussels in Lake Erie
- 

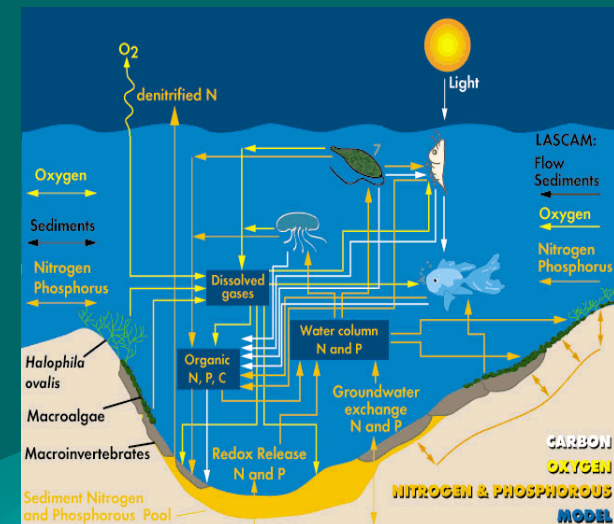
# 3D hydrodynamic & ecological model of Lake Erie (ELCOM-CAEDYM or ELCD)

## □ Estuary & Lake Computer Model (ELCOM)

- ◆ 3D hydrodynamic model
- ◆ baroclinic & barotropic responses
- ◆ tidal forcing, wind stresses
- ◆ surface thermal forcing, inflows & outflows

## □ Computational Aquatic Ecosystem Dynamics Model (CAEDYM)

- ◆ ecological & water quality model
- ◆ nutrient, C, O<sub>2</sub> & metal cycling
- ◆ water column & sediment dynamics
- ◆ phytoplankton (7 groups)
- ◆ zooplankton (5 groups)
- ◆ fish (3), fish eggs and fish larvae (3)



# Phytoplankton configuration in Lake Erie model: 5 groups\*, \*\*

Taxa	Description	Associated with
<b>Cyanobacteria</b>	larger and potentially N-fixing taxa	warm and stable waters
<b>Early Diatoms</b>	early blooming diatom taxa	high Si requirements and sinking rates
<b>Late Diatoms</b>	diatom taxa occurring later in the season	lower Si requirements and sinking rates
<b>Flagellates</b>	cryptophytes and other flagellates; some nonmotile forms	cooler waters and/or deeper strata; low sinking rates
<b>Other Phytoplankton</b>	flagellates and nonmotile forms	warmer and brighter conditions

\*Leon *et al.*, 2011; JGLR 37:41-53

\*\* Bocaniov *et al.*, 2016; JGLR 42:1228-1240

# CAEDYM allows modeling algal toxin & metabolite production\*

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*each algal group can be configured to produce metabolites:*

$$\frac{\partial X_a}{\partial t} = \underbrace{f_{A_a}^{BME}}_{\text{cell lysis \& excretion}} - \underbrace{f_{X_a}^{MIN}}_{\text{microbial decay}}$$

$X_a$  - concentration of the toxin/metabolite ( $mg\ L^{-1}$ )

$f_{A_a}^{BME}$  - metabolite contribution from mortality and excretion by  $A_a$

$f_{X_a}^{MIN}$  - bacterially mediated decay of metabolites

*\*Hipsey & Hamilton, 2008*



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- **previous model applications to Lake Erie**
- modeling mussels in Lake Erie

# Previous applications of ELCD to Lake Erie

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- Modeling phytoplankton and nutrient dynamics  
(e.g. *Leon et al., 2011; JGLR 37: 41–53*)
- Modeling Lake Erie's thermal structure  
(e.g. *Liu et al., 2014; JGLR 40: 827–840*)
- Modeling winter conditions and the effects of ice cover  
(e.g. *Oveisy et al., 2014; JGLR 40: 19–28*)
- Modeling Lake Erie hypoxia  
(e.g. *Bocaniov & Scavia, 2016; Water Resour. Res., 52: 4247 –4263*  
*Bocaniov et al., 2016; JGLR 42: 1228–1240*)
- Modeling mussels in Lake Erie (today's presentation)  
(e.g. *Bocaniov et al., 2014; Hydrobiologia 731: 151-172*)

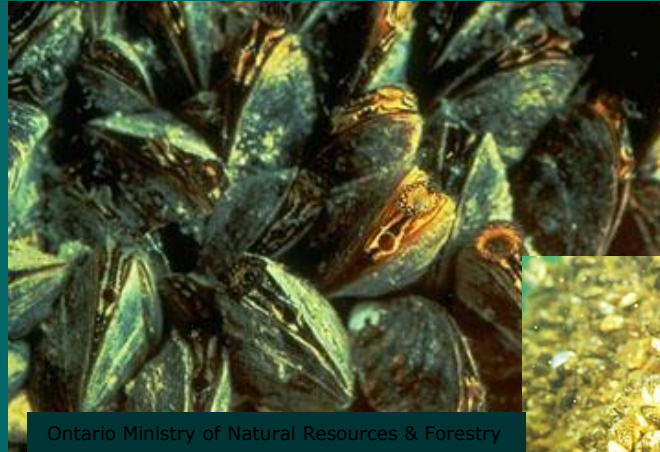
# Presentation outline

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- 3D hydrodynamic & WQ model of Lake Erie
- previous model applications to Lake Erie
- **modeling mussels in Lake Erie**

# Mussels as Ecosystem Engineers<sup>1,2</sup>

- remove particles
- ↑ water clarity
- ↓ small zooplankton
- nutrient (N) cycling: part. N → dissolved N
- stabilize sediments & create new habitat
- ↓ phytoplankton



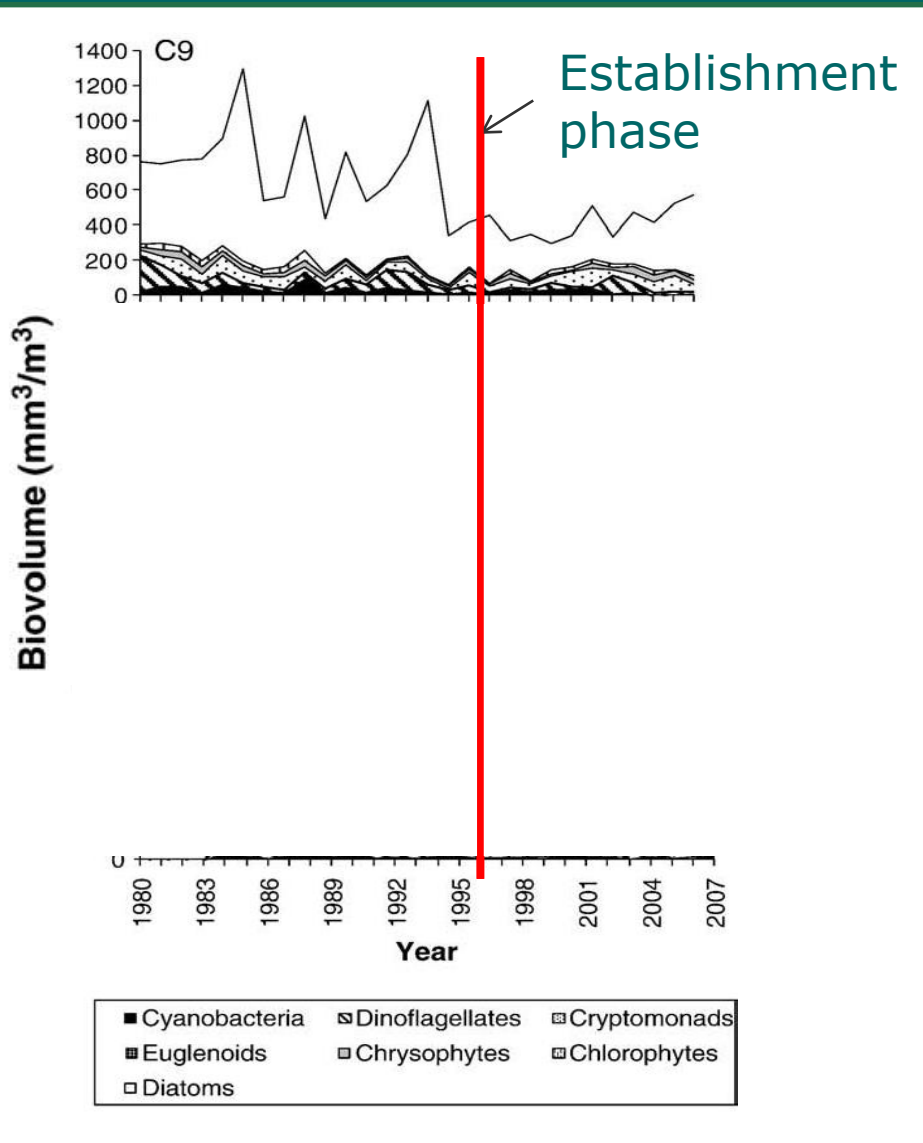
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry



Copyright Eric Engbretson

<sup>1</sup> Jones et al. 1994; <sup>2</sup> Karatayev et al. 2002





**Examples of apparent mussel impacts on phytoplankton in lakes certainly abound**

**But credible predictive models of the role of mussels in lake ecology are still developing**

e.g. Lake Simcoe (bar indicates establishment phase; Winter *et al.*, 2010)

# The nearshore shunt hypothesis<sup>1</sup>

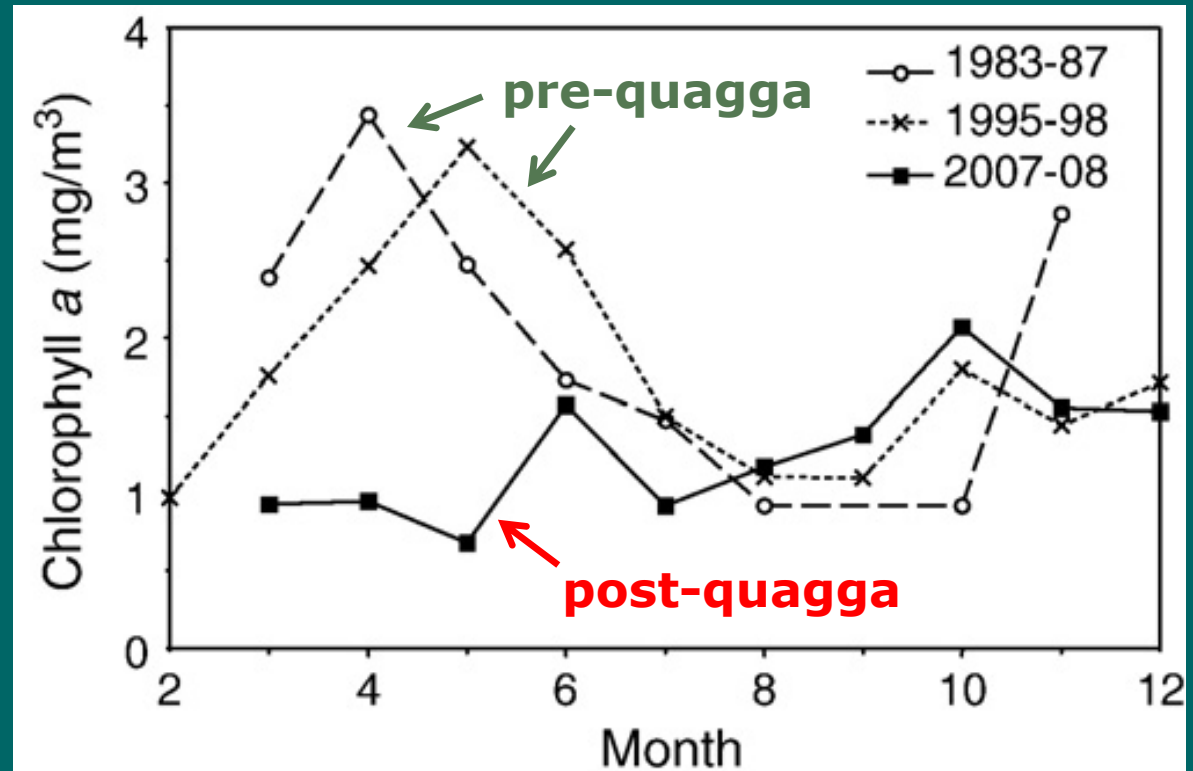
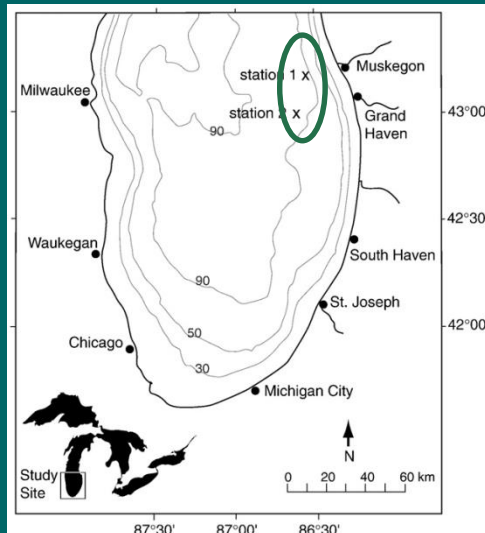
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- ◆ Mussels re-direct nutrients and energy to benthos
- ◆ Re-direction is most effective in nearshore (shallow, well-mixed)
- ◆ Preferential decrease of nearshore plankton (plankton oligotrophication)
- ◆ Lesser effects offshore, but .....

<sup>1</sup> Hecky *et al.*, 2004; CJFAS 61: 1285-1293

# The Lake Michigan experience

*Fahnenstiel et al., 2010; JGLR 36: 20-29*



**Large loss of phytoplankton and primary production at deep offshore stations associated with quagga establishment**

Mussels are confined to bottom and feeding success is partly under hydrodynamic control



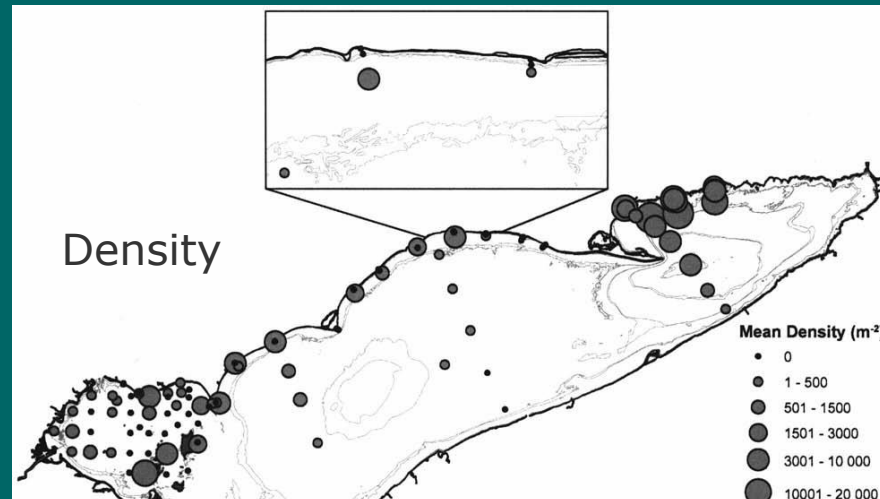
e.g. Edwards *et al.*  
2005; CJFAS 62:  
205-214.

Courtesy of Scott Higgins

**Modeling of the role of mussels must  
recognize this reality**



# Mussels also have patchy and discontinuous distributions, e.g. Lake Erie 2002



Patterson et al.,  
2005; JGLR 31 (2):  
223-237

**Models that overlook the full spatial complexity may not capture the situation adequately**

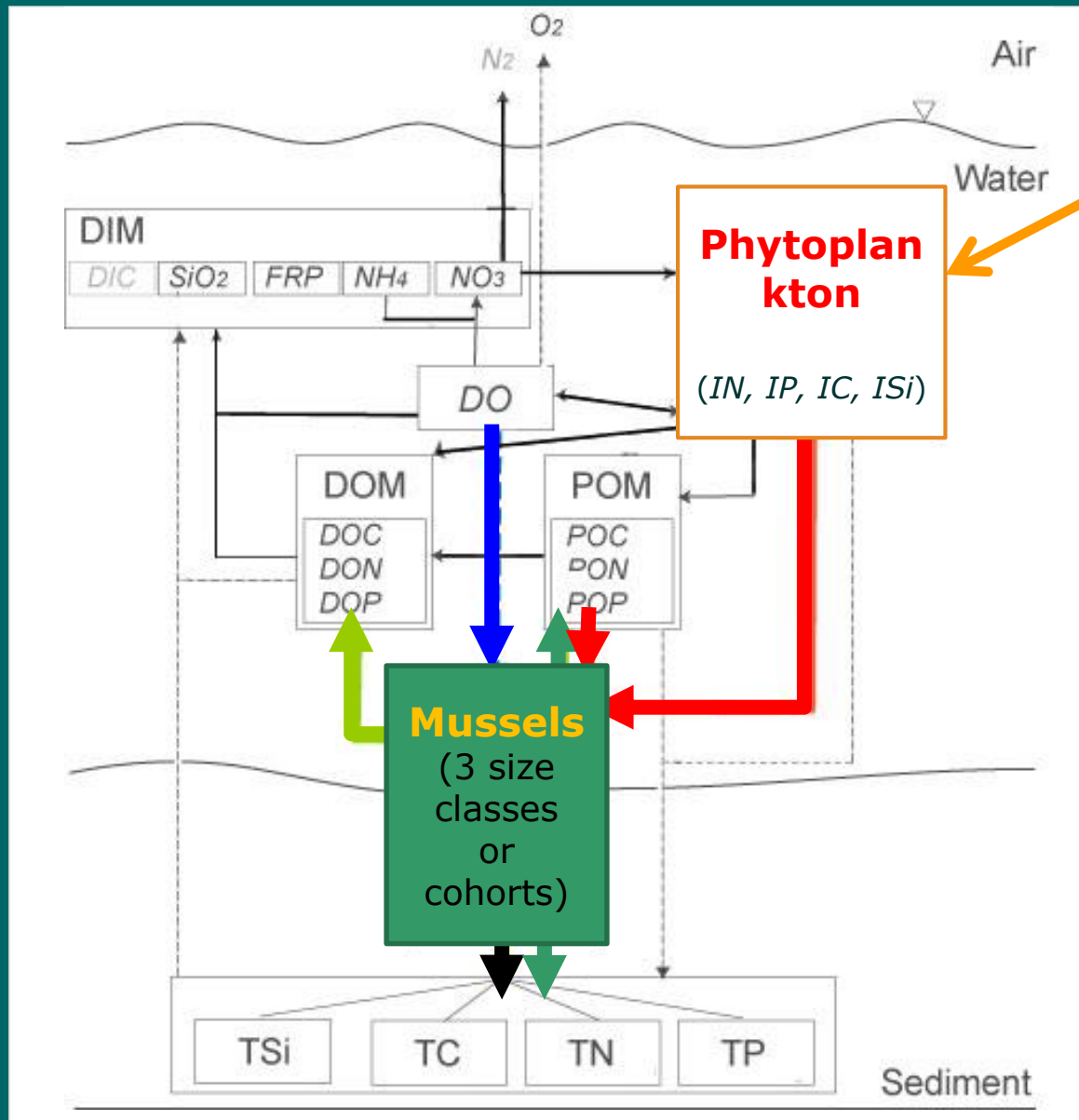


Objectives: use a calibrated model with realistic hydrodynamics & mussel distributions to:

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1. Determine if nearshore shunt predictions are supported
2. Ask if we can expect major mussel impacts even in deep, cold waters
3. Determine if there is an evidence of stimulation of phytoplankton growth

# Mussel-system interactions



Current model  
uses 5  
phytoplankton  
groups

**Grazing**  
**Excretion**  
**Egestion**  
**Respiration**  
**Mortality**

# Distribution and size class specifications modelled by basin, substrate and depth distributions for Lake Erie\* in 2002 (Patterson *et al.* 2005)



**Model used 2 km horizontal grid and 40 vertical layers**

**Mussel classes 1, 2 and 3 have mean shell lengths of 5, 15 and 25 mm**

**Average biomass (gC/m<sup>2</sup>):**

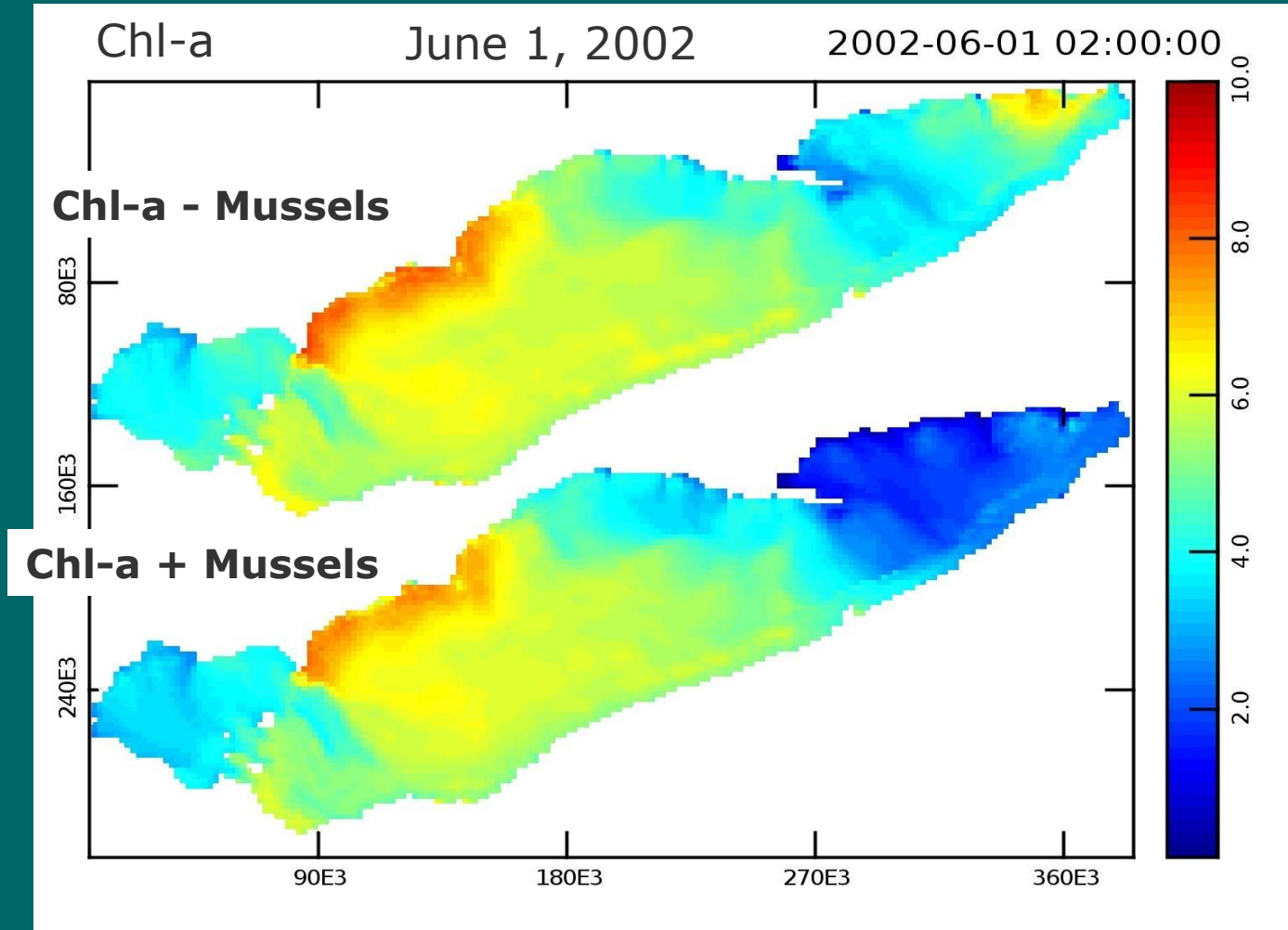
- 11.6 (East basin),
- 0.19 (Central basin)
- 0.32 (West basin)

\* *Bocaniov et al., 2014; Hydrobiologia, 731, 151-172*



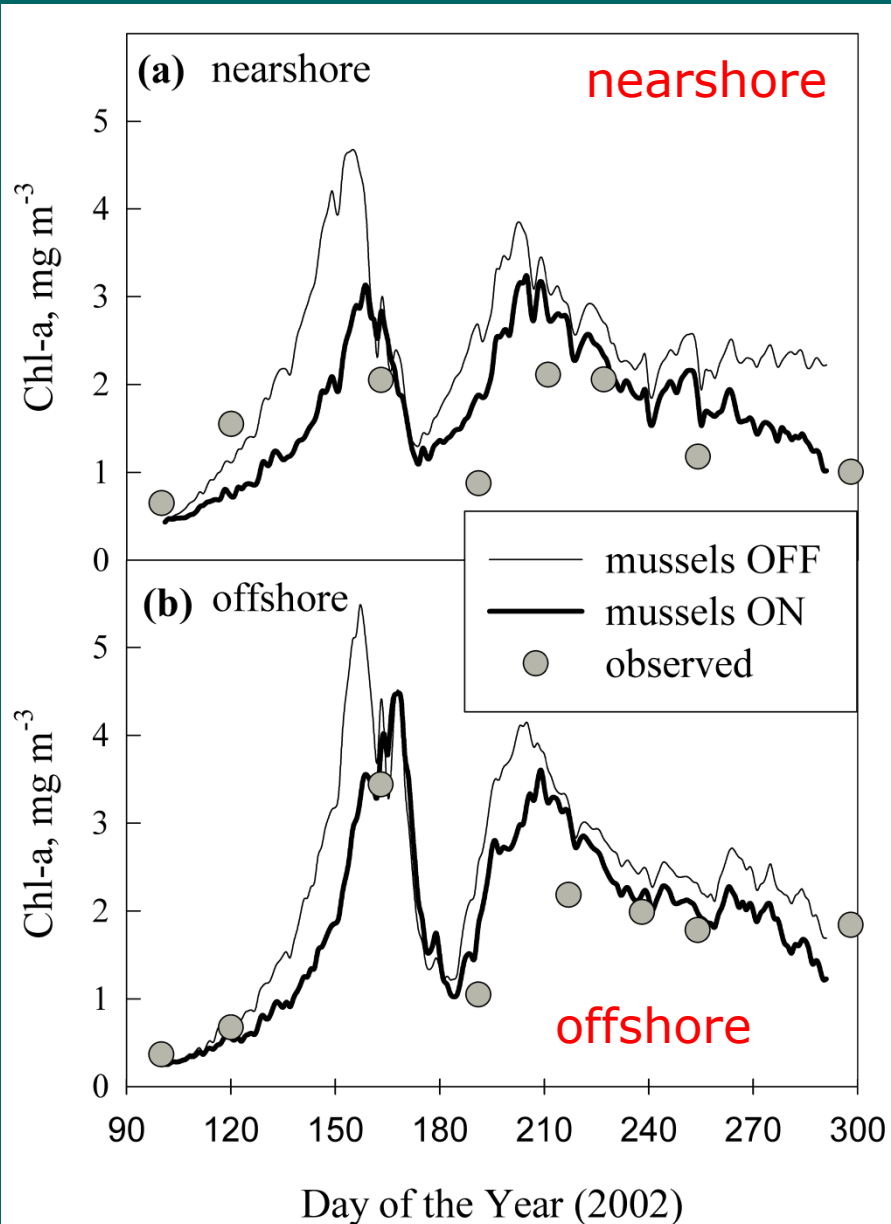
# Results: spatial patterns of impact

(modified from *Bocaniov et al., 2014; Hydrobiologia 731: 151-172*)



**Evidence for a strong spatial variability in predicted mussel impact? YES**

# Results: Nearshore vs. offshore dynamics within East basin\*



**Mussels decrease Chl-a substantially in nearshore**

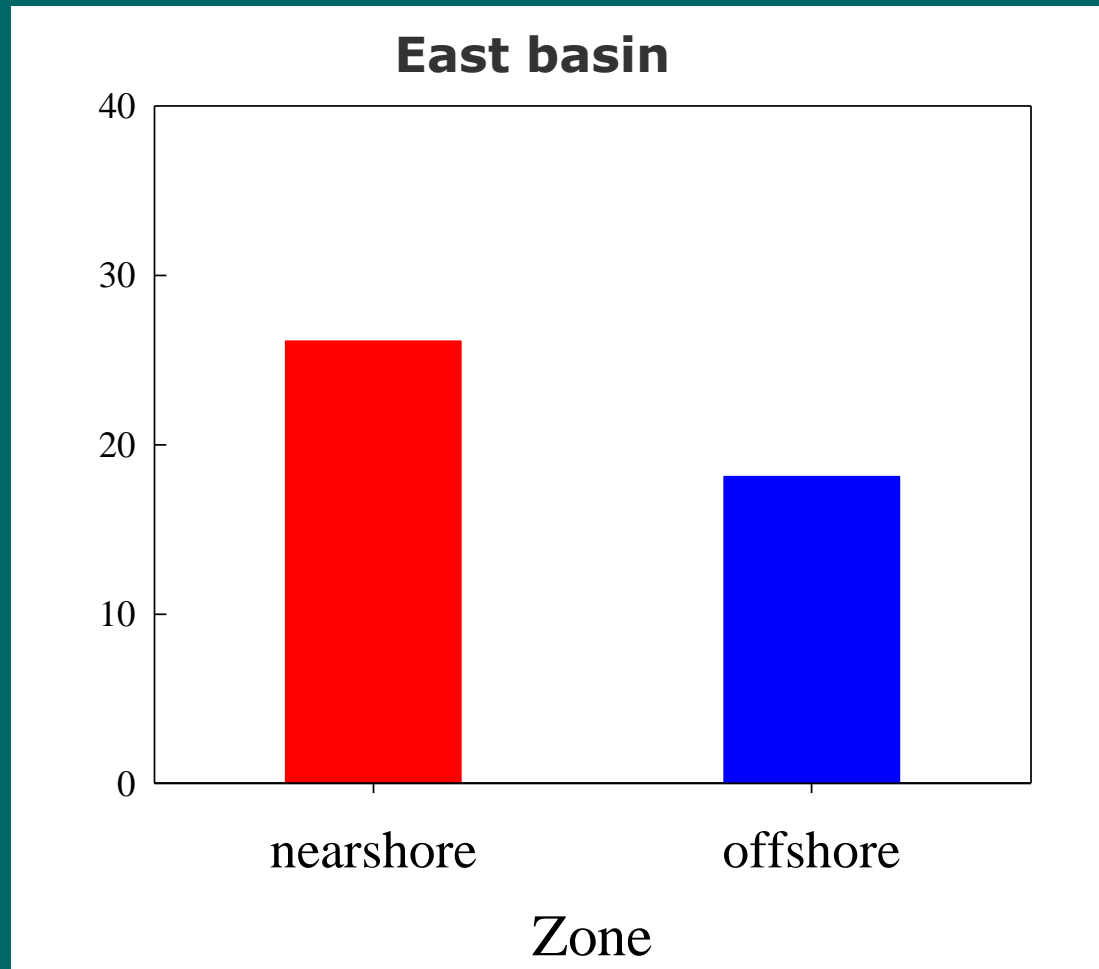
**BUT also in offshore**

**The “spring bloom” is attenuated and delayed in both zones**

**Evidence for offshore, spring-time effects? YES**

\* *Bocaniov et al., 2014; Hydrobiologia, 731, 151-172*

# Percent decrease of predicted phytoplankton biomass (April-October average) with addition of mussels

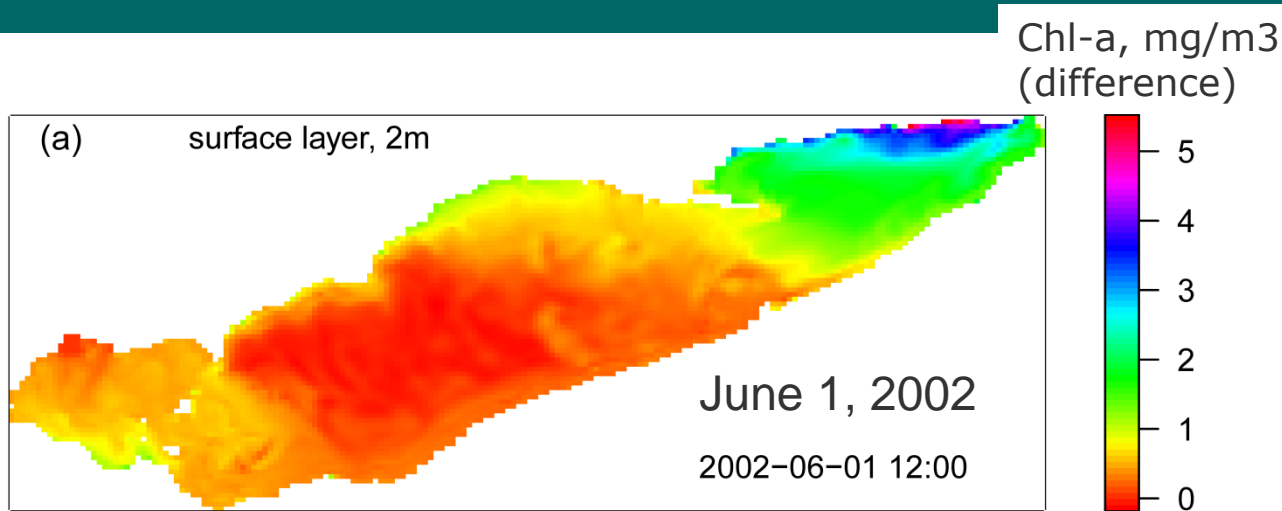


**Evidence for the nearshore shunt? YES**

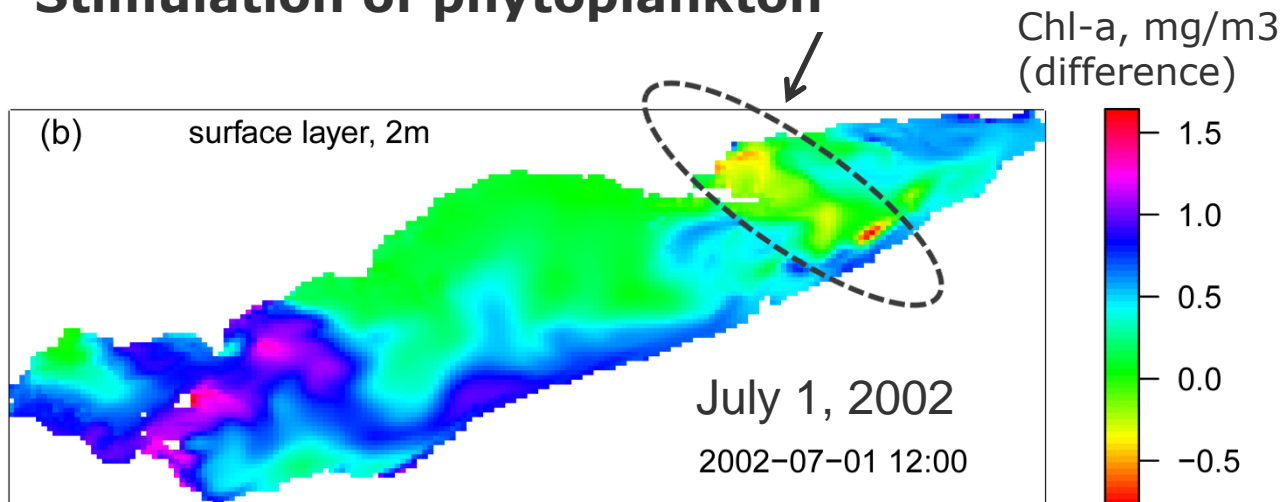
# Stimulation of phytoplankton growth by grazing\*

## Differences in Chl-a concentrations:

*Chl-a (mussels OFF) – Chl-a (mussels ON)*



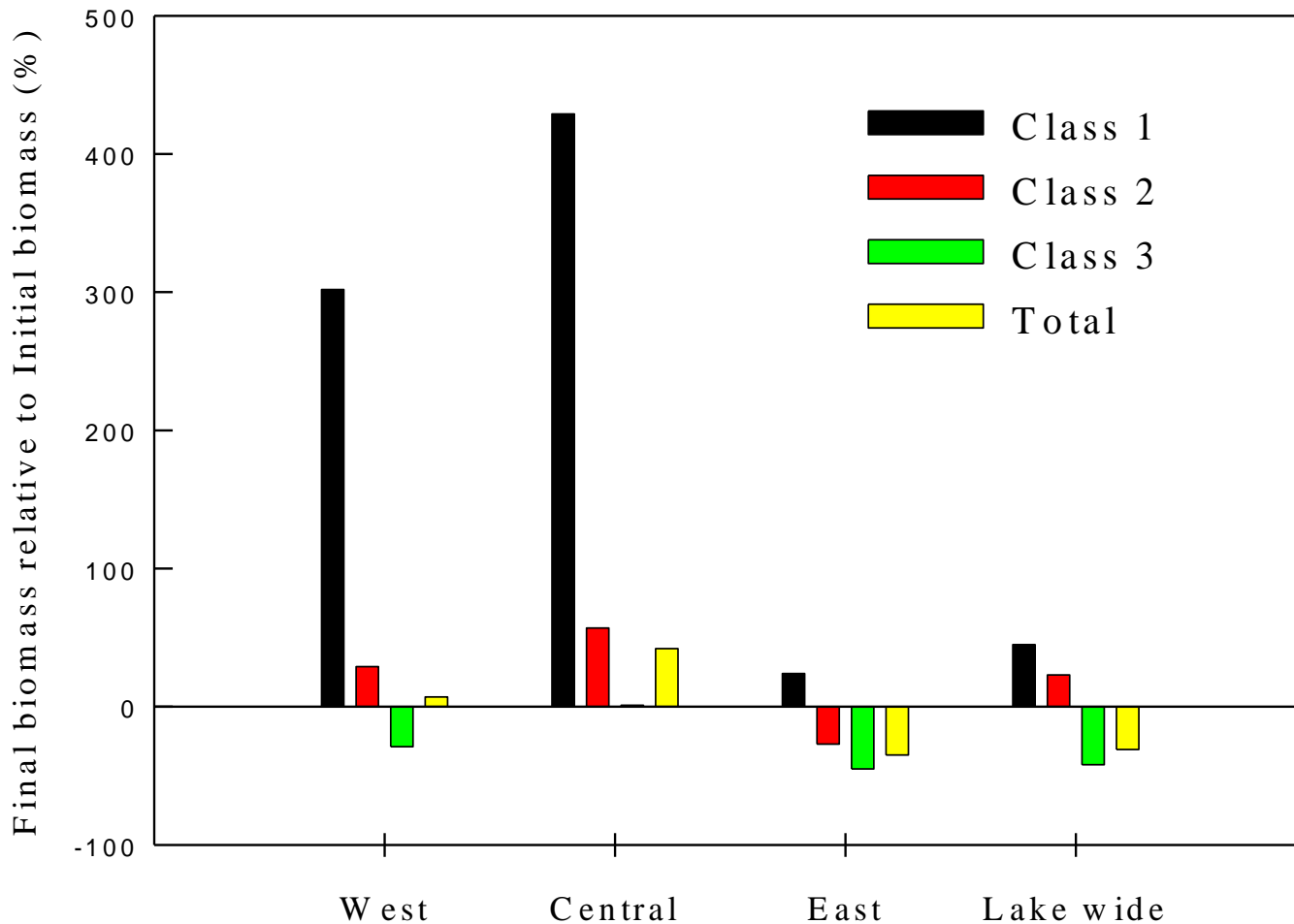
## Stimulation of phytoplankton



*Modified from  
Bocaniov et al., 2014;  
Hydrobiologia, 731, 151-172*

# Change in final mussel biomass<sup>1</sup>

(Final biomass as % of Initial biomass)



<sup>1</sup> Simulation time: 191 days (April 10 to October 17, 2002)



# Conclusions

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- ◆ 3-D modelling predicts very dynamic picture of seasonal mussel biomass development
- ◆ Different basin-wide impact:  
East B > West B > Central B
- ◆ Shunt and offshore effects supported
- ◆ Mussel grazing can stimulate the growth of phytoplankton
- ◆ Model can be used for modeling HABs

# Conclusions (*possible next steps*)

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- ◆ Knowledge of mussel behaviour and energetics has improved (e.g. *Vanderploeg et al., 2017\**) and the model could accommodate the new information about temperature responses, feeding rates, and excretion
- ◆ Model has seston stoichiometry and can capture the stoichiometry-dependent behaviour demonstrated by *Vanderploeg et al. (2017)\**
- ◆ Zooplankton can be included too

\* *Vanderploeg et al., 2017; Freshwater Biol. 62: 664-680*

# QUESTIONS?

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