

# AQUATOX Training Workshop

Web Training Materials, August 2012

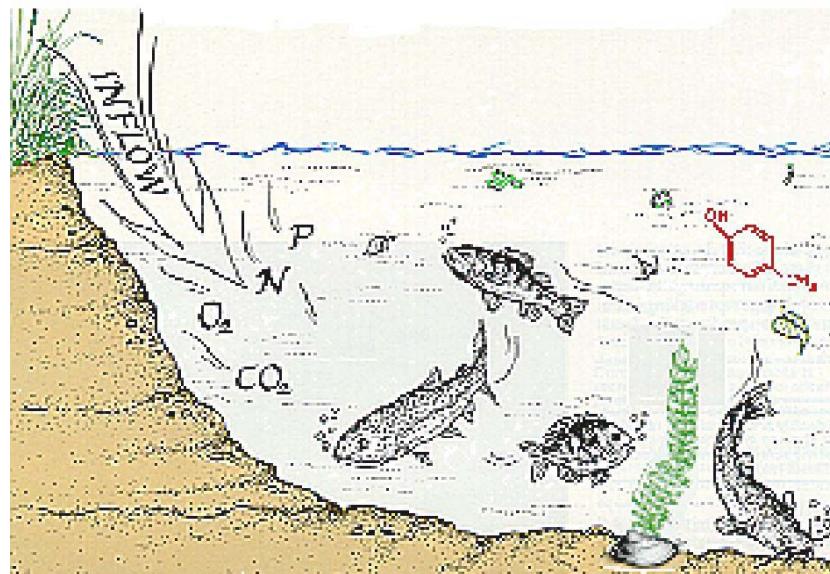
Based on Workshop Given for EPA Region 6, Dallas, Texas, December 2010  
and Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, November 2011



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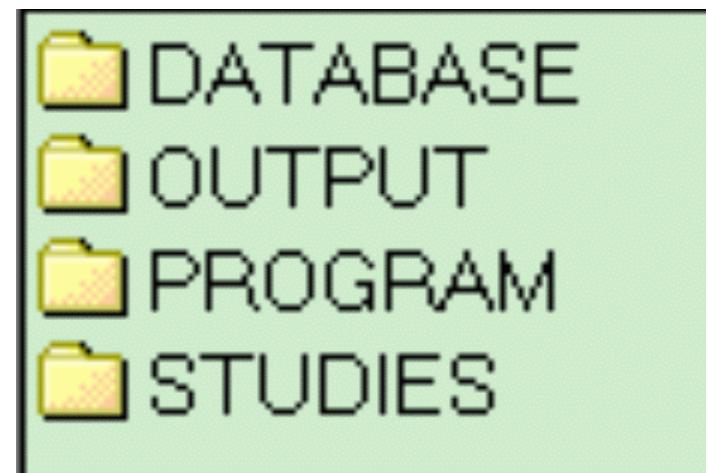


# Introduction

- CD setup, installation
- Potential applications, regulatory endpoints
- Overview of AQUATOX
- Acceptance of AQUATOX
- What it does *not* do
- Structure, ecosystem primer
- State variables, processes, input requirements
- Capabilities

# CD Setup: Files, Installation

- Data Folder
- Documents Folder
- Presentation Folder
- References Folder
- Reprints Folder
- AQUATOX Installation
  - » Which Installs to...



# Potential Applications for AQUATOX

- Many waters are impaired biologically as well as chemically
- Managers need to know:
  - Most important stressor?
  - Implications of possible pollution control and/or restoration measures?
    - Differences in biotic communities
    - Improved water quality
  - Unintended consequences?
  - Recovery time?
  - Uncertainty around predictions?
- Science vs policy decisions

# Regulatory Endpoints Modeled

- Nutrient and toxicant concentrations
- Biomass
  - plant, invertebrate, fish
- Chlorophyll a
  - phytoplankton, periphyton, moss
- Biological metrics
- Total suspended solids, Secchi depth
- Dissolved oxygen
  - daily minimum and maximum
- Biochemical oxygen demand
- Bioaccumulation factors
- Half-lives of organic toxicants

# Potential Applications

## *nutrients*

- Develop nutrient targets for rivers, lakes and reservoirs subject to nuisance algal blooms
- Evaluate which factor(s) is controlling algae levels
  - nutrients, suspended sediments, grazing, herbicides, flow
- Evaluate effects of agricultural practices or land use changes
  - Will target chlorophyll *a* concentrations be attained after BMPS are implemented?
  - Will land use changes from agriculture to residential use increase or decrease eutrophication effects?
  - Linkage to watershed models in BASINS

# Potential Applications of AQUATOX

## *toxic substances*

- Ecological risk assessment of chemicals
  - Will non-target organisms be harmed?
    - Will sublethal effects cause game fish to disappear?
  - Will there be disruptions to the food web?
    - Will reduction of zooplankton reduce the food supply for beneficial fish?
    - Or will it lead to nuisance algae blooms?
- Bioaccumulative compounds
  - Calculate BAFs and tissue concentrations
  - Estimate time until fish are safe to eat after remediation

# Potential Applications

## *aquatic life support*

- Evaluate proposed water quality criteria
  - Differences in biotic communities?
  - Support designated use?
- Estimate recovery time of community after reducing pollutants
- Evaluate potential responses to invasive species and mitigation measures
  - Impacts on native species?
  - Changes in ecosystem “services”?
- Evaluate possible effects of climate change
  - Link to climate and/or watershed models

# Overview: What is AQUATOX?

- Simulation model that links pollutants to aquatic life
- Integrates fate & ecological effects
  - nutrient & eutrophication effects
  - fate & bioaccumulation of organics
  - food web & ecotoxicological effects
- Predicts effects of multiple stressors
  - nutrients, organic toxicants
  - temperature, suspended sediment, flow
- Can be evaluative (with “canonical” or representative environments) or site-specific
- Peer reviewed by independent panels and in several published model reviews
- Distributed by US EPA, Open Source code

# Acceptance of AQUATOX

- Has gone through 2 EPA-sponsored peer reviews (following quotes from 2008 review):
  - “model enhancements have made AQUATOX one of the most exciting tools in aquatic ecosystem management”
  - “this is the first model that provides a reasonable interface for scientists to explore ecosystem level effects from multiple stressors over time”
  - “the integration of ICE data into AQUATOX makes this model one of the most comprehensive aquatic ecotoxicology programs available”
  - it “would make a wonderful textbook for an ecotoxicology class”
- Is gradually appearing in open literature

# Comparison of Dynamic Risk Assessment Models

State Variables & Processes	AQUATOX	CATS	CASM	Qual2K	WASP7	EFDC-HEM3D	QEAFdChn	BASS	QSim
Nutrients	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
Sediment Diagenesis	X			X	X	X			
Detritus	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
Dissolved Oxygen	X		X	X	X	X			X
DO Effects on Biota	X								X
pH	X				X				X
NH4 Toxicity	X								
Sand/Silt/Clay	X					X	X		
SABS Effects	X								
Hydraulics							X		X
Heat Budget					X	X	X		X
Salinity	X					X	X		
Phytoplankton	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
Periphyton	X	X	X	X	X				X
Macrophytes	X	X	X						X
Zooplankton	X	X	X						X
Zoobenthos	X	X	X						X
Fish	X	X	X						X
Bacteria			X						X
Pathogens				X			X		
Organic Toxicant Fate	X	X				X			X
Organic Toxicants in:									
Sediments	X	X				X	X		
Stratified Sediments	X					X	X		
Phytoplankton	X	X							
Periphyton	X	X							
Macrophytes	X	X							
Zooplankton	X	X						X	
Zoobenthos	X	X						X	
Fish	X	X						X	X
Birds or other animals	X	X							
Ecotoxicity	X	X	X						X
Linked Segments	X				X	X	X		X

# Comparison of Bioaccumulation Models: Biotic State Variables

Table 3.2. Comparison of Bioaccumulation State Variables

	AQUATOX Release 2	BASS v 2.1	Biotic Ligand 1.0.0	Ecofate 1.0b1, Gobas	EMCM 1.0	RAMAS Ecosystem	QEAFDCHN 1.0	TRIM.FaTE v 3.3
<b>BIOTIC STATE VARIABLES</b>								
Plants								
Single Generalized Water Column Algal Species	★	7	★	★				★
Multiple Generalized Water Column Algal Species	★							
Green Algae	★							
Blue-green Algae	★							
Diatoms	★							
Single Generalized Benthic Algal Species	★	7						
Multiple Generalized Benthic Algal Species	★							
Periphyton	★	7		★				
Macrophytes	★			★				★
Animals								
Generalized Compartments for Invertebrates or Fish						★	★	
Generalized Zooplankton Species	★	7	★	★				★
Detritivorous Invertebrates	★		★	4				★
Herbivorous Invertebrates	★	3	★			★		★
Predatory Invertebrates	★							★
Single Generalized Fish Species	★	★	★	★				★
Multiple Generalized Fish Species	★	★	★	★				★
Bottom Fish	★	★	★	★				★
Forage Fish	★	★	3	★	★			★
Small Game Fish	★	★	★	★				★
Large Game Fish	★	★	3	★	★			★
Fish Organ Systems			6					
Age / Size Structured Fish Populations	★	★	★	★	5			
Marine Birds	★		★					★
Additional Mammals								★

Imhoff et al. 2005

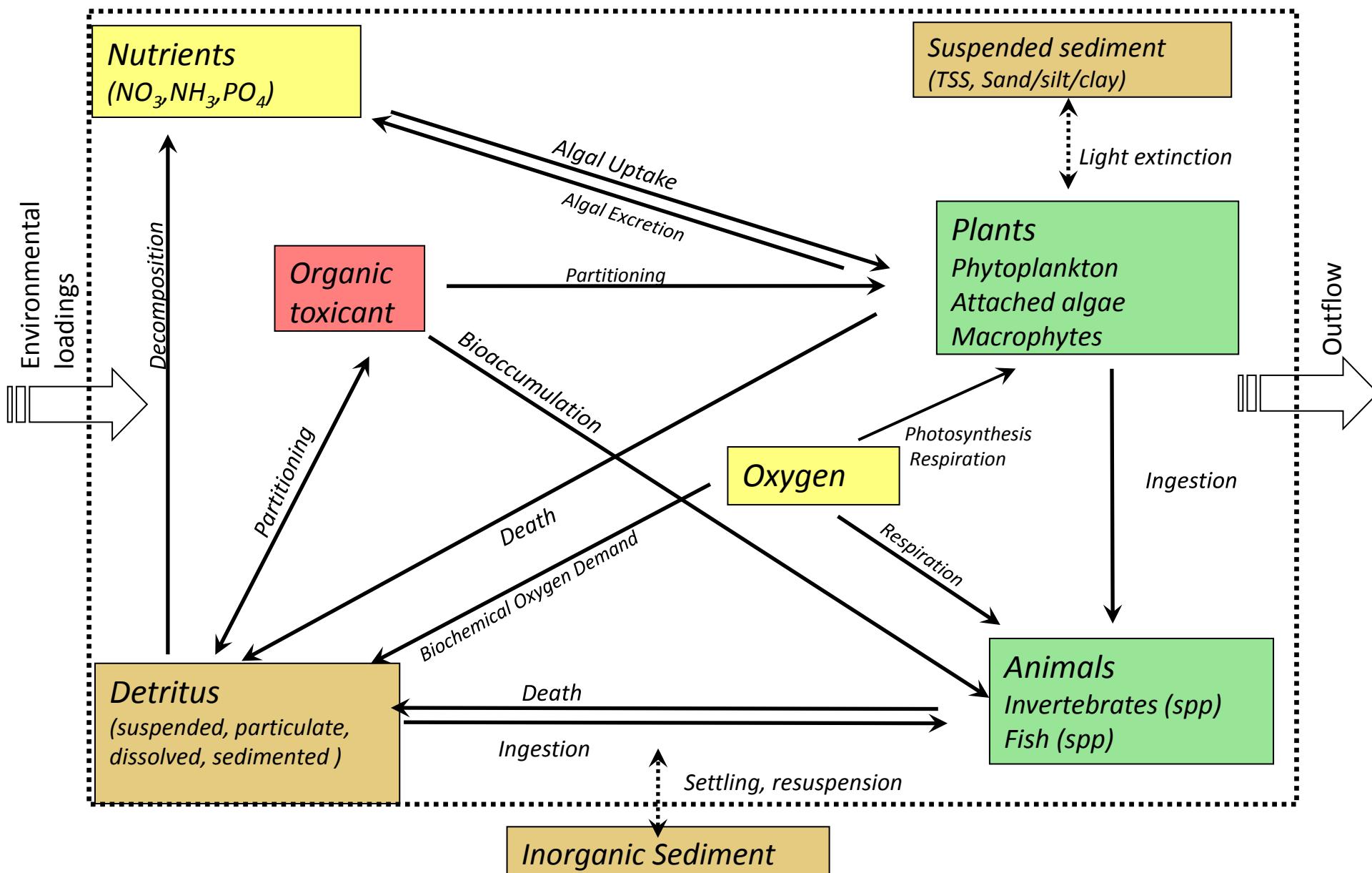
# What AQUATOX does *not* do

- It does not model fate of metals
  - Hg was attempted, but unsuccessful
- It does not model bacteria or pathogens
  - microbial processes are implicit in decomposition
- It does not model temperature regime and hydrodynamics
  - temperature is a driving variable
  - easily linked with hydrodynamic model

# AQUATOX Structure

- Time-variable
  - variable-step 4th-5th order Runge-Kutta
    - usually daily reporting time step
    - can use hourly time-step and reporting
    - fixed-step-size option also available
- Spatially simple unless linked to hydrodynamic model
  - thermal stratification
  - salinity stratification (based on salt balance)
- Modular and flexible
  - written in object-oriented Pascal (Delphi)
  - model only what is necessary (flask to river)
  - multi-threaded, multiple document interface
- Control vs. perturbed simulations

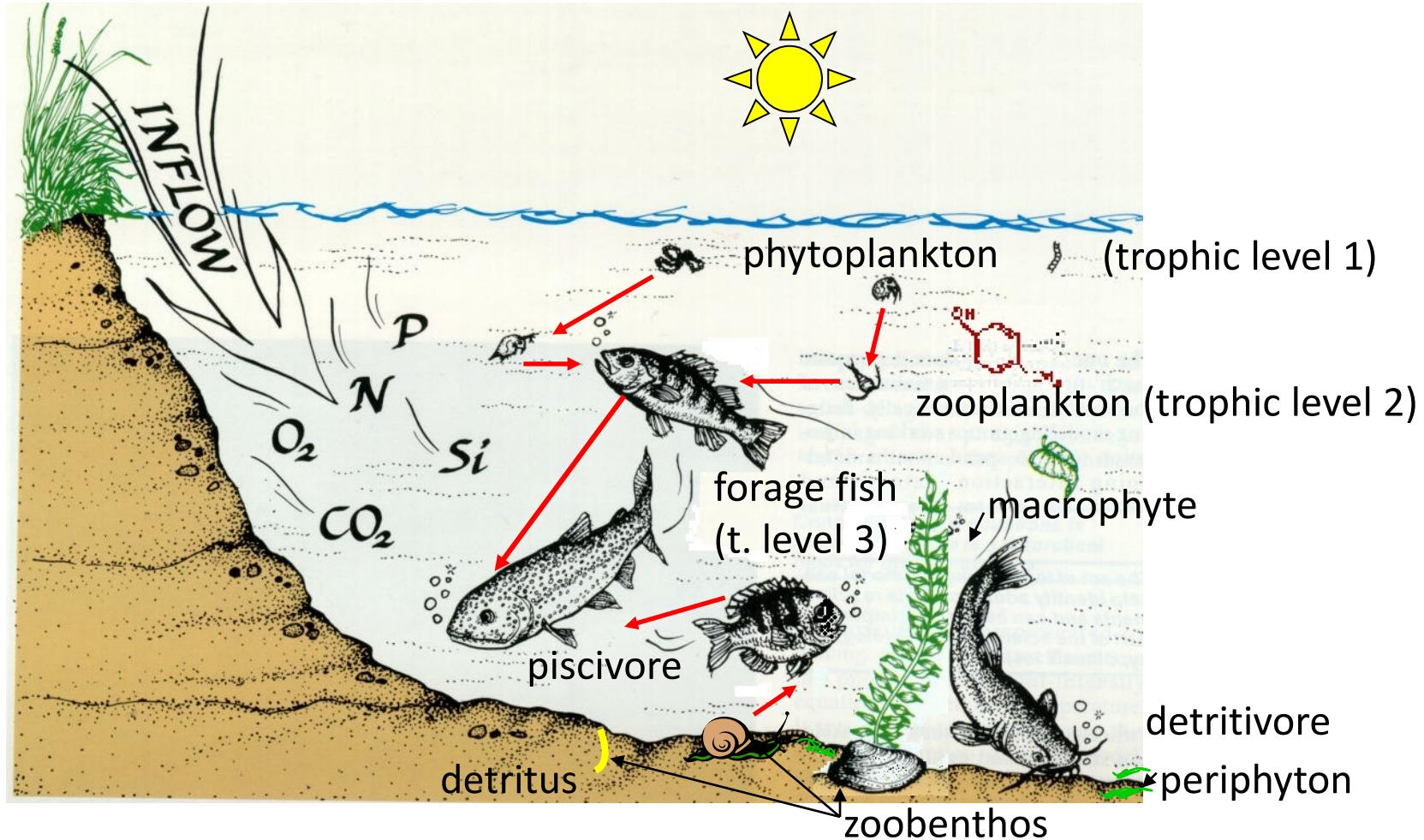
# AQUATOX Simulates Ecological Processes & Effects within a Volume of Water Over Time



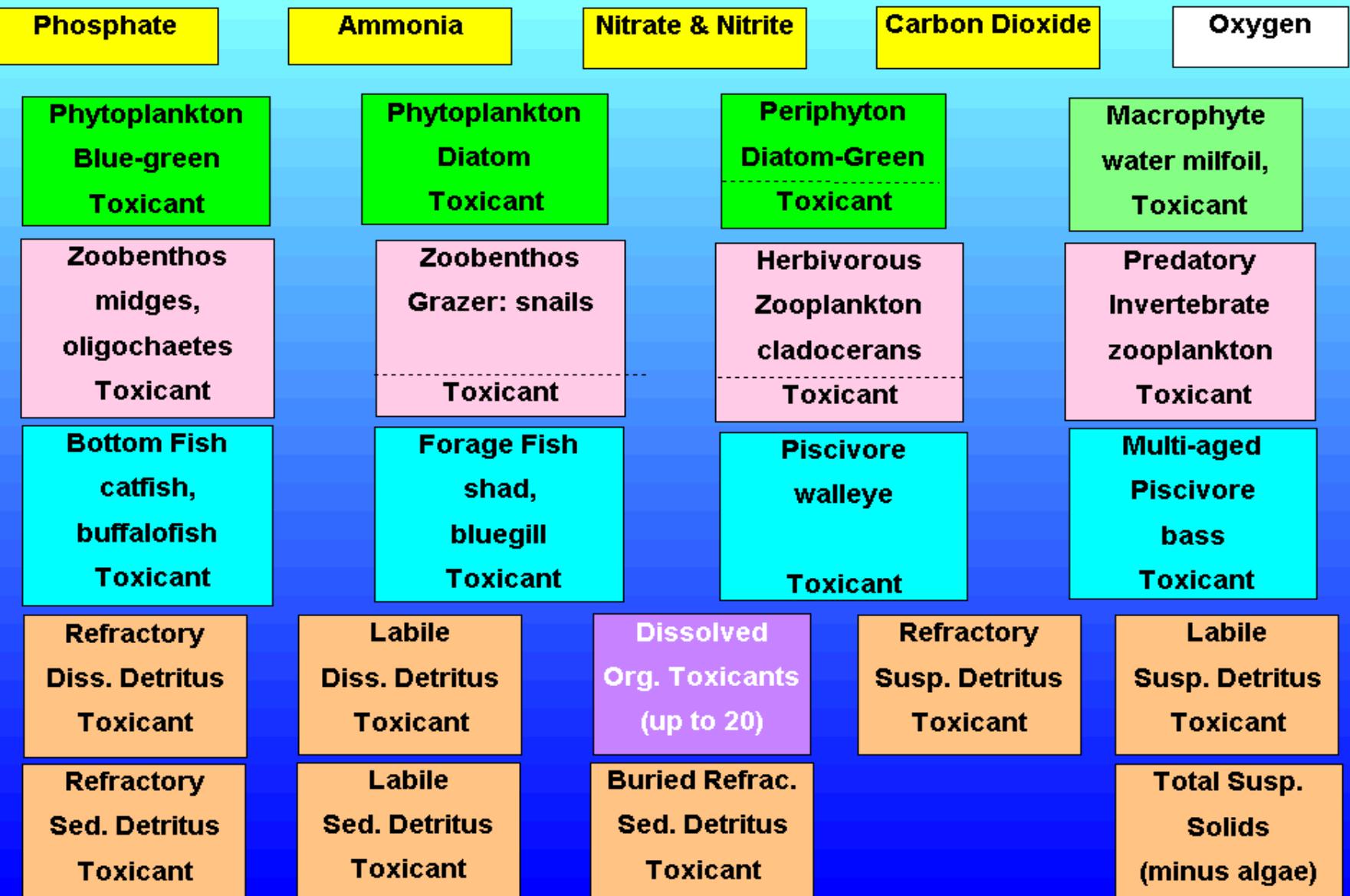
# Processes Simulated

- Bioenergetics
  - feeding, assimilation
  - growth, promotion, emergence
  - reproduction
  - mortality
  - trophic relations
  - toxicity (acute & chronic)
- Environmental fate
  - nutrient cycling
  - oxygen dynamics
  - partitioning to water, biota & sediments
  - bioaccumulation
  - chemical transformations
  - biotransformations
- Environmental effects
  - direct & indirect

# Ecosystem components



# State Variables in Coralville, Iowa, Study



# State Variables in Experimental Tank

Phosphate

Ammonia

Nitrate & Nitrite

Carbon Dioxide

Oxygen

Macrophyte  
water milfoil  
Toxicant

Refractory  
Diss. Detritus  
Toxicant

Labile  
Diss. Detritus  
Toxicant

Dissolved  
HCB

Refractory  
Susp. Detritus  
Toxicant

Labile  
Susp. Detritus  
Toxicant

Refractory  
Sed. Detritus  
Toxicant

Labile  
Sed. Detritus  
Toxicant

# Global vs. Site-Specific Input Requirements

Many model inputs are required on a site-by-site basis:

nutrient loadings

organics, sediment loadings

water volume setup

animal, plant initial conditions (often defaults with “spin-up”)

site characteristics

chemical loadings

temperature, pH

Many parameters may be assumed to be global parameters, i.e. no adjustment is required from site-to-site:

most animal, plant parameters  
“remineralization” parameters

chemical parameters  
chemical toxicity parameters

# AQUATOX Capabilities

*(Release 3 in red)*

- Ponds, lakes, reservoirs, streams, rivers, **estuaries**
- Riffle, run, and pool habitats for streams
- Completely mixed, thermal stratification, or **salinity stratification**
- Linked segments, tributary inputs
- Multiple sediment layers with pore waters
- Sediment Diagenesis Model
- Diel oxygen and low oxygen effects, ammonia toxicity
- Interspecies Correlation Estimation (ICE) toxicity database
- Variable stoichiometry, nutrient mass balance, TN & TP
- Dynamic pH
- Biota represented by guilds, key species
- Constant or variable loads
- Latin hypercube uncertainty, **nominal range sensitivity analysis**
- Wizard & help files, multiple windows, task bar
- Links to HSPF and SWAT in BASINS

# Release 3.1

- 64-bit-compatible software installer
- Updated Interspecies Correlation Estimation toxicity regressions
- Improved uncertainty & sensitivity output
- Additional outputs for diagenesis & bioaccumulation
- Improved database export & search capabilities
- More flexible linkage to HSPF watershed model
- Addition of sediment-diagenesis “steady-state” mode to significantly increase model speed
- Modification of denitrification code in goal of simplifying calibration and alignment with other models;
- Enabled importation of equilibrium CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations to enable linkage to CO<sub>2</sub>SYS and similar models;
- New BOD to organic matter conversion relying on percent-refractory detritus input

Download available at EPA AQUATOX page

# Lab 1: A Tour Through the AQUATOX Screens

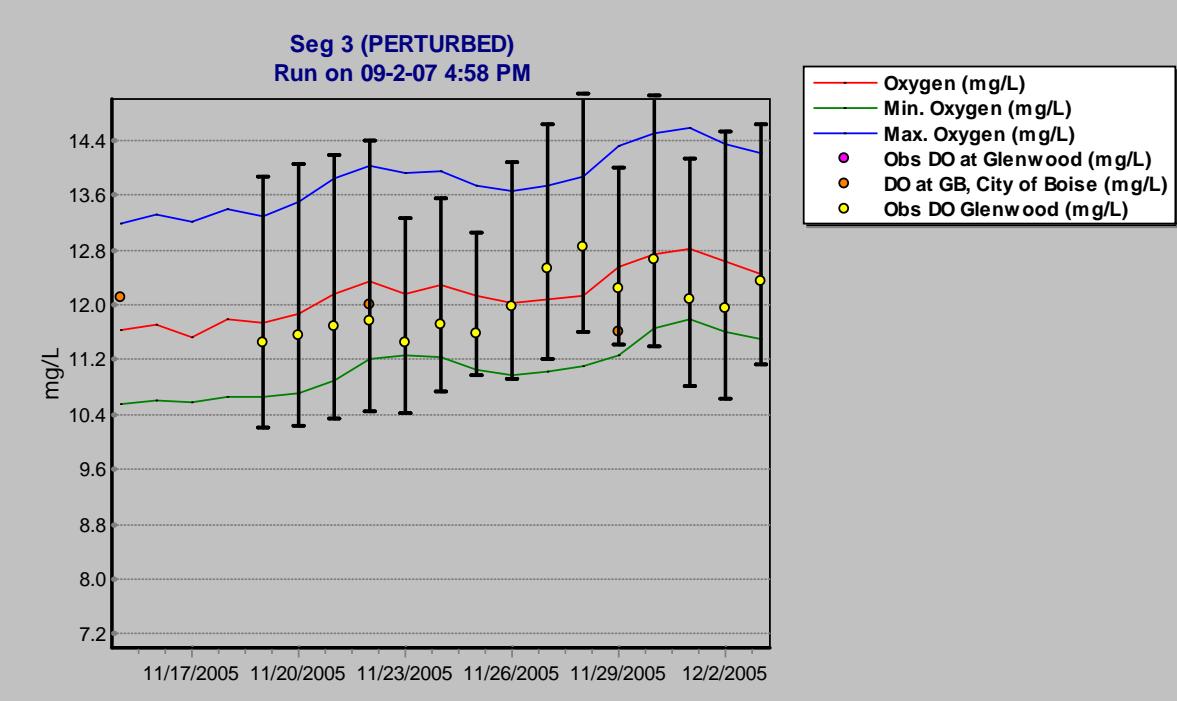
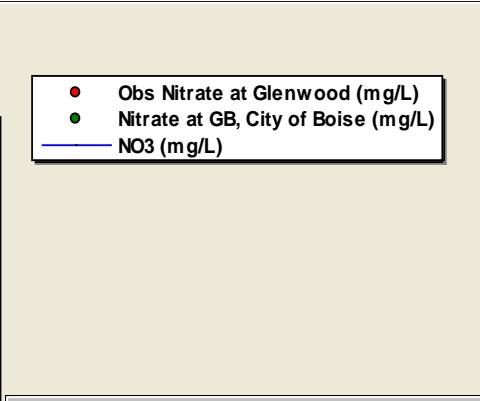
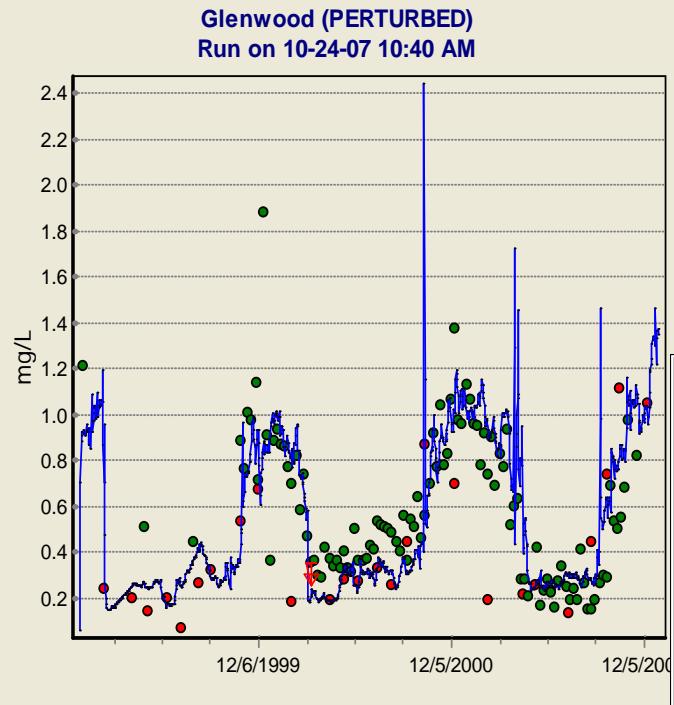
- Main Screen
- Toolbar
- Simulation Window
- Initial Conditions
- Chemical Screen
- Site Screen
- Stream Data
- Remineralization Data
- Setup Screen
- Rates Screen
- Libraries
- Uncertainty Screen
- Output Setup
- Control Setup Screen
- Help File
- Wizard
- Run Buttons
- Export of Results
- State Variable List (Chemicals, Nutrients, Organics, Plants, Animals, etc.)

# What are the Analytical Capabilities?

- Graphical Analysis
  - Comparison of model results to Observed Data
  - Graph types and graph libraries
- Control-Perturbed Comparisons
- Process Rates
- Limitations to Photosynthesis
- Sensitivity Analysis
- Uncertainty Analysis

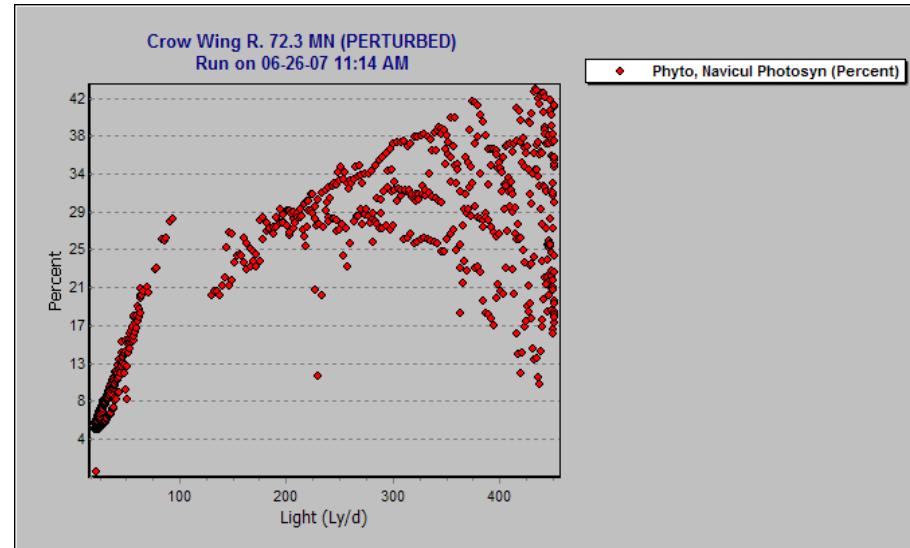
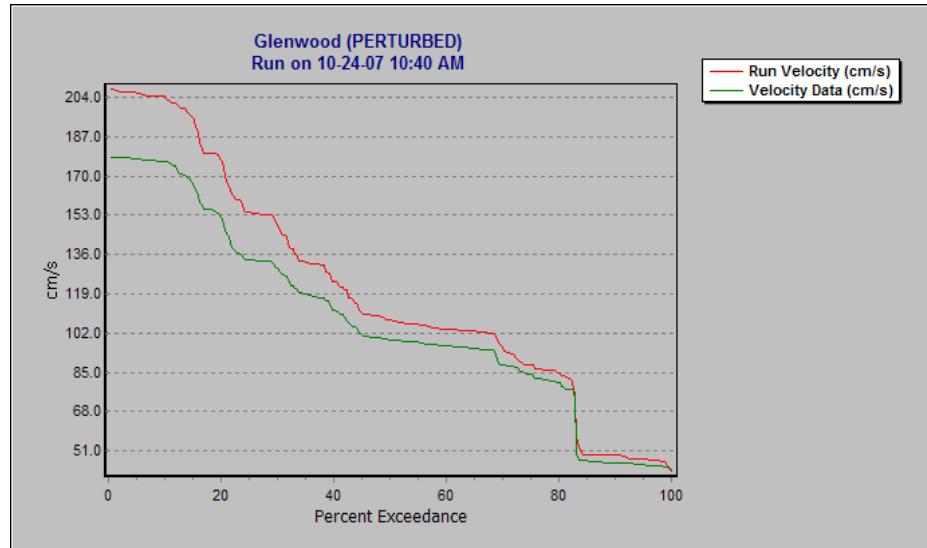
# Graphical Analysis

Compare observed data to model output

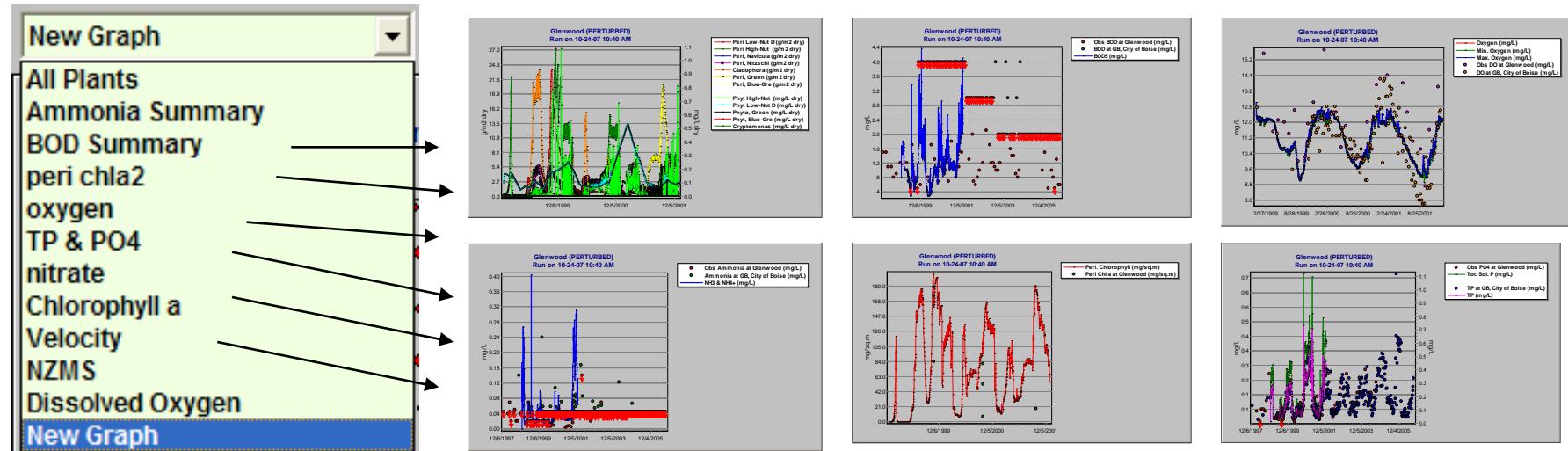


# Graphical Analysis

Percent exceedance, duration, scatter plots, log-scale graphs



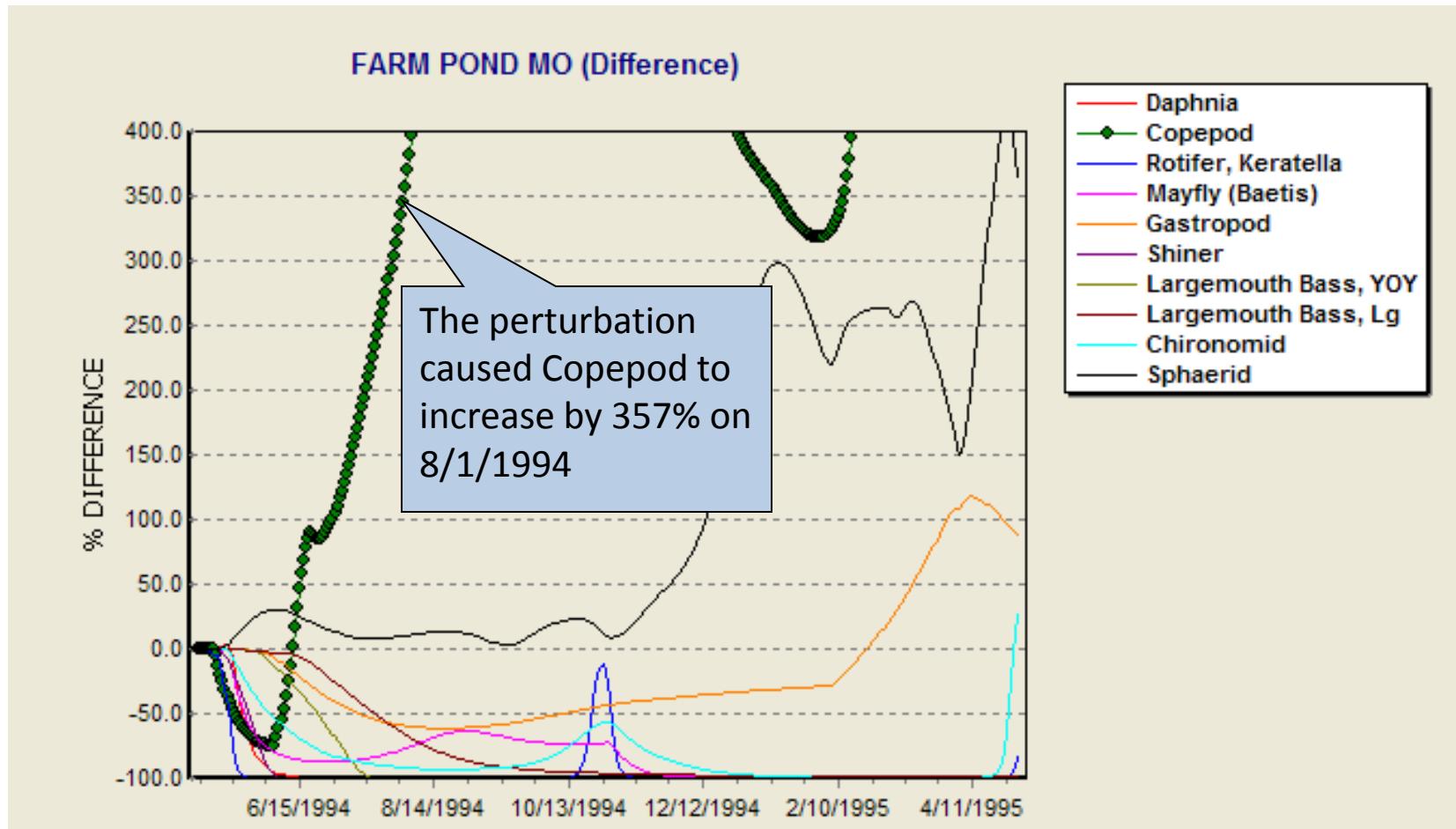
Graph Library saved within simulation



# Comparing Scenarios: the “Difference” Graph

Difference graph designed to capture the percent change in results due to perturbation:

$$\% \text{ Difference} = \left( \frac{\text{Result}_{\text{Perturbed}} - \text{Result}_{\text{Control}}}{\text{Result}_{\text{Control}}} \right) \cdot 100$$



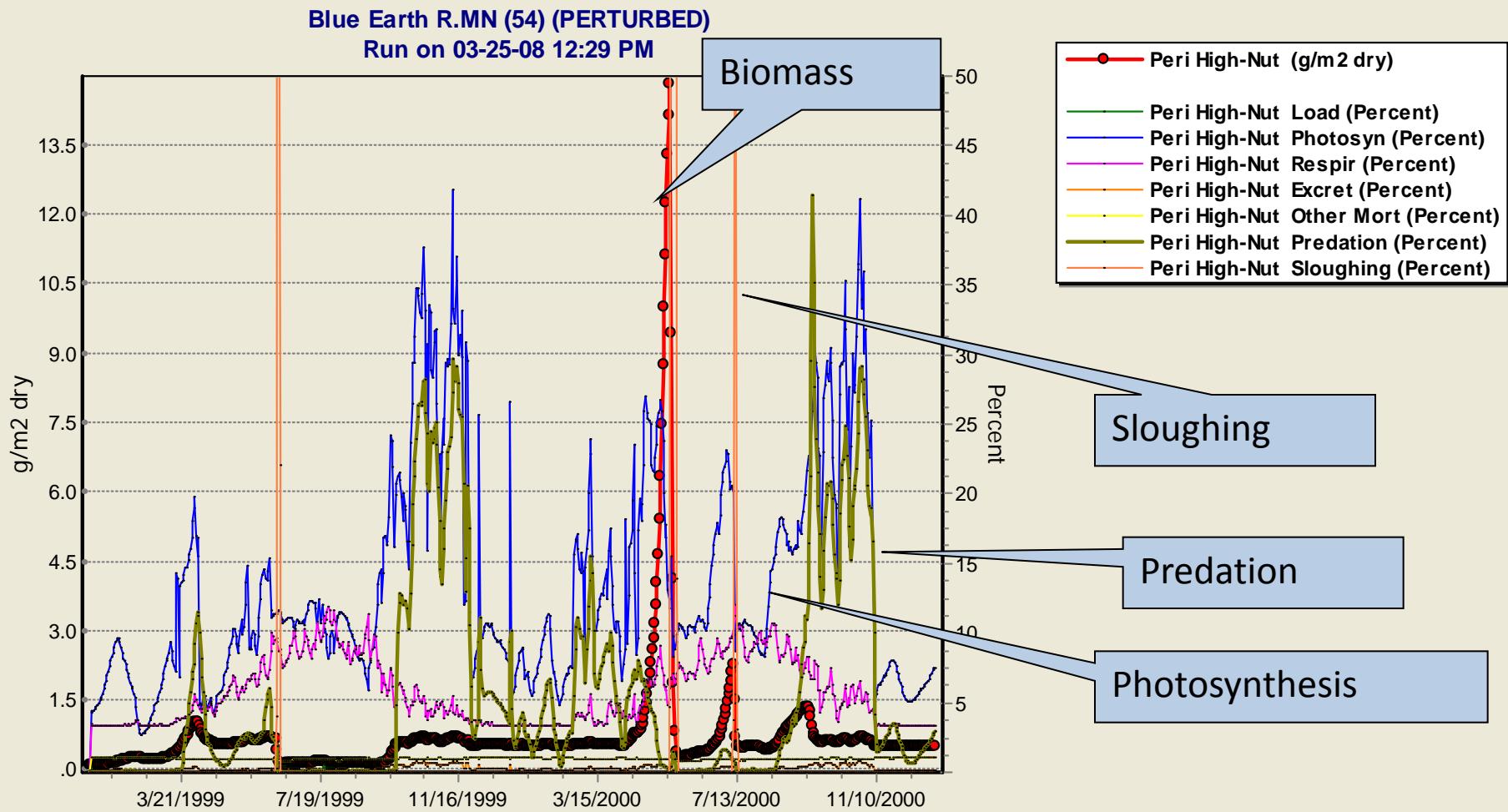
# Process Rates

- Concentrations of state variables are solved using differential equations
  - For example, the equation for periphyton concentrations is:

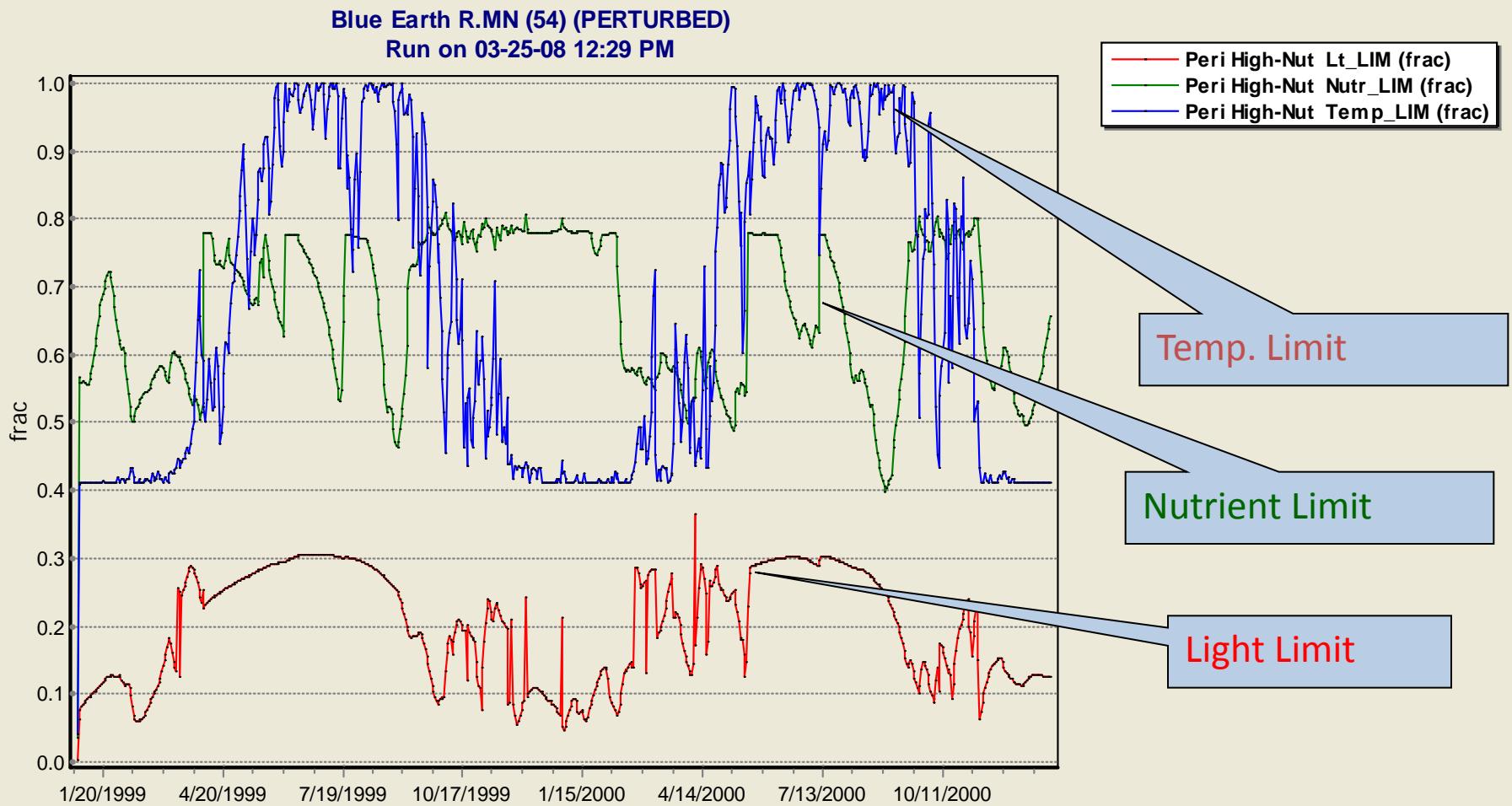
$$\frac{dBiomass_{Peri}}{dt} = Loading + Photosynthesis - Respiration - Excretion - Mortality - Predation + Sed_{Peri}$$

- Individual terms of these equations may be saved internally, and graphed to understand the basis for various predictions

# Rates Plot Example: Periphyton

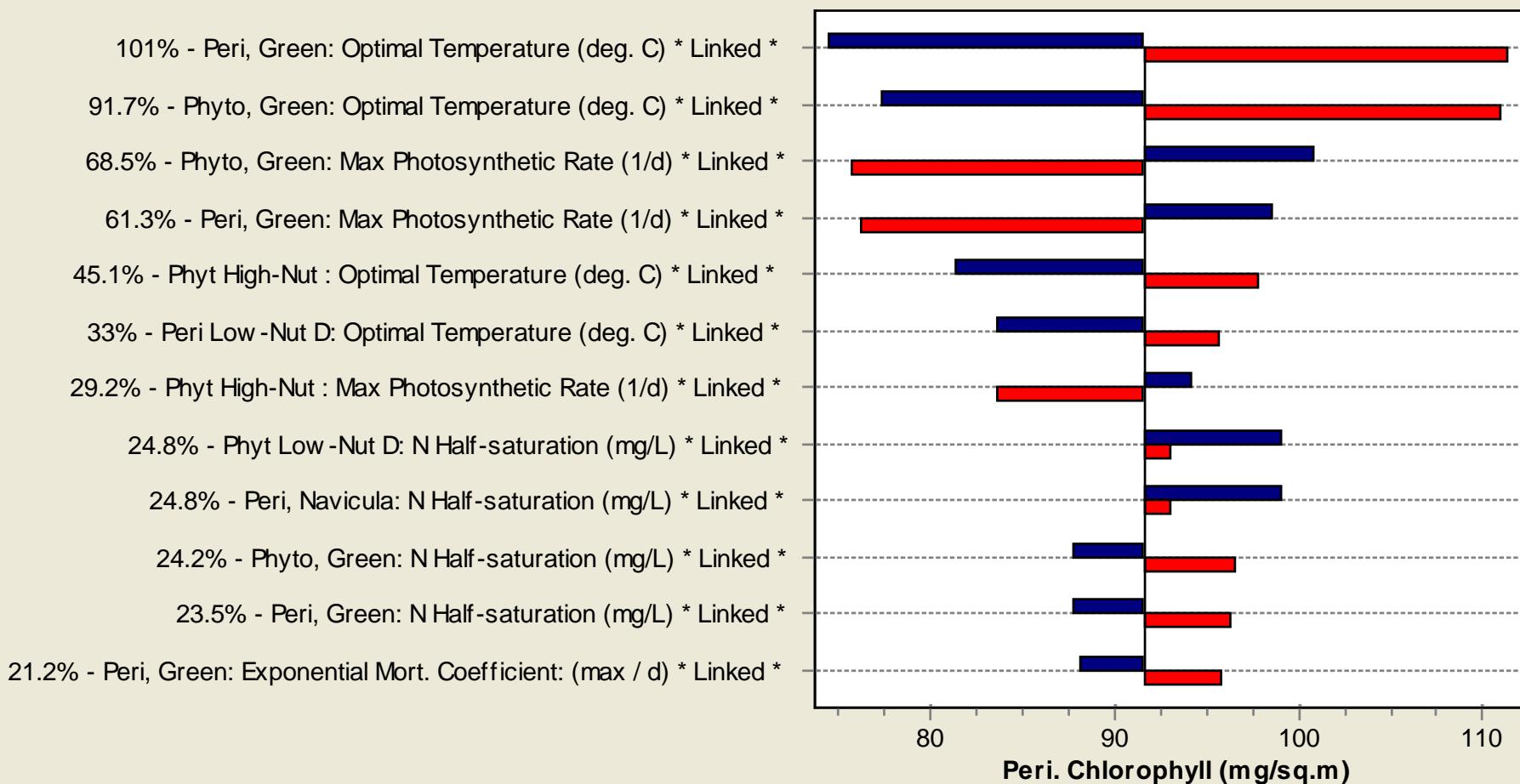


# Limitations to Photosynthesis May also be Graphed

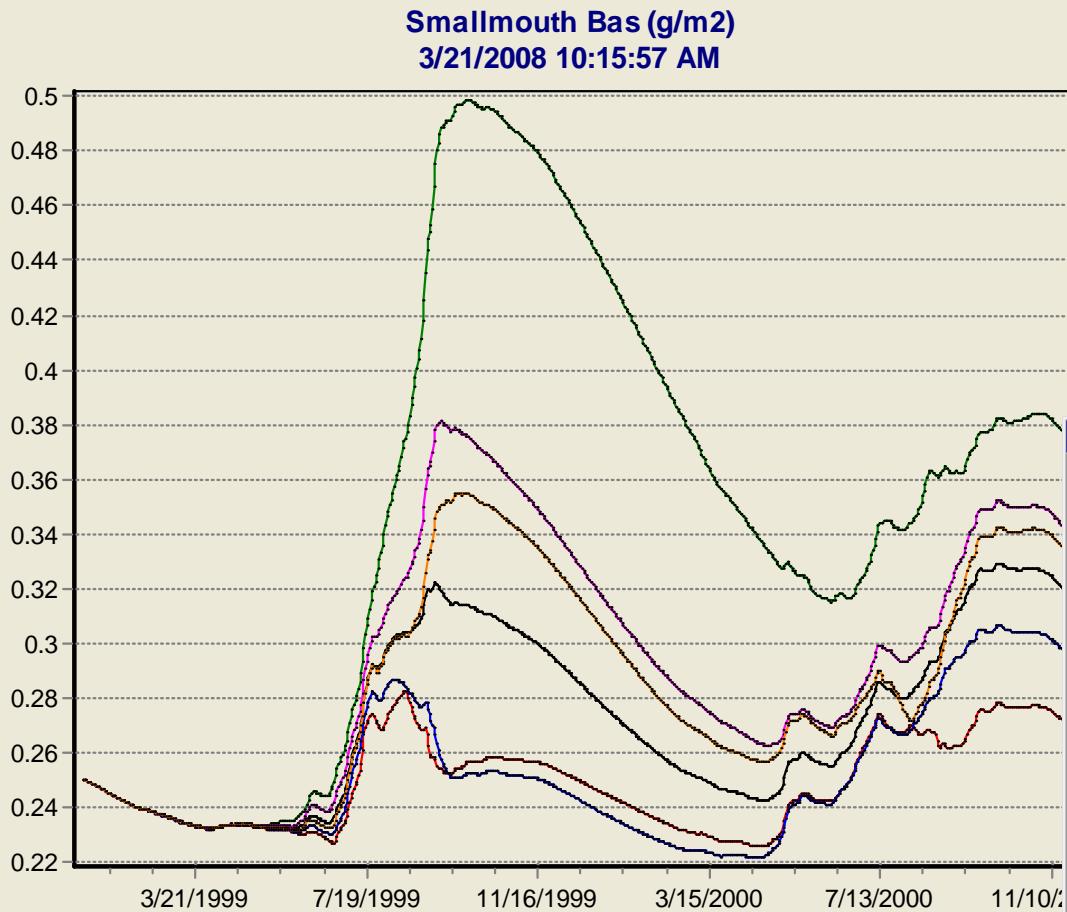


# Integrated Nominal Range Sensitivity Analysis with Graphics

Sensitivity of Peri. Chlorophyll (mg/sq.m) to 20% change in tested parameters  
3/21/2008 9:56:56 AM



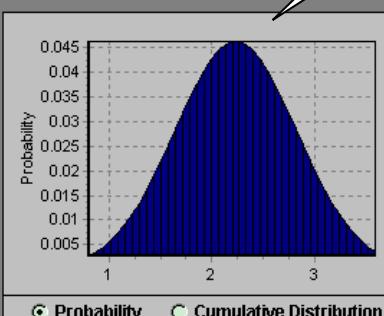
# Integrated Latin Hypercube Uncertainty Analysis with Graphics



can represent all “point estimate” parameters as distributions

## Distribution Information

Phyt, Blue-Gre: Max Photosynthetic Rate (1/d)



Distribution Type:

- Triangular
- Uniform
- Normal
- Lognormal

Distribution Parameters:

Mean	2.2
Std. Deviation	0.6

For this parameter, in an Uncertainty Run:

- Use a Distribution  
 Use a Point Estimate

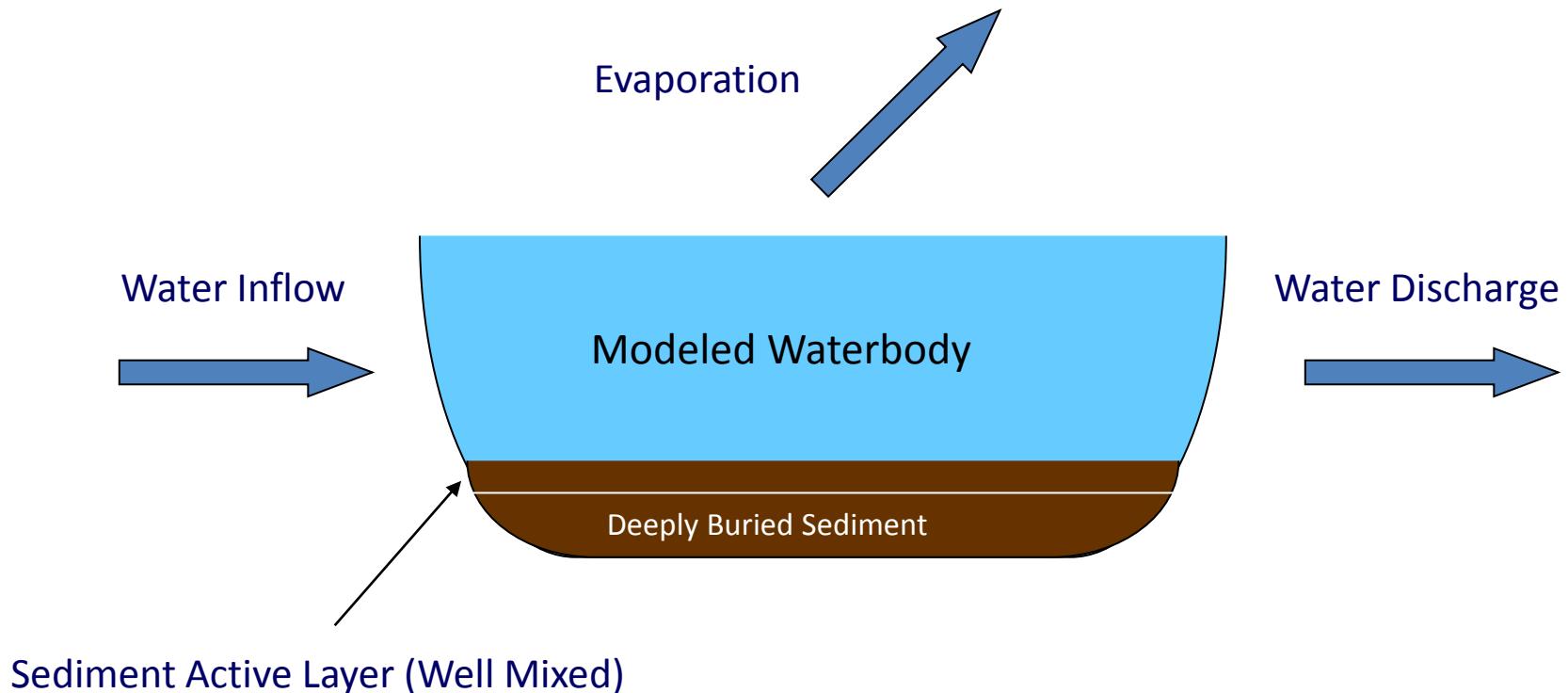
Help

OK

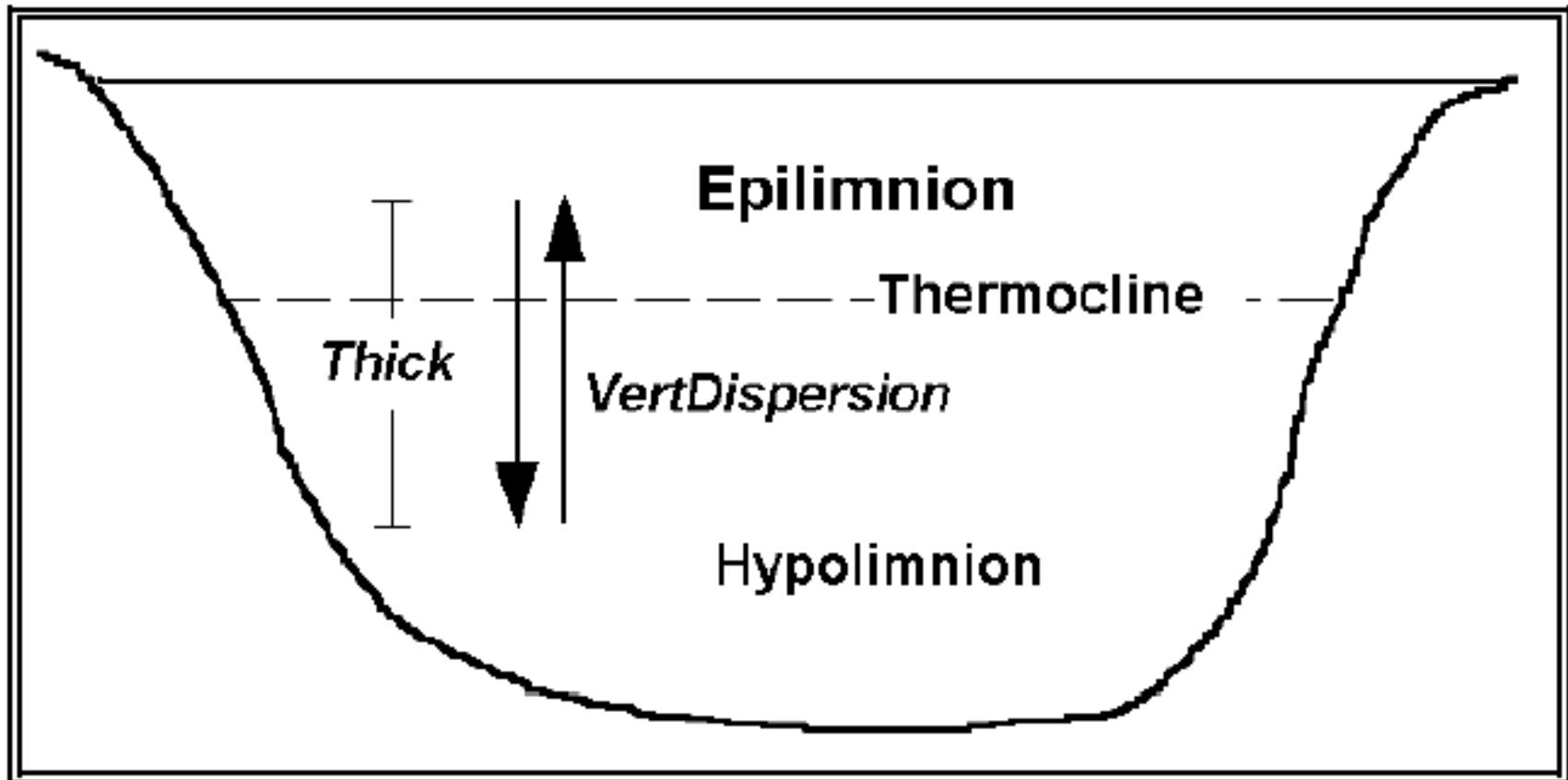
Cancel

# Physical Characteristics of a Site

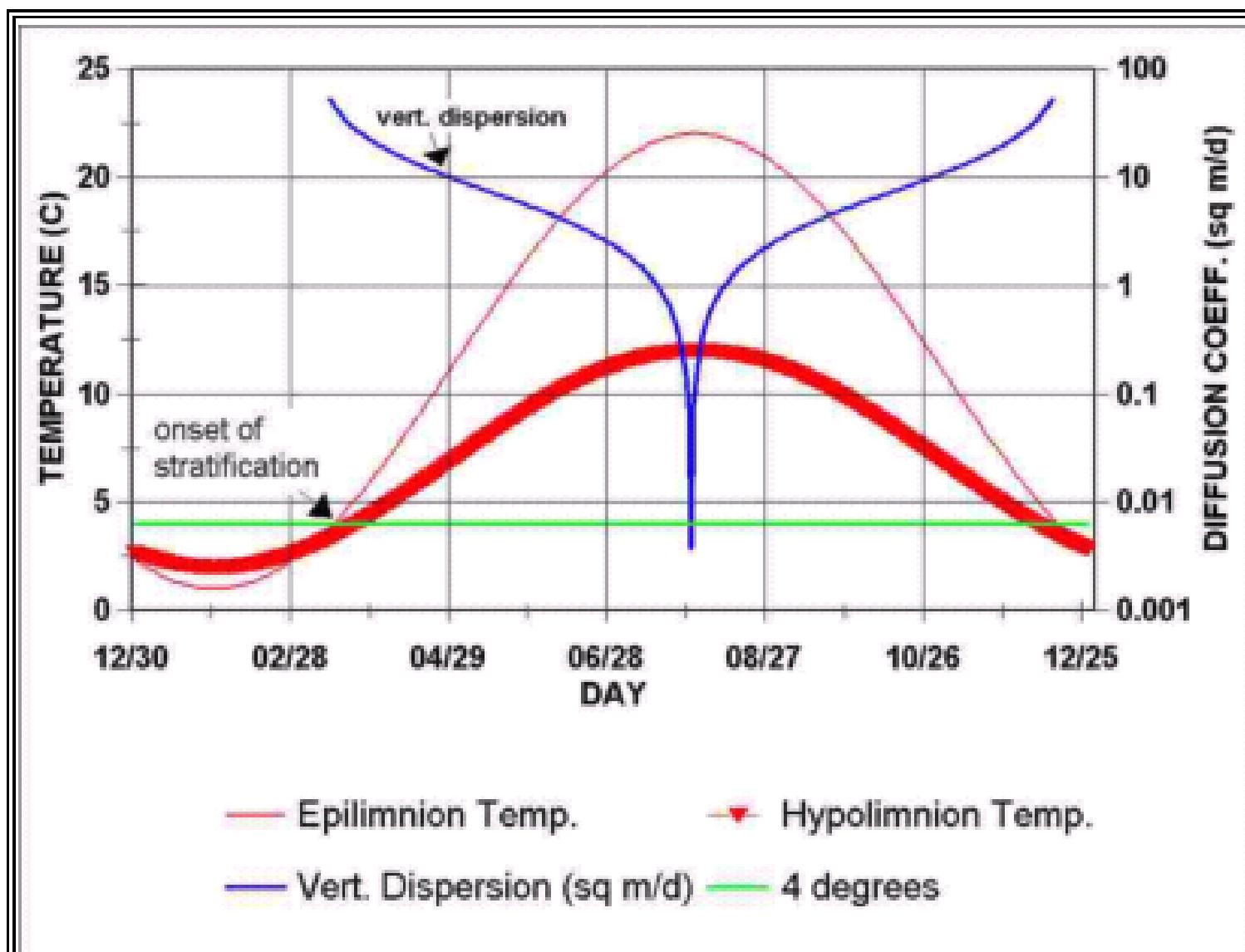
## Water Balance and Sediment Structure



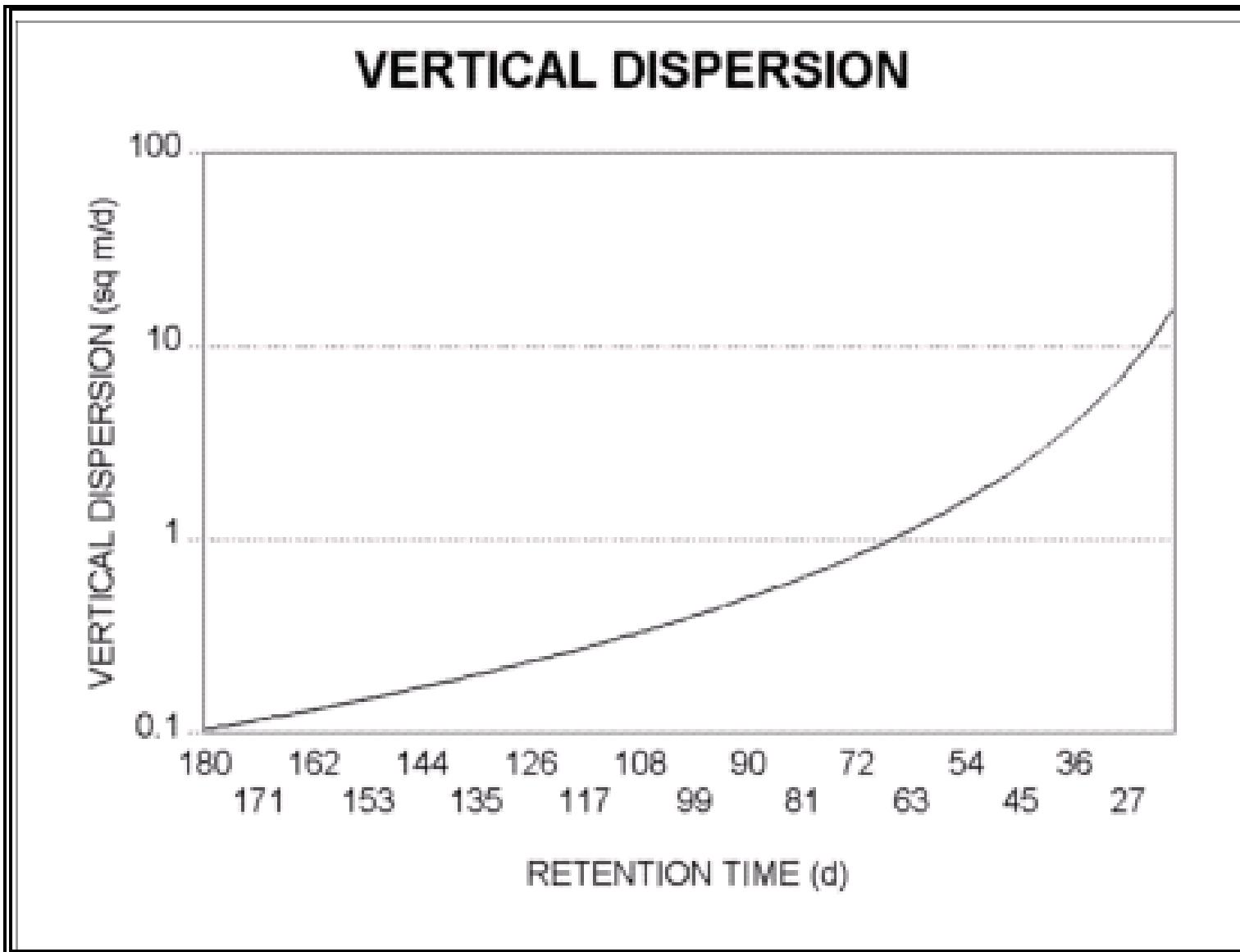
# Thermal Stratification in a Lake



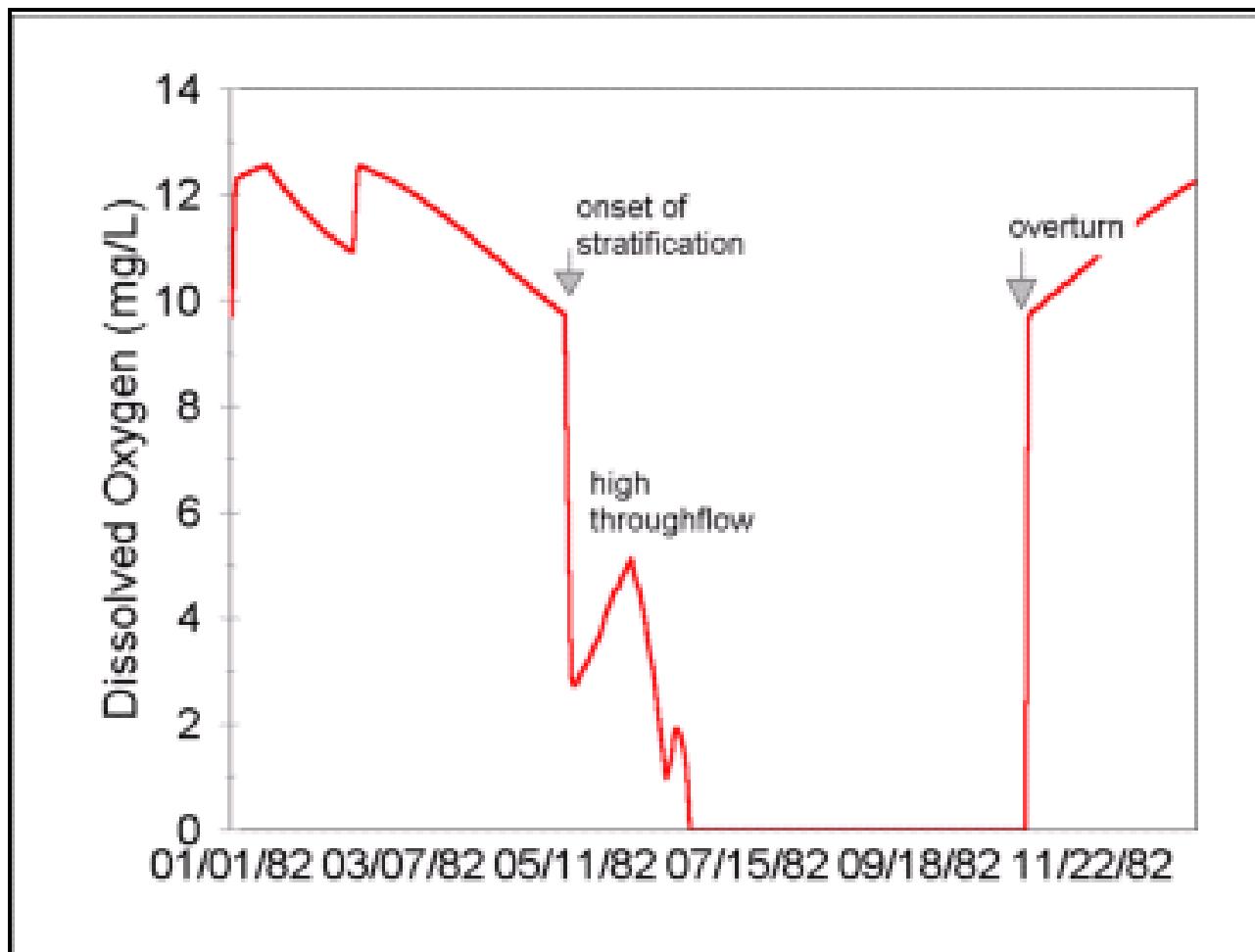
# Stratification is a Function of Temperature Differences



# Stratification also is a Function of Discharge



# Predicted dissolved oxygen as function of stratification and mixing in deep reservoir



# Reservoir management enhancements

Because reservoirs may be heavily managed, a user may specify:

- a constant or time-varying thermocline depth;
- options as to how to route inflow and outflow water
- the timing of stratification and overturn

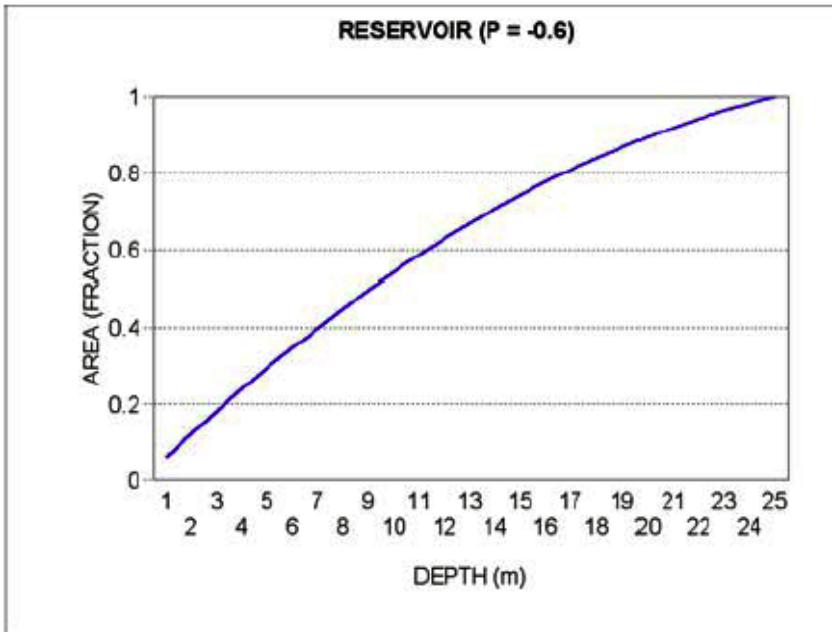
# Bathymetric Approximations

The P parameter, differentiating different elliptic shapes, is calculated as a function of mean and maximum depth:

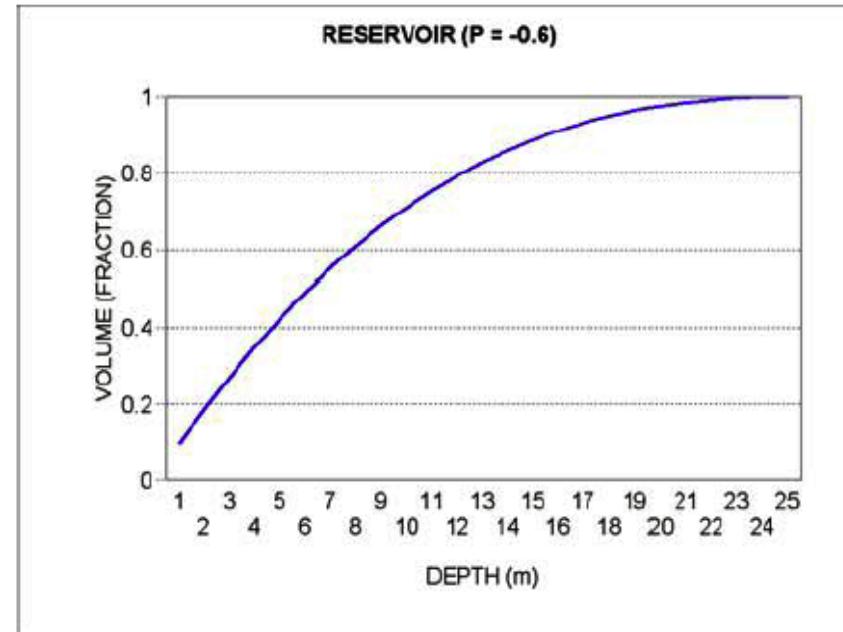
$$P = 6.0 \cdot \frac{ZMean}{ZMax} - 3.0$$

Based on these relationships, fractions of volumes and areas can be determined for any given depth:

Area as a Function of Depth



Volume as a Function of Depth

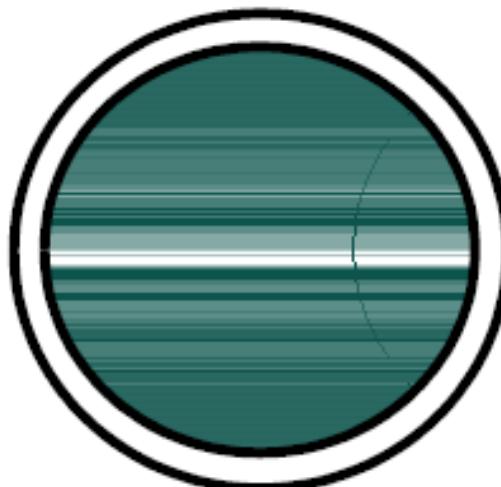


# Littoral Fraction

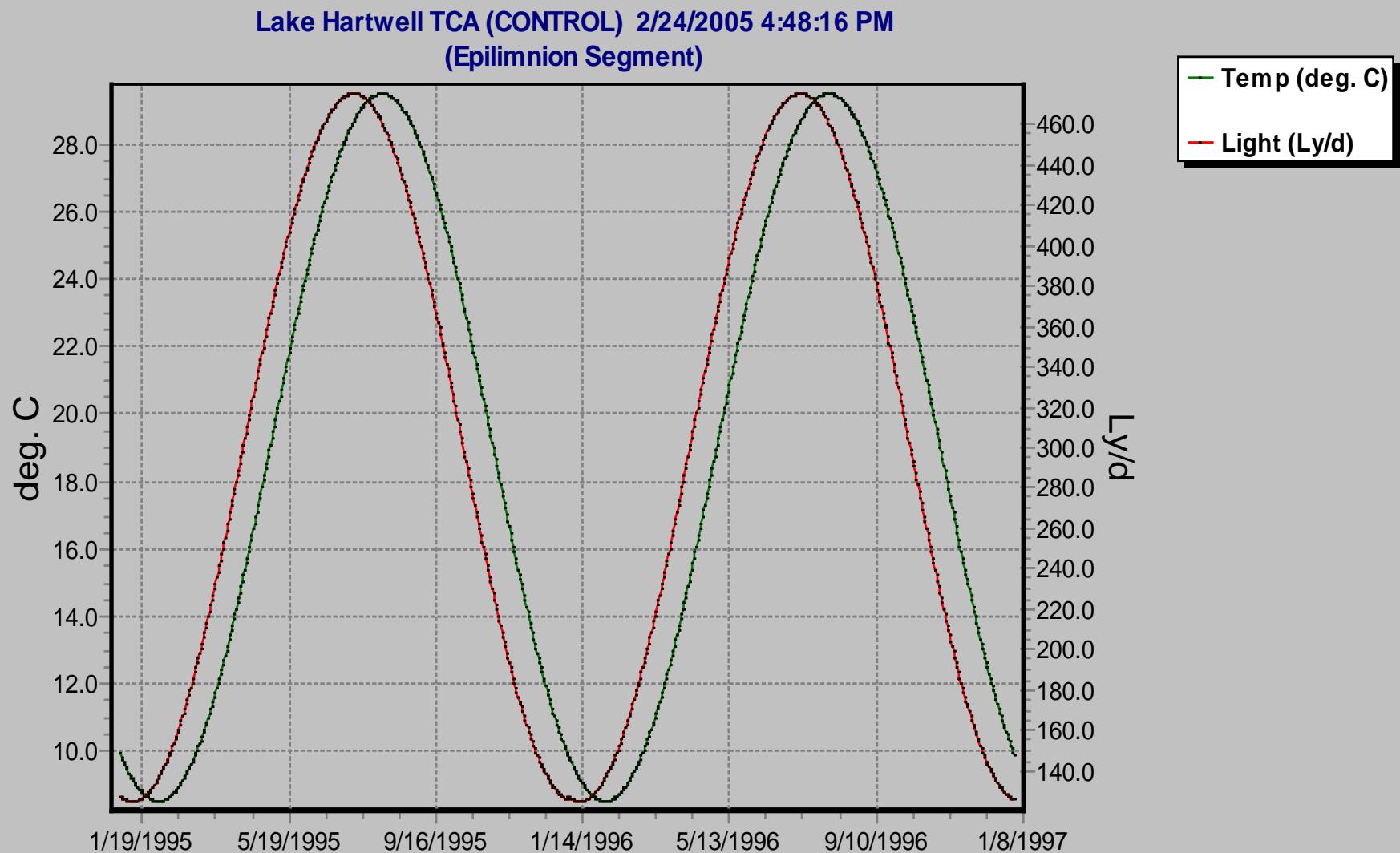
By setting Z to the depth of the euphotic zone, the fraction of the area available for colonization by macrophytes and periphyton can be computed:

$$FracLit = (1 - P) \cdot \frac{ZEuphotic}{ZMax} + P \cdot \left( \frac{ZEuphotic}{ZMax} \right)^2$$

A relatively deep, flat-bottomed basin would have a small littoral area and a large sublittoral area:

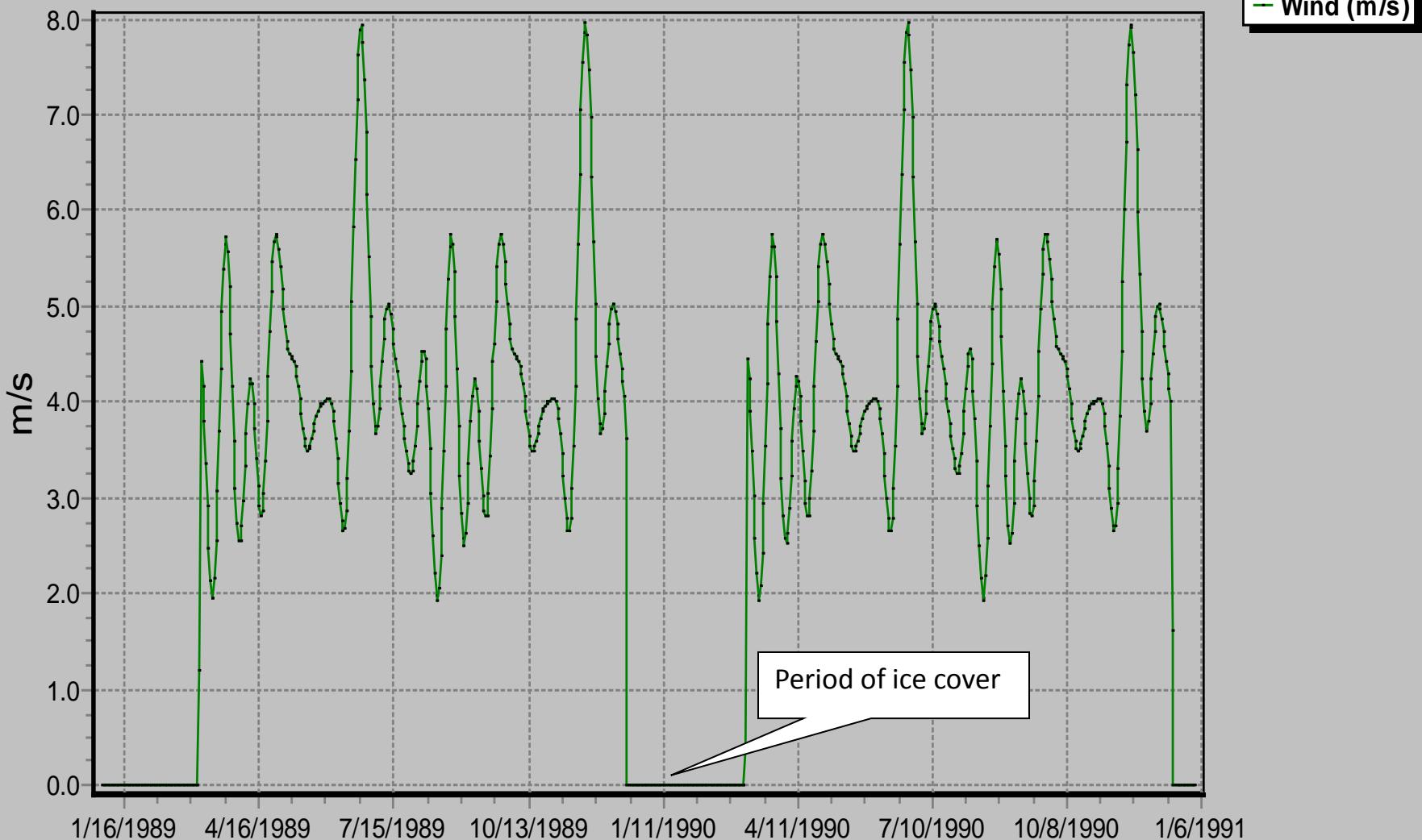


# Temperature and Light



# Wind

ONONDAGA LAKE, NY (PERTURBED) 2/24/2005 4:57:48 PM  
(Epilimnion Segment)



# Modeling Plants with AQUATOX

- Equations
- Parameters
- Phytoplankton
- Periphyton
- Macrophytes
- Moss

# Plant Derivatives

$$\frac{dBiomass_{phyto}}{dt} = Loading + Photosynthesis - Respiration - Excretion - Mortality - Predation \pm Sinking - Washout \pm TurbDiff$$

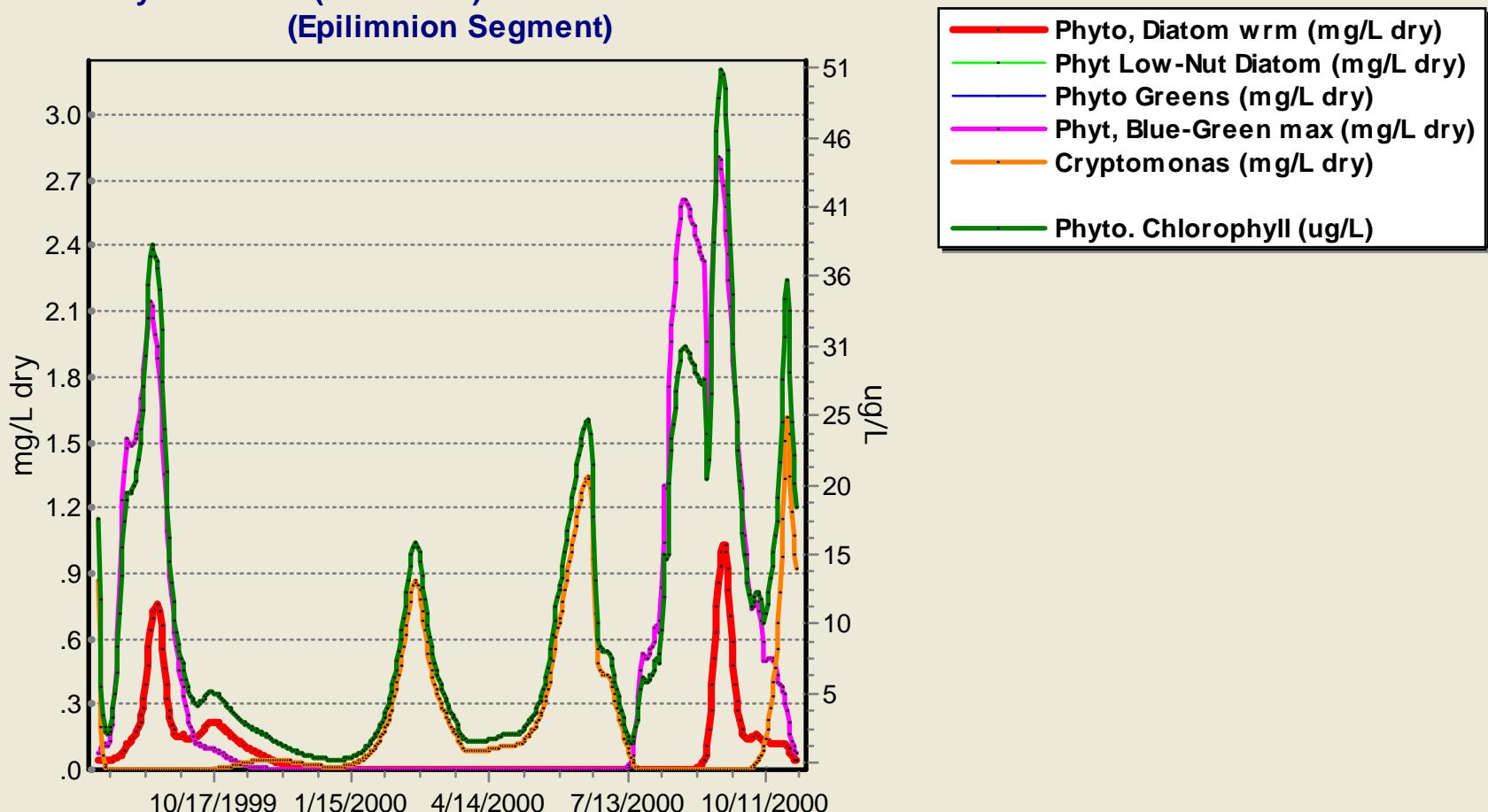
free floating plants

$$\frac{dBiomass_{peri}}{dt} = Loading + Photosynthesis - Respiration - Excretion - Mortality - Predation - Slough$$

bottom dwelling

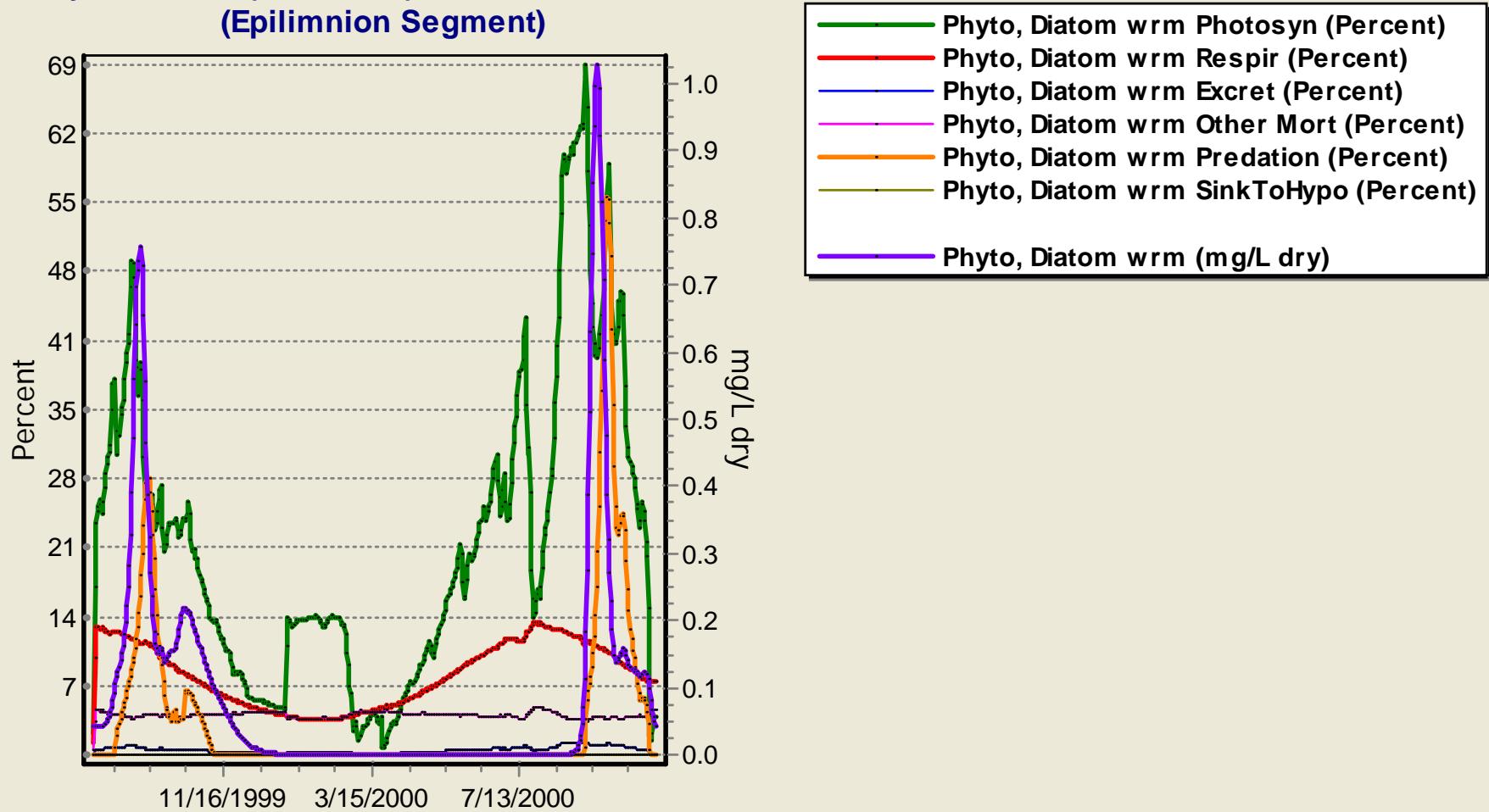
# Phytoplankton Biomass Shows Succession chlorophyll a summarizes response

Cheney Reservoir (CONTROL) Run on 11-11-10 9:38 AM  
(Epilimnion Segment)



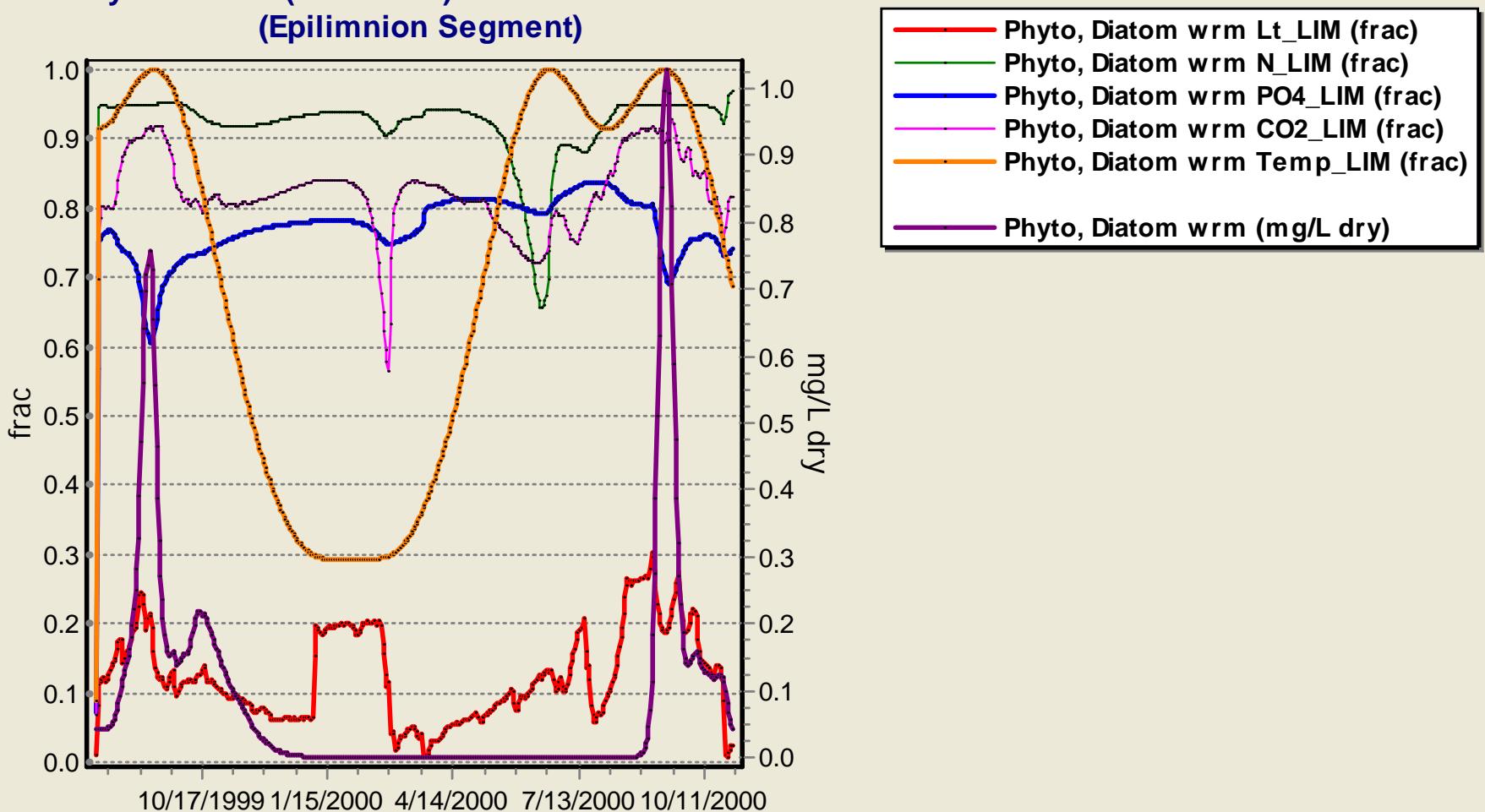
# Rates can be saved and plotted for all processes

Cheney Reservoir (CONTROL) Run on 11-11-10 9:38 AM  
(Epilimnion Segment)



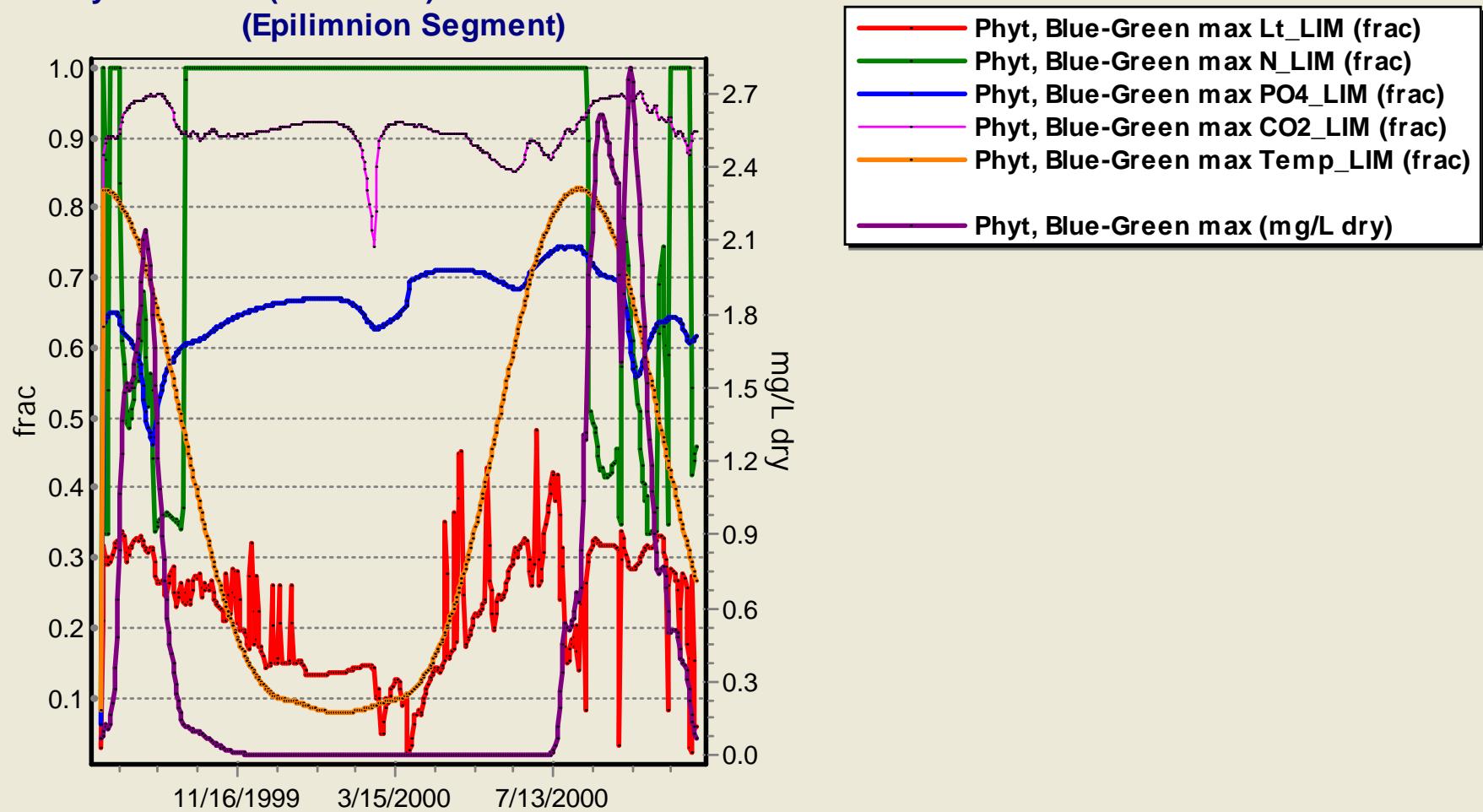
# Time-varying limitations to photosynthesis also can be analyzed

Cheney Reservoir (CONTROL) Run on 11-11-10 9:38 AM  
(Epilimnion Segment)



# Limitations on various groups can be compared

Cheney Reservoir (CONTROL) Run on 11-11-10 9:38 AM  
(Epilimnion Segment)



# Calibration of Plants

- algae are differentiated on basis of:
  - nutrient half-saturation values
  - light saturation values
  - maximum photosynthesis
- Minnesota stream project has developed new parameter sets that span nutrient, light, and Pmax
  - See AQUATOX Technical Note 1: *A Calibrated Parameter Set for Simulation of Algae in Shallow Rivers*
- phytoplankton sedimentation rates differ between running and standing water
- critical force for periphyton scour and TOpt may need to calibrated for other sites

# Global vs. Site-Specific Plant Parameters

Most plant parameters may be assumed to be global as a plant species is not assumed to differ from one site to another.

Some plant parameters reflect site characteristics and may need to be calibrated for your site.

Critical Force for Periphyton -- reflects site's substrate

Carrying Capacity for Macrophytes -- reflects habitat

Optimum Temperature -- reflects cold-/warm-water species

Mortality Coefficients -- reflect quality of habitat

# Plant Parameters

*Plant Data:* [New](#)

Plant	<b>Phyto, Diatom</b>	Scientific Name	<b>Cyclotella</b>
<input type="button" value="Search Names"/>		<input type="button" value="Search Scientific Names"/>	
Plant Type:	<b>Phytoplankton</b>	Toxicity Record:	<b>Diatoms</b> <input type="button" value="Edit All"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Plant is Surface Floating		Taxonomic Type: <b>Diatoms</b>	
★ = important			
<i>References:</i>			
★ Saturating Light	<b>22.5</b> Ly/d	<input type="button" value="Convert"/>	<b>Collins &amp; Wlosinski '83, p. 41</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Use Adaptive Light</b>			
Max. Saturating Light	<b>300</b> Ly/d	<input type="button" value="Convert"/>	<b>Default</b>
Min. Saturating Light	<b>22.5</b> Ly/d	<input type="button" value="Convert"/>	<b>min. for Cyclotella</b>
★ P Half-saturation	<b>0.017</b> mg / L	<b>Collins &amp; Wlosinski '83, p. 33, 0.055, 0.001</b>	
N Half-saturation	<b>0.011</b> mg / L	<b>Collins &amp; Wlosinski '83, p. 36</b>	
Inorg. C Half-saturation	<b>0.054</b> mg / L	<b>C &amp; W '83, p. 39 (greens)</b>	
Temp. Response Slope	<b>1.8</b>		
★ Optimum Temperature	<b>20</b> °C	<b>Collins &amp; Wlosinski '83, p. 43 for range</b>	
Maximum Temperature	<b>35</b> °C		
Min Adaptation Temp.	<b>2</b> °C		
★ Max. Photosynthetic Rate	<b>1.6</b> 1/d	<b>mean, Collins &amp; Wlosinski '83</b>	
Photorespiration Coefficient	<b>0.026</b> 1/d	<b>"</b>	
Resp Rate at 20 deg. C	<b>0.08</b> g/g-d	<b>Riley and von Aux, 1949, cited in C. &amp; W. 1983</b>	
★ Mortality Coefficient	<b>0.003</b> g/g-d	<b>calibrated</b>	
Exponential Mort. Coeff.	<b>0.04</b> g/g-d		

# Plant Parameters (cont.)

P : Organics	<b>0.007</b>	ratio	Stern & Elser 2002
N : Organics	<b>0.079</b>	ratio	"
Light Extinction	<b>0.144</b>	1/m-g/m <sup>3</sup>	
Wet to Dry	<b>10</b>	ratio	Kabam Appen C
Fraction that is lipid	<b>0.023</b>	(wet wt.)	Kabam Appen C

## Phytoplankton Only:

★ Sedimentation Rate (KSed)	<b>0.16</b>	m / d	Collins & Wlosinski '83, p. 30
Temperature of Obs. KSed (estuary only)	<b>0</b>	°C	placeholder
Salinity of Obs. KSed	<b>0</b>	‰	placeholder
Exp. Sedimentation Coeff	<b>0.693</b>		2 x normal if photosyn. = 0

small for streams  
>> for lakes

## Periphyton and Macrophytes Only:

Carrying Capacity (macrophytes)	<b>0</b>	g / m <sup>2</sup>	
VelMax (macrophytes)	<b>0</b>	cm / s	N.A.
Reduction in Still Water (periphyton)	<b>0</b>	fraction	
★ Critical Force (FCrit for periphyton only)	<b>0</b>	newtons	N.A.
★ Percent Lost in Slough Event (periphyton)	<b>90</b>	percent	90% lost in sloughing event as default

FCrit important for periphyton

## If in Stream:

Percent in Riffle	<b>0</b>	%	
Percent in Pool	<b>0</b>	%	
Percent in Run	<b>100.00</b>	%	(All Biomass not in Riffle or Pool)

# Habitats are characterized in the Site/Stream Parameters screen

## *Stream Parameters:*

### *Reference:*

**Channel Slope**  (m/m) **USEPA 2001 Report**

**Maximum Channel Depth Before Flooding**  m **Default**

**Sediment Depth**  m **Default**

### **Mannings Coefficient:**

**Estimate based on Stream Type:**      or       **use the below value:**

**natural stream**

s / m<sup>1/3</sup>

## River Habitats Represented

**Percent Riffle**  % **3MOAHabAssess2001Cr.xls**

**Percent Pool**  %

**Percent Run**  % **(All Habitat that is not Riffle or Pool)**

# Difference Between Library Parameters and “Underlying Data”

- Libraries
  - are not attached to a simulation
  - are not saved when a simulation is saved
  - have no effect on simulation results
  - independent databases that may be loaded into a simulation or saved from a simulation for later reference
- Underlying Data
  - are attached to a simulation; are loaded and saved when a simulation is loaded and saved
  - will affect simulation results
  - are independent from Libraries, i.e. changing these parameters has no effect on Libraries

# Modeling Phytoplankton

- Phytoplankton may be greens, cyanobacteria (blue-greens), diatoms or “other algae”
- Subject to sedimentation, washout, and turbulent diffusion
- In stream simulations, assumptions about flow and upstream production are important

**Use Enhanced Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Retention / Washout**

Note: If Enhanced Retention / Washout is not used, the retention time and phytoplankton residence time are the same.

Enter Total Length  km  HSPF length X 2 = 261

or Estimate Tot. Length from Watershed Area  km<sup>2</sup>

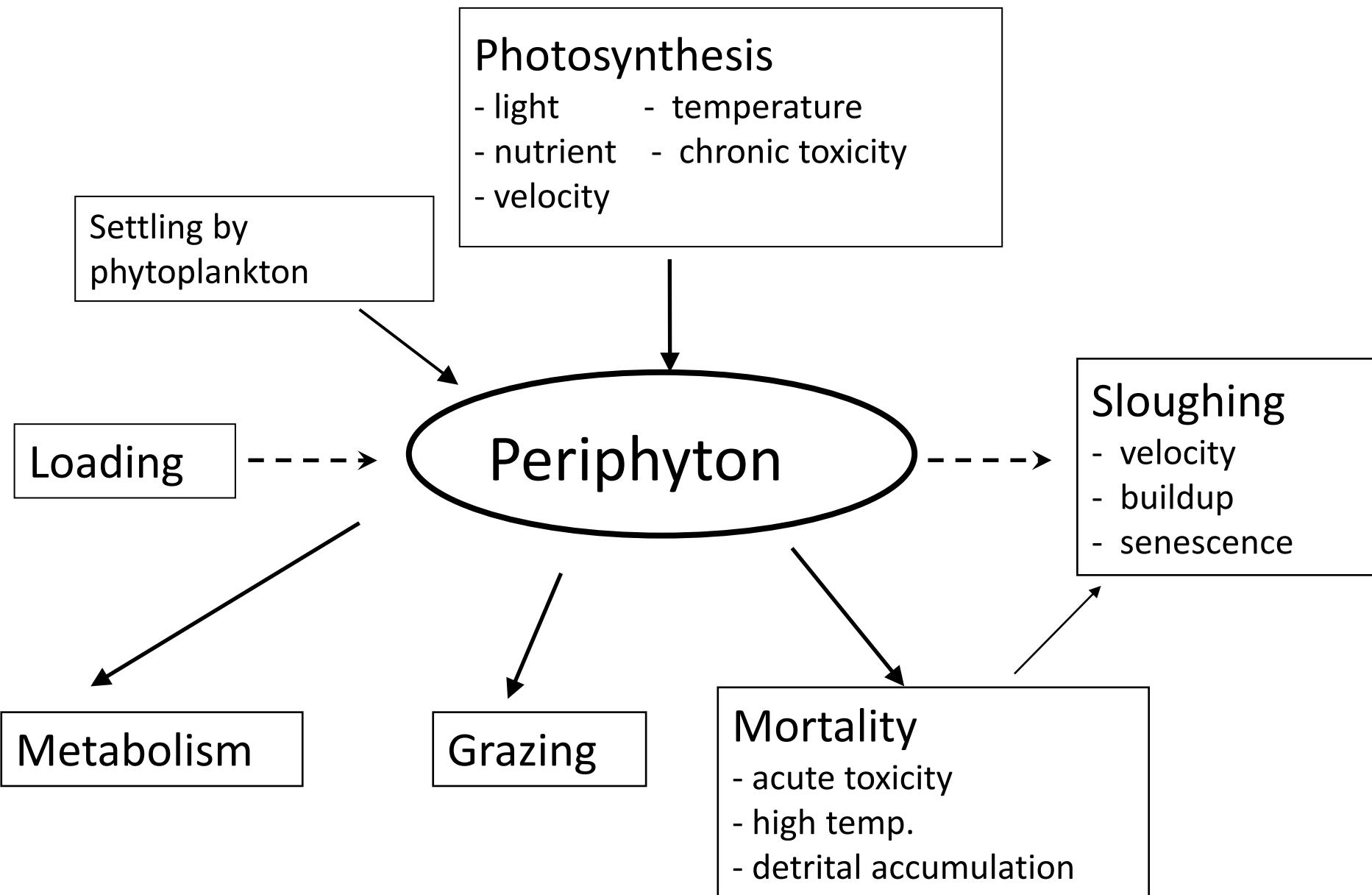
# Modeling Cyanobacteria/Surface-Floating Plants

- Phytoplankton may be specified as “surface floating”
  - assumed to be located in the top 0.1 m
  - if limited by lack of nutrients or sufficient wind occurs they are assumed located within the top 3 m
- The averaging depth for “surface floating” plants is 3 m to correspond to monitoring data.
- Cyanobacteria are assumed to be “surface floating”
- Cyanobacteria are not severely limited by nitrogen due to facultative nitrogen fixation (if N less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  KN)

# Modeling Periphyton

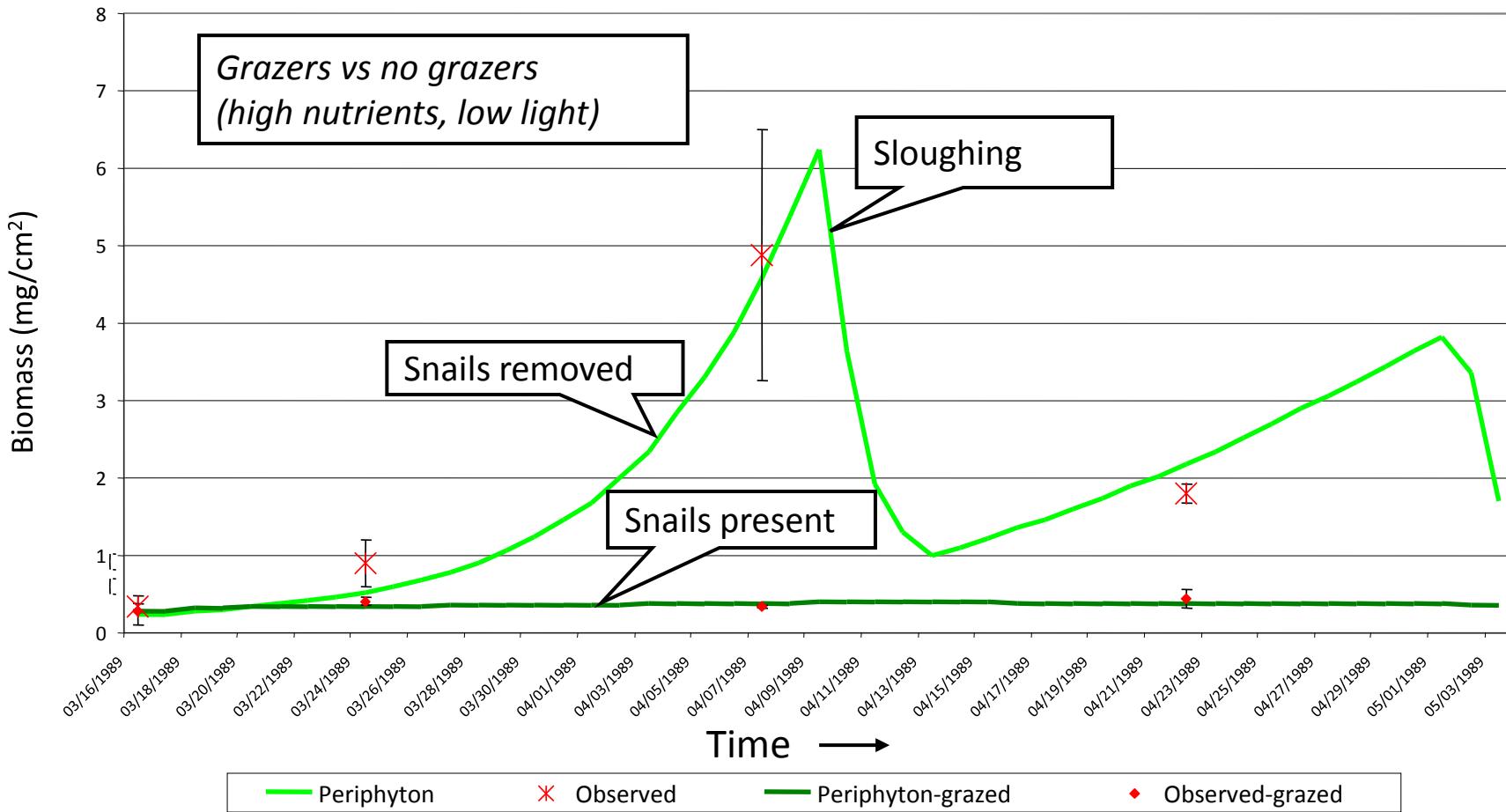
- Periphyton are not simulated by most water quality models
- Periphyton are difficult to model
  - include live material and detritus
  - stimulated by nutrients
  - snails & other animals graze it heavily
  - riparian vegetation reduces light to stream
  - build-up of mat causes stress & sloughing, *even at relatively low velocity*
- Many water body impairments due to periphyton

# How AQUATOX Models Periphyton

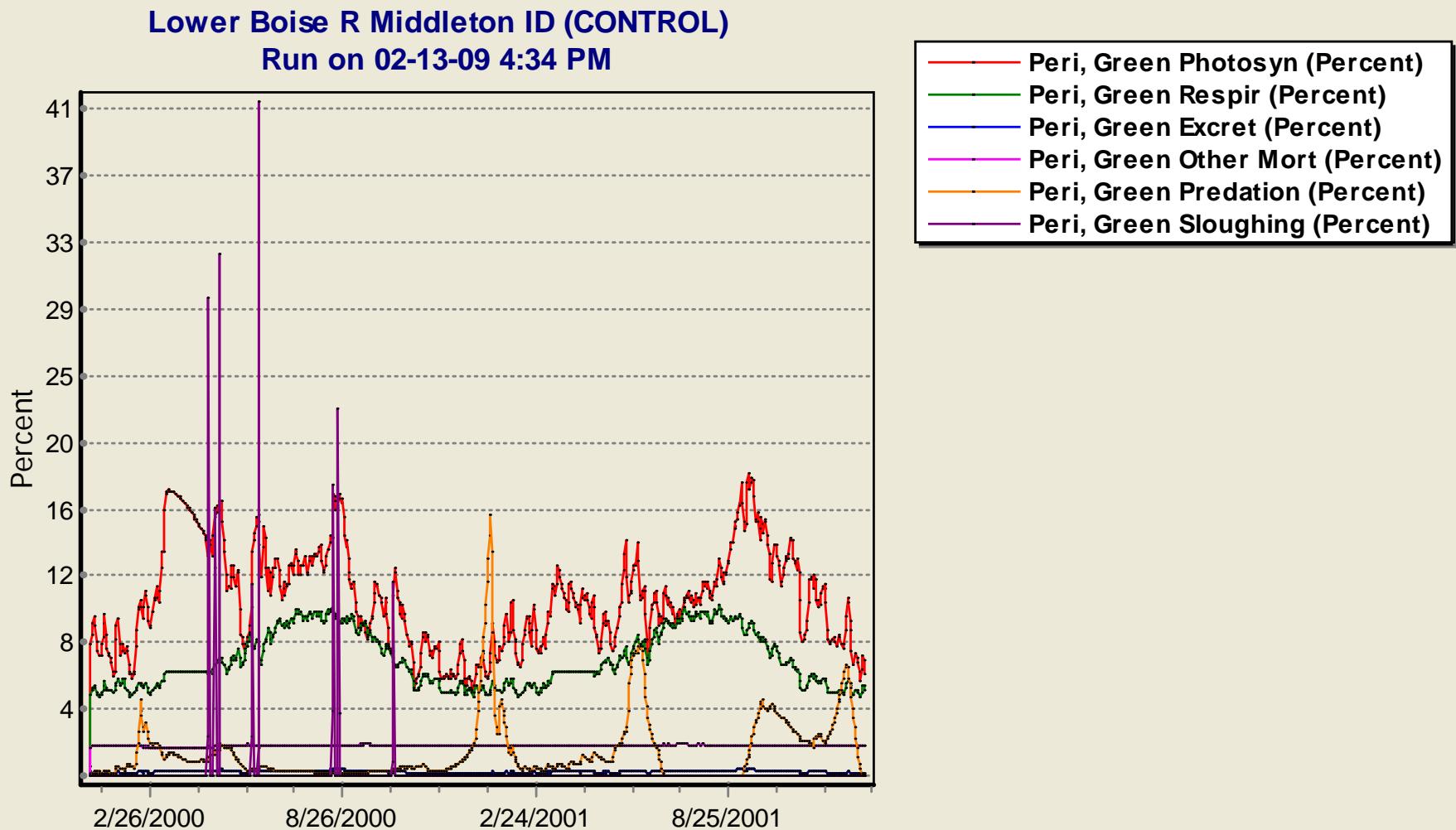


# Several Independent Factors Affect Periphyton, Two Illustrated by Separate Simulations

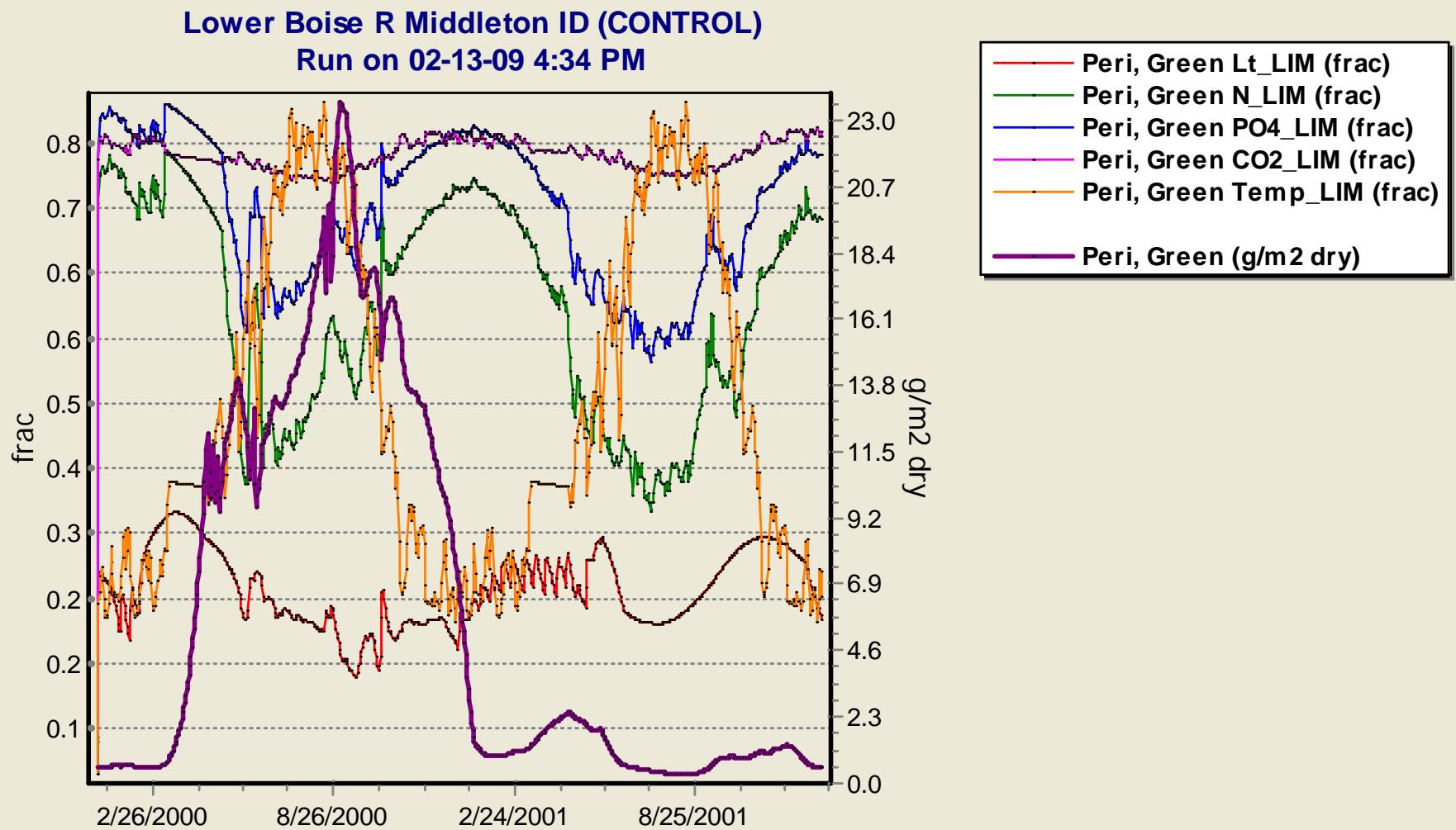
One important factor is grazing by snails  
another is sloughing



# Sporadic Sloughing and Intense Grazing Characterize Periphyton



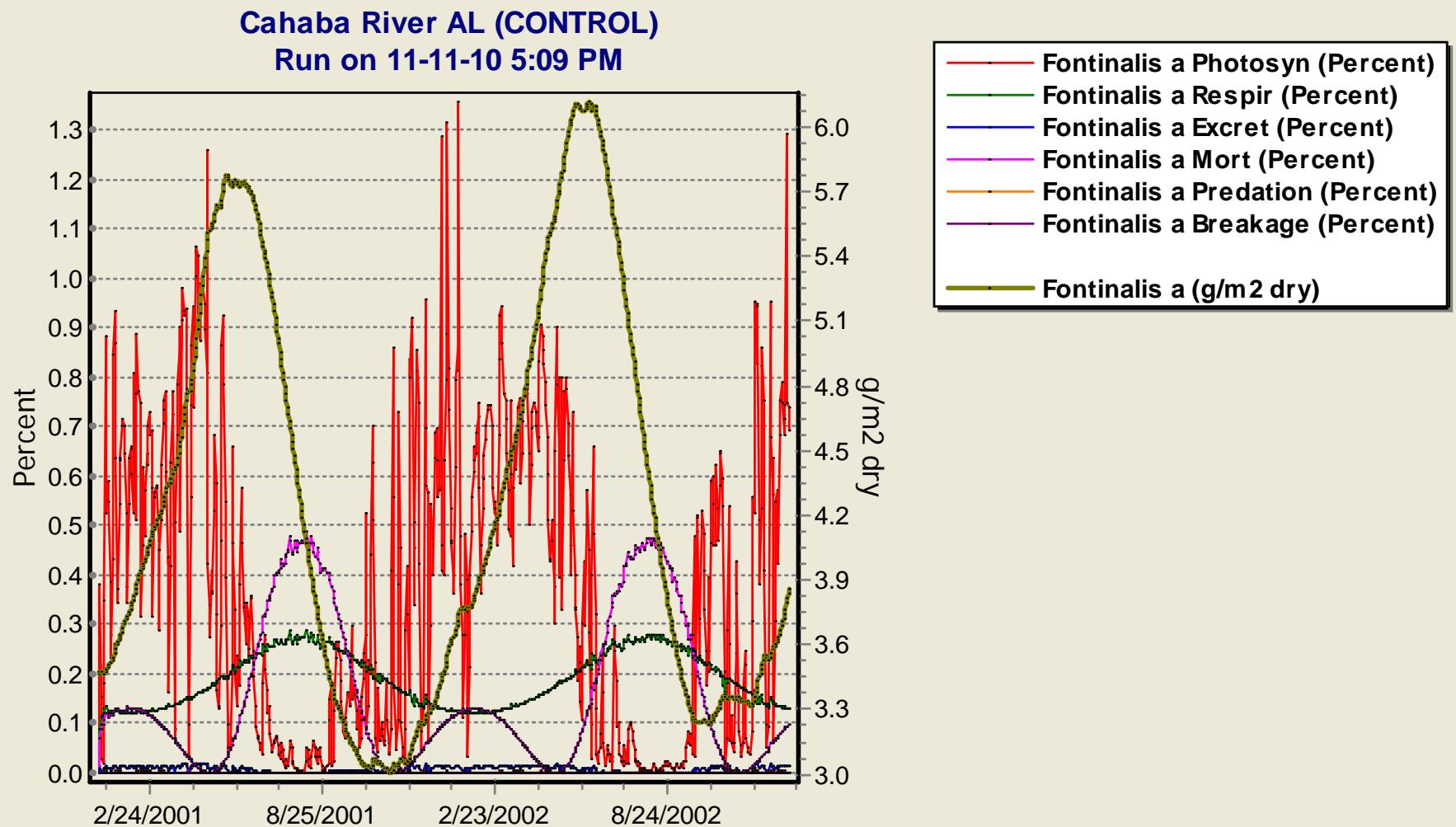
# Nutrient limitation & self-shading are important, followed by winter temperature



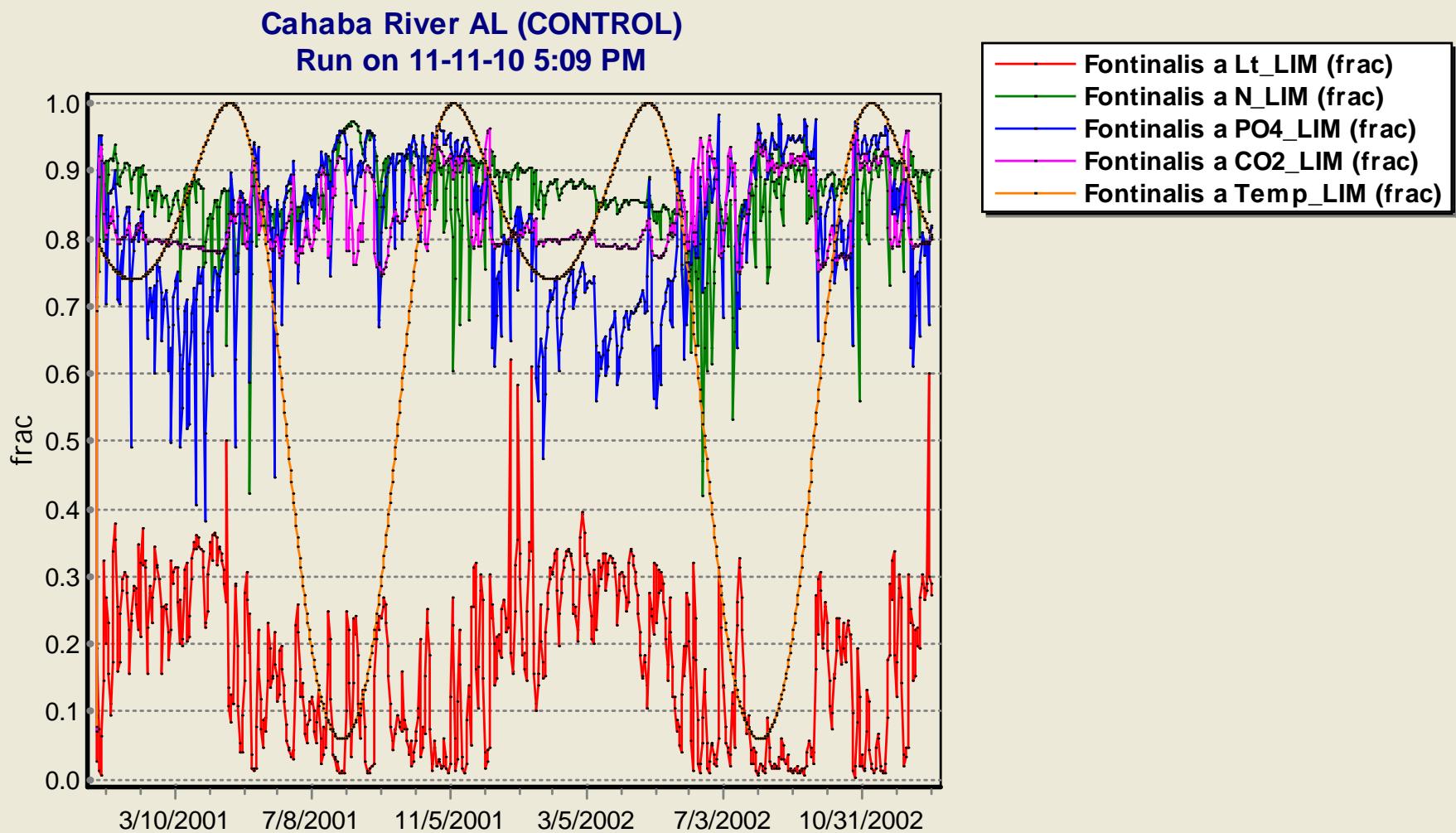
# Modeling Macrophytes

- Macrophytes may be specified as benthic, rooted-floating, or free-floating
- Macrophytes can have significant effect on light climate and other algae communities
- Root uptake of nutrients is assumed and mass balance tracked
- May act as refuge from predation for animals
- Leaves can provide significant surface area for periphyton growth
- Moss are a special category

# Moss are stable component with little grazing or breakage, only summer die-back



# Moss light limitation decreases when sloughing removes periphyton; summer temperature causes die-back



# Lab 2: Setup of a New Study

- Rum River, MN, as template
- Rum River Background
- Use of the Wizard
- Site Characteristics
- Importing Loadings



Photo: MN Pollution Control Agency

# Modeling Animals with AQUATOX

- Overview
- Equations
- Parameters
- Zooplankton
- Zoobenthos
- Fish
- Trophic Interaction Matrices

# Animal Modeling Overview

- Animal biomasses calculated dynamically
  - **Gains** due to consumption and boundary-condition loadings
  - **Losses** due to defecation, respiration, excretion, mortality, predation, boundary condition losses
- Careful specification of feeding preferences required
- Allometric (weight) modeling for fish

# Animal Derivatives

$$\frac{dBiomass}{dt} = Load + Consumption - Defecation - Respiration  
- Excretion - Mortality - Predation - GameteLoss  
- Washout \pm Migration - Promotion + Recruit - Entrainment$$

Note: *Promotion* includes emergence of aquatic insects

# Animal Parameters

## Animal Data:

[Help](#)

Animal

Mtn. whitefish adult

Scientific Name

Prosopium williamsoni

[Size-Class Links](#)[Trophic Interactions](#)

Animal Type:

Fish

Toxicity Record:

Trout

[Edit All](#)

Taxonomic Type or Guild:

Game Fish

Benthic Metric

Designation:

### References:

Half Saturation Feeding

0.3

mg / L

Leidy &amp; Jenkins '77 (cf. salmon)

★ Maximum Consumption

0.01

g / g·d

calc. from Hewett &amp; Johnson '92, I. trout

★ Min Prey for Feeding

0.1

g/sq.m

bottom feeder

Sorting: degree to which  
there is selective feeding

1

unitless

Default -- no sediment effect

Suspended Sediments Affect Feeding: 

Default -- no sediment effect

Slope for Sed. Response

0

unitless

Default -- no sediment effect

Intercept for Sed. Resp.

0

unitless

Default -- no sediment effect

Temp. Response Slope

2.3

★ Optimum Temperature

12

°C

Essig, 1998; see also Sauter et al. 2001

Maximum Temperature

23

°C

FishBase

Min Adaptation Temp.

0

°C

Sauter et al. 2001, based on spawning

★ Mean wet weight

300

g wet

★ Endogenous Respiration

0.0015

1 / d

calc. from Hewett &amp; Johnson '92 prms.

Specific Dynamic Action

0.172

(unitless)

cf. Hewett &amp; Johnson '92

# Animal Parameters (cont.)

Excretion : Respiration	0.05	ratio	default
N to Organics	0.1	frac. dry	Sterner and George 2000
P to Organics	0.031	frac. dry	Sterner and George 2000
Wet to Dry	5	ratio	default
Gametes : Biomass	0.09	ratio	
Gamete Mortality	0.9	1 / d	
★ Mortality Coefficient	0.001	1 / d	Handbook of Environ. Data (Jorgensen, 1979)
Sensitivity to Sediment (lethal effects)	Zero Sensitivity	▼	Default -- no sediment effect
Organism is Sensitive to Percent Embeddedness:	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Percent Embeddedness Threshold	100	percent	No effect
Carrying Capacity	0.05	g/sq.m	calc. from Leidy & Jenkins 77
Frac. in Water Column	1	fraction	Default for this Animal Type
VelMax	400	cm / s	Default
Removal due to Fishing	0.0003	fraction / d	prof judgment (10%)

# Animal Parameters (fish-specific allometric parameters)

## Spawning Parameters:

Either  Fish spawn automatically, based on temperature range  
or Fish spawn on the following dates each year

12/30/1899

12/30/1899

12/30/1899

(Enter Dates M/d/yyyy) Year entered is irrelevant

Spawning Date Reference:

Either  Fish can spawn an unlimited number of times each year  
or Fish can only spawn  times each year

## Allometric Parameters:

### Consumption:

Reference: Fish Bioenergetics 3.0, trout

Use Allometric Equation to Calculate Maximum Consumption:

CA:  intercept for weight dependence

CB:  slope for weight dependence

### Respiration:

Reference: Fish Bioenergetics 3.0, trout

Use Allometric Equations to Calculate Respiration:

RA:  intercept for species specific metabolism

RB:

Use "Set 1" of Respiration Equations:

### "Set 1" Parameters:

weight dependence coefficient

RQ:

RTL:

ACT:

RTO:

RK1:

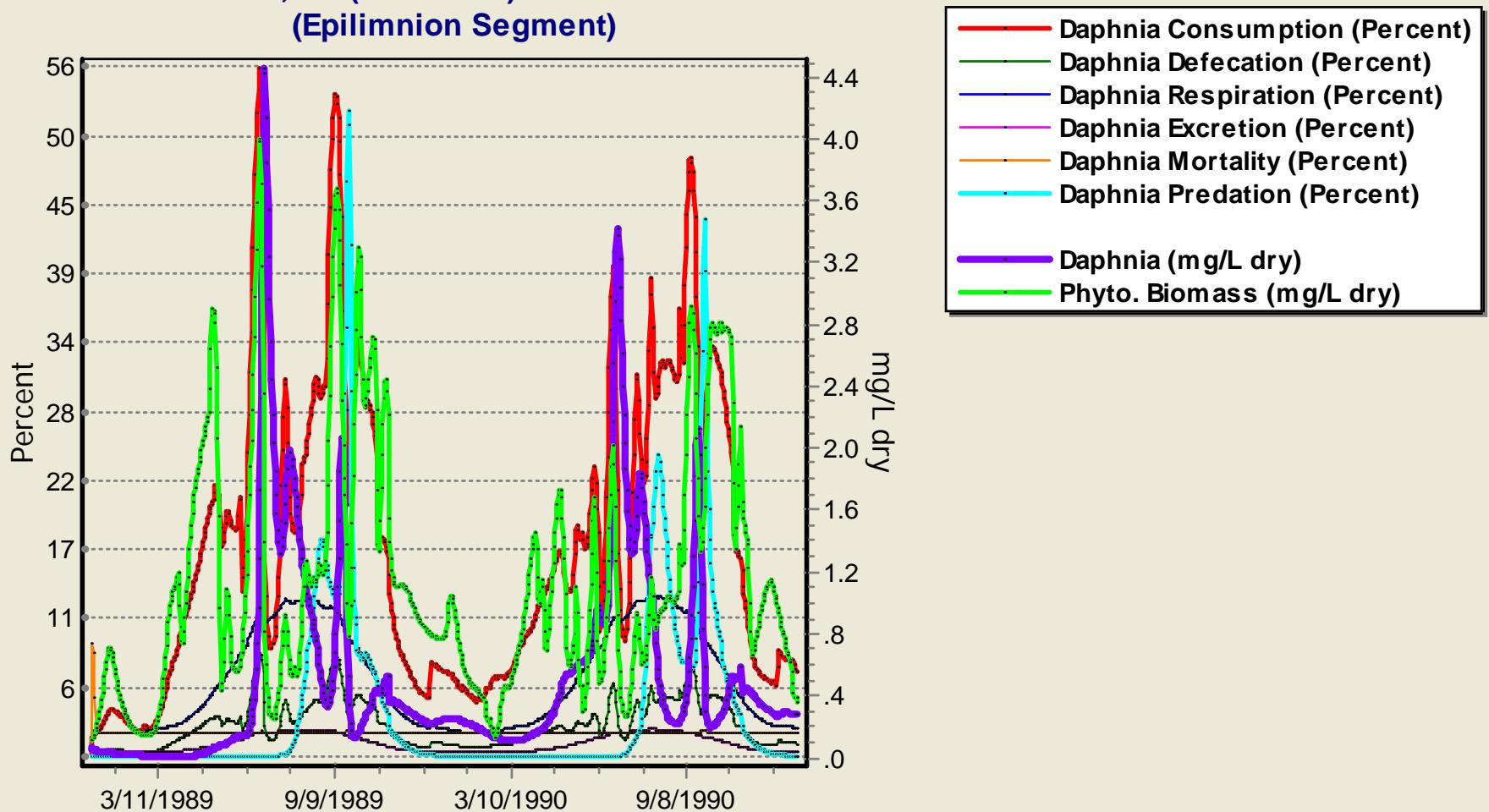
BACT:

RTM:

RK4:

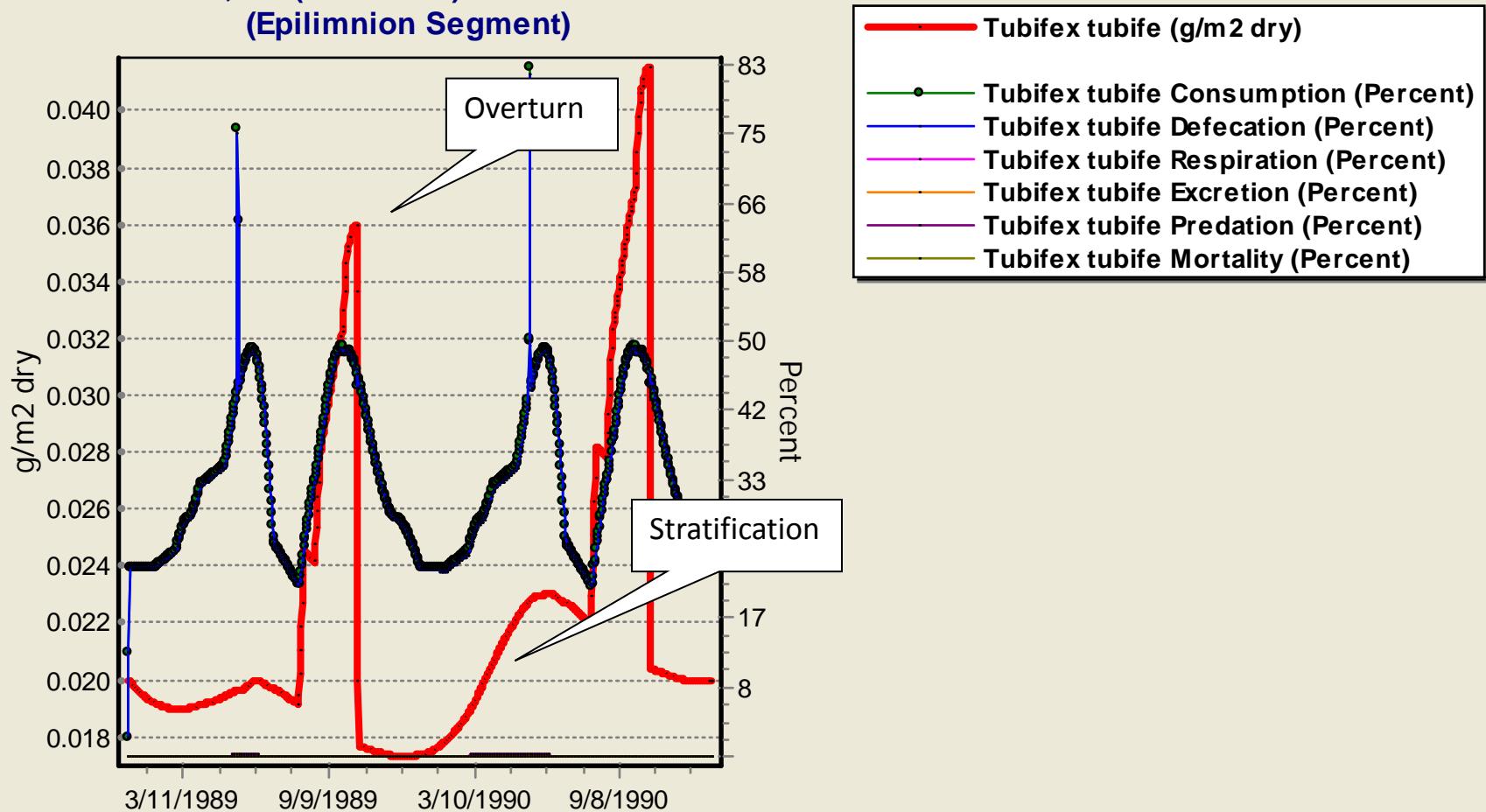
# Zooplankton consumption is often tied to phytoplankton productivity

ONONDAGA LAKE, NY (CONTROL) Run on 11-15-09 8:50 AM  
(Epilimnion Segment)



# Benthic invertebrates are also tied to phytoplankton productivity through detritus

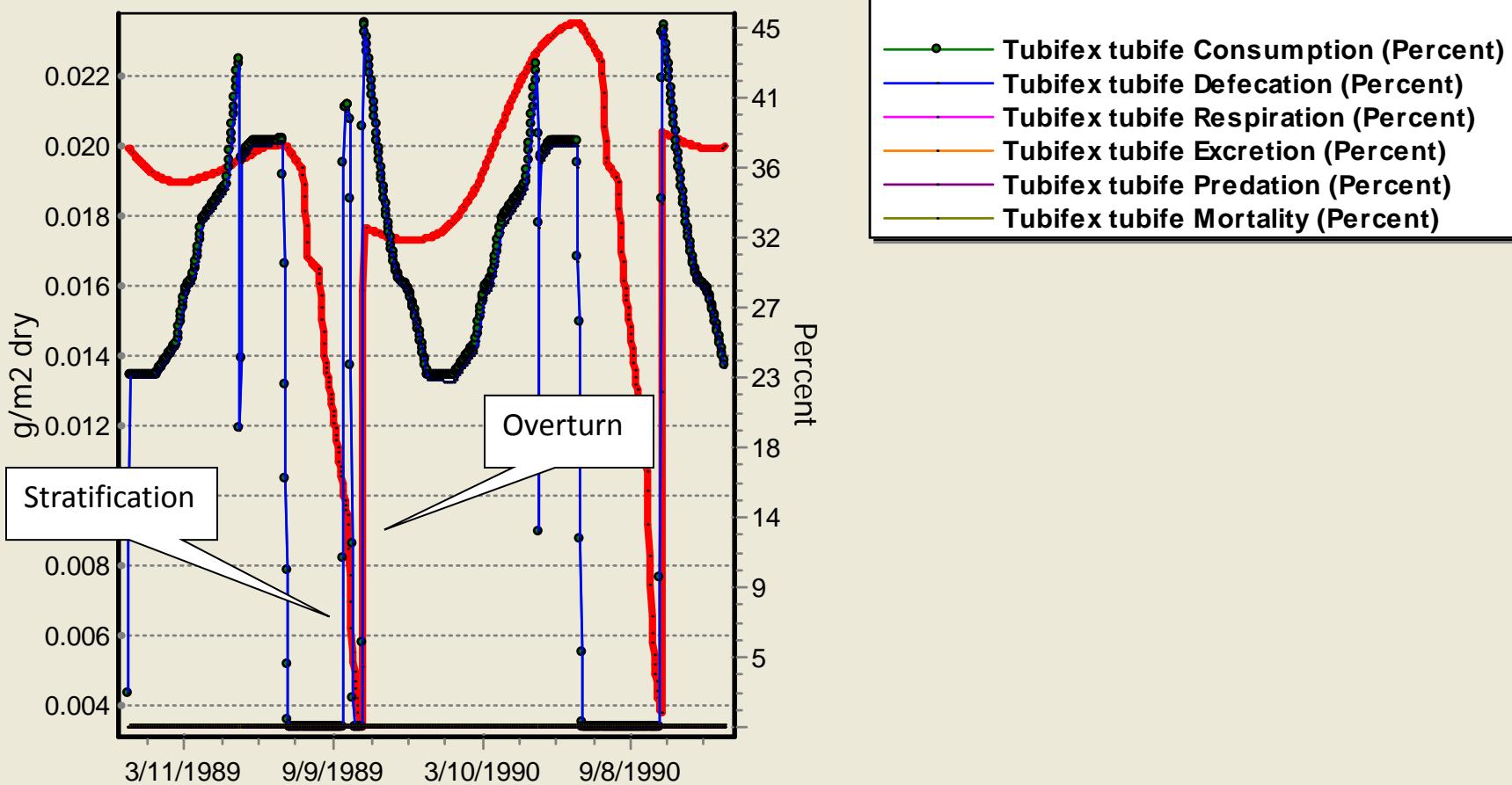
ONONDAGA LAKE, NY (CONTROL) Run on 09-24-08 11:13 AM  
(Epilimnion Segment)



# *Tubifex* in hypolimnion are tolerant of anoxia but stop feeding and slowly decline

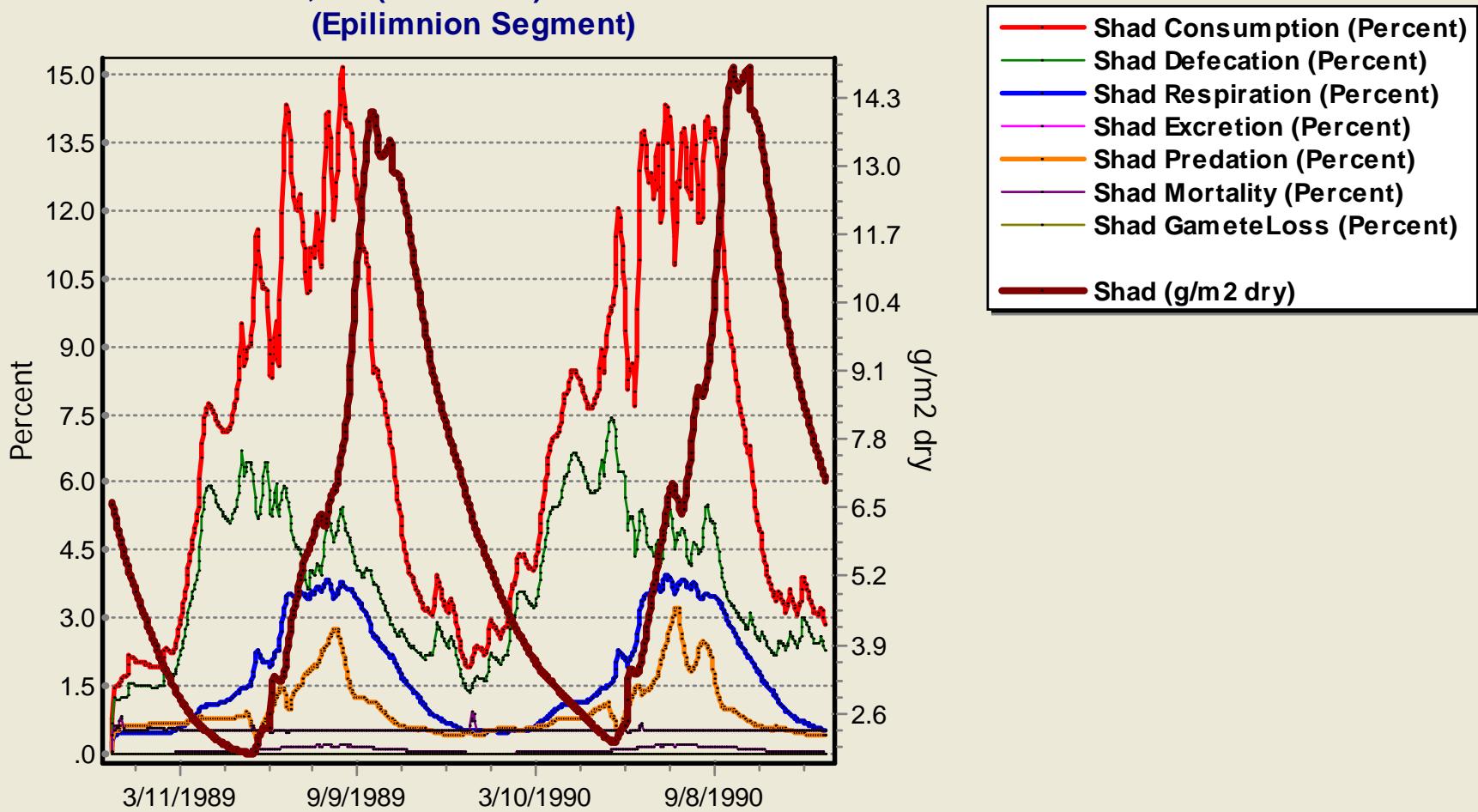
ONONDAGA LAKE, NY (CONTROL) Run on 09-24-08 11:13 AM

(Hypolimnion Segment)

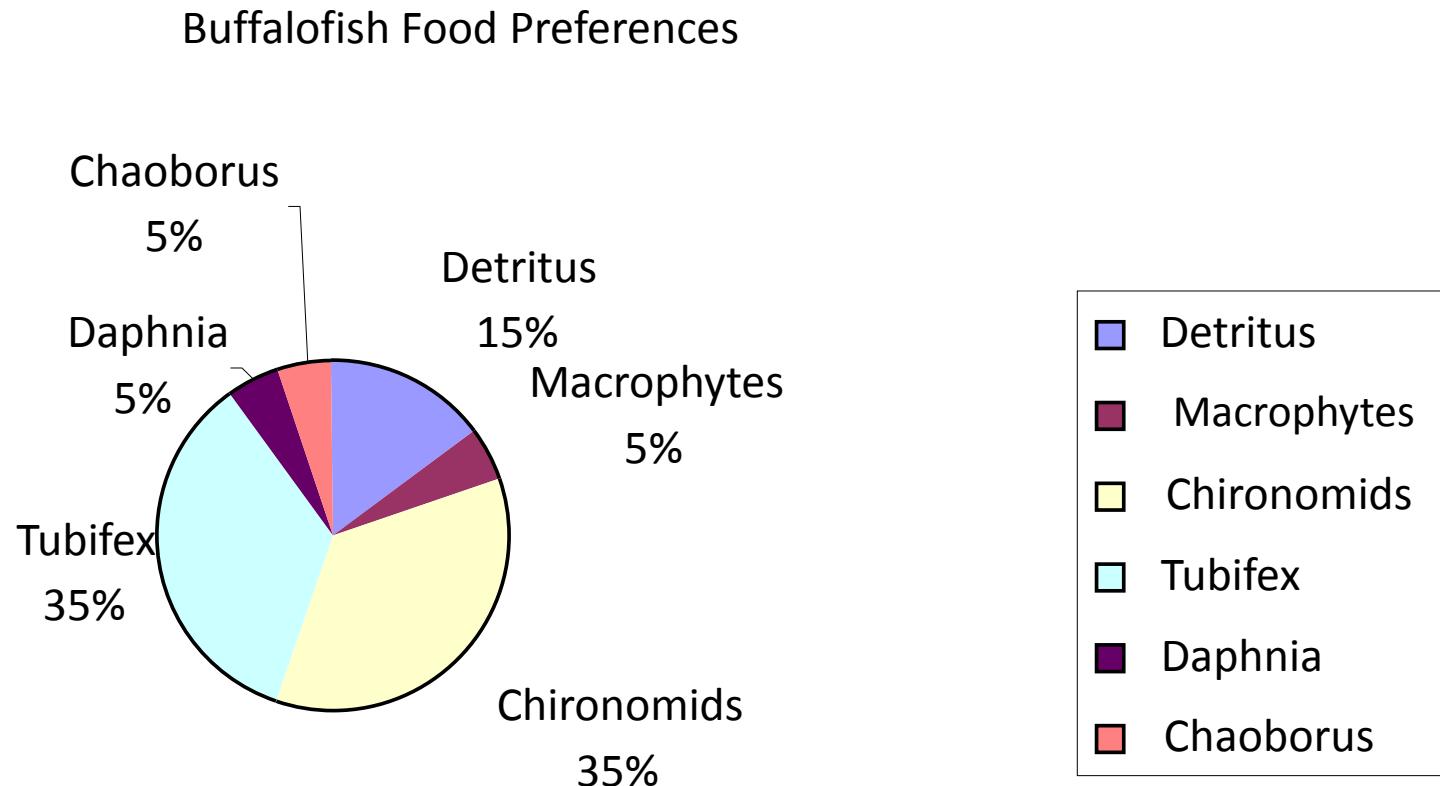


# Fish exhibit seasonal patterns based on food availability and temperature

ONONDAGA LAKE, NY (CONTROL) Run on 10-8-08 8:13 AM  
(Epilimnion Segment)



Animals have food preferences, but can switch feeding based on availability



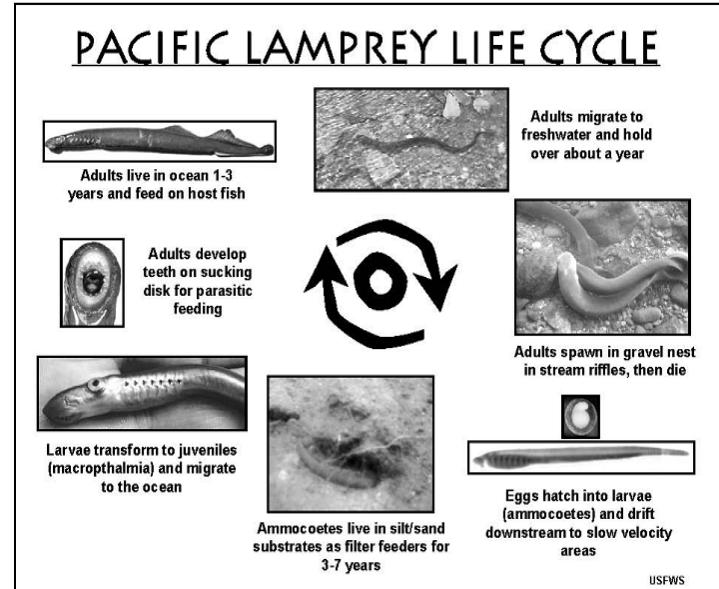
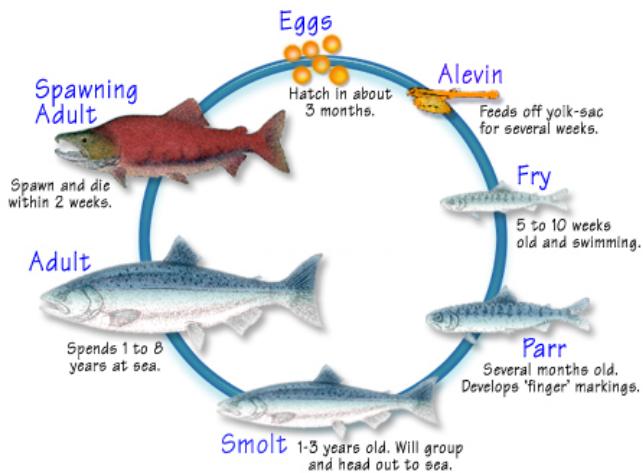
# Foodweb Model specified as Trophic Matrix

## Interactions are normalized to 100%

AQUATOX-- Trophic Interaction Matrix											
Preference percentages are initially normalized to 100% based on species in the simulation.											Renormalize
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Show Preferences	<input type="radio"/> Show Egestion Coefficients	<input type="radio"/> Show Comments								
	Tubifex tubi	Daphnia	Rotifer, Brach	Predatory Z	Shad	Bluegill	White Perch	Catfish	Largemouth Bas	Largemouth Ba2	Walleye
R detritus sed	50.0							1.2			
L detritus sed	50.0							4.7			
R detritus part				12.5					2.1		
L detritus part	30.0	40.0		12.5	3.9	0.5			2.1		
Cyclotella nano	35.0	5.0		12.5							
Greens	30.0	5.0		12.5							
Phyt, Blue-Gre				12.5							
Cryptomonad	5.0	50.0									
Tubifex tubifex					9.5	29.8	46.5	40.4	0.3	1.0	
Daphnia			50.0	12.5	15.7	29.9	2.9	27.7	0.3		
Rotifer, Brach			50.0	12.4	15.7						
Predatory Zoopl				12.5	7.9	29.9	2.9	27.7	38.2	1.6	
Shad					15.8		20.9		44.3	23.1	
Bluegill									2.9		
White Perch					15.7	10.0	20.9		10.1	24.8	
Catfish										24.8	
Largemouth Bas					15.7					24.8	
Largemouth Ba2											
Walleye									3.9		

# Anadromous fish considerations

- Chinook Salmon and Pacific Lamprey Life Cycles



- Model Predictions:

- Chemical bioaccumulation, onsite and off
  - Safe for consumption?
- Nutrient effects on stream ecosystem
- Toxicant effects on food web

# Three Options for Anadromous Fish in AQUATOX

1. Migration into and out of system using loadings
  - Nutrient effects considered
  - Biomass coming and going must be specified
  - Toxicant loadings in returning fish must be specified
2. New Anadromous Fish model for Release 3.1
  - Size-class fish (juveniles and adults)
  - Off-site fish modeled in clean “holding tank”
  - Off-site location fairly simple (no toxic exposure)
3. Model all migration sites explicitly
  - Linked mode implementation, data requirements
  - Off-site toxicant uptake and loss explicitly modeled

# **Lab 3: Choice of Biota, Calibration of Glenwood Bridge, Lower Boise River, ID**

- Check initial run with Rum River state variables
- Change Total Length for phytoplankton
- Change fish to reflect Boise R. species
- Minor calibration
- Discussion of model calibration goals

## **Model Performance**

## **Sources of Parameter Values**

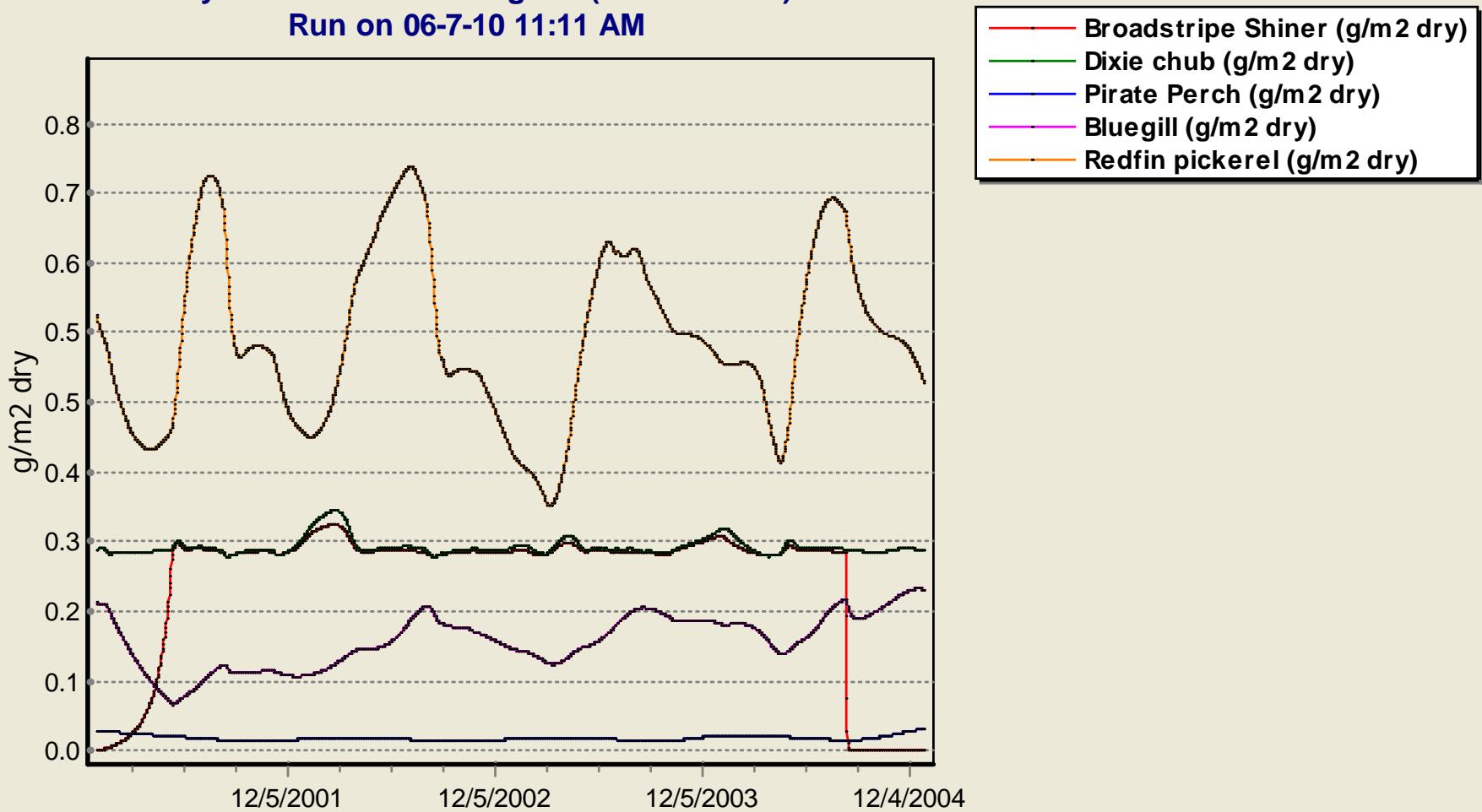
# **Calibration Strategy for Minnesota Rivers**

# Weight-of-Evidence for Model Performance—Limited by Quantity and Quality of Data

- Reasonable behavior based on general experience
- Visual inspection of data points and model plots
- Do model curves fall within error bands of data?
- Do point observations fall within model bounds obtained through uncertainty analysis?
- Regression of paired data and model results—is there concordance, bias?
- Comparison of mean data and mean model results
- Comparison of frequency distributions
  - Relative bias
  - F test
- Kolmogorov-Smirnov test of cumulative distributions

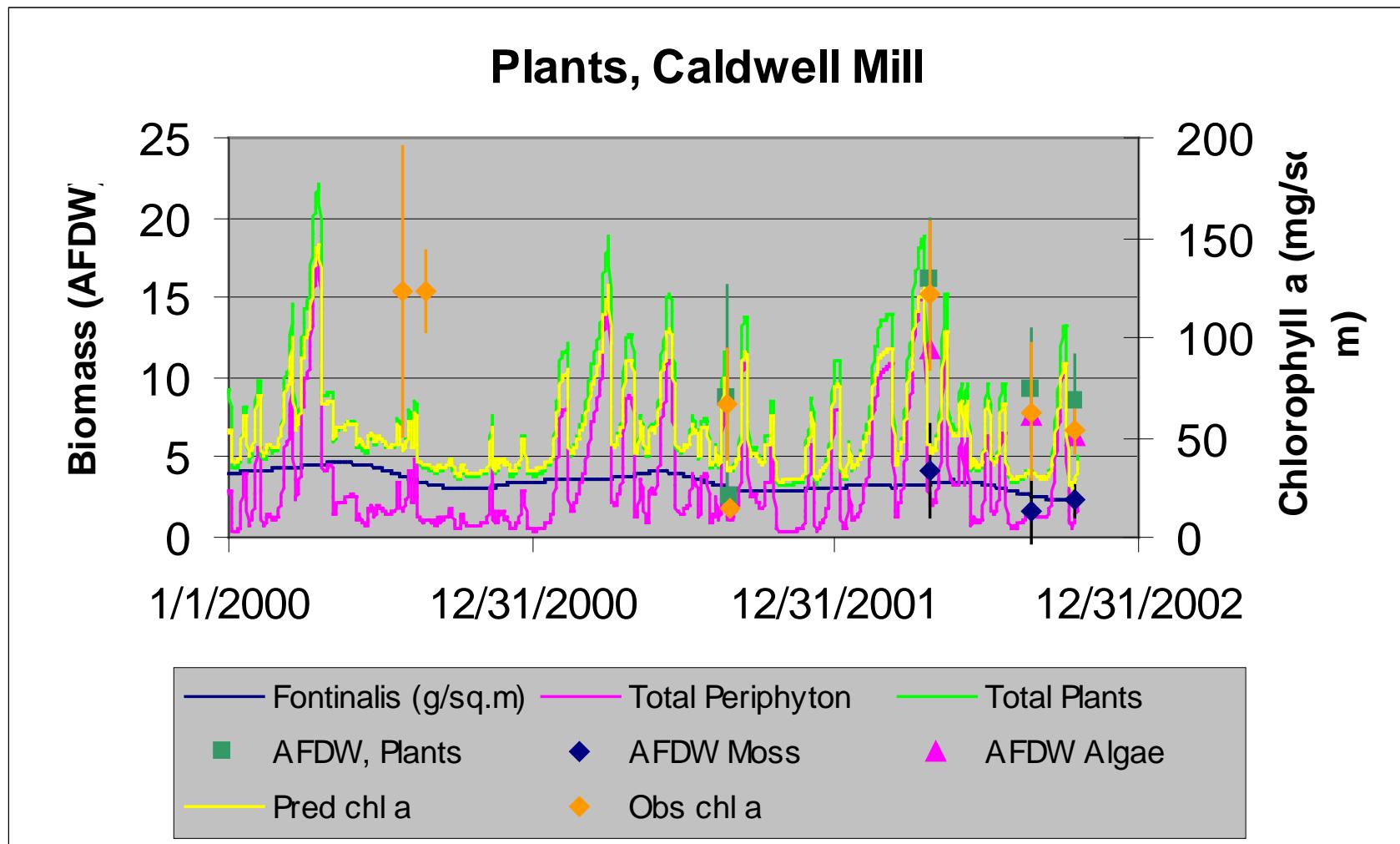
# Reasonable ecosystem behavior test

Sally Br Trib 4 Ft Benning GA (PERTURBED)  
Run on 06-7-10 11:11 AM

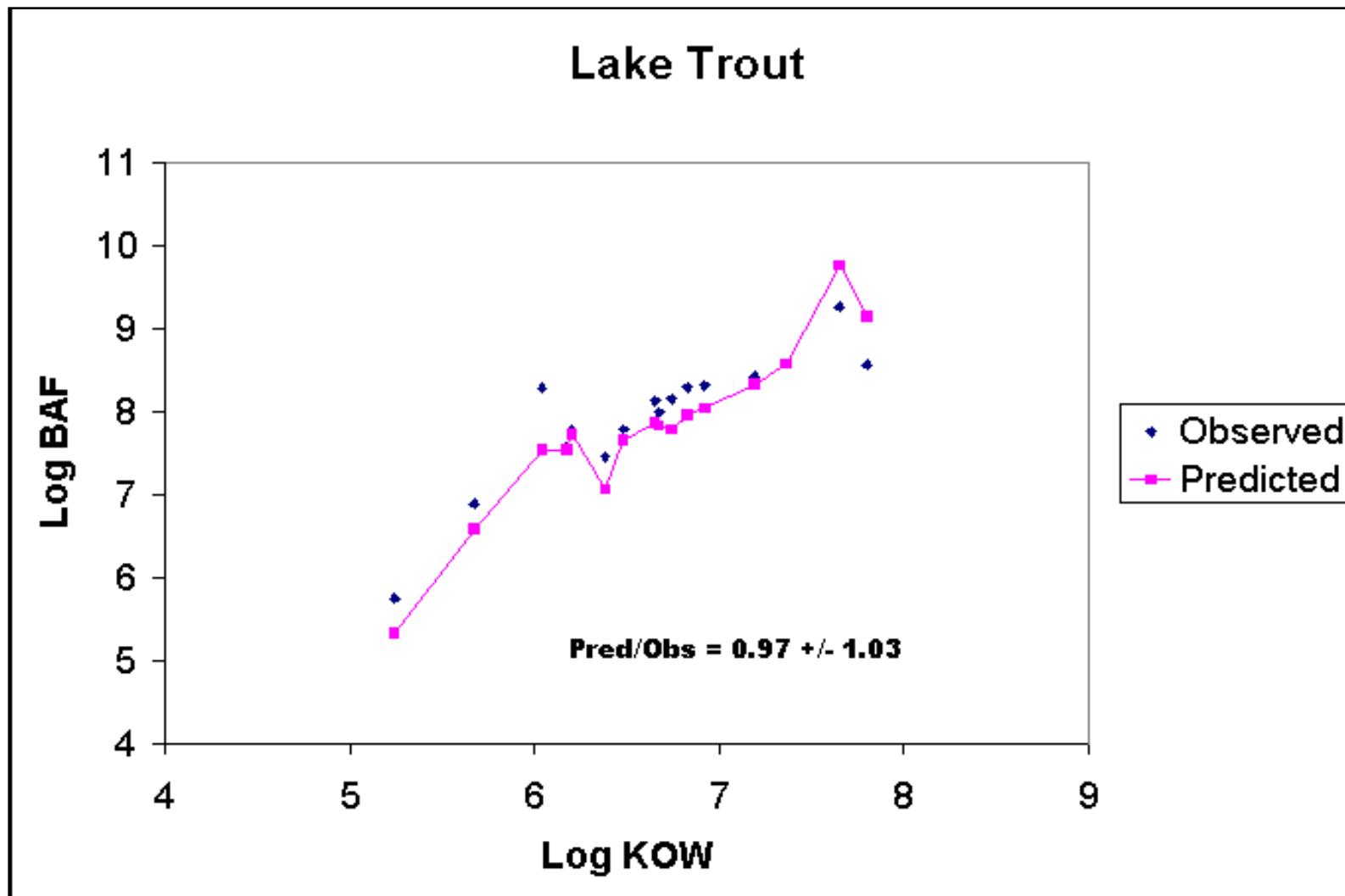


# The model was calibrated for Caldwell Mill, Cahaba River, Ala.

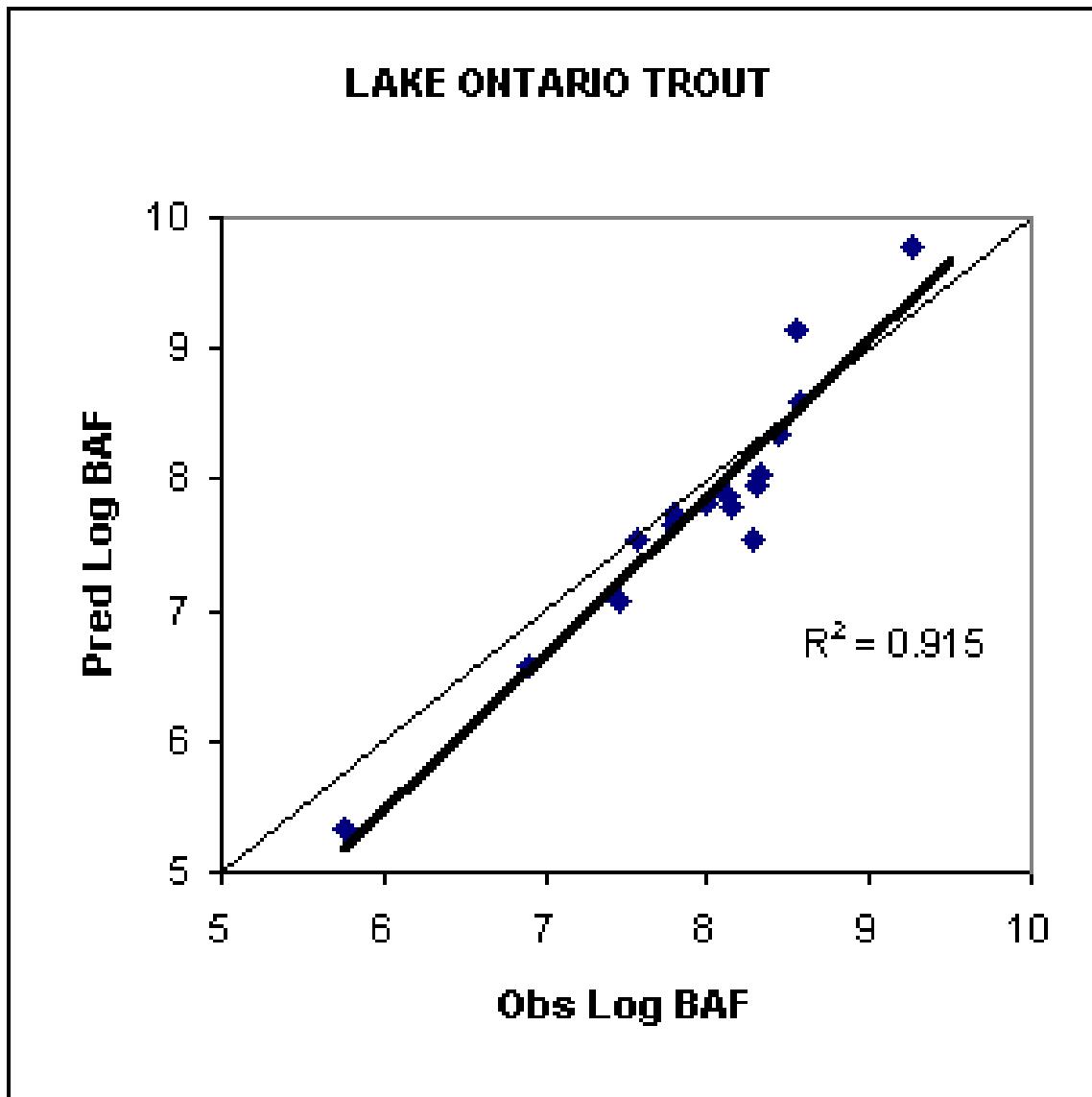
Once past the transient conditions of 2000,  
the fit was acceptable



# AQUATOX validation with Lake Ontario PCB data



# Regression of Lake Ontario observed and predicted PCB BAFs



# Predicted/Observed Lake Ontario PCB BAFs

## AQUATOX (Park, 1999)

	Phyto	Mysids	Trout
Mean	0.53	1.34	0.97
Std Dev	0.51	1.22	1.03

## Gobas, 1993, model (results, Burkhard, 1998)

Mean	0.17	0.35	1.23
Std Dev	0.17	0.30	2.20

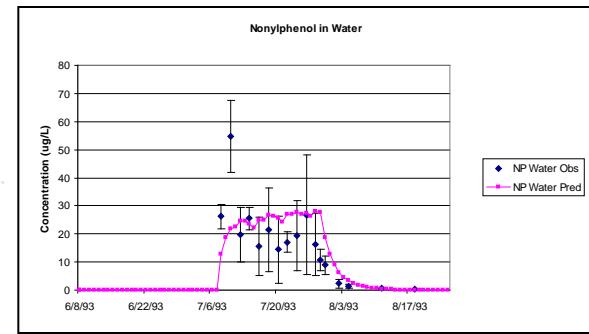
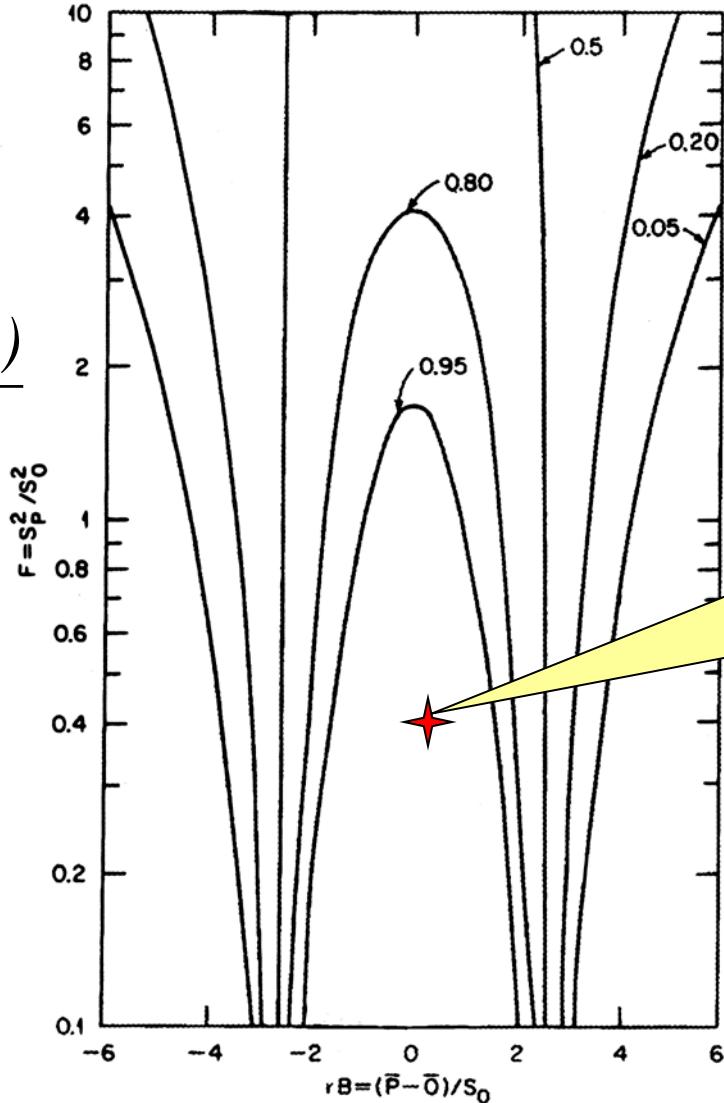
## Thomann et al., 1992, model (results, Burkhard, 1998)

Mean	0.17	0.51	2.52
Std Dev	0.17	0.44	2.79

# Statistical Comparison of Means and Variances

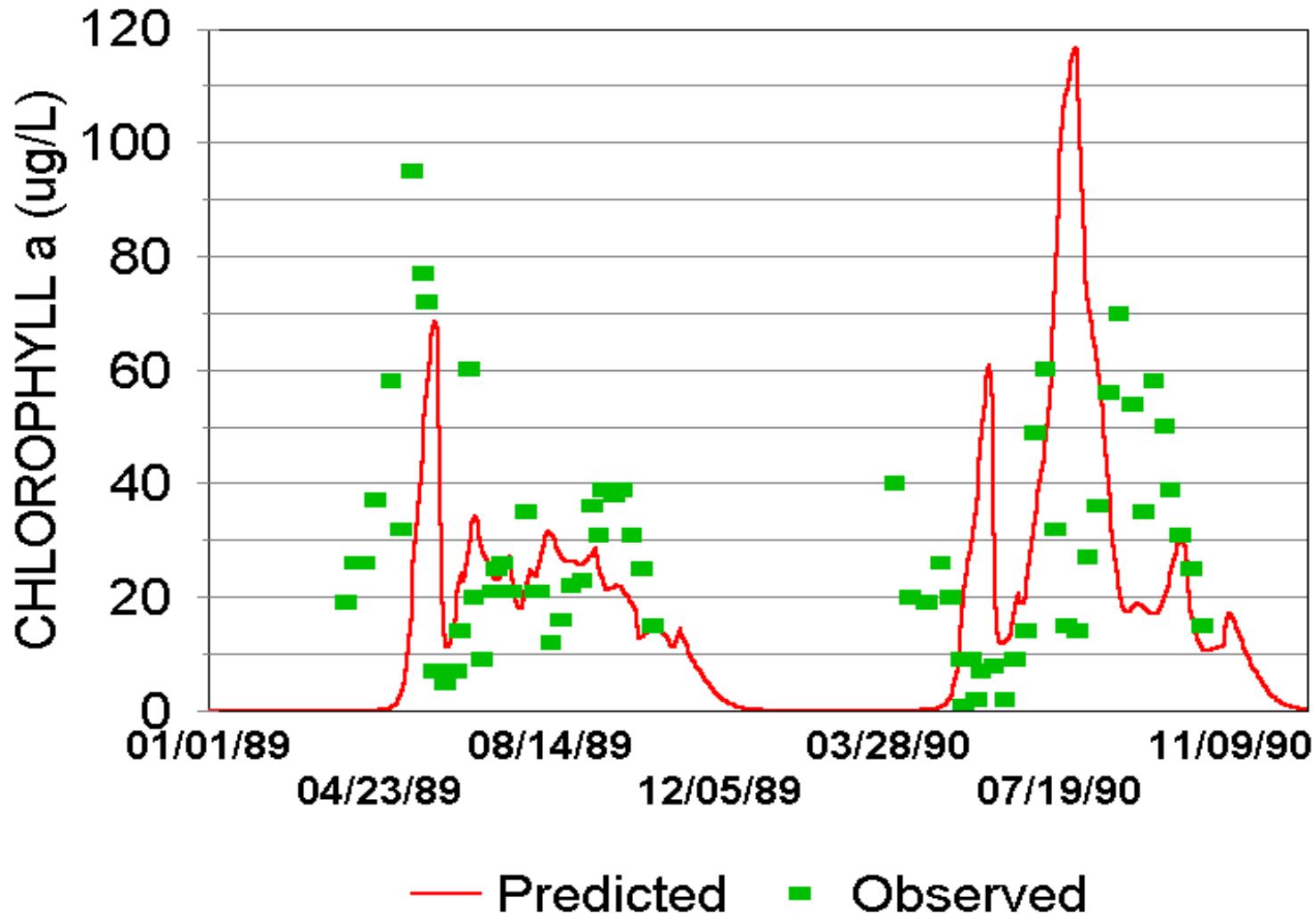
$$rB = \frac{(Pred - Obs)}{S_{obs}}$$

$$F = \frac{S^2_{pred}}{S^2_{obs}}$$

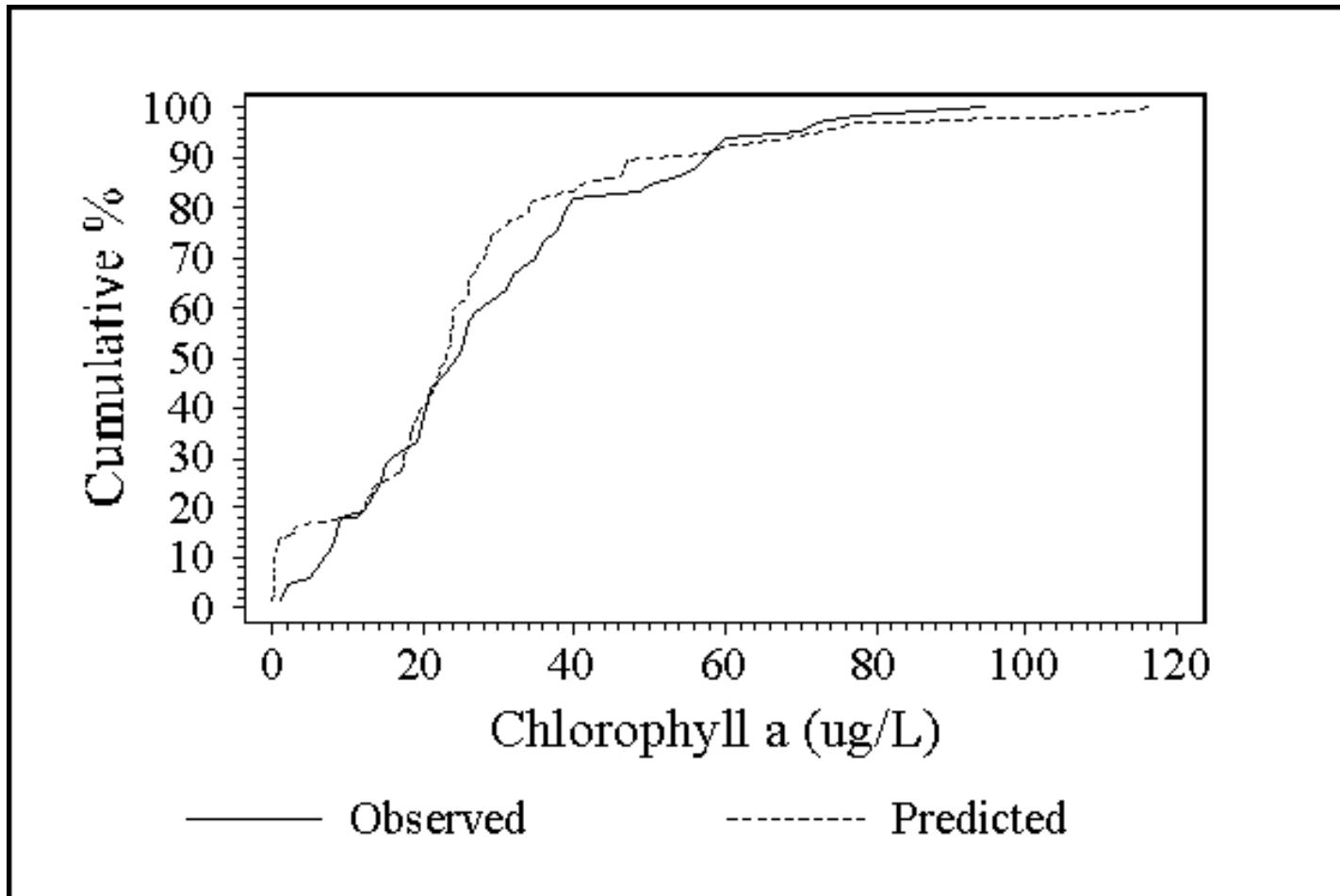


$rB = 0.242, F = 0.400$   
pred & obs nonparametric  
statistical distributions are  
similar

# Validation of AQUATOX with Lake Onondaga data—visual test



# Validation with chlorophyll a in Lake Onondaga, NY



Kolmogorov-Smirnov p statistic = 0.319 (not sign. different)

# We can run uncertainty analysis with distributions around nutrient loadings

AQUATOX-- Uncertainty Setup

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Run Uncertainty Analysis	Number of Iterations	40	(integer)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utilize Non-Random Seed	Seed for Pseudo Random Generator	100	(integer)

All Distributions

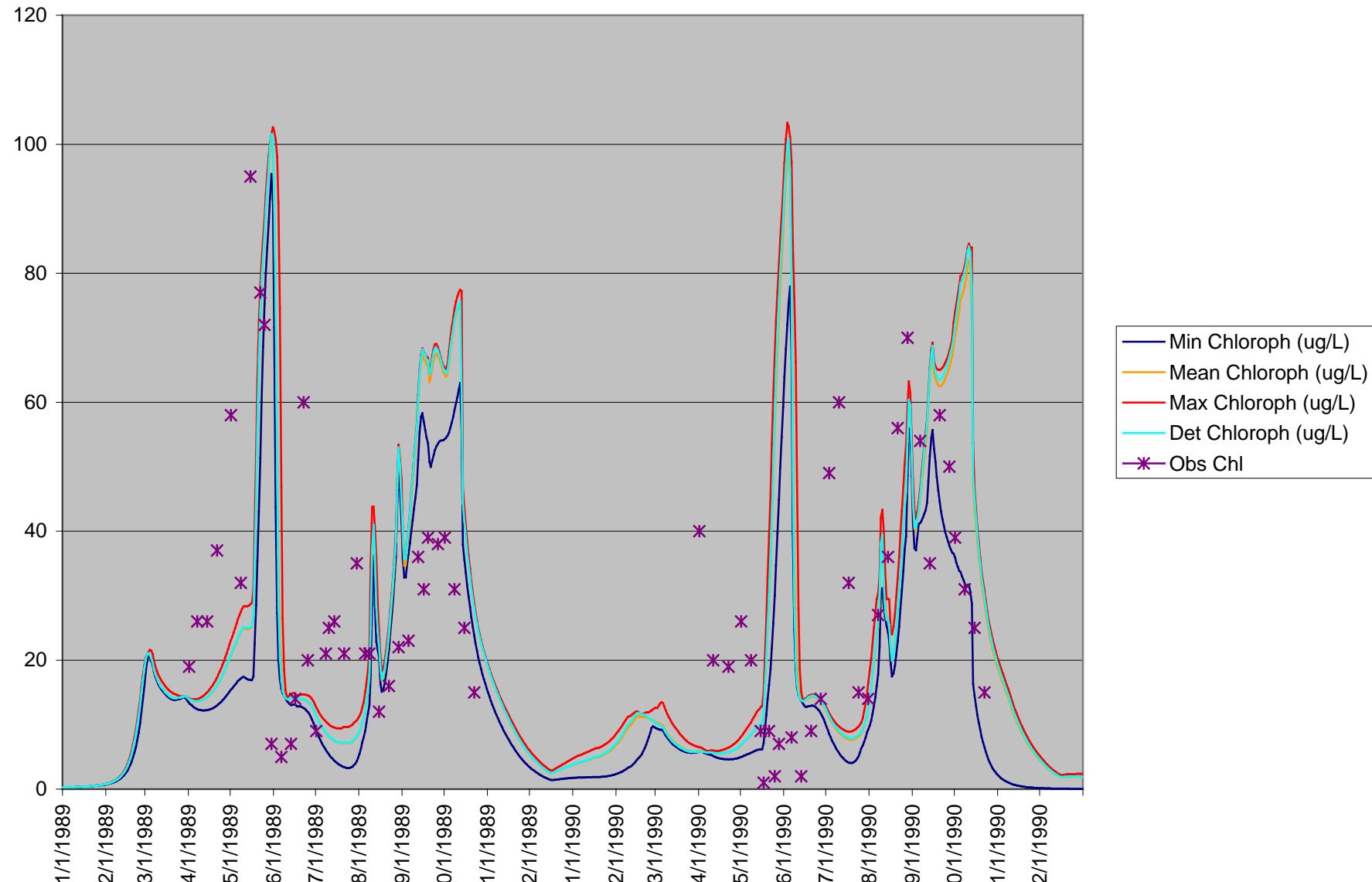
Distributions by Parameter

Distributions by State Variable

Selected Distributions for Uncertainty Run

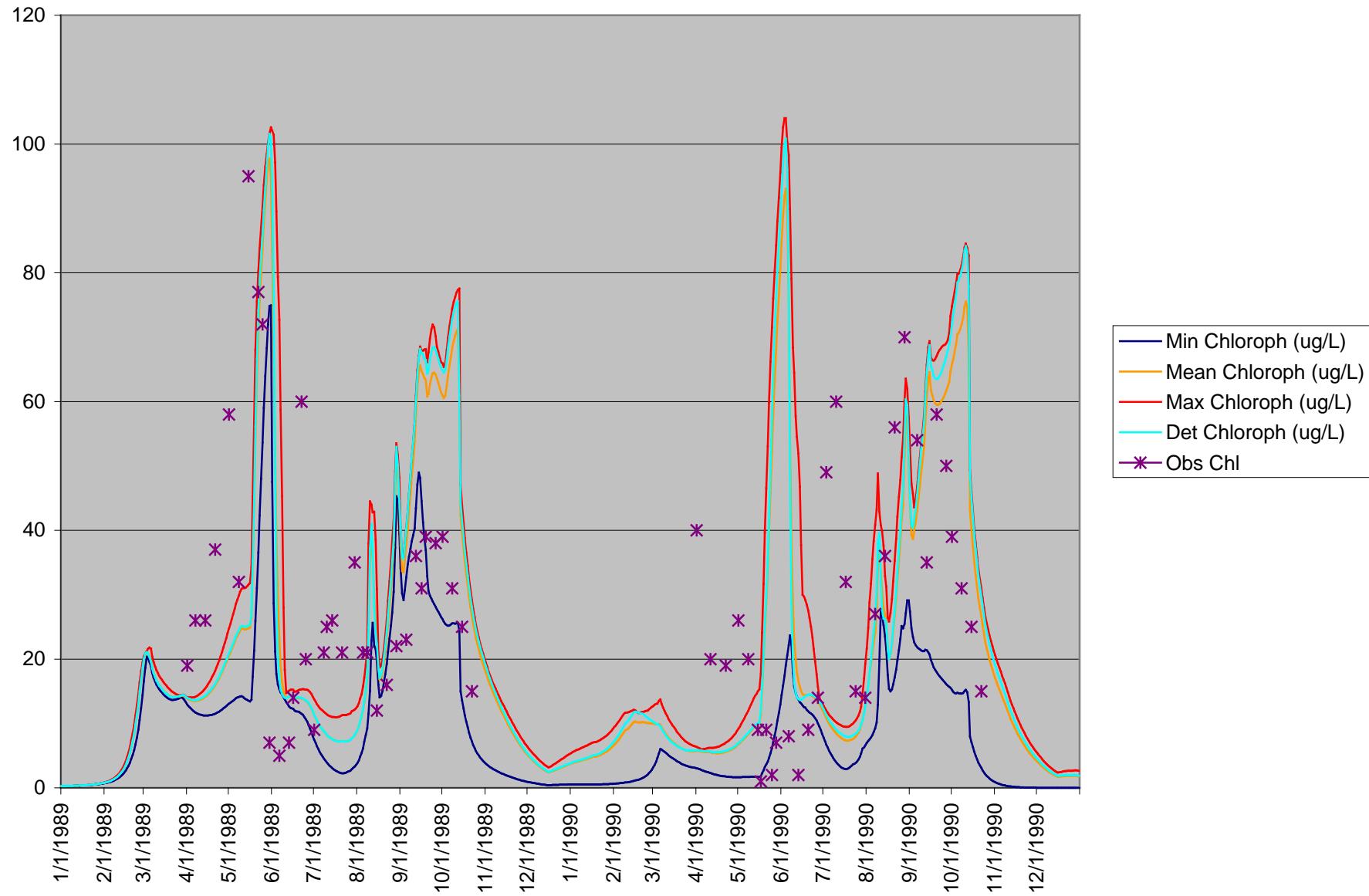
- NH3 & NH4+: Mult. Point Source Load by: (Normal Distribution, Mean = 1, Std. Dev. = 0.2)
- NO3: Mult. Point Source Load by: (Normal Distribution, Mean = 1, Std. Dev. = 0.2)
- Tot. Sol. P: Mult. Point Source Load by: (Normal Distribution, Mean = 1, Std. Dev. = 0.2)
- NH3 & NH4+: Mult. Non-Point Source Load by: (Normal Distribution, Mean = 1, Std. Dev. = 0.2)
- NO3: Mult. Non-Point Source Load by: (Normal Distribution, Mean = 1, Std. Dev. = 0.2)
- Tot. Sol. P: Mult. Non-Point Source Load by: (Normal Distribution, Mean = 1, Std. Dev. = 0.2)

# Plotting observed points with uncertainty bands for simulation suggests imperfect fit

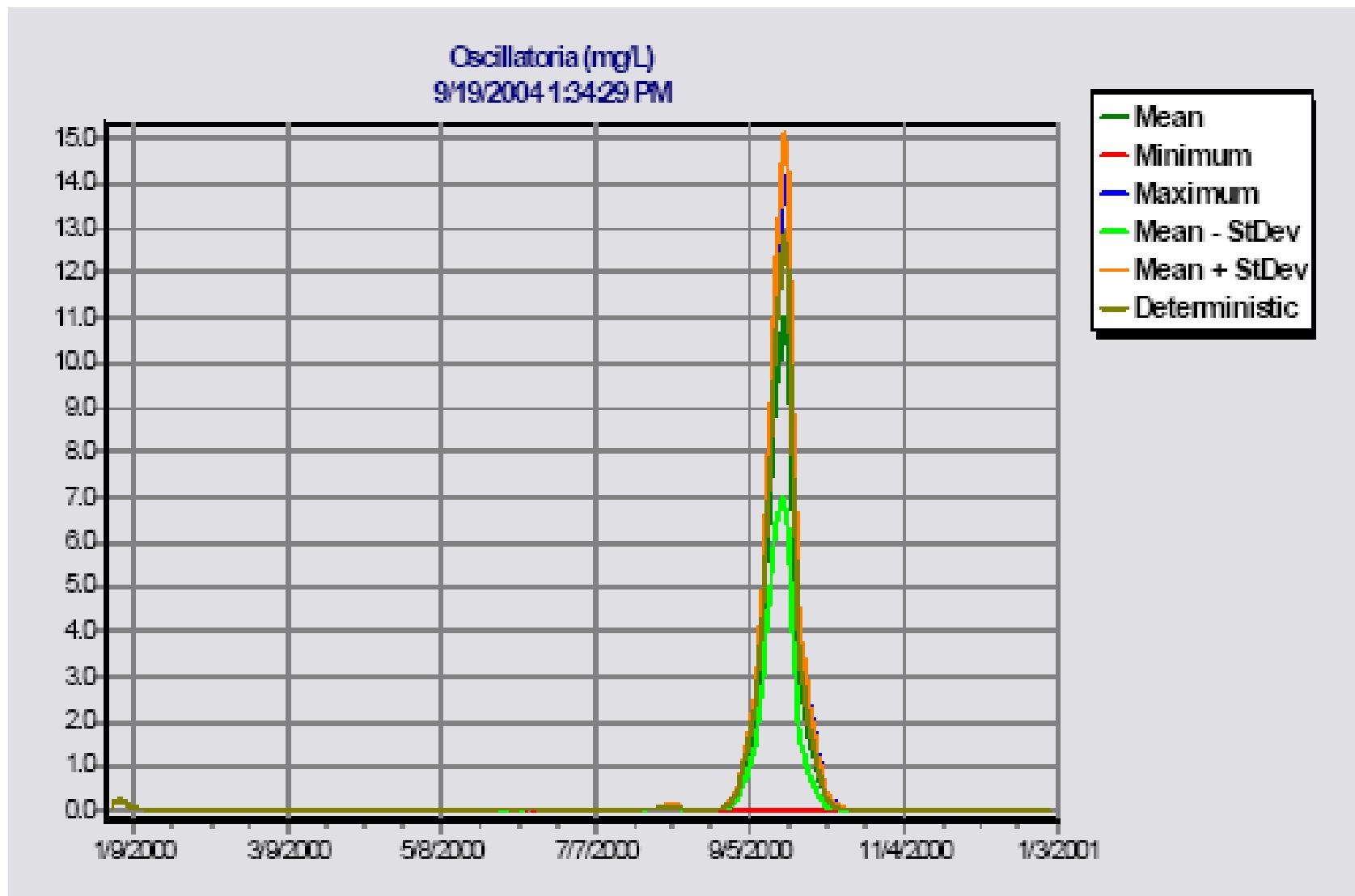


Lake Onondaga with more recent simulation than previous validation slide

# With twice the standard deviations, more of the observed points fall within the envelope



# Statistical sensitivity analysis of blue-green to saturated light parameter (74+-30)



## AQUATOX

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You are here: [Water](#) » [Science & Technology](#) » [Applications & Databases](#) » [Water Quality Models](#) » [AQUATOX](#) » Data Sources for Parameter Values

# Data Sources for Parameter Values

One of the more challenging aspects of calibrating and applying AQUATOX to new waterbodies is finding appropriate values for the many biotic and chemical parameters contained in the model. The following are some of the data sources we have commonly used in the development of AQUATOX.

You will need Adobe Reader to view some of the files on this page. See [EPA's PDF page](#) to learn more.

Collins, Carol Desormeau, and Joseph H. Wlosinski. 1983. Coefficients for Use in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Reservoir Model, CE-QUAL-R1. Vicksburg, Miss.: Environmental Laboratory, U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station.

- [Part 1: Introduction and Phytoplankton parameters \(PDF\)](#) (48 pp, 1.46MB)
- [Part 2: Animal parameters \(PDF\)](#) (44 pp, 1.29MB)
- [Part 3: References \(PDF\)](#) (33 pp, 1.01MB)

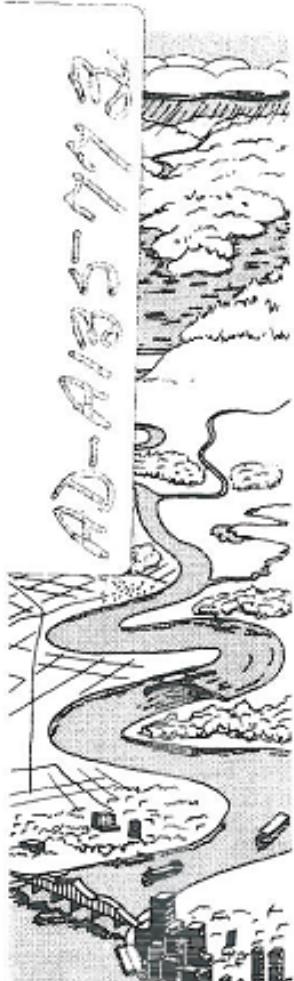
Leidy, G.R., and R.M. Jenkins. 1977. The Development of Fishery Compartments and Population Rate Coefficients for Use in Reservoir Ecosystem Modeling. Contract Rept. CR-Y-77-1, U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg Mississippi, 134 pp.

- [Introductory material \(PDF\)](#) (11 pp, 99MB)
- [Parts 1 - 3 \(PDF\)](#) (63 pp, 1.12MB)
- [Appendix A- F \(PDF\)](#) (63 pp, 6.20MB)
- [Appendix G-M \(PDF\)](#) (37 pp, 2.35MB)
- [Appendix N \(PDF\)](#) (17 pp, 227KB)
- [Appendix O - end \(PDF\)](#) (45 pp, 502KB)

Leidy, G. R., and G. R. Ploskey. 1980. Simulation Modeling of Zooplankton and Benthos in Reservoirs: Documentation and Development of Model Constructs. Technical Report E-80-4 U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Miss.

- [Introductory material, Parts 1-2 \(PDF\)](#) (28 pp, 5.13MB)
- [Part 3 \(PDF\)](#) (79 pp, 20.3MB)
- [Part 4 \(PDF\)](#) (22 pp, 3.41MB)
- [Part 5 \(PDF\)](#) (34 pp, 5.09MB)
- [Part 6 \(PDF\)](#) (22 pp, 3.22MB)
- [Appendix A \(PDF\)](#) (11 pp, 2.50MB)

# Sources of parameters



ENVIRONMENTAL & WATER QUALITY  
OPERATIONAL STUDIES

TECHNICAL REPORT E-83-15

## COEFFICIENTS FOR USE IN THE U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS RESERVOIR MODEL, CE-QUAL-R1

by

Carol D. Collins and Joseph H. Wlosinski

Environmental Laboratory

U. S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station  
P. O. Box 631, Vicksburg, Miss. 39180



October 1983  
Final Report

Approved For Public Release; Distribution Unlimited

# Data Sources for Parameter Values

available for download from AQUATOX Web site  
<http://water.epa.gov/scitech/datat/models/aquatox/data.cfm>

Table 7

## Phytoplankton half-saturation coefficients for P limitation (mg/L)

SPECIES	PS2PO4	REFERENCE
<i>Asterionella formosa</i>	0.002	Holm and Armstrong 1981
<i>Asterionella japonica</i>	0.014	Thomas and Dodson 1968
<i>Biddulphia sinensis</i>	0.016	Quasim et al. 1973
<i>Cerataulina bergonii</i>	0.003	Finenko and Krupatikina 1974
<i>Chaetoceros curvisetus</i>	0.074-.105	Finenko and Krupatikina 1974
<i>Chaetoceros socialis</i>	0.001	Finenko and Krupatikina 1974
<i>Chlorella pyrenoidosa</i>	0.38-.475	Jeanjean 1969
<i>Cyclotella nana</i>	0.055	Fuhs et al. 1972
<i>Cyclotella nana</i>	0.001	Fogg 1973
<i>Dinobryon cylindricum</i>	0.076	Lehman (unpubl. data)
<i>Dinobryon sociale</i> var. <i>americanum</i>	0.047	Lehman (unpubl. data)
<i>Euglena gracilis</i>	1.52	Blum 1966
<i>Freshwater phytoplankton</i>	0.02-.075	Halmann and Stiller 1974
<i>Microcystis aeruginosa</i>	0.006	Holm and Armstrong 1981
<i>Nitzschia actinastreoides</i>	0.095	von Muller 1972
<i>Pediastrum duplex</i>	0.105	Lehman (unpubl. data)
<i>Pithophora oedogonia</i>	0.098	Spencer and Lembi 1981
<i>Scenedesmus obliquus</i>	0.002	Fogg 1973
<i>Scenedesmus</i> sp.	0.002-.05	Rhee 1973
<i>Thalassiosira fluviatilis</i>	0.163	Fogg 1973

## Species Summary - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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### *Sander vitreus* Walleye

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#### *Sander vitreus* (Mitchill, 1818)

**Family:** [Percidae](#) (Perches) picture ([Savit\\_j0.jpg](#)) by [PSMFC SMP](#)

**Order:** [Perciformes](#) (perch-likes)

**Class:** [Actinopterygii](#) (ray-finned fishes)

**FishBase name:** Walleye

**Max. size:** 107 cm FL (male/unsexed; Ref. 1998); max. published weight: 11.3 kg (Ref. 4699); max. reported age: 29 years



[Map](#)

**Environment:** demersal; freshwater; brackish ; depth range - 27 m

**Climate:** temperate; 29.0°C; 55°N - 35°N

**Importance:** fisheries: commercial; aquaculture: experimental; gamefish: yes; aquarium: public aquariums

**Resilience:** Low, minimum population doubling time 4.5 - 14 years (K=0.05; tm=2-4; tmax=29)

**Distribution:** North America: St. Lawrence-Great Lakes, Arctic, and Mississippi River basins from Quebec to Northwest Territories in Canada, south to Alabama and Arkansas in the USA. Widely introduced elsewhere in the USA, including Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific drainages. Rarely found in brackish waters of North America (Ref. 1998).

**Morphology:** [Dorsal spines](#) (total): 13-17; [Dorsal soft rays](#) (total): 18-22; [Anal spines](#): 2; [Anal soft rays](#): 11-14;

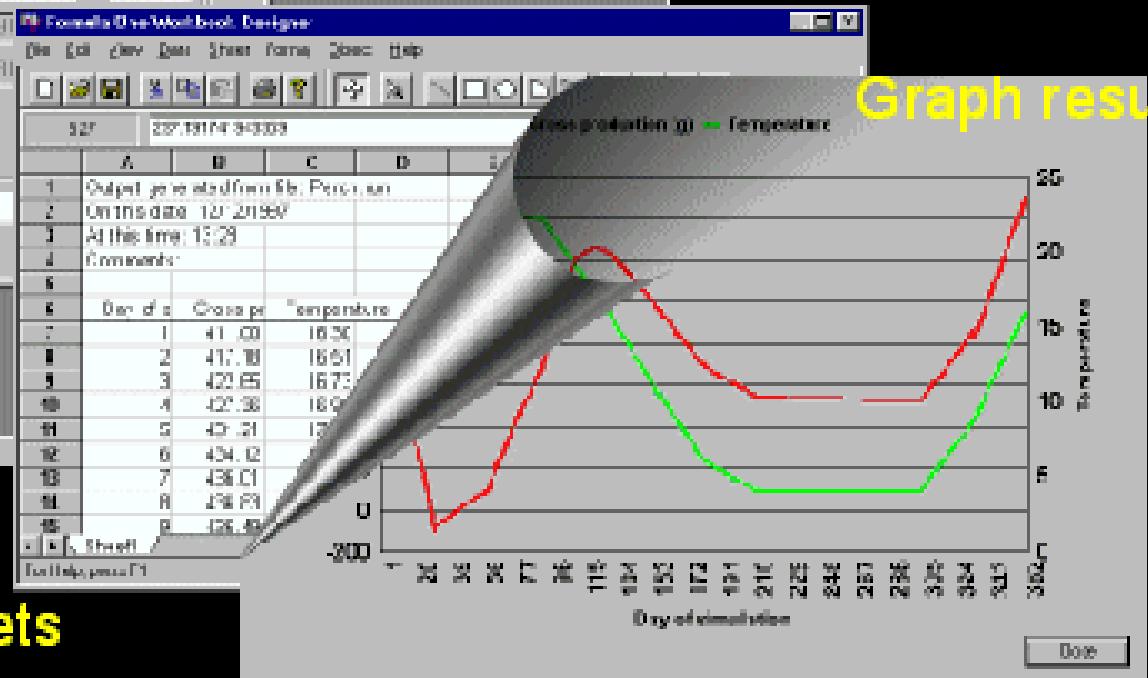
**Biology:** Occurs in lakes, pools, backwaters, and runs of medium to large rivers. Prefers large, shallow lakes with high turbidity (Ref. 9988). Feeds at night, mainly on insects and fishes (prefers yellow perch and freshwater drum but will take any fish available) but feeds on crayfish, snails, frogs, mudpuppies, and

# Fish Bioenergetics 3.0

Modeling software by the UW-Madison Center for Limnology  
and the Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute



Input/output data  
using spreadsheets



Windows compliant  
graphic user interface

Graph results

# ECOTOX (EPA Toxicity Database)



## ECOTOX Database

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***U.S. Environmental Protection Agency***



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The ECOTOX (ECOTOXicology) database provides single chemical toxicity information for aquatic and terrestrial life. ECOTOX is a useful tool for examining impacts of chemicals on the environment. Peer-reviewed literature is the primary source of information encoded in the database. Pertinent information on the species, chemical, test methods, and results presented by the author(s) are abstracted and entered into the database. Another source of test results is independently compiled data files provided by various United States and International government agencies. Prior to using ECOTOX, you should visit the "[About ECOTOX/Help](#)" section of this Web Site. In addition, it is recommended that you consult the original scientific paper to ensure an understanding of the context of the data retrieved from the ECOTOX database.

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# ECOTOX (Elsevier product)

The tables in ECOTOX: Ecological Modelling and Ecotoxicology are divided into seven different chapters:

1. Composition and Ecological Parameters of Living Organisms
2. The Ecosphere and Chemical Compounds
3. Effects of Chemical Compounds
4. Chemical Compound Concentrations and the Living Organism
5. Equations for Environmental Processes
6. Processes in the Environment
7. Ecotoxicological Effects of Pesticides

**1-70 Algae Growth rate**

Species	Value	Condition
Chlamydomonas sp.	3.4 days	$2 \times 10^{-3}$ g atom N/l added as NO <sub>3</sub> , marine, batch, 293 K, F001 [2]
Chlorella ellipsoidea	3.6 doublings/day	298 K, saturating light, synthetic medium, green alga [3]
Chlorella pyrenoidosa	19.6 hours	Doubling time, continuous saturating light, 293 K, planktonic strain [1]

**Hit Reference**

Tables \ Chapter 1 Composition and Ecological Parameters of Living Organisms \ Algae \ [1] Algae Affinity for P ... Vernal period, Late summer [1] Chlorella 350 mM P/day Mesotrophic...

Tables \ Chapter 1 Composition and Ecological Parameters of Living Organisms \ Algae \ [11] Algae ATP / biomass ratio ATP / mm<sup>3</sup> Cultivated marine [2] Chlorella sp. 0.38 mm<sup>3</sup>/dnr

All Search Browse Document Contents HitList Object

chlorella

Record: 394 / 13,096 Hit: 12 / 206 Query: chlorella



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United States Department of Agriculture

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BARC Weather Stations

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Global Change Master Directory

## PPDB

### The ARS Pesticide Properties Database

#### [Introduction](#)

#### [Description](#)

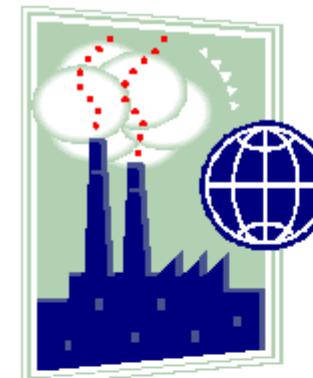
#### [Coden List](#)

#### [Units](#)

#### [Pesticide list](#)

#### [Combined File](#)

(lists all pesticides;  
takes approx. 3 min. to  
upload file)

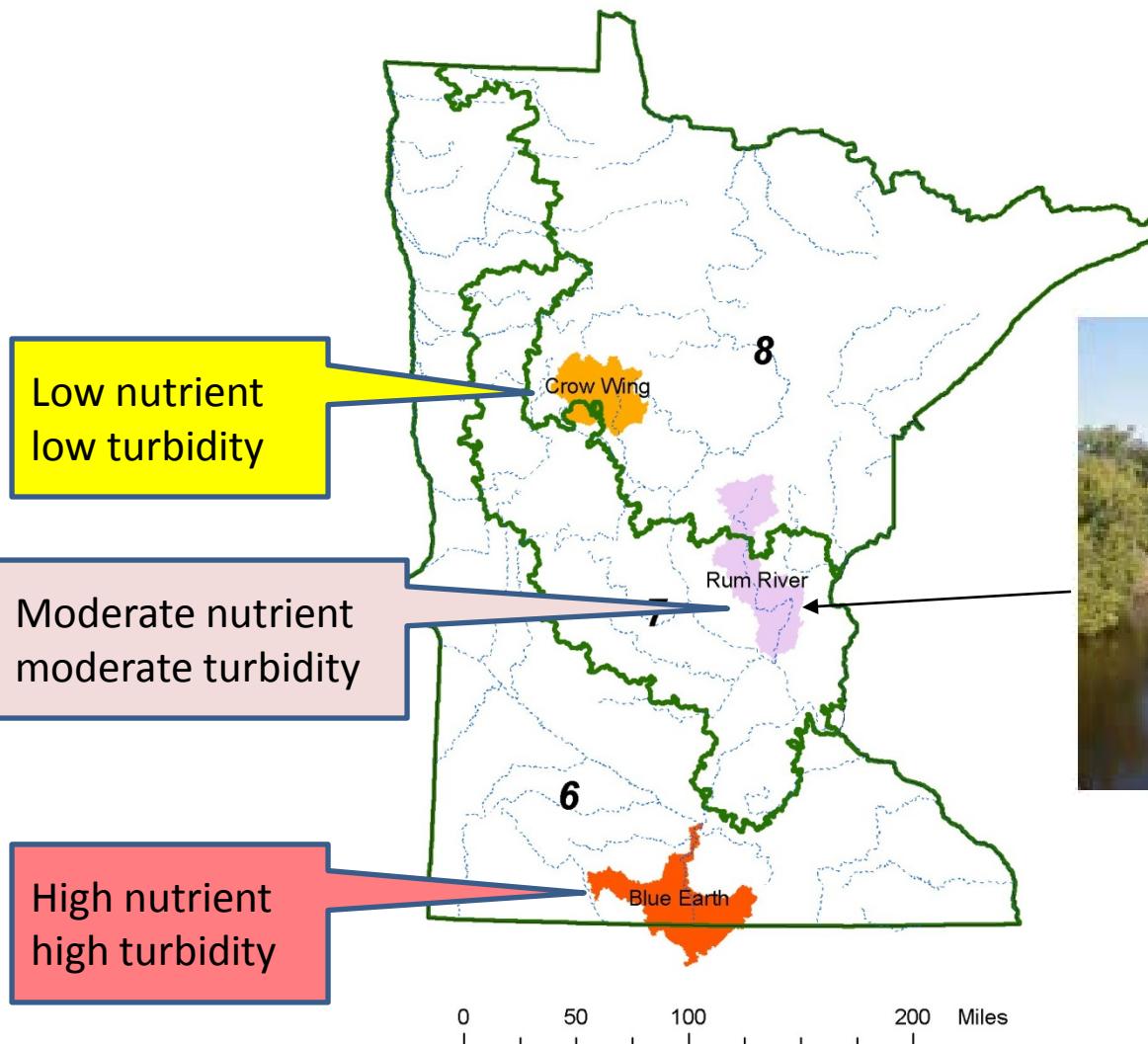


Technical Contact: Don Wauchope  
ARS, Southeast Watershed Res. Lab.  
[don@tifton.cpes.peachnet.edu](mailto:don@tifton.cpes.peachnet.edu)

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# Minnesota Streams Calibration



## Legend

- Hydrography (dashed blue line)
- Ecoregions of MN (green outline)
- Crow Wing (orange)
- Rum River (purple)
- Blue Earth (red)

# Calibration Strategy for Minnesota Rivers

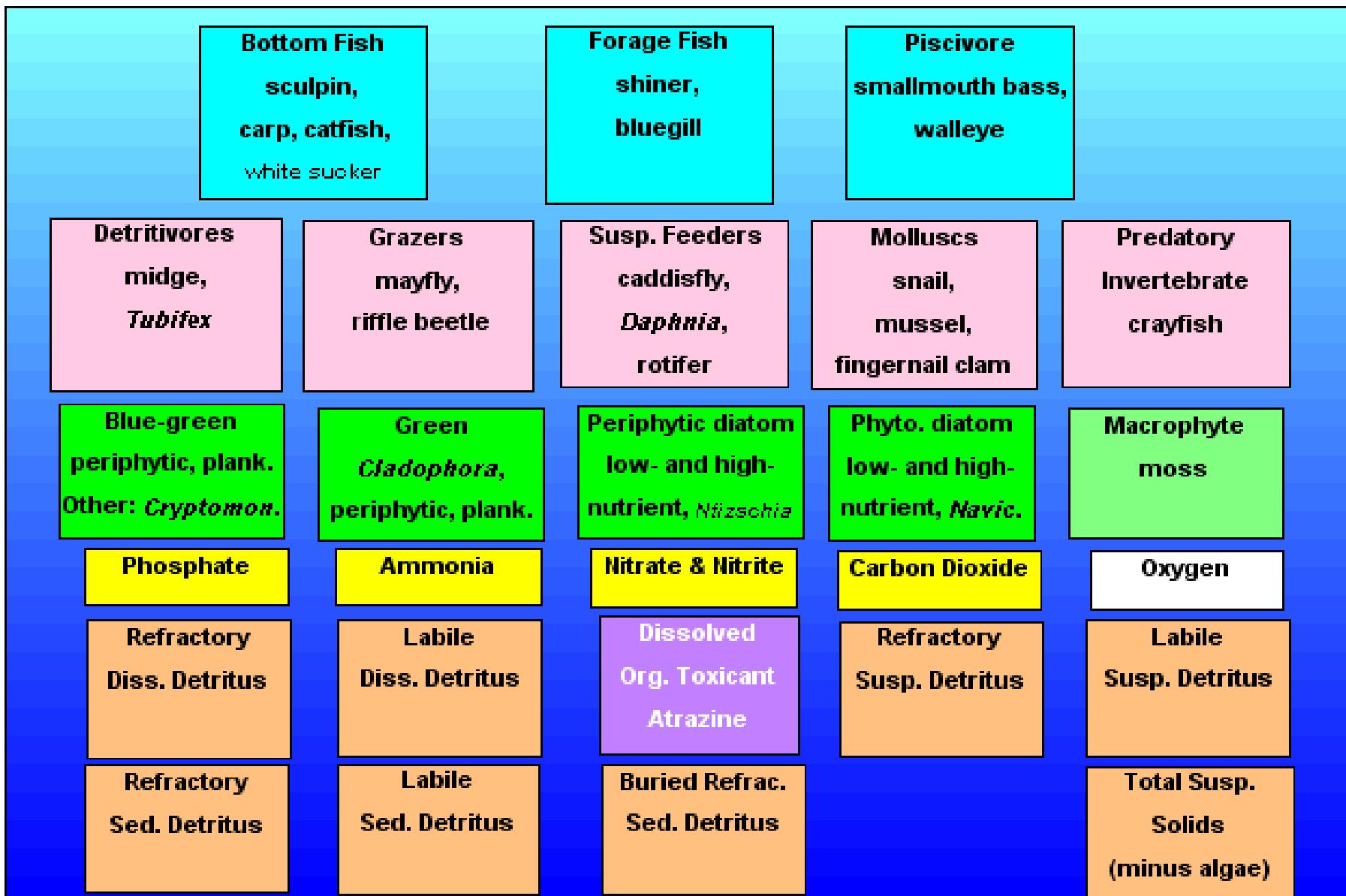
- Must be able to simulate *changing* conditions!
- Add plants and animals representative of both low- (Crow Wing) and high-nutrient (Blue Earth) rivers
- Iteratively calibrate key parameters for each site and cross-check to make sure they still hold for other site
  - Used linked version for simultaneous calibration across sites
- When goodness-of-fit is acceptable for both sites, apply to an intermediate site (Rum River) and reiterate calibration across all three sites
- Parameter set was validated with Cahaba River AL data

# Rum River, Minnesota

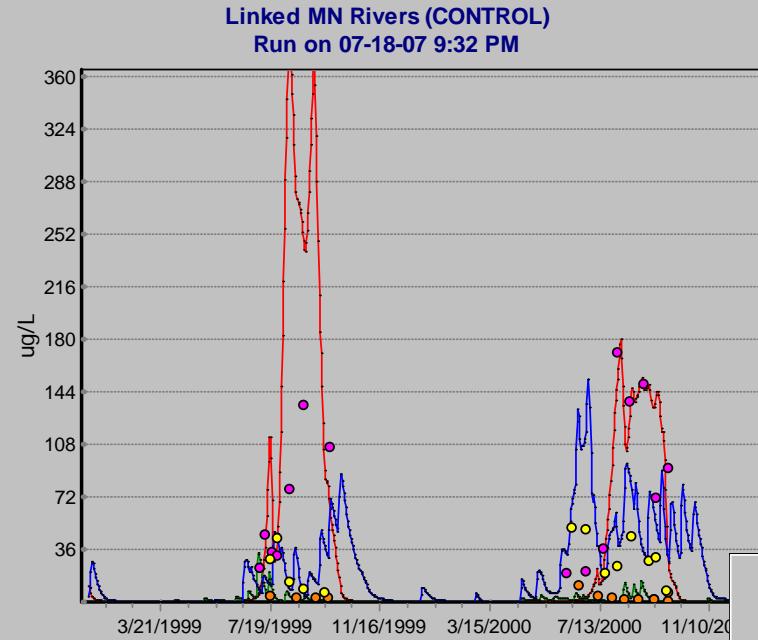
(Heiskary & Markus, 2003)



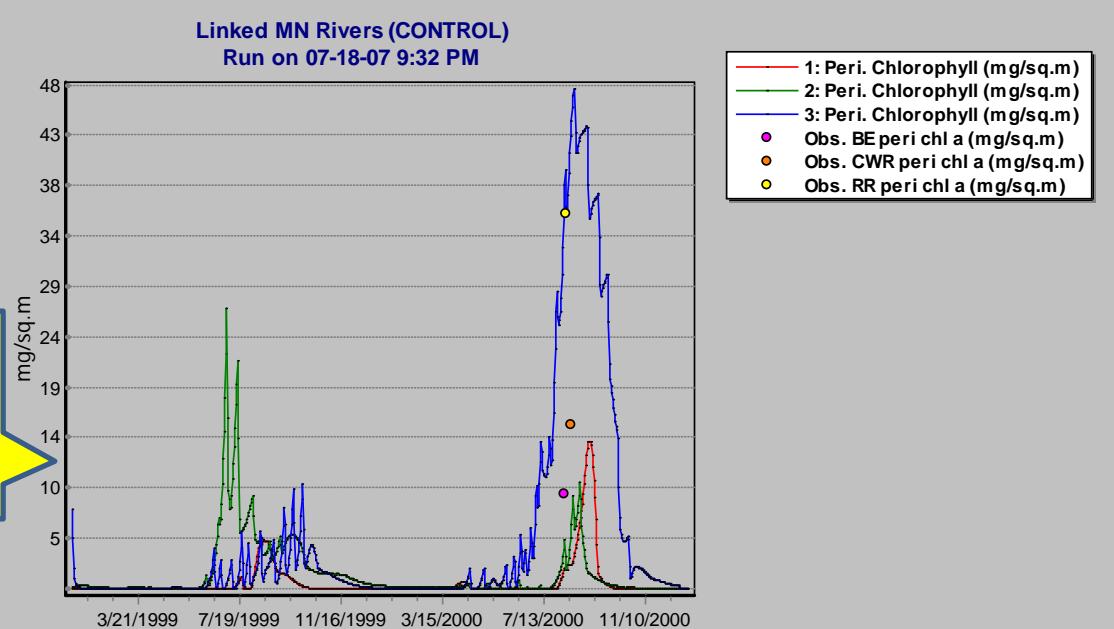
# State variables in MN rivers simulations



# Chlorophyll *a* Trends in MN Rivers

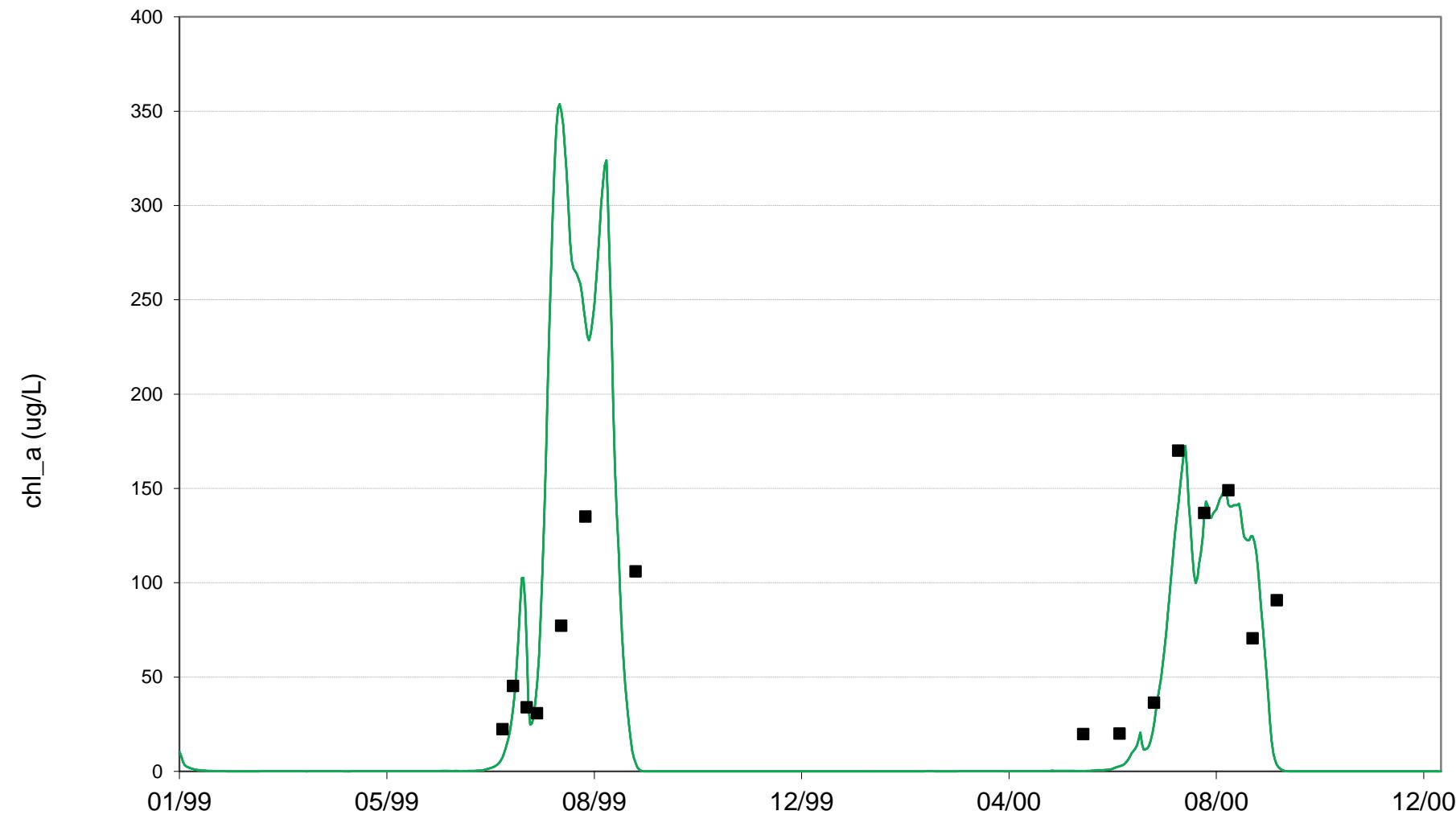


Phytoplankton follow nutrient trend

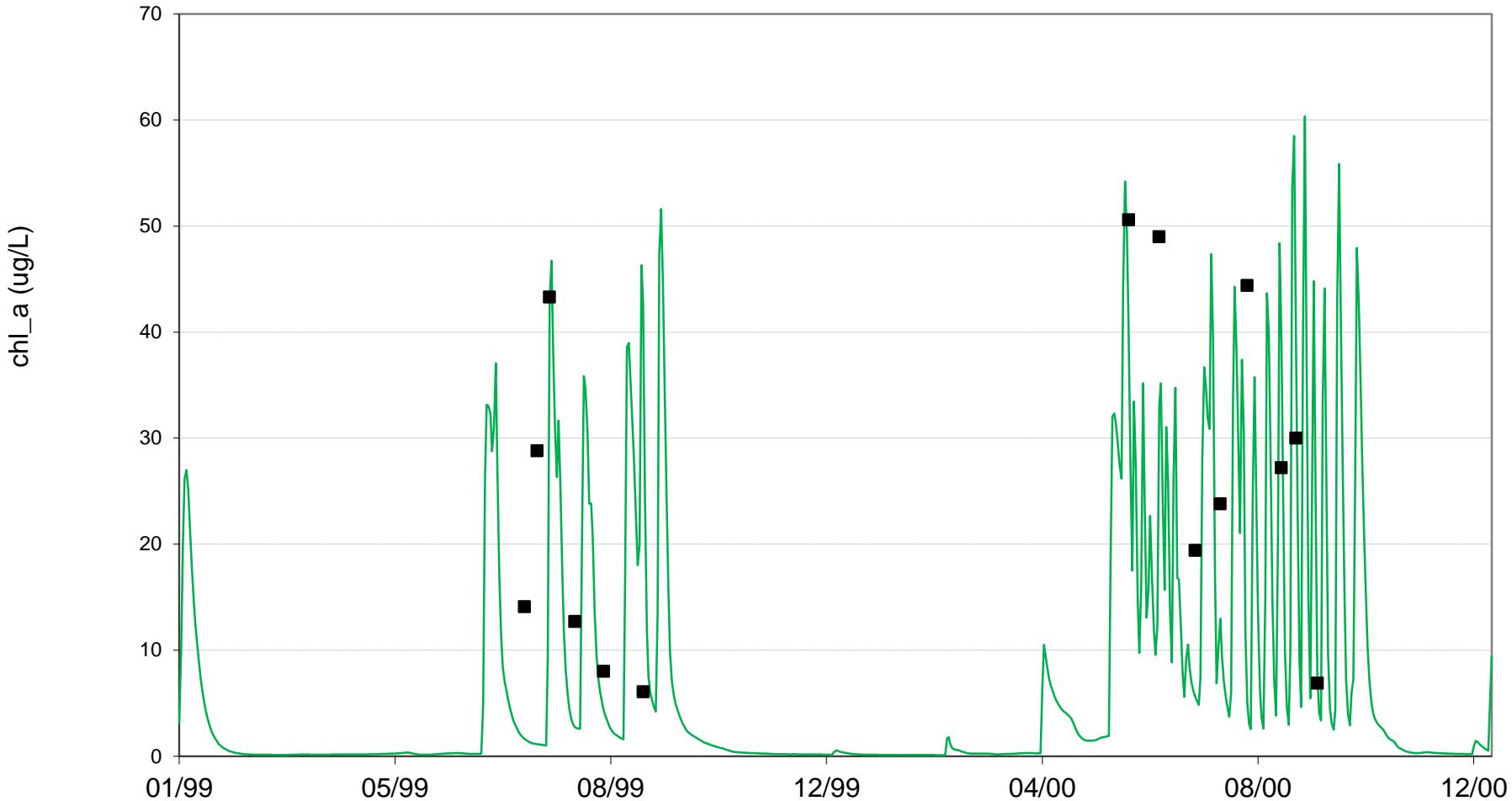


Periphyton reach maximum in Rum River with moderate nutrients and turbidity

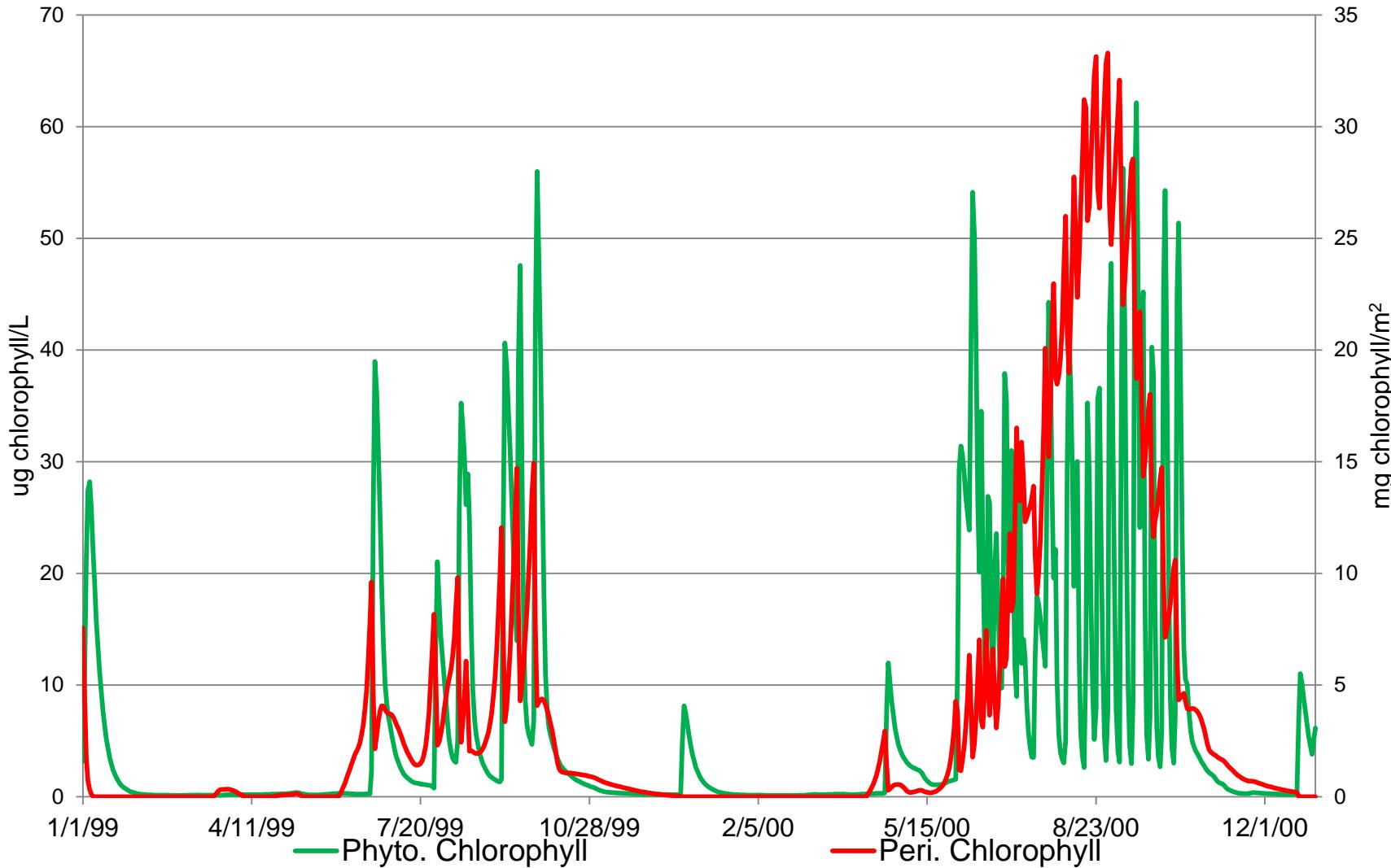
Observed (symbols) and calibrated AQUATOX simulations (lines) of chlorophyll *a* in Blue Earth River at mile 54



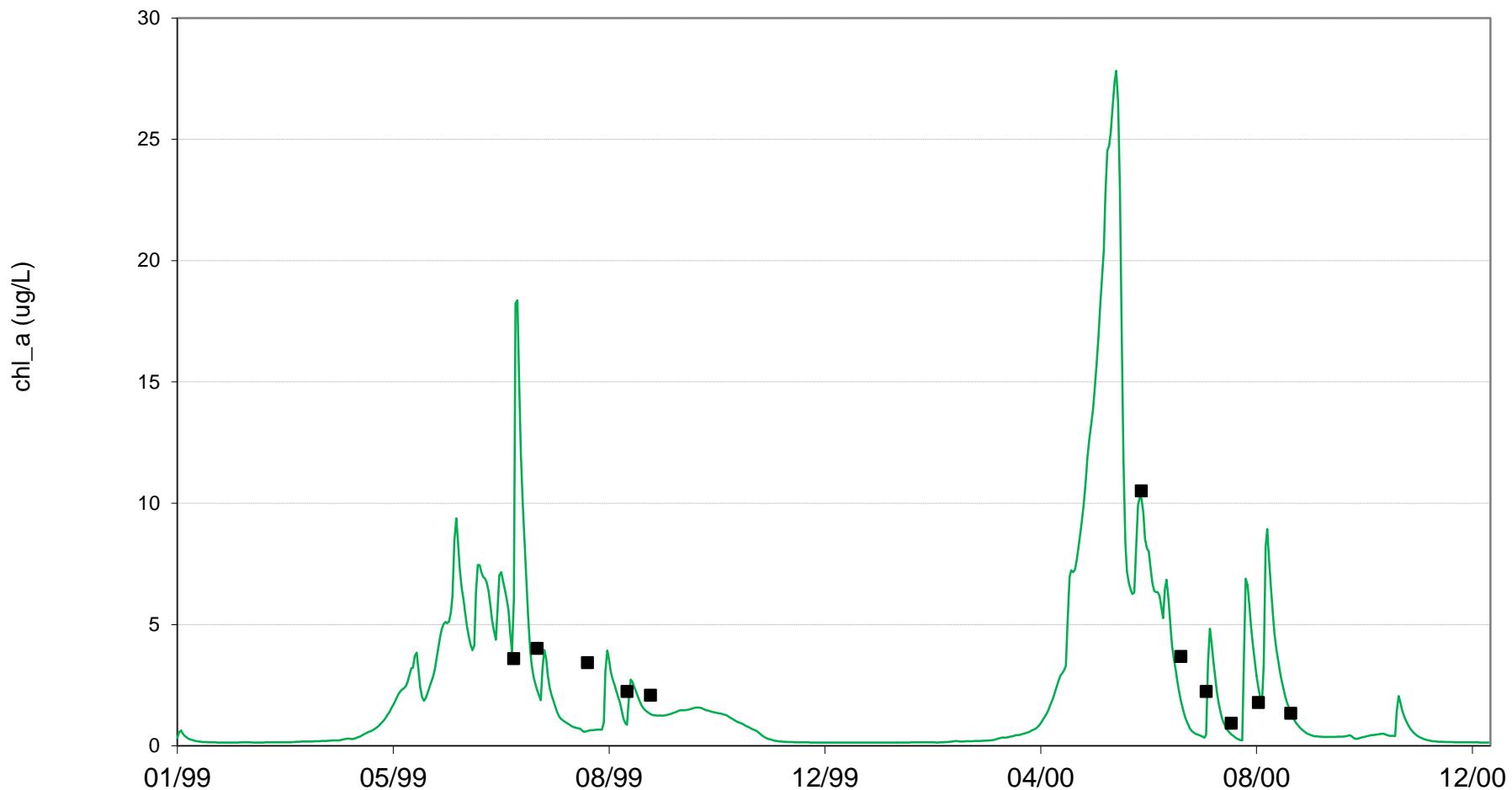
# Observed (symbols) and calibrated AQUATOX simulations (lines) of chlorophyll *a* in Rum River at mile 18



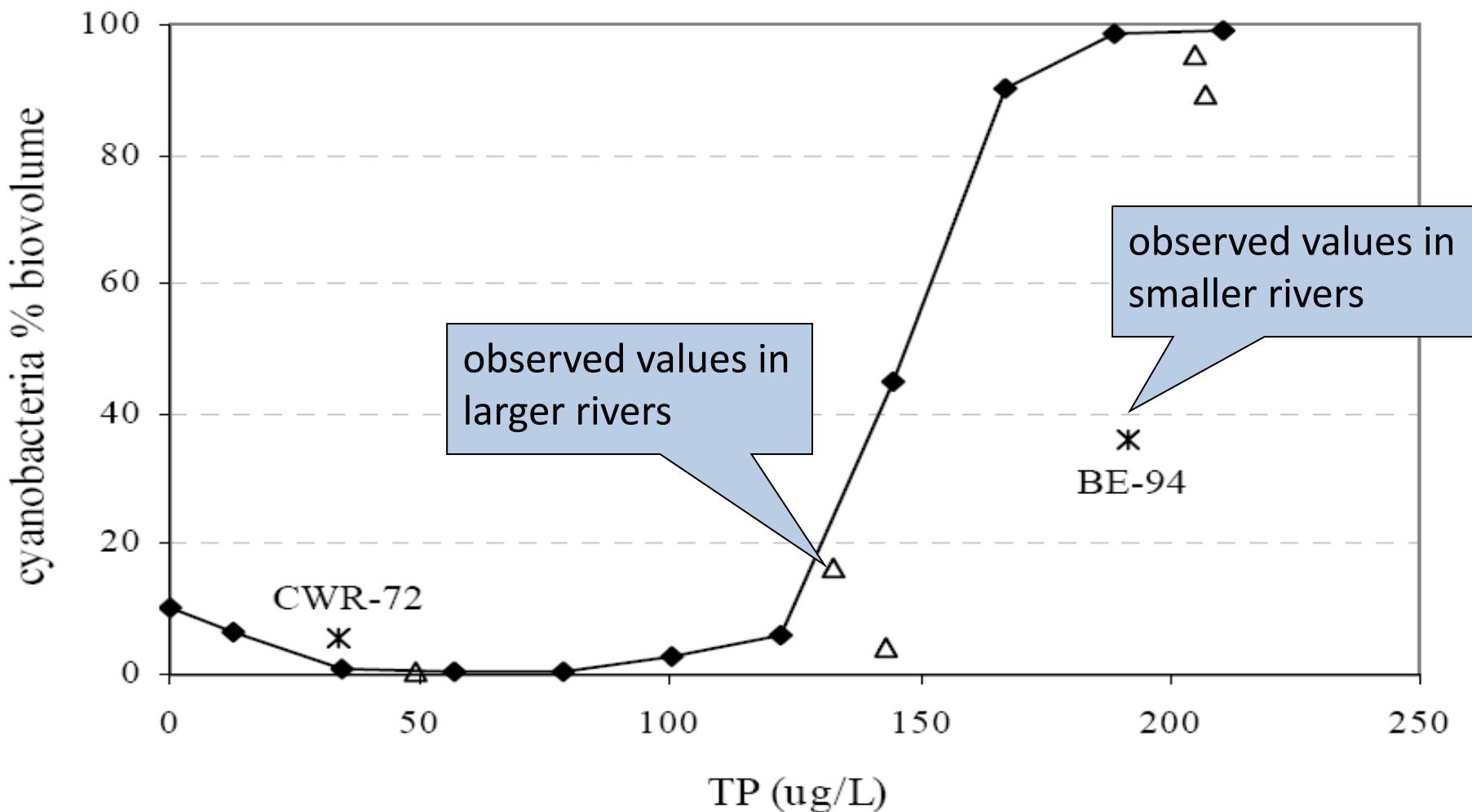
# Sestonic algae are largely a result of sloughed periphyton in the Rum, a very shallow river



Observed (symbols) and calibrated AQUATOX simulations (lines) of chlorophyll *a* in  
Crow Wing at mile 72



# Summer mean percent phytoplankton composed of cyanobacteria-- BE-54 simulations with fractional multipliers on TP, TN, and TSS



# Validation: observed (symbols) and AQUATOX simulation (line) of periphytic chlorophyll *a* in Cahaba River AL

