

# Parameterization of Temporally-Resolved Benthic Nutrient Fluxes in Lake Okeechobee



Instagram  
[@geochemical.sensing.lab](https://www.instagram.com/geochemical.sensing.lab)

## Partners:

Jordon Beckler, Owen Silvera, Mason Thackston, Mingshun Jiang, Lynn Wilking, Veronica Ruiz-Xomchuk, Hanna Bridgham, Malcolm McFarland, Tim Moore, and Dennis Hanisak

- 1: FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Ft. Pierce, FL, USA
- 2: U. New Hampshire, Durham, NH, USA
- 3: U. S. Carolina, Columbia, SC, USA
- 4: Analytical Instrument Systems, Inc, Flemington, NJ, USA



## Supported by:



HAB Mitigation Technologies program; Off. Env. Account. & Transp.



Other partners/acknowledgements: Anna Wachnicka, Kai Ziergoval, Don Nuzzio, Annie Bourbonnais, Scott Duncan, Mike Parsons, Therese West

# Lake O sediment nutrient inputs

- 100+ years of nut. accumulations (> 60 cm) affect long term water quality

(Brezonik & Engstrom, 1998)

- Diffusive fluxes:  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$  : sed. internal  $\approx$  external  
 $\text{NH}_4^+$  : sed. internal  $\approx$  5x external (DIN)

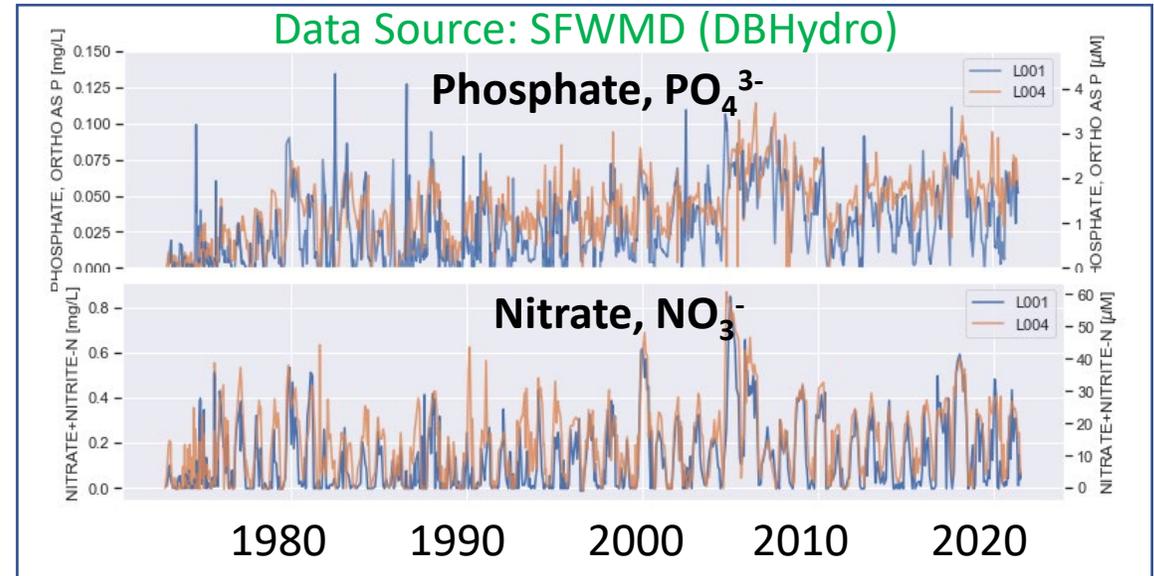
(Moore et al. 1998; Fisher et al. 2005)

- Sediment mapping : geographical, decadal patterns  
(Osborne et al. 2021)

- This project: more focused on temporal dynamics & processes  $\rightarrow$  both nutrient diffusion and resuspension

- Previous Lake O resuspension nutrient work limited to modeling  $\rightarrow$  substantial nutrient source

(James et al. 1997, JAWRA)



## Goals for this presentation:

- Experimentally quantify resuspension fluxes / behavior
- Describe plans to parameterize sediment nutrient fluxes in high-resolution predictive HAB models

# HALO 2021 OPERATIONS

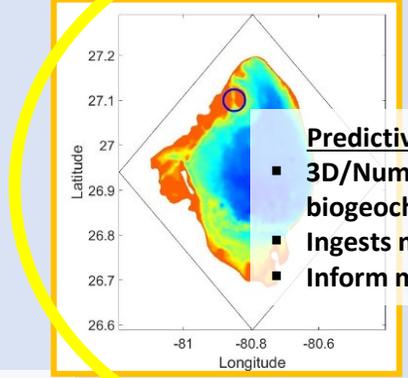
**NASA SeaPRISM**

- 283 days to date, 30 min. frequency
- Time series Rrs & cyanobacterial index



**Remote sensing**

- 354 images, 145 high quality
- Semi-daily spatial surface HAB & turbidity patterns



**Predictive model**

- 3D/Numerical/biogeochemical
- Ingests most data
- Inform mitigation



SFWMD L001 platform



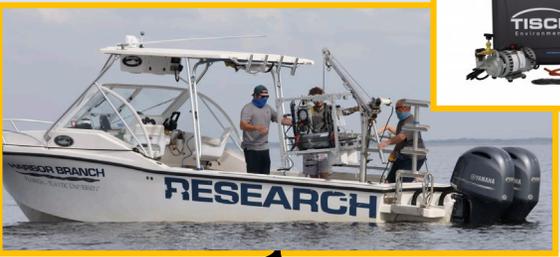
**IRLON BIPs (LOBOS)**

- 6 months, hourly
- Fixed location, time series surface & bottom WQ, nutrients, HAB sensors (fluorometer & backscatter)



**AUTOHOLO & AZFP**

- Novel time series HAB/ Zooplankton



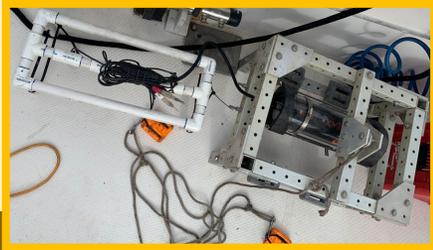
**HAB aerosols**

- Hourly spatially integrated on sampling trips



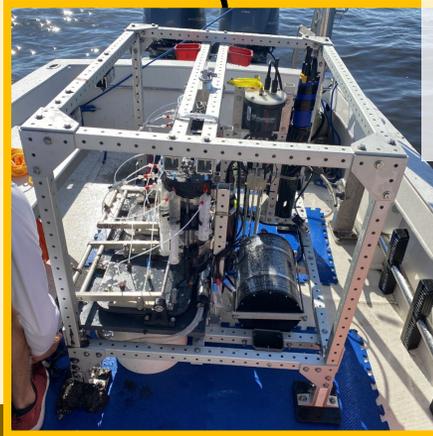
**Optics/Water sampling**

- Unique HAB, toxins & environmental/WQ measurements
- Water column light environment
- Biweekly-integrated water column toxins (SPATT bags)



**AIS Wellstat continuous sediment sensing**

- Time series sediment redox status (respiration & iron cycling)



**Custom benthic lander**

- Deployed 7 hrs biweekly/monthly
- Diffusive nutrient fluxes in dark/light
- In situ electrochemical profiles indicate respiration/redox status (explain fluxes)
- Benthic sonde time series



**Sediment cores**

- 78 cores collected from 3 primary & 4 other sites, 10x sections @ 0.5 – 1 cm intervals
- Pore water nutrients & fluxes
- Solid phase nutrients & P-speciation
- Org/inorganic C, N, P in solid phase & pore waters
- Redox profiles



**Navocean ASV**

- 287 days, 15 sec freq., 72 north lake "loops" to date
- Spatial surface HAB & environmental measurements (metocean); depth-resolved water velocities (ADCP)



**\*Early Bloom\***

# Seasonal inventories are dynamic and impactful (2021)

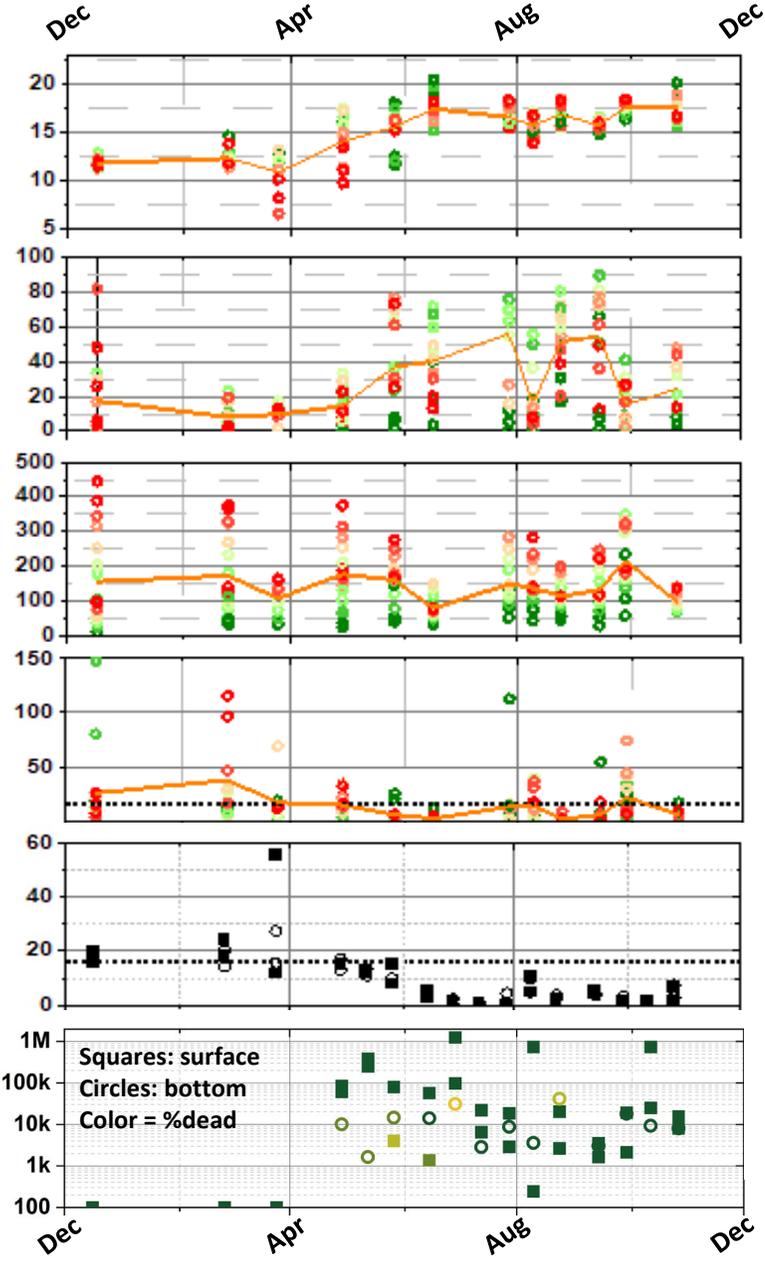
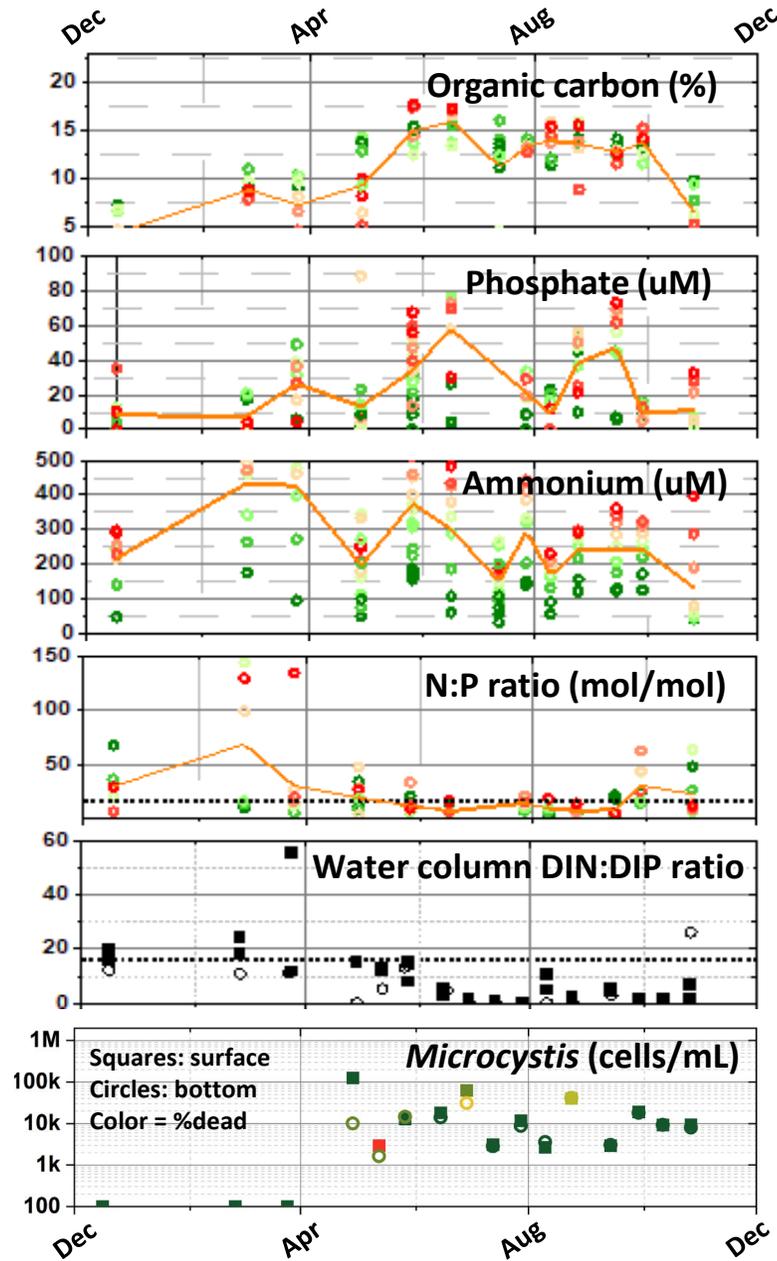
## L001

Intensification,  
Kissimmee inflow



Sediments

Water column



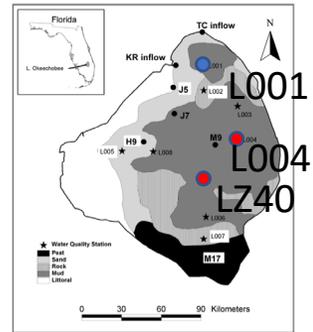
Sediments

Water column

## L004/LZ40

### merged

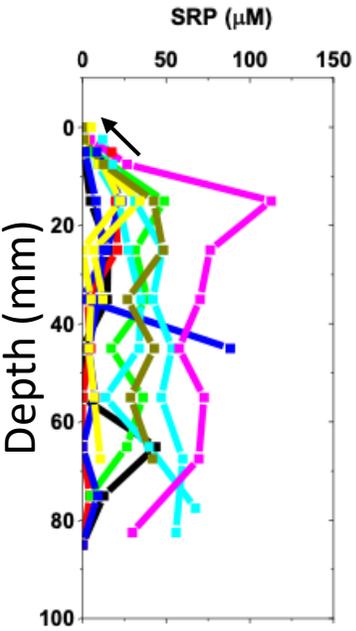
Pelagic, Turbid,  
Mud accumulation



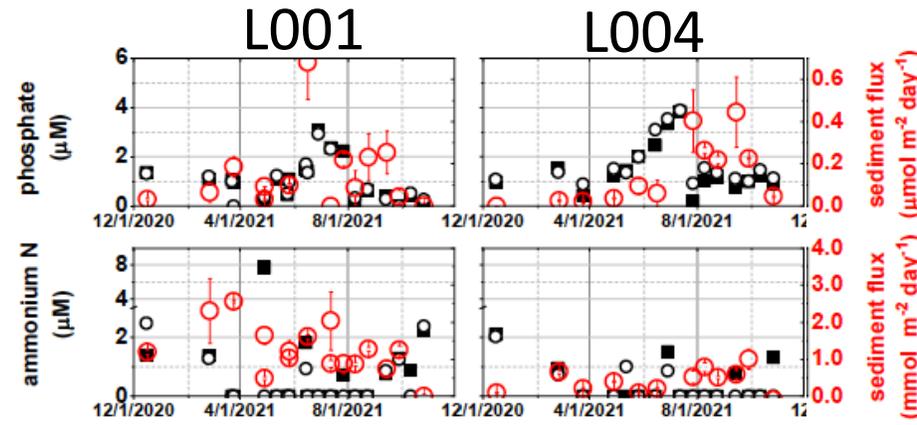
Fisher et al. 2009

Why  $\text{NH}_4^+$   
decrease?  
→ Iron oxide  
shielding of  
Org-N!

# Empirical approach to diffusive flux parameterization



$$F = D' * \Phi * dC/dz$$



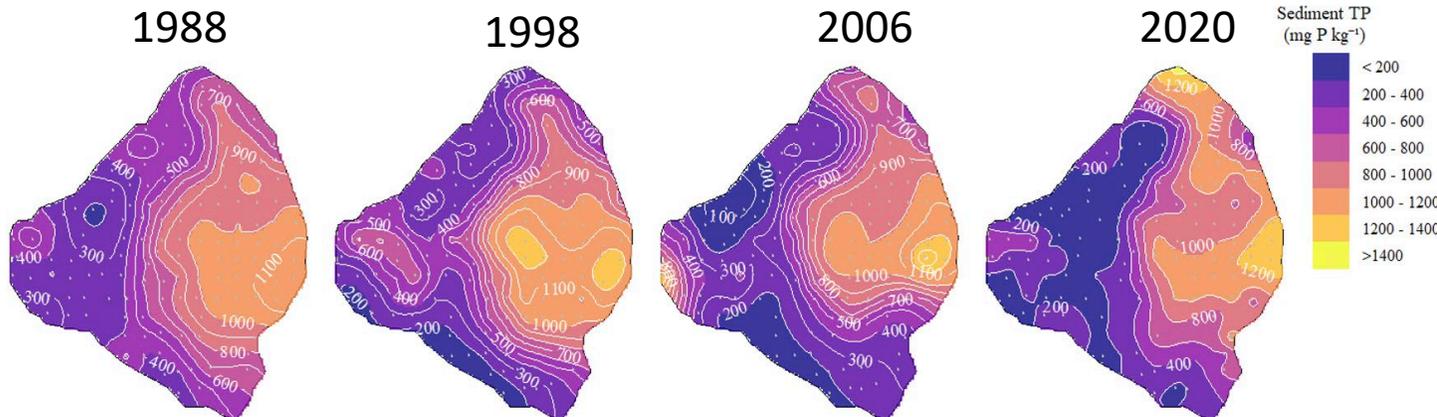
Theoretical diffusive fluxes based on near-surface pore water gradients; may not accurately represent flux across the sed/H<sub>2</sub>O interface, especially for SRP\*

Time series  
fluxes OR  
\*inventories  
(HALO project)

Flux(t) = f(day of year, average sediment TP & TN, other factors...)

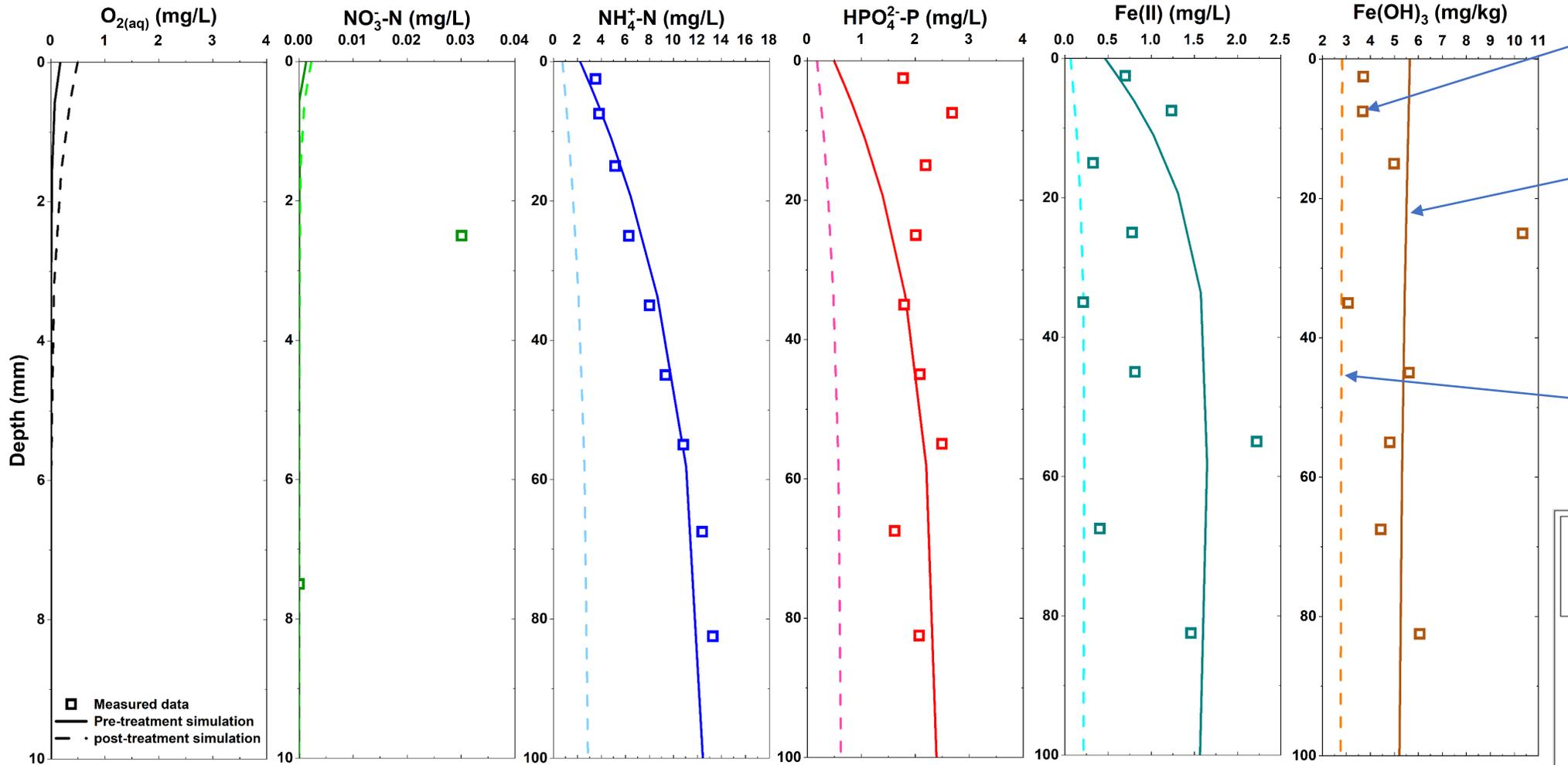
Extrapolate  
lake-wide

Flux<sub>Diff</sub>(day of year, lat, lon)



Sediment solid phase  
nutrient maps  
(Osborne et al. 2021,  
SFWMD report)

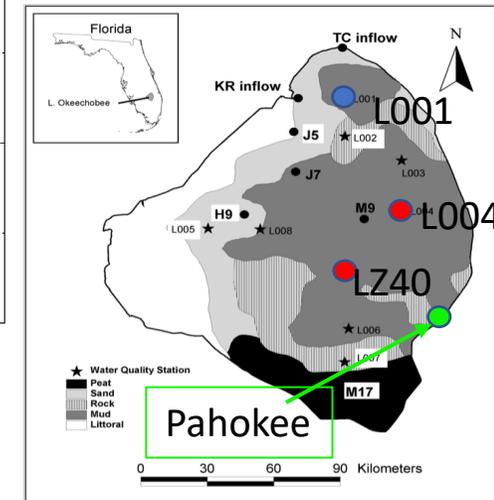
# Alternative approach – coupled diagenetic modeling



Pahokee Marina  
measured data

Simulated steady  
state: Pahokee  
Aug. 2021

Simulated steady  
state after 80%  
organic C/N/P  
reduction

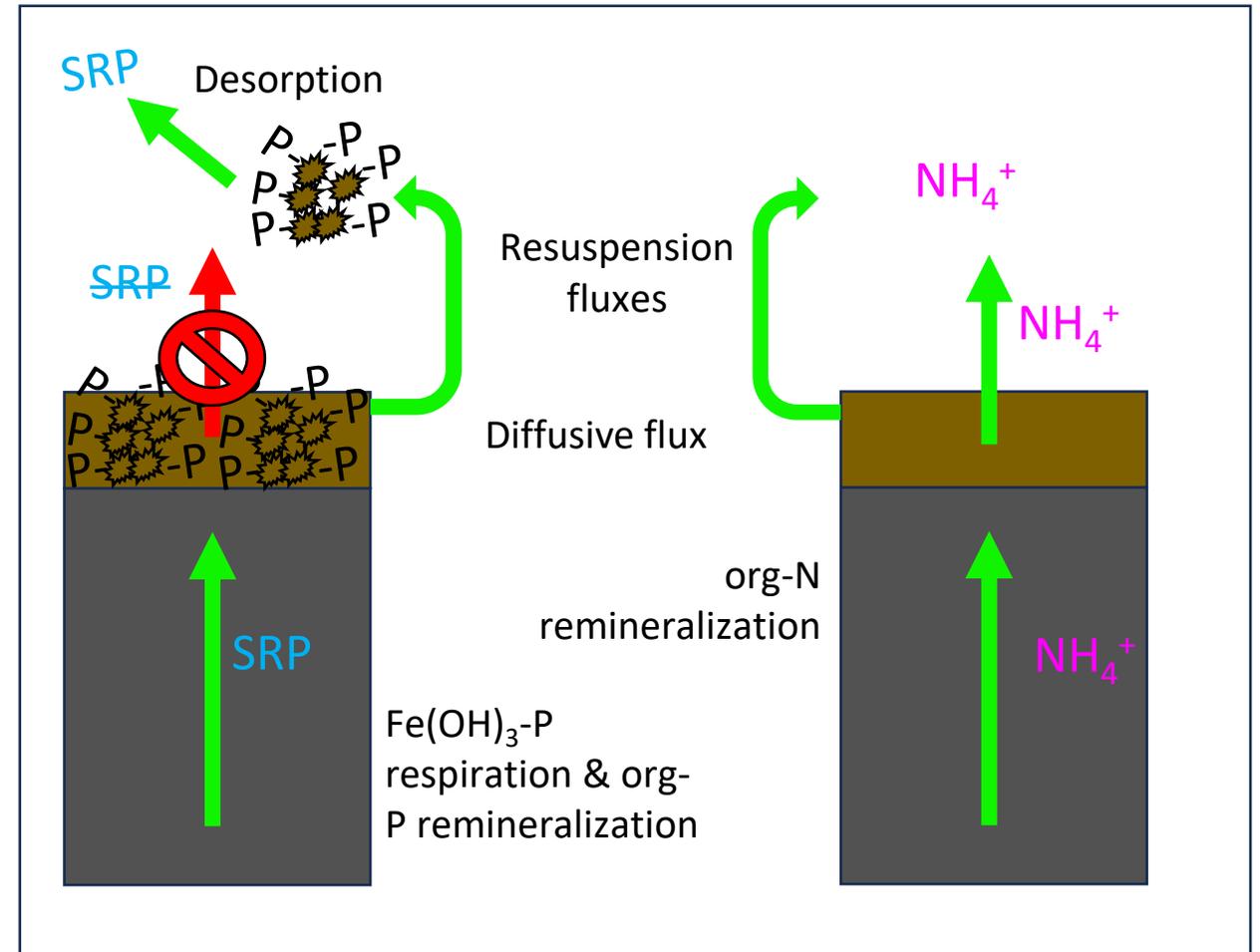


Couple to 3D numerical model to enable responsive sediment dynamics.

Disadvantages: Many **unknown reactions**, and **computationally expensive**

# Are diffusive fluxes overrated in Fe-rich turbid lakes?

- SRP fluxes low across sed/H<sub>2</sub>O interface unless hypoxic (rare...)  
(Moore et al. 1998; Fisher et al. 2005)
- Surface floc layer constantly remobilized & reoxidized (SRP trap)
- Resuspension also directly introduces pore water dissolved nutrients
- Lake O sediment/water mixing experiments observed both SRP addition and removal observed)  
(Hansen et al. 2009)

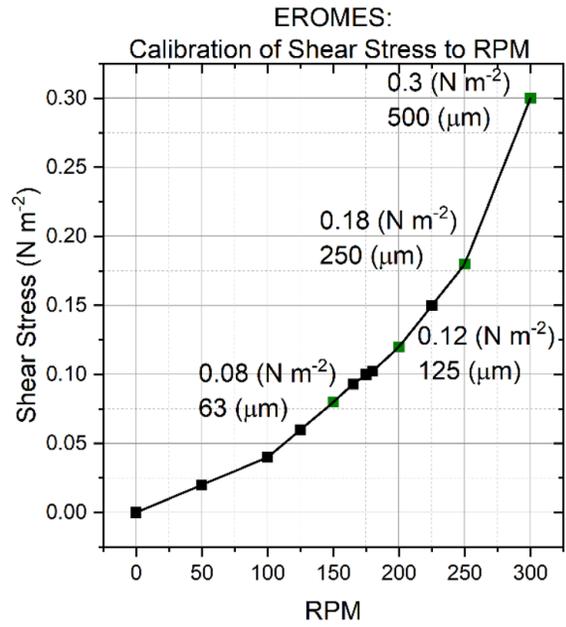


Goal: Experimentally parameterize resuspension-derived nutrient fluxes and include in a 3-D model.

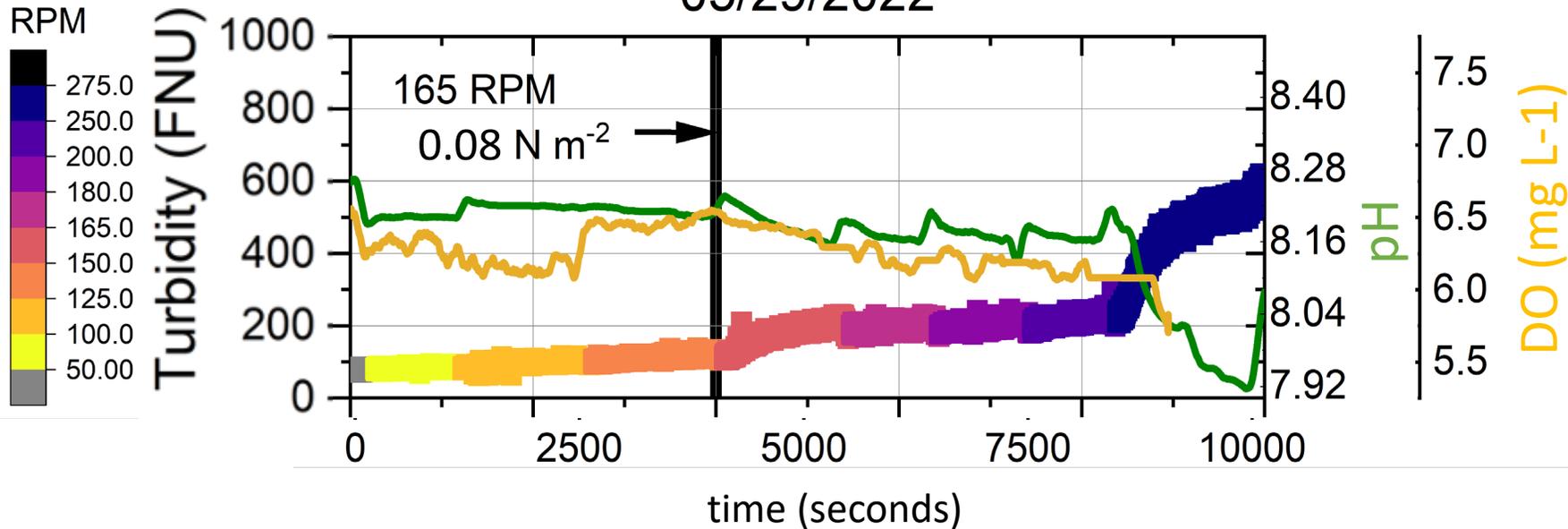
# Resuspension experiments



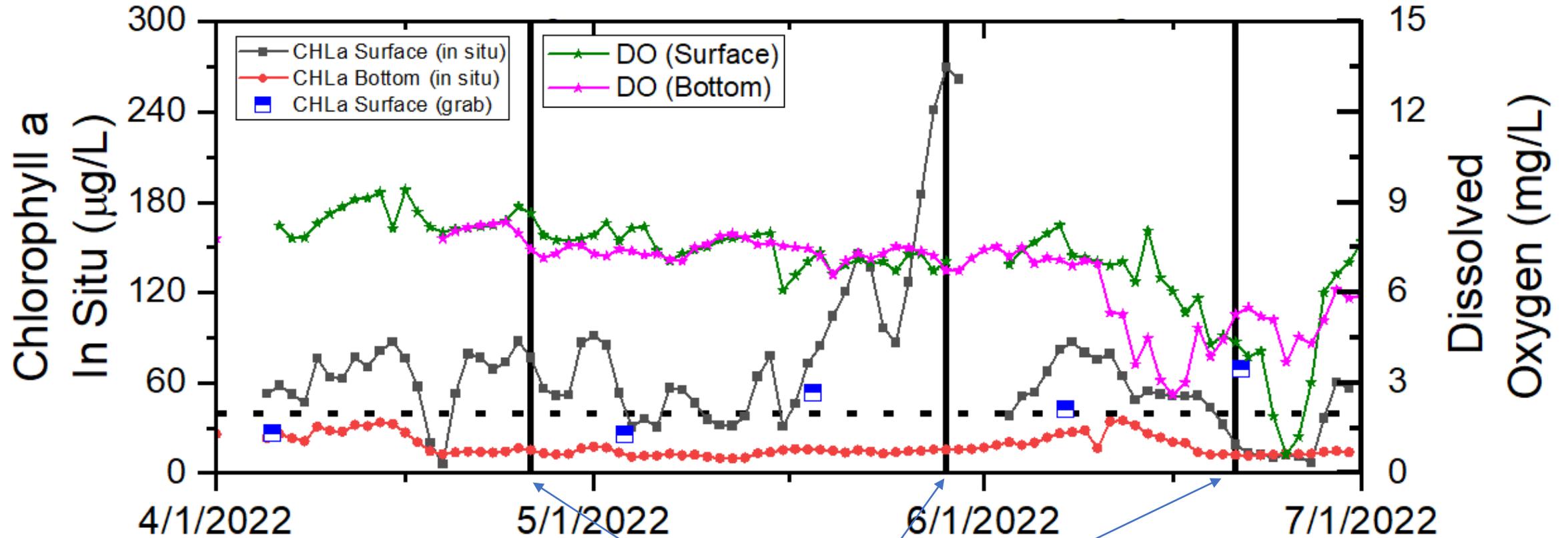
EROMES system  
(based on  
Kaljenais et al. 2007)



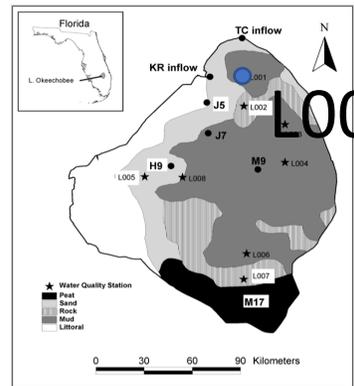
05/29/2022



# In situ time series during erosion experiments (2022)



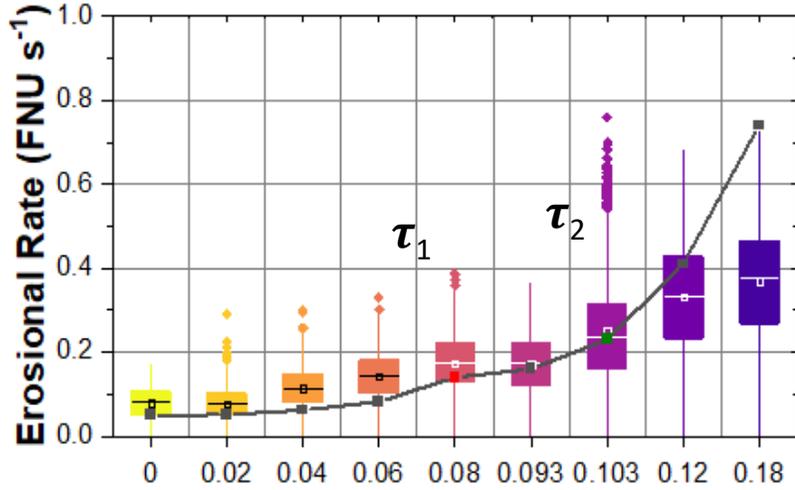
3 sampling dates



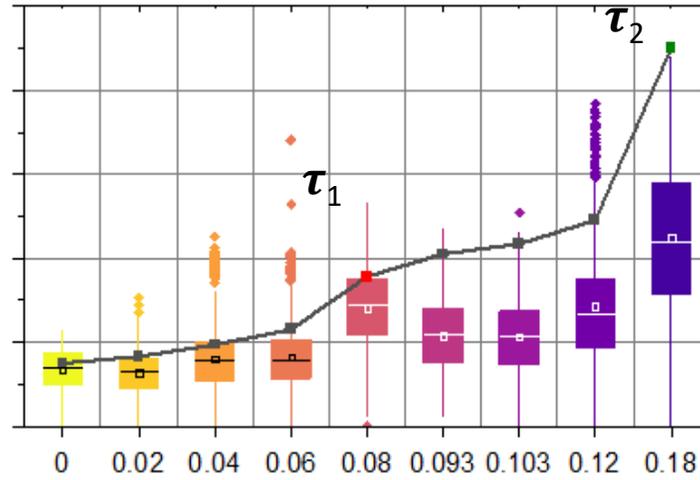
Fisher et al. 2009

# Biphasic “floc” ( $\tau_1$ ) & bed ( $\tau_2$ ) erosion response

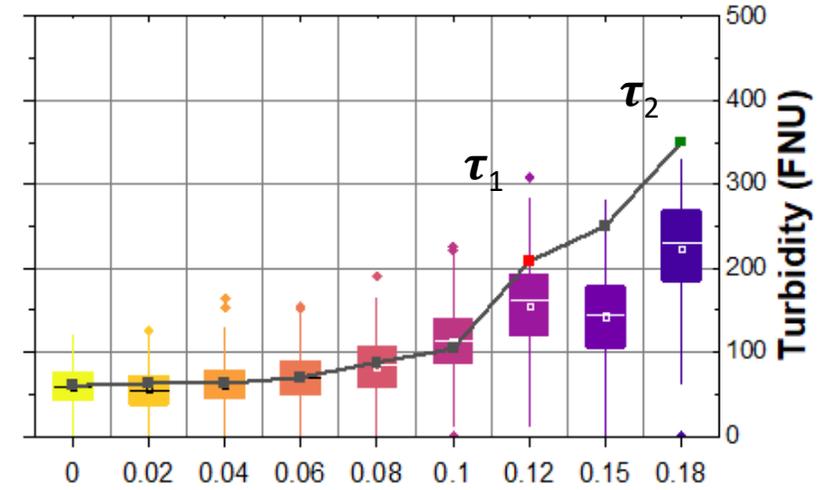
04/26/2022



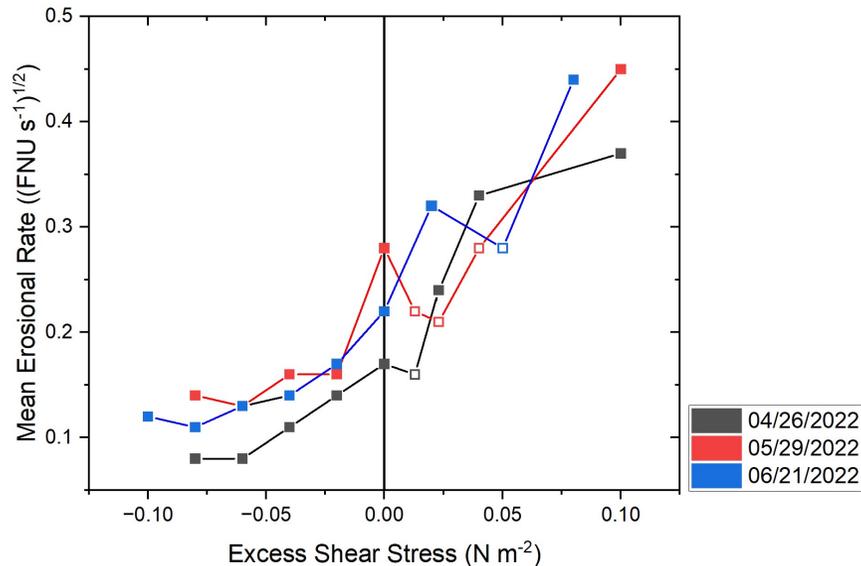
05/29/2022



06/21/2022



Shear Stress ( $\text{N}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ )

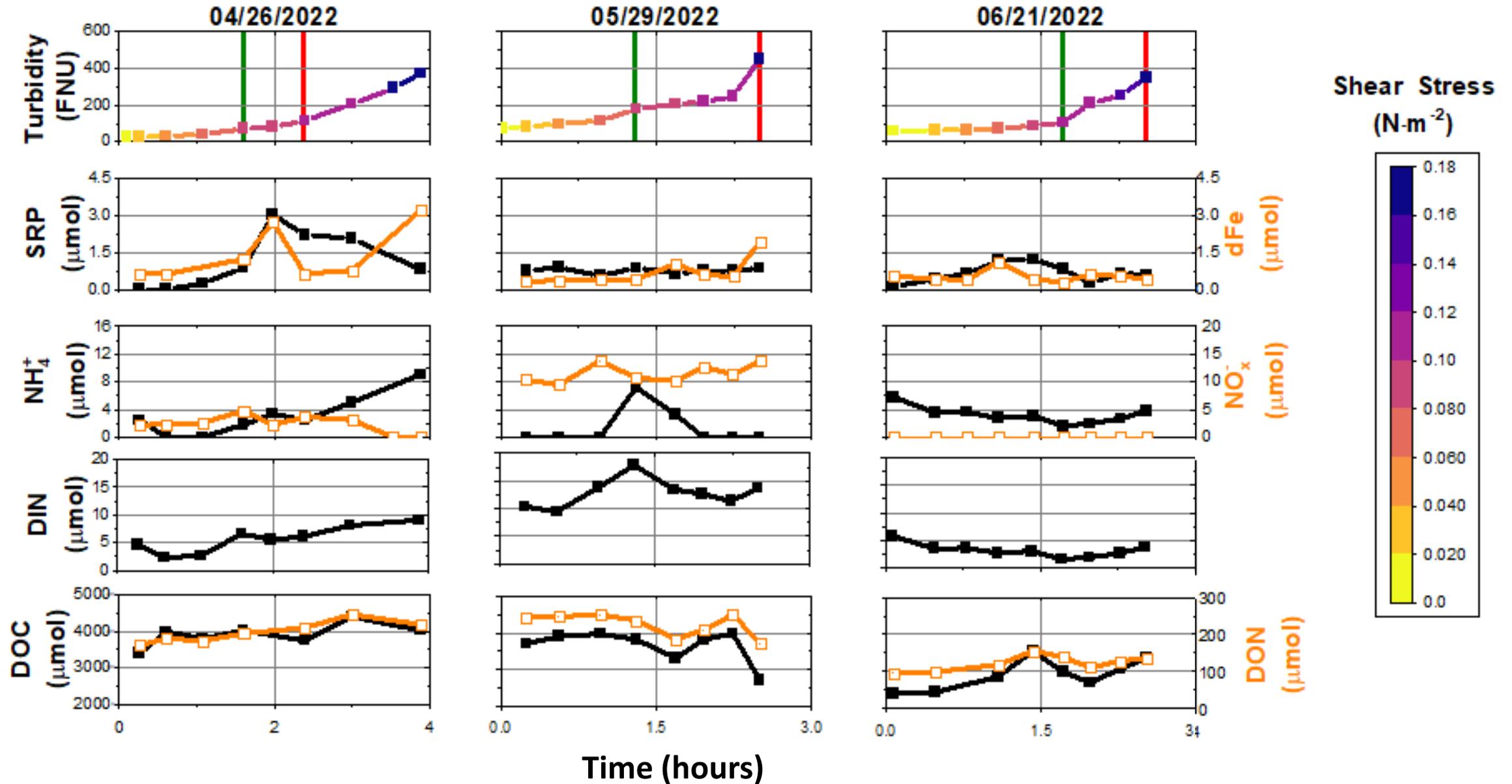


## Critical shears & Grain size

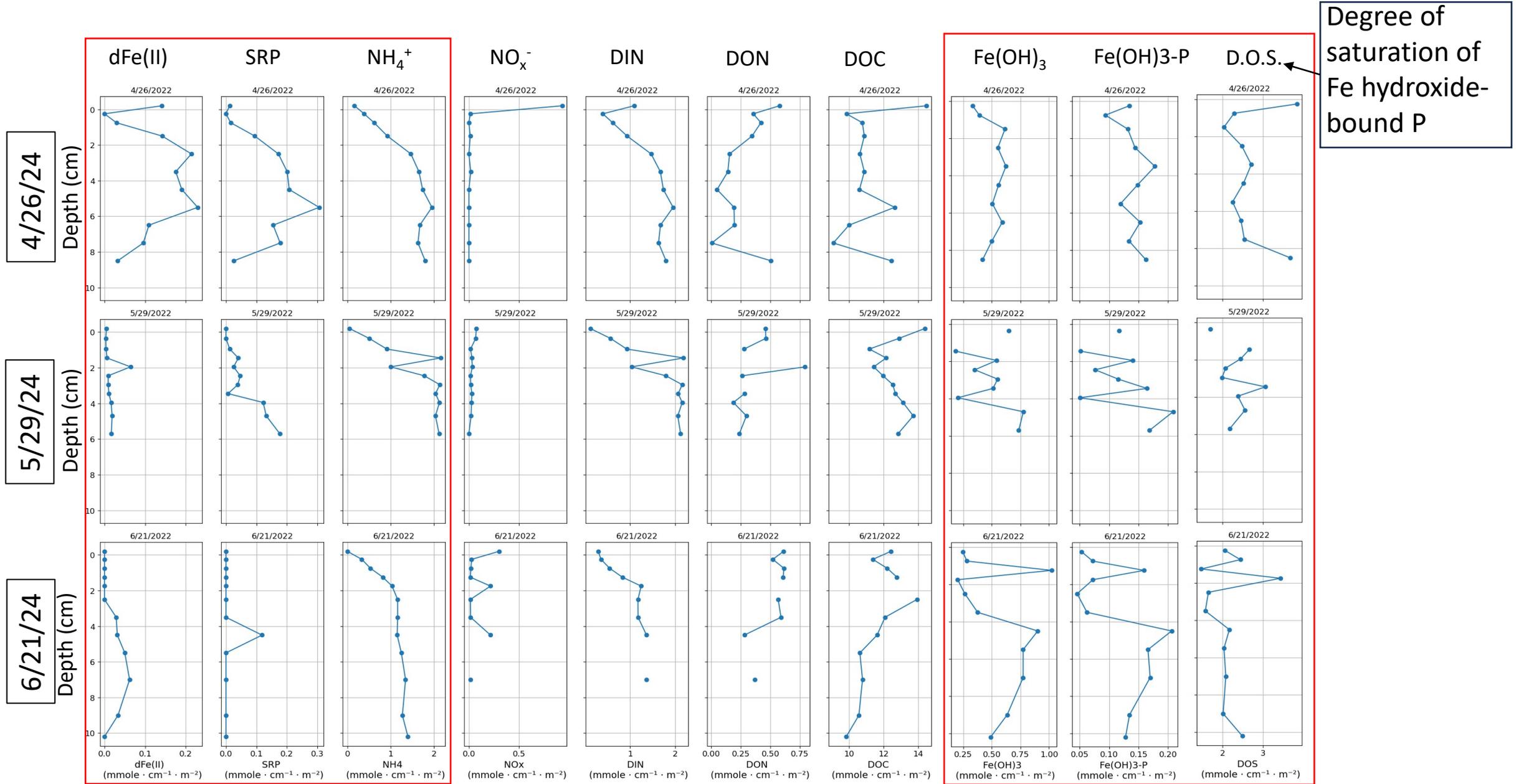
	04/26/2022	05/29/2022	06/21/2022
$\tau_c^1$ ( $\text{N m}^{-2}$ )	$0.06 < \tau_c^1 \leq 0.08$	$0.06 < \tau_c^1 \leq 0.08$	$0.10 < \tau_c^1 \leq 0.12$
$\tau_c^2$ ( $\text{N m}^{-2}$ )	$0.09 < \tau_c^2 \leq 0.10$	$0.12 < \tau_c^2 \leq 0.18$	$0.15 < \tau_c^2 \leq 0.18$
Mean grain size (0-1 cm) ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	136	107	77

More cohesive, smaller grain size sediments require more shear (?)

# Nutrient behavior during erosion experiments



# Underlying sediment core profiles



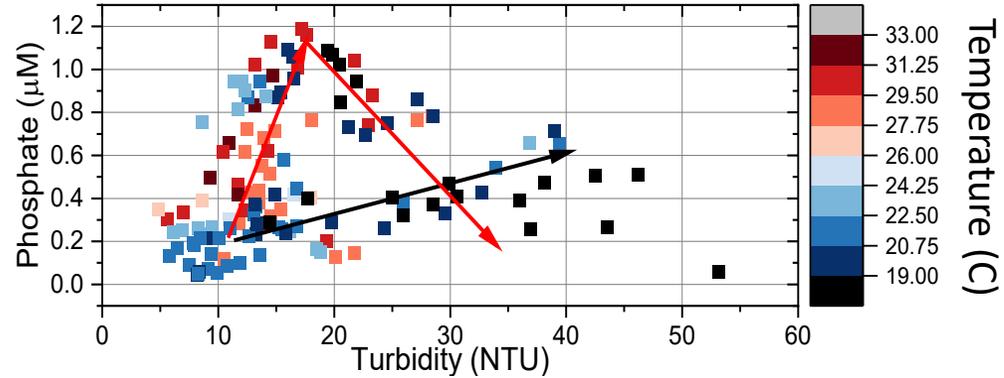
# Fluxes & erosional depth required for mass balance

Nutrient	Date	Maximum nutrient release (mmol m <sup>-2</sup> )	$\frac{\sum C(\text{mole m}^{-2})}{D(\text{cm})}$ (mmol · cm <sup>-1</sup> m <sup>-2</sup> )	Sediment erosion depth required for release (cm)
SRP	04/26/2022	0.670	0.16	5.2 (deeper than visually resuspended)
	05/29/2022	0	0.06	-
	06/21/2022	0.15 ± 0.1	0.01	>10.5 (deeper than core)
DIN	04/26/2022	1.8	1.47	2
	05/29/2022	2.0	1.70	1.65
	06/21/2022	0.57 ± 0.11	1.14	0.85
DON	04/26/2022	12.6	0.21	>8.5 (deeper than core)
	05/29/2022	-16	0.35	WC sink
	06/21/2022	6.11 ± 2.67	0.47	>10.5 (deeper than core)
DOC	04/26/2022	139.7	10.78	>8.5 (deeper than core)
	05/29/2022	-278	12.59	WC sink
	06/21/2022	139 ± 37	11.51	>10.5 (deeper than core)



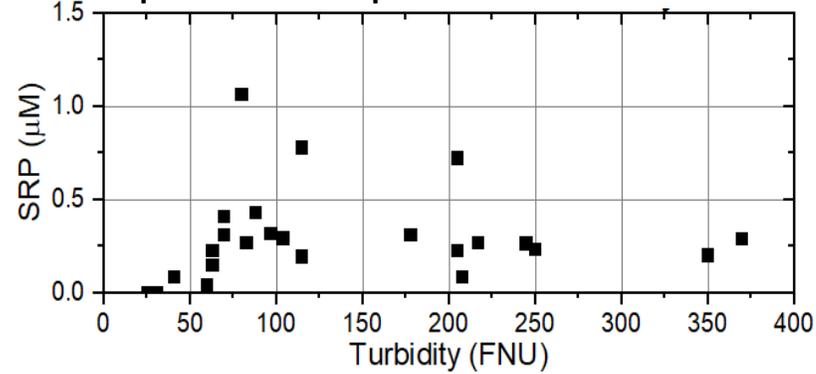
# SRP behavior during sediment resuspension

In situ data: L001-B: 07/01/21-01/29/22

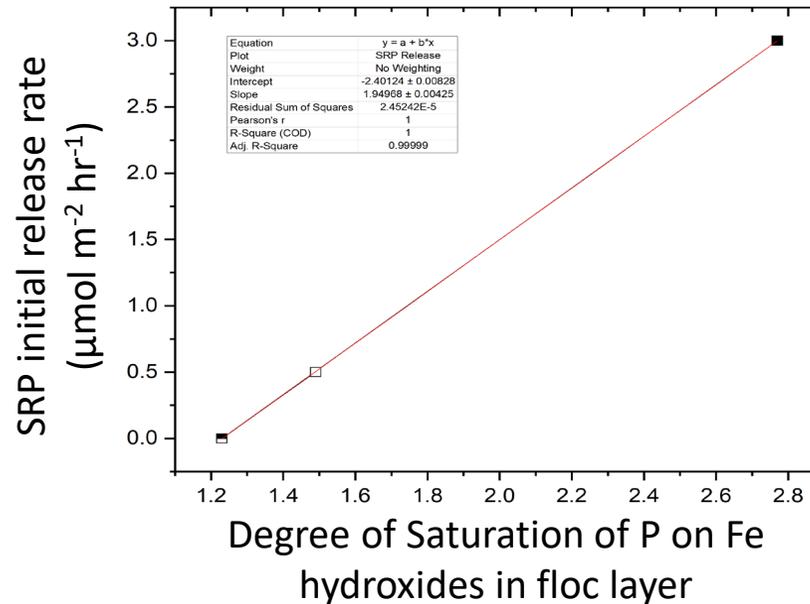


SRP released via desorption from P-saturated surface floc ( $\tau_1$ ), but scavenged by less saturated bed sediments during stronger turbidity events ( $\tau_2$ )

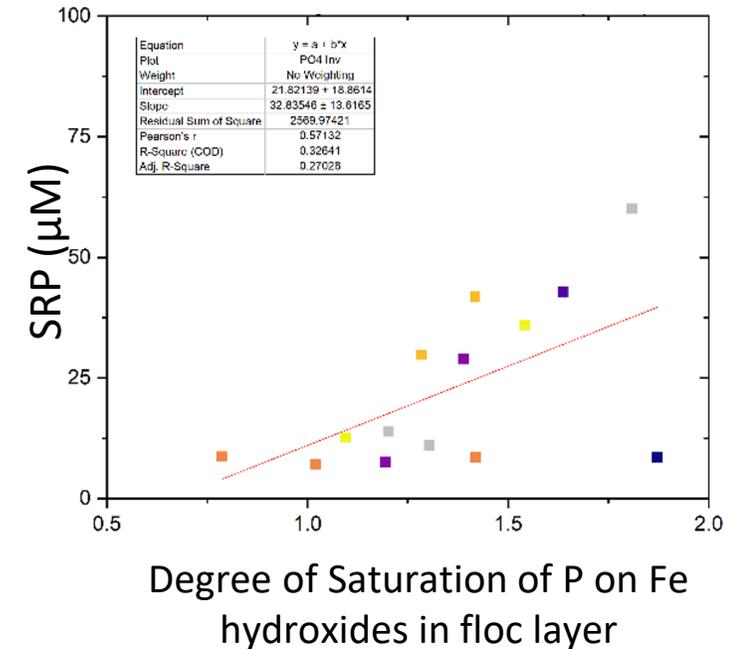
Resuspension experiments: L001



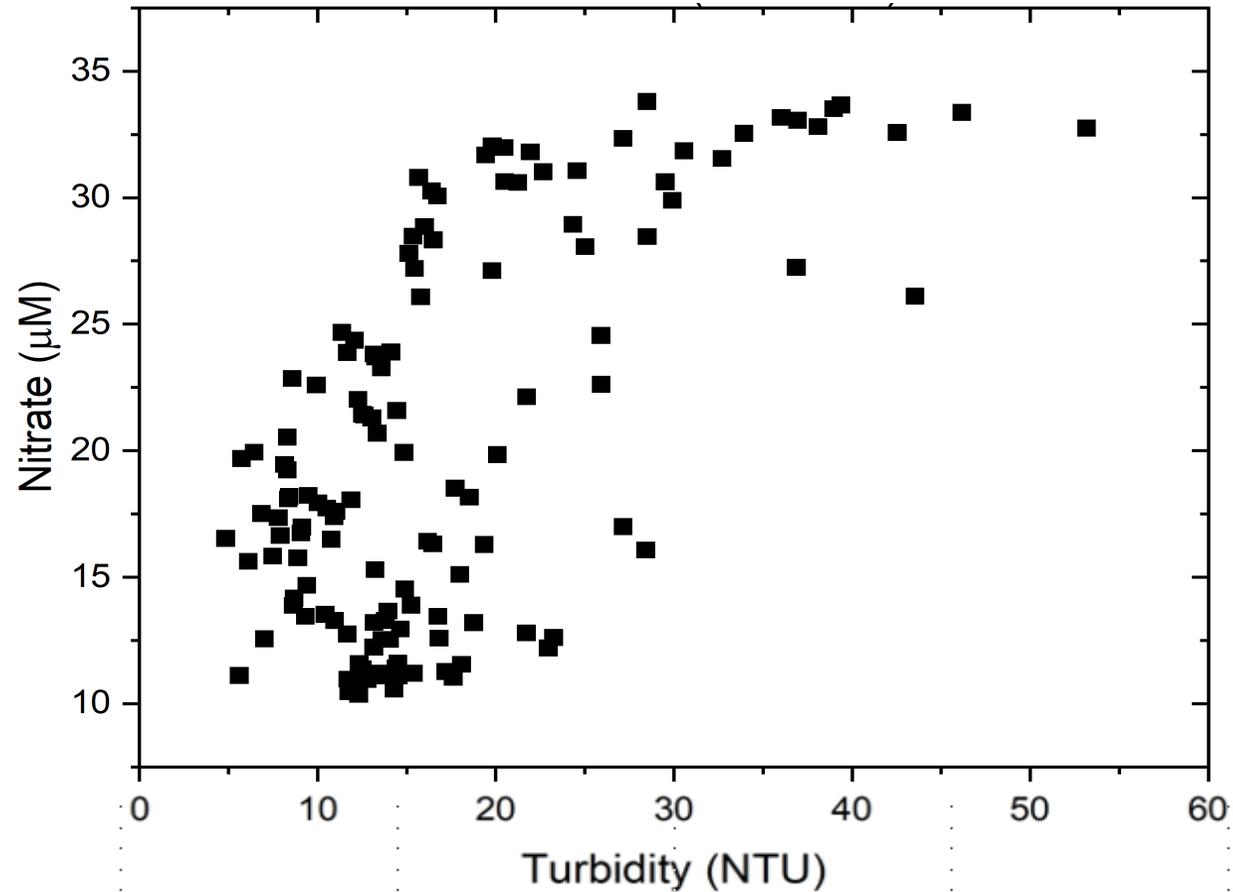
Resuspension experiments



2021 sediment cores

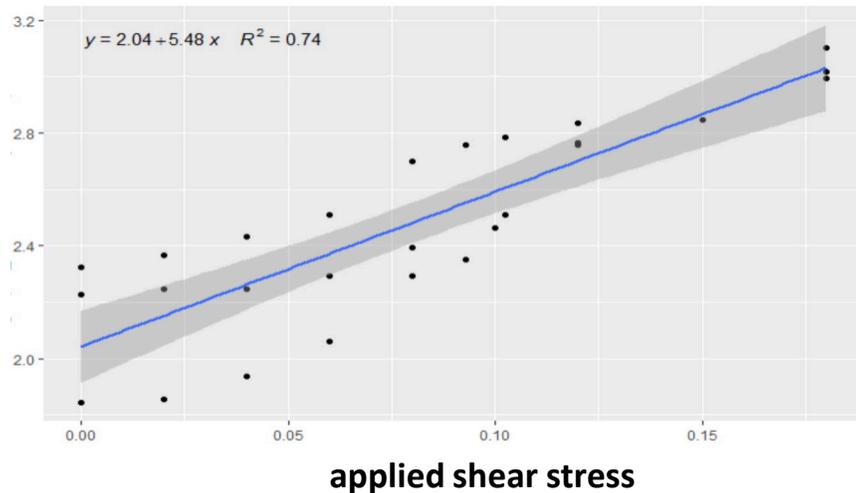
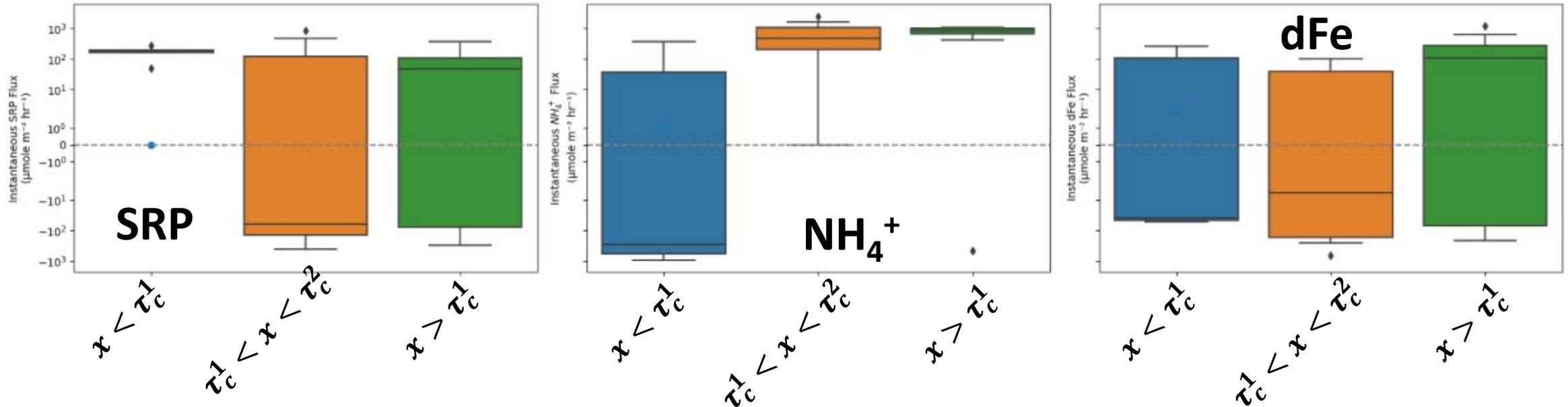


# DIN release is more conservative



# Generating a lake nutrient resuspension time series

Instantaneous fluxes binned by critical shear intervals



1. Relate experimentally observed turbidities to applied shear (**3D model currently does not simulate waves – important!**)
2. Using in situ lake turbidities, derive an applied in situ shear time series normalized for a  $\sim 30x$  larger water column height
3. Create flux time series based on erosional shear/flux relationships.

# Resuspension 2021 flux time series ( $\text{mmol m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$ )



# Annualized fluxes: Diffusive vs. Erosive

Consistent with  
Moore et al. 1998;  
Fisher et al. 2005

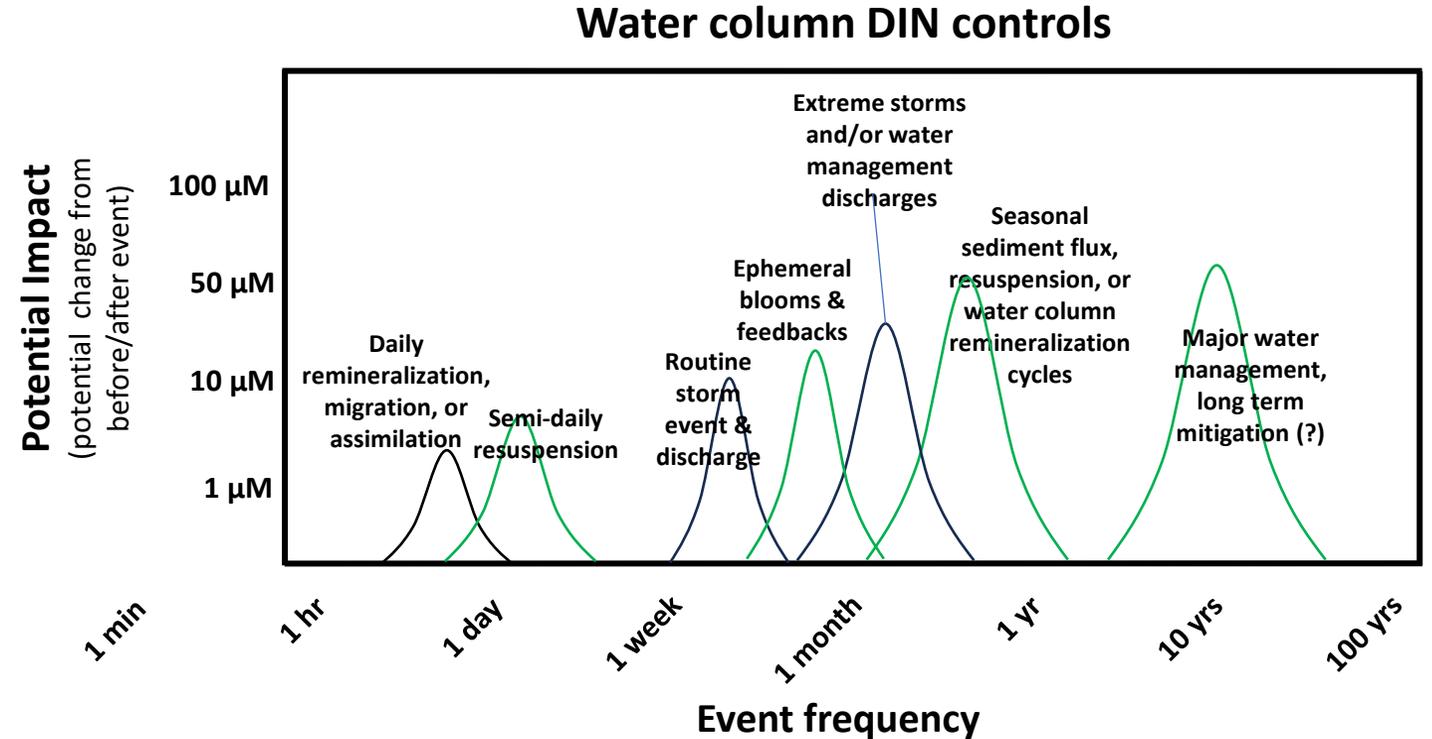
Fluxes in units of metric tonnes year<sup>-1</sup>, extrapolated over mud area of lake

	<b>NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup></b>	<b>SRP</b>	<b>dFe(II)</b>
<b>Diffusive</b>	<b>1,276</b> (1,101 to 1,447)	<b>609</b> (331 to 885)	<b>434</b> (327 to 535)
<b>Erosive</b>	<b>14,303</b> (5,645 to 24,084)	<b>1,970</b> (-7,752 to 10,142)	<b>7,448</b> (-10,707 to 21,152)
<b>Erosive / Diffusive</b>	<b>~11x</b>	<b>~3.2x</b>	<b>~17x</b>

Upper/Lower bounds represent the uncertainty associated with non-consistent accumulation/depreciation nutrient behavior under specific shear conditions

# Conclusions

- Resuspension dynamics in geochemical context generally poorly understood, yet can dominate nutrient fluxes
- At a minimum, sediment surface layer geochemistry (Fe/P) should be routinely characterized
- $\text{NH}_4^+$  release a function of pore water inventory
- Excess DOC/DON released during resuspension (opposite of Fe shielding?) → Fresh substrate?
- Empirical fluxes may serve as worthwhile starting point, but high resolution (sediment) analytical models likely required for spatial predictions b/c of rapid HAB/sediment feedbacks



# Technology to monitor flux dynamics



1. Sediment incubations can include deliberate resuspension to simulate lake
2. Ambient water incubations provide critical measurements and allow correction of sediment fluxes for in-water processes (transparent/opaque chamber or day/night incubations → photosynthesis/respiration nutrient behavior discrimination)
3. Periodic open-chamber measurements provide ambient water conditions time series

