

It Comes from the Mud!

Nutrients, Internal Loading, Internal Waves, and Infernal Honeoye HABs



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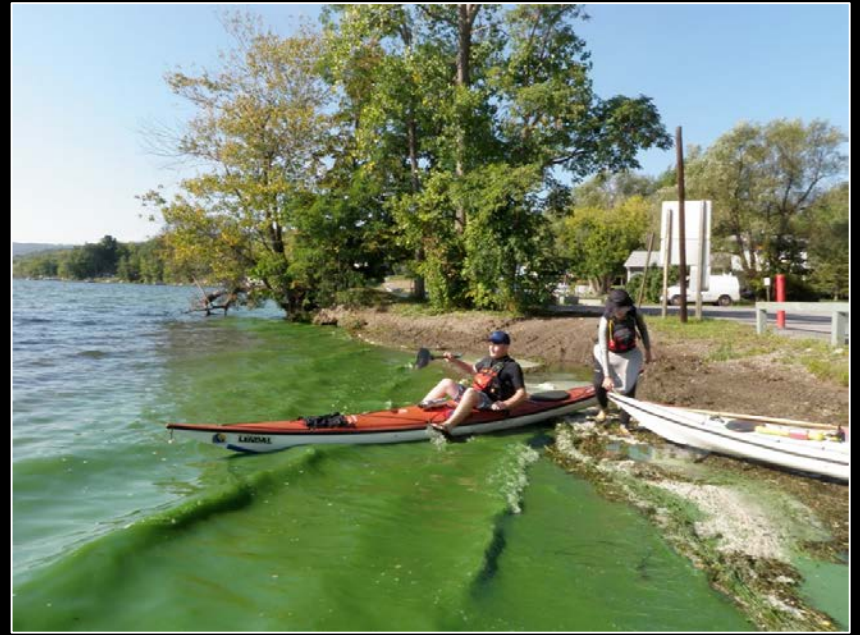
Photo: Nelson Hairston

Beautiful Honeoye Lake



Photo: Fred Bertram

Honeoye Lake's continuing Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) problem



**Honeoye Lake
cyanobacteria
Bloom**

**Thursday
7 June 2018**



Cyanobacterial blooms are “harmful” because they:



Float – blow to shore, die, smell bad

OR

**Sink to bottom – die, decompose,
use up dissolved oxygen in bottom water**

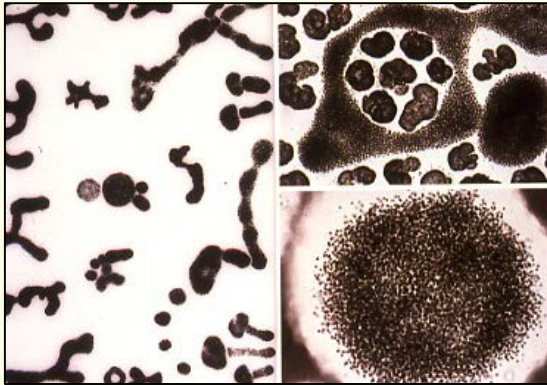
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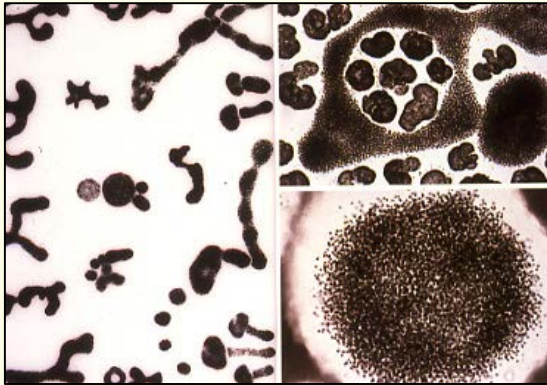
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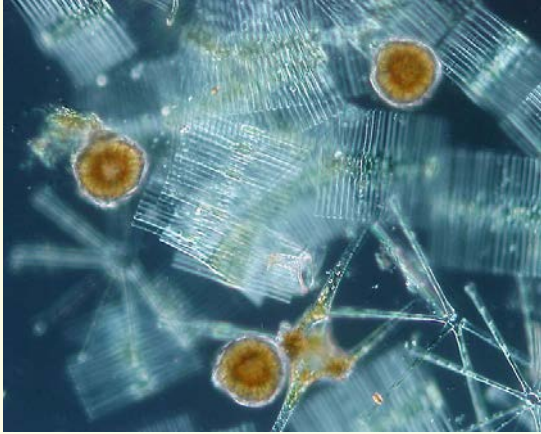


**Contain liver-toxins and neuro-toxins
may make people, dogs, cattle sick**



**Also lousy food for the little animals that
might eat them:**

Toxins & lack essential fatty acids (poor nutritionally)

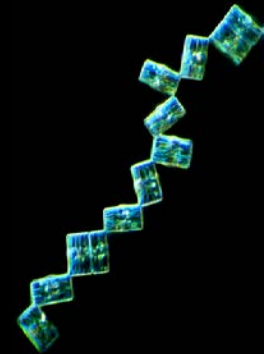
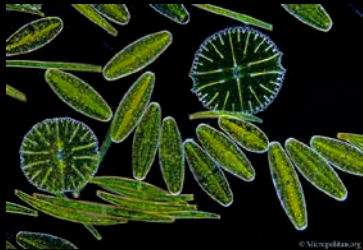
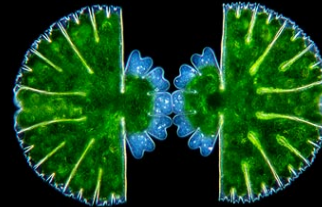
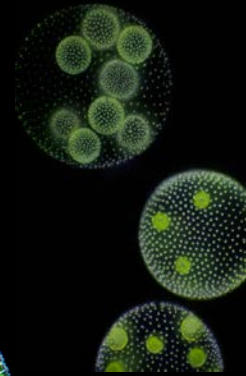
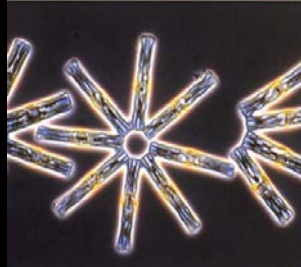
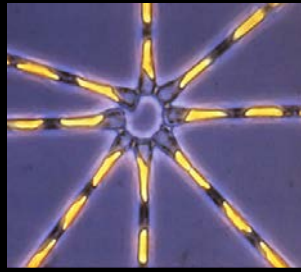


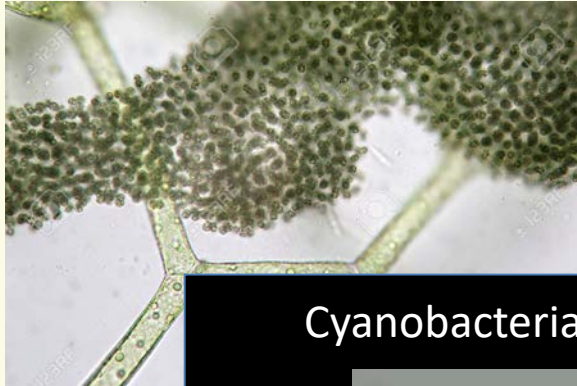
Phytoplankton – includes both cyanobacteria and algae:
microscopic photosynthetic organisms
drifting in the water



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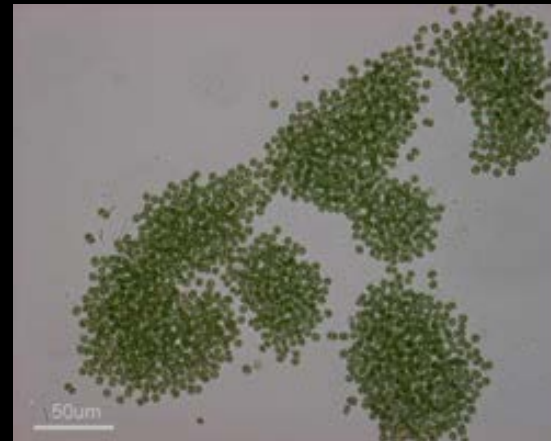
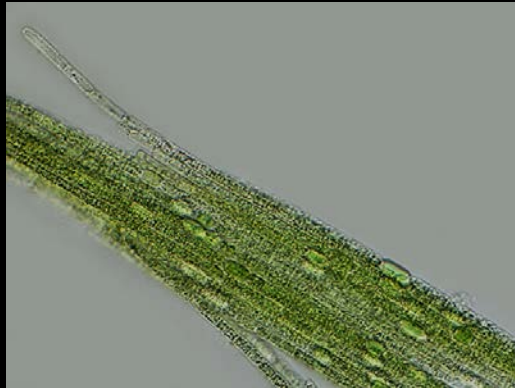
Algae are often beautiful !





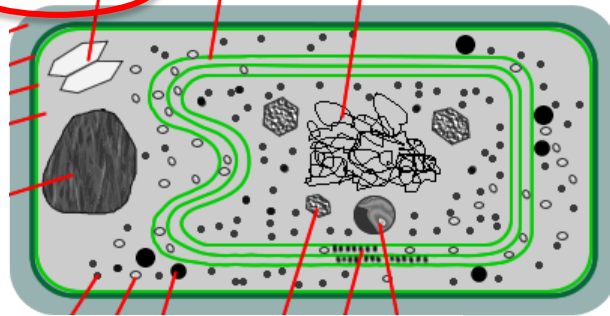
Phytoplankton – includes both cyanobacteria and algae:
microscopic photosynthetic organisms
drifting in the water

Cyanobacteria ... no so much



Cyanobacteria

gas vesicles

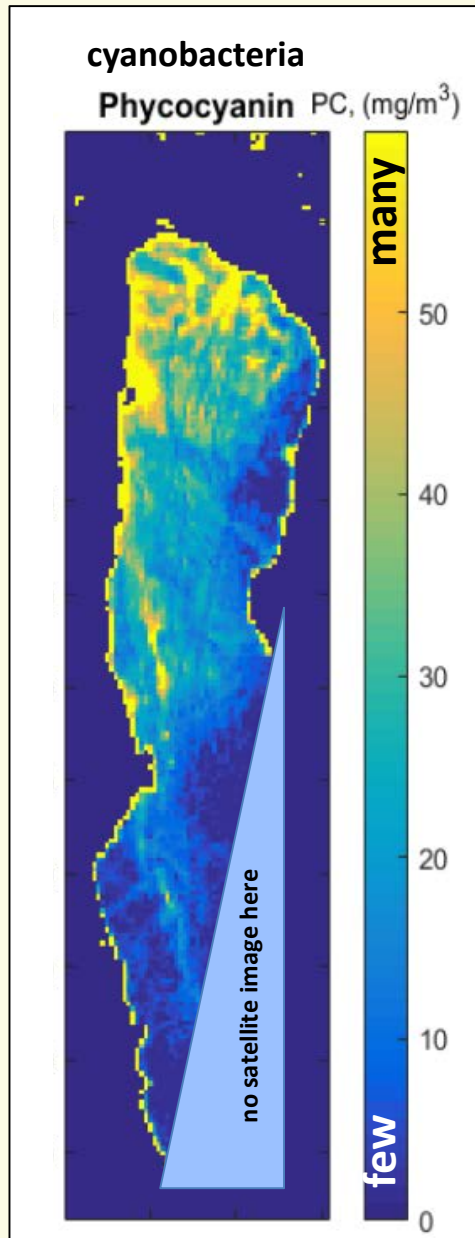


Gas vesicles
make cells float



Landsat 8 (satellite) image of Honeoye Lake on September 16, 2015

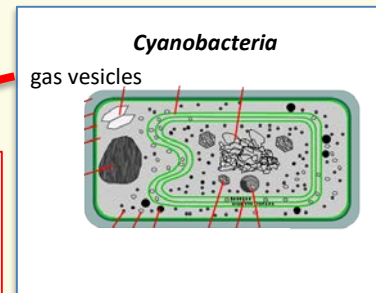
Anthony Vodacek and Ryan Ford, RIT

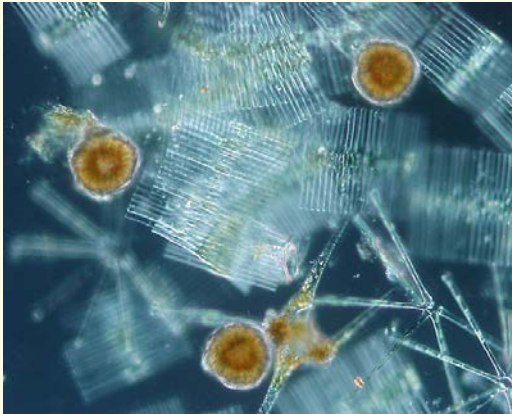


When they float, cyanobacteria cells, blow with the wind and accumulate at down-wind areas.

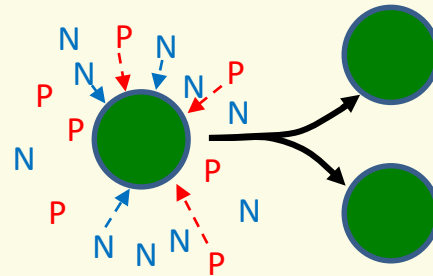
This one reason why they come and go along the shore from day to day.

Gas vesicles
make cells float
—
forming scums





Phytoplankton (both cyanobacteria and algae) require **Nitrogen** and **Phosphorus** to multiply



Nutrient pollution

N and P



From:

- * city wastewater treatment facilities
- * home septic systems
- * agricultural runoff

N:P

10:1

5:1

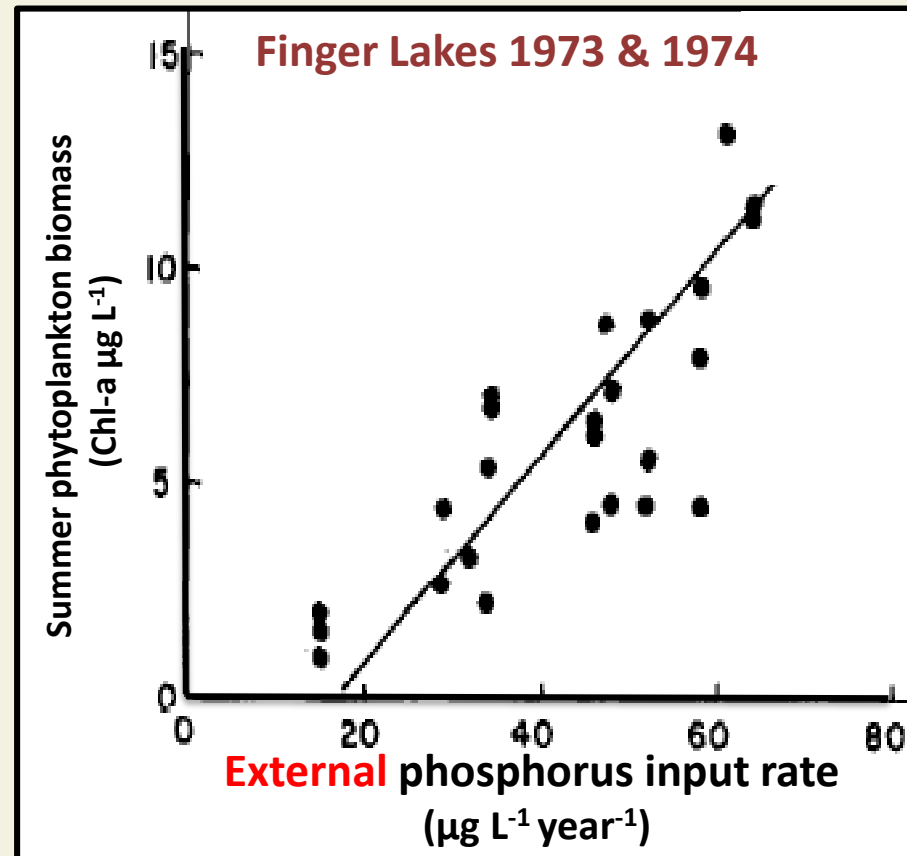
50:1



P is scarcer, so it tends to be limiting
for phytoplankton growth

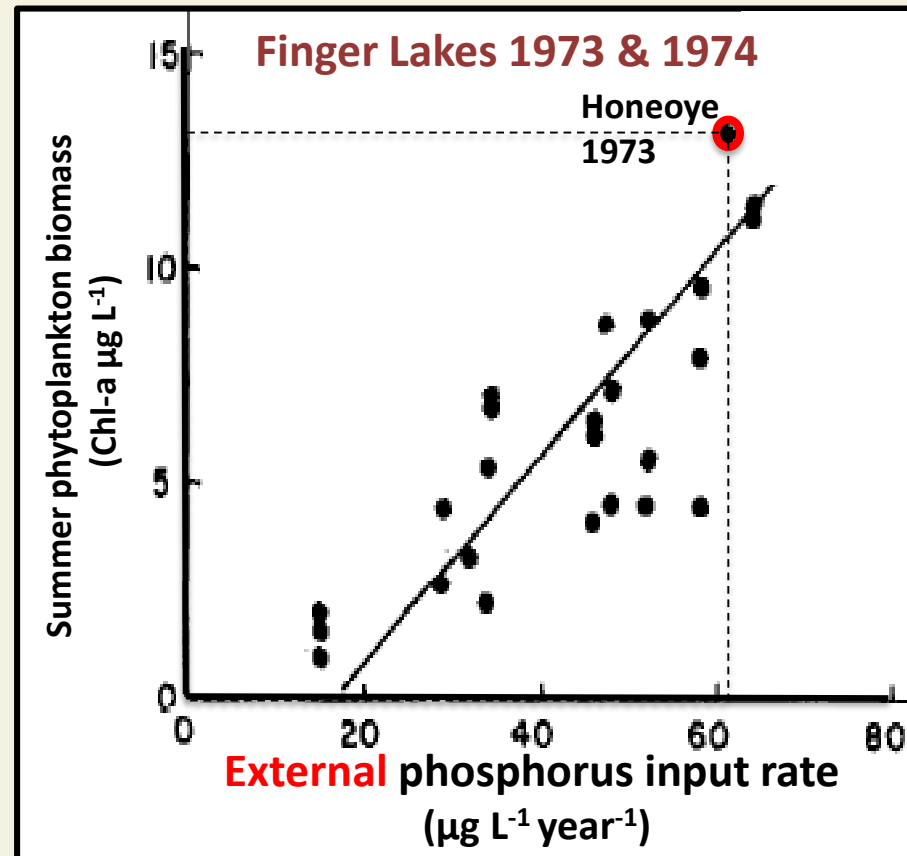
**External Loading –
P from outside the lake**

Evidence for “External Loading” driving phytoplankton growth in the Finger Lakes:



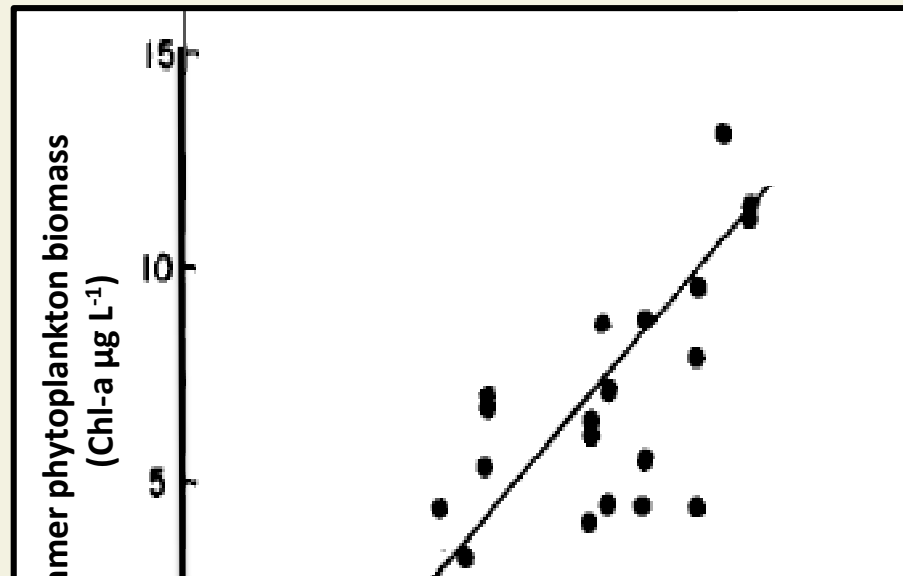
Oglesby & Schaffner (1978 L&O)

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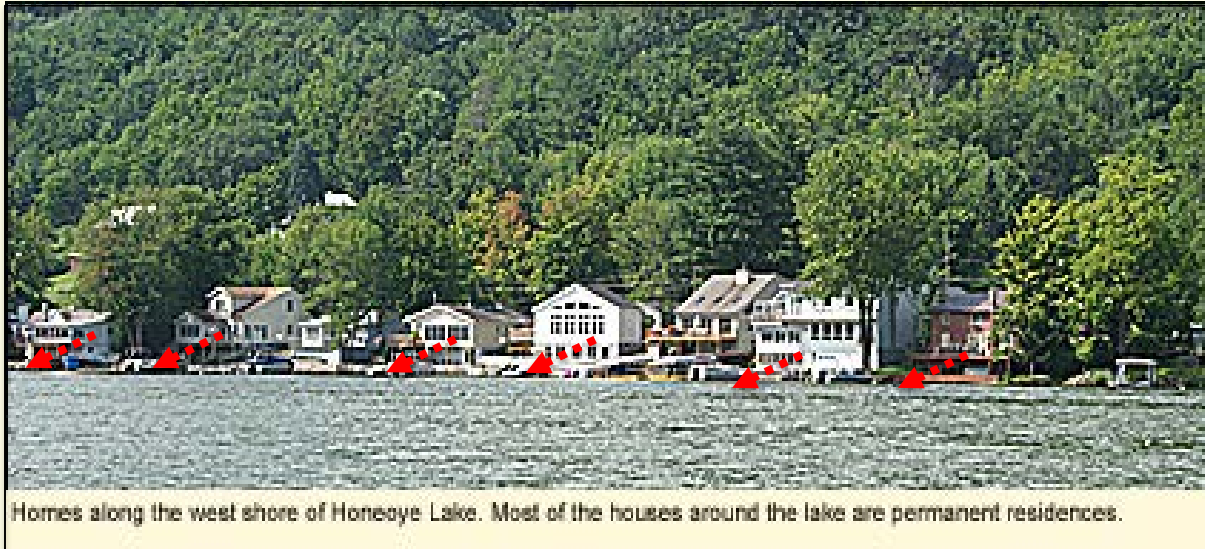
External P Load: Foundation for managing HABs in lakes



Nitrogen may also be a significant driver of HABs.
Here I use Phosphorus, but N may also be important.

Nitrogen dynamics in Honeoye Lake are being studied by:
Mark McCarthy & Silvia Newell (Wright State University)
Lisa Cleckner & Roxanne Razavi (FLI & SUNY ESF)

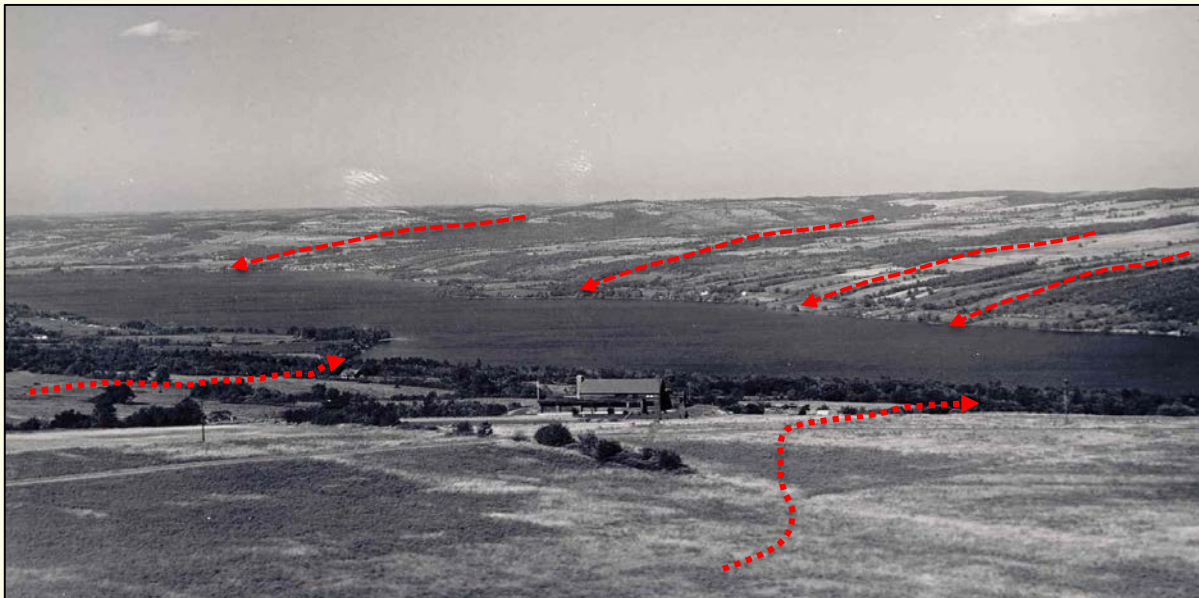
External loading



<http://www.ilovethefingerlakes.com/lakes/Honeoye.htm>

Before 1980

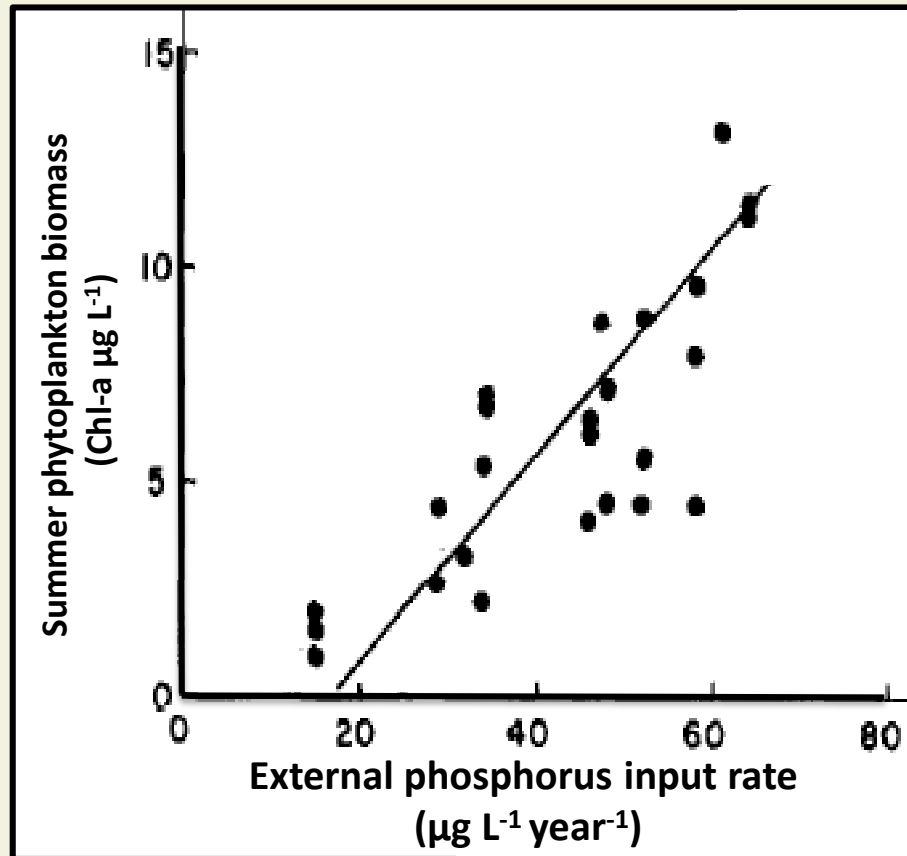
Houses and cottages had septic systems – of varying quality – that leached into the lake



http://www.wemett.net/pics/bott_photos/canadice/mcintee_pics/honeoye_lake_from_6139_canadice_hill_rd.jpg

Watershed *used to* have lots of land in agriculture. Nutrients runoff to lake.

Evidence for “**External P Loading**” driving phytoplankton growth: *Foundation for managing HABs in lakes*

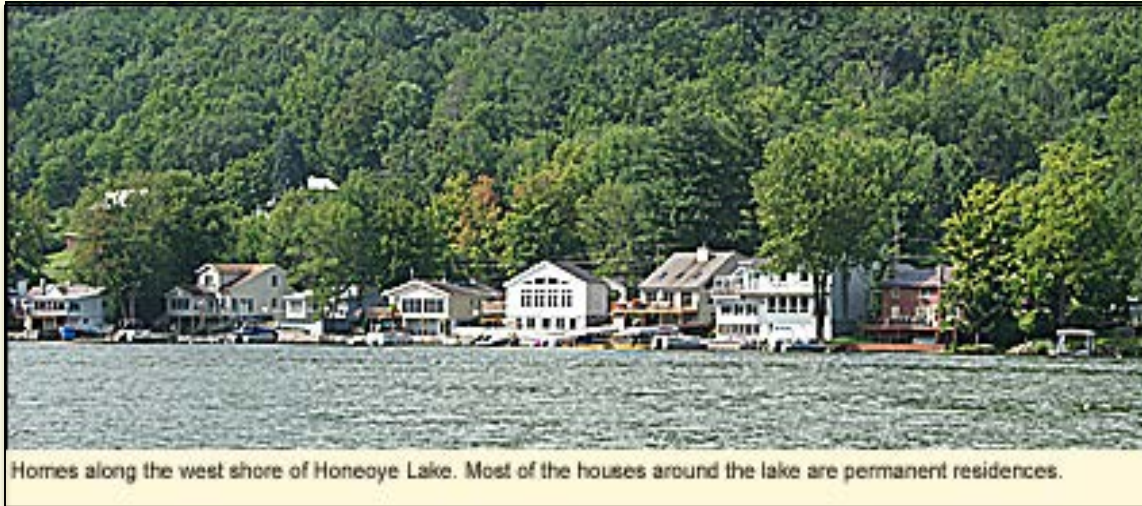


Oglesby & Schaffner (1978 L&O)

Restrict nutrient inputs:

- 1) Point sources
(wastewater treatment plants)
- 2) Household septic systems
- 3) Agricultural runoff

Managing external loading at Honeoye Lake:



<http://www.ilovethefingerlakes.com/lakes/Honeoye.htm>

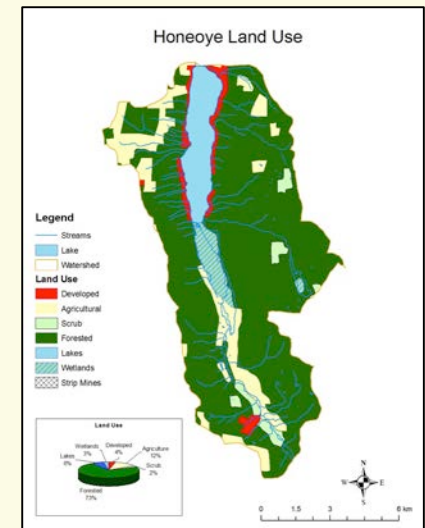
**All houses and cottages
tied to sewer system in 1980**

**Wastewater treatment plant
does not discharge to the lake**



<http://www.iloveusny.com/2015/08/15/3-lakes-in-4-days/>

**Watershed now almost
entirely forested,
only 12% Ag (horse farms)**



Managing external loading at Honeoye Lake:



Homes along the west shore of Honeoye Lake. Most of the houses around the lake are permanent residences.

<http://www.ilovethefingerlakes.com/lakes/Honeoye.htm>

**All houses and cottages
tied to sewer system in 1980**

**Wastewater treatment plant
does not discharge to the lake**



**Watershed now almost
entirely forested,
only 12% Ag (horse farms)**

**Not much left
to regulate**

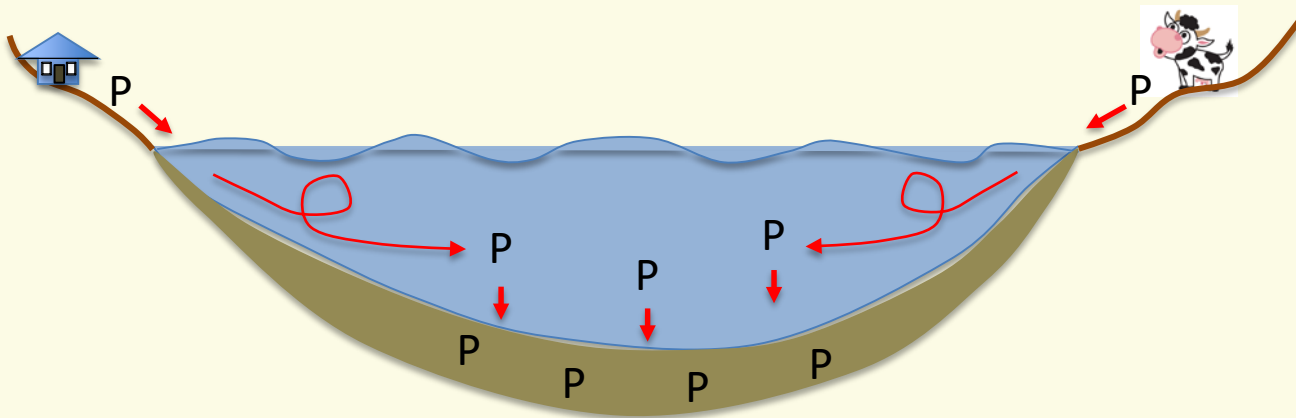
<http://www.iloveusny.com/2015/08/15/3-lakes-in-4-days/>



**But still the lake looks like this in late summer
(2016)**

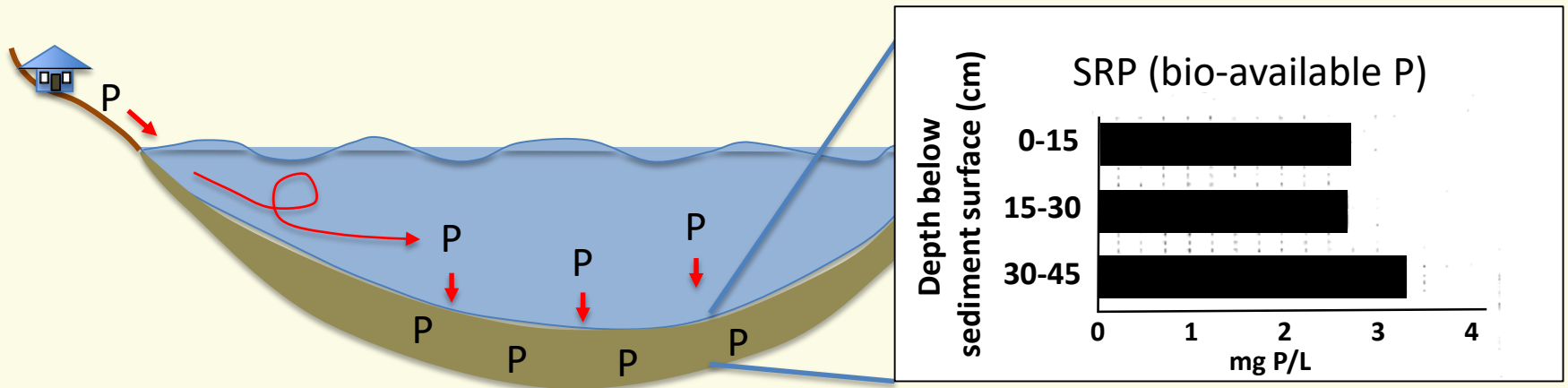
Legacy phosphorus

... deposited in lake sediments



Legacy phosphorus

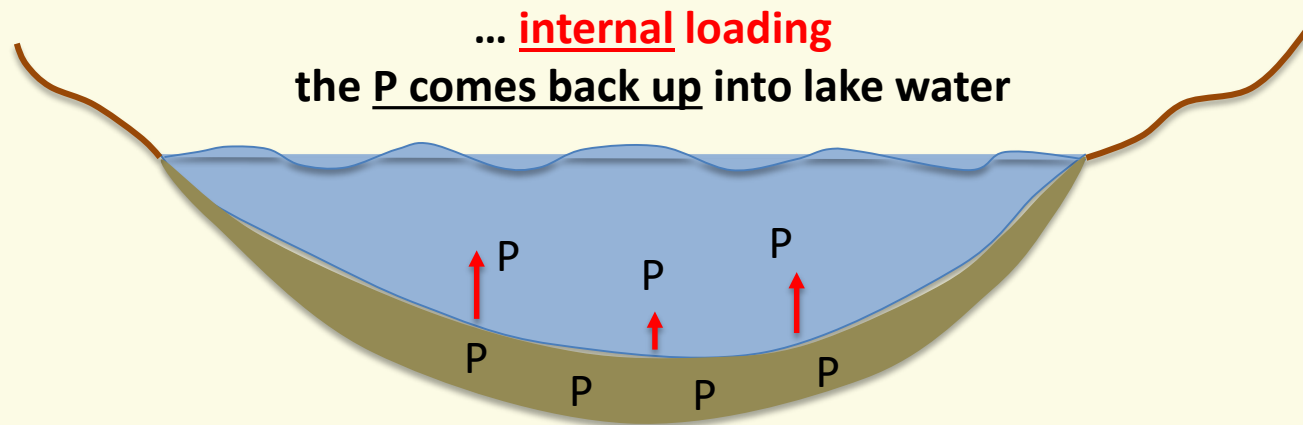
... in lake sediments



Bruce Gilman (2001)

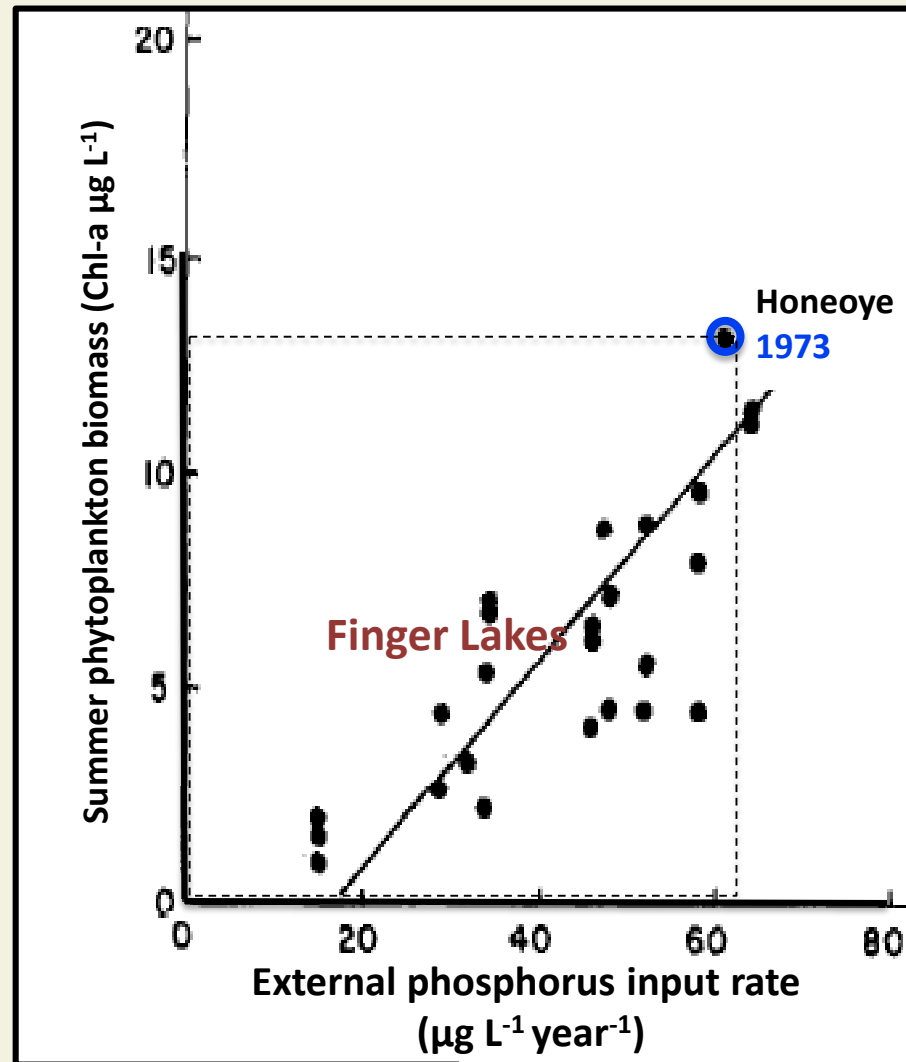


Legacy phosphorus

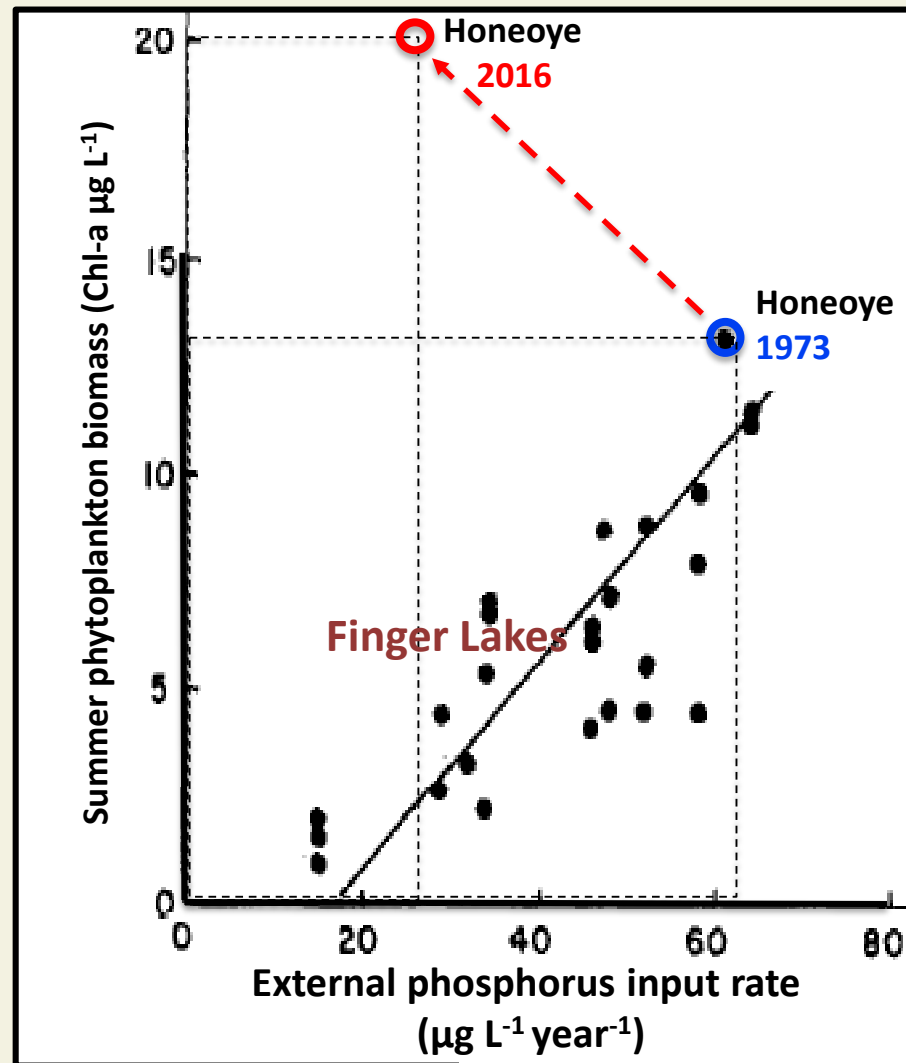


- By:
- 1) decomposition of dead plankton and other organisms on bottom
 - 2) chemical reduction of Iron-P compounds
 - 3) excretion by benthic consumers (e.g. zebra mussels)

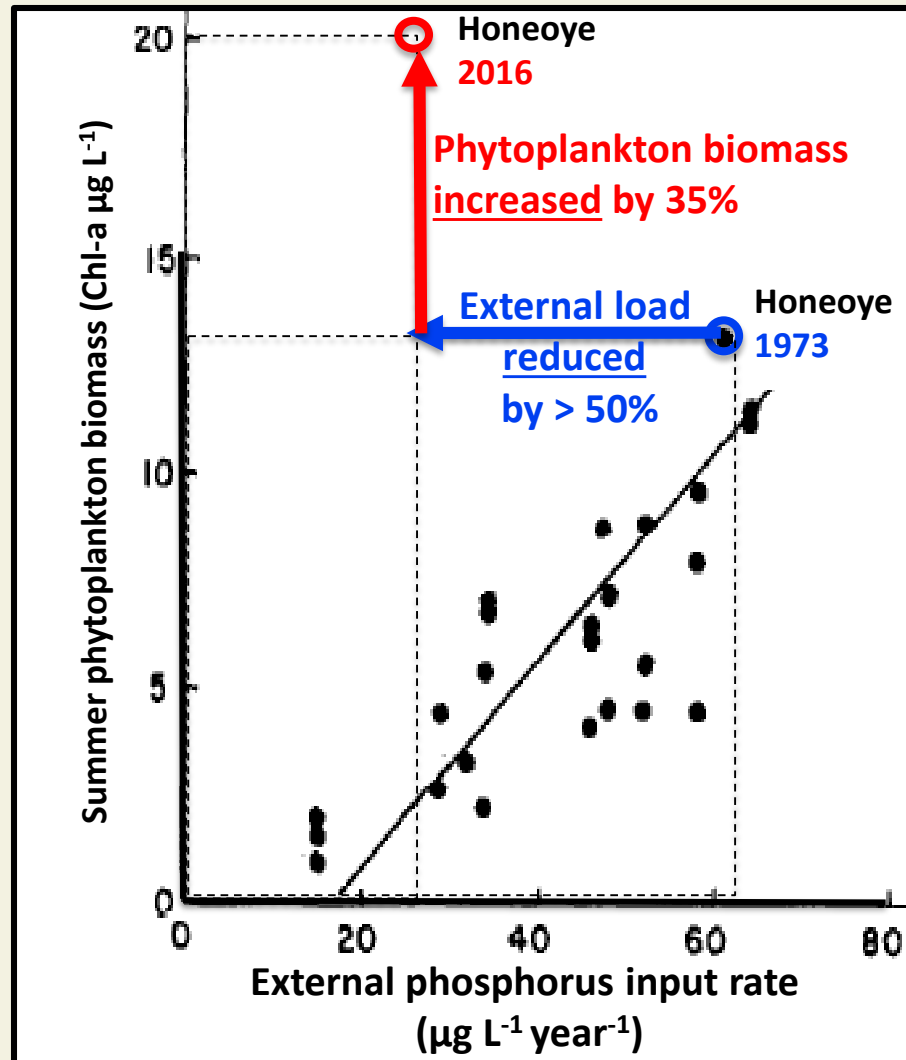
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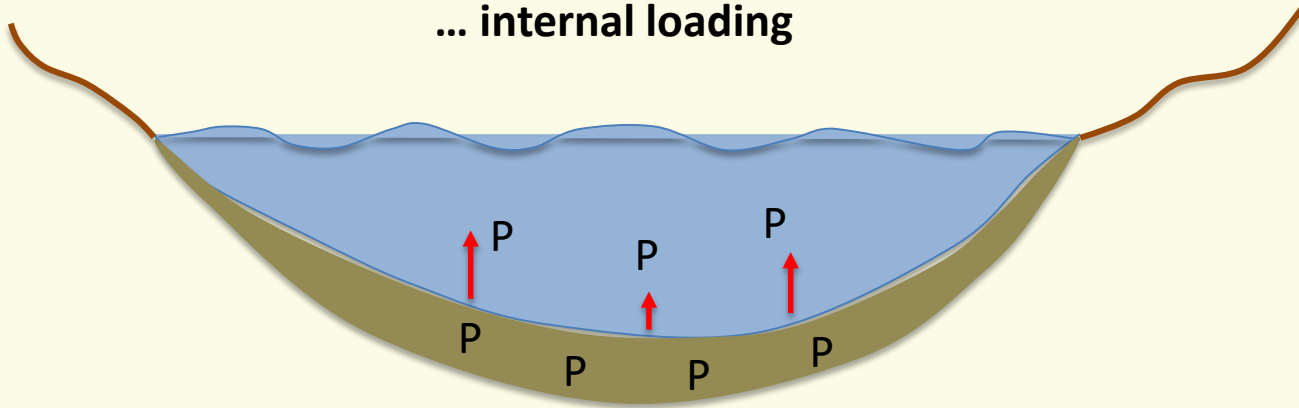


Evidence for *Internal Loading* driving phytoplankton growth:

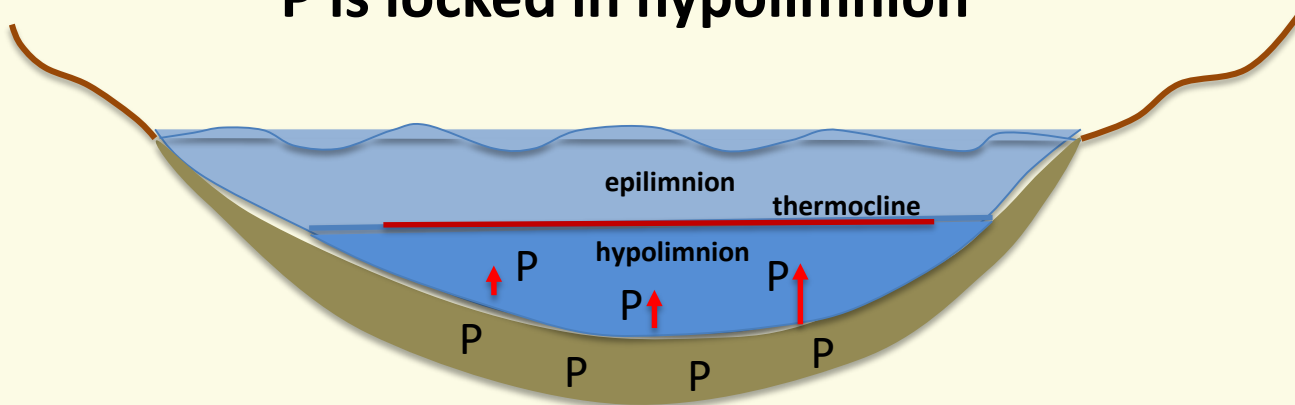


Legacy phosphorus

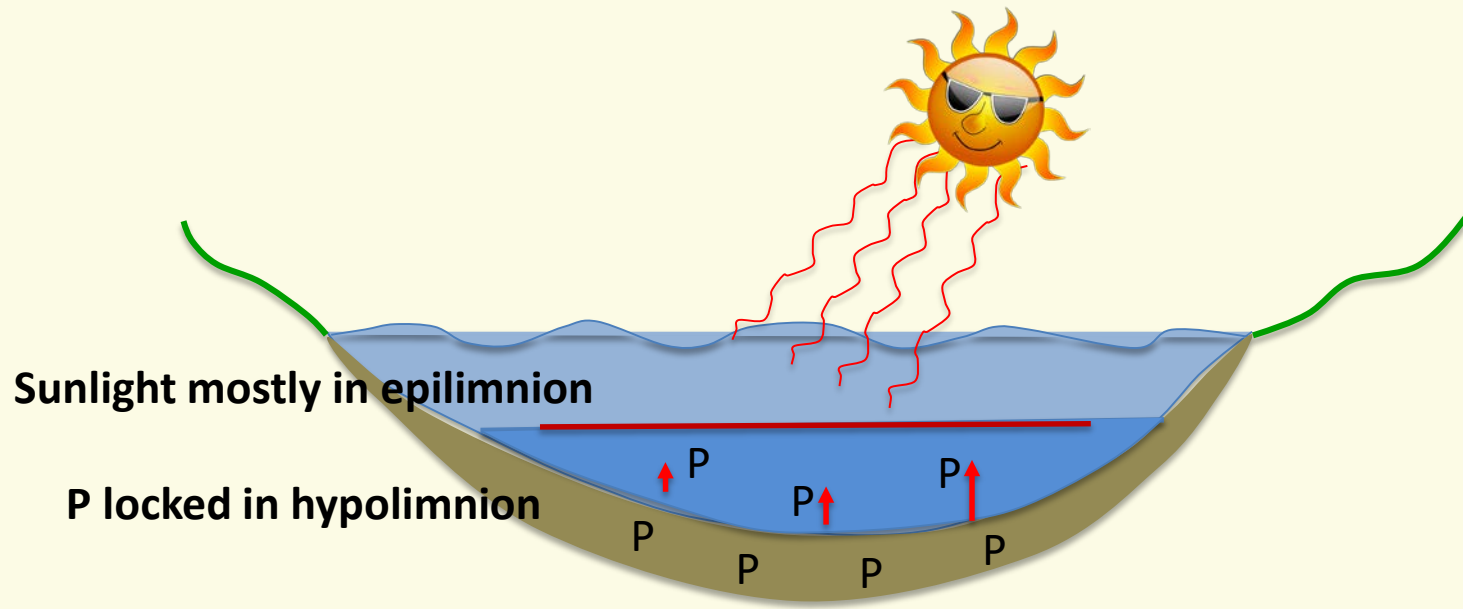
... internal loading



**BUT during summer thermal stratification,
P is locked in hypolimnion**



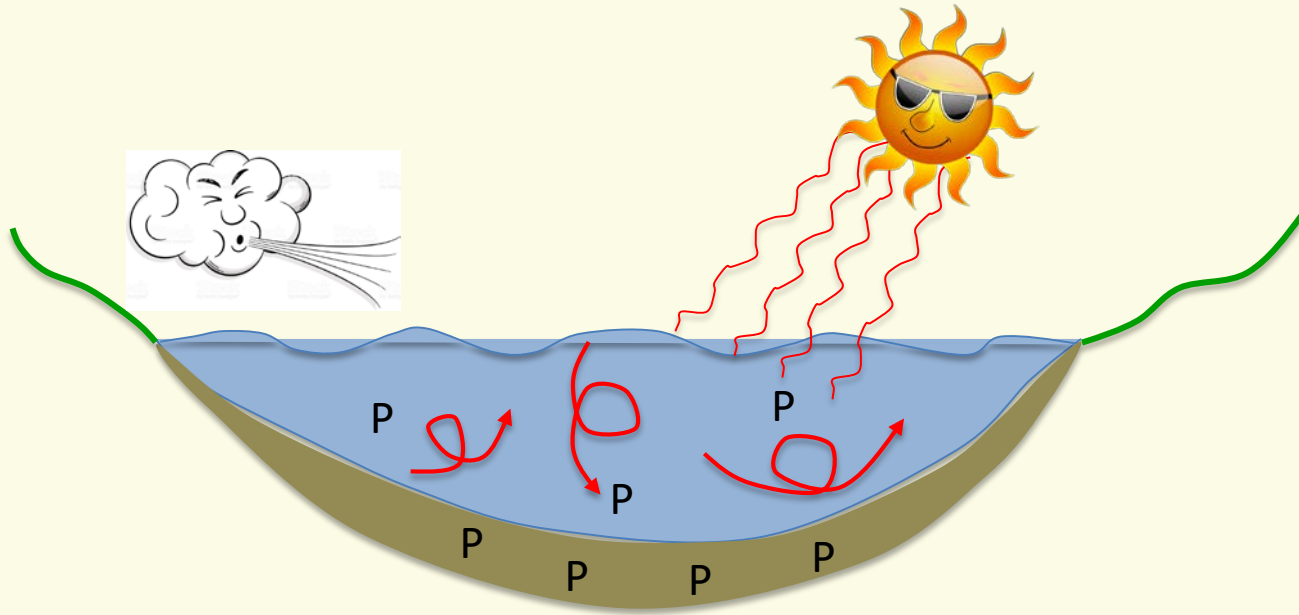
Legacy phosphorus



Phytoplankton growth restricted because light and nutrients are separated by depth

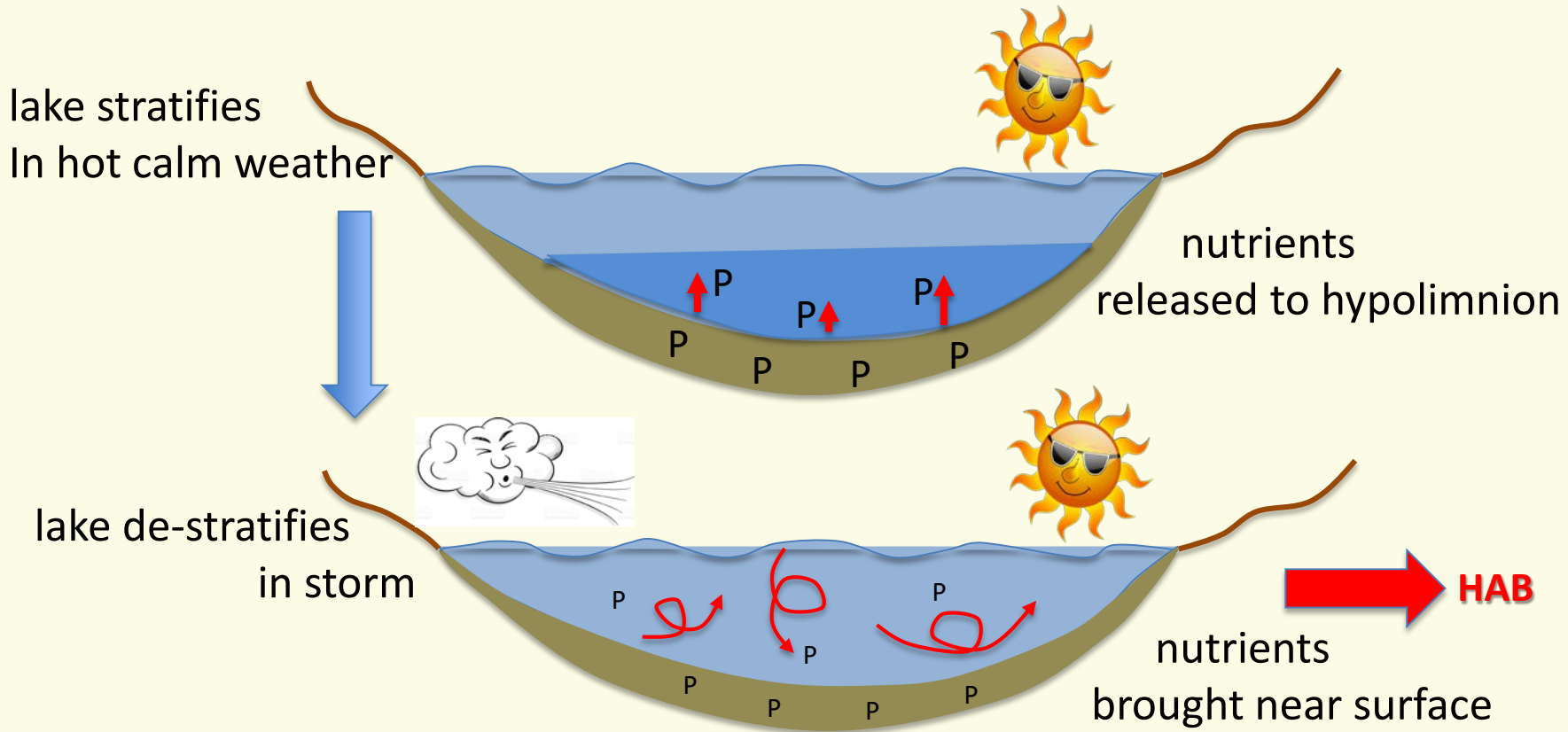
Legacy phosphorus

Unless strong storm mixes water column



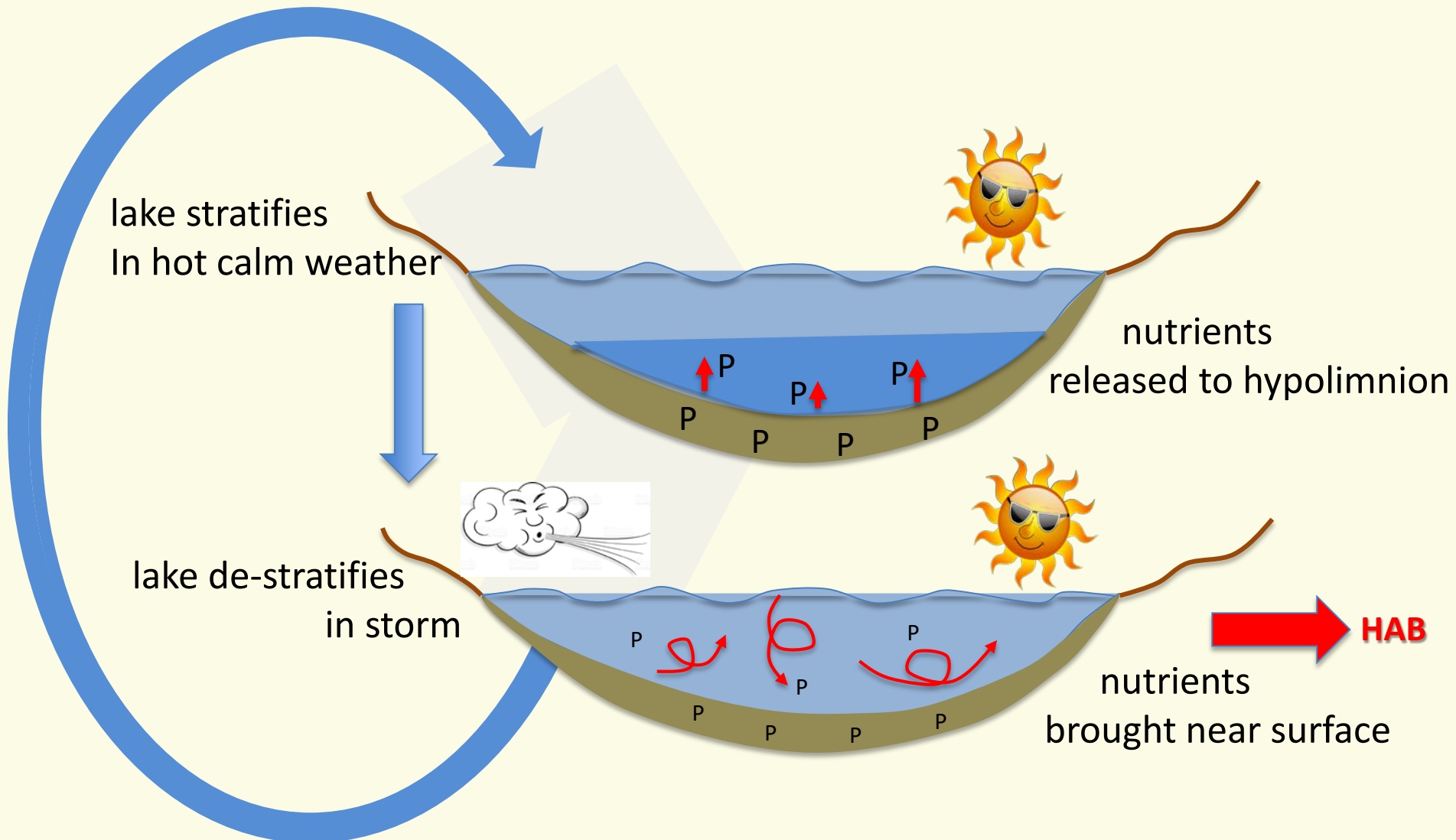
Phytoplankton blooms because light and nutrients are both available near surface

Honeoye Lake $z_{\max} = 9$ m: deep enough to stratify: shallow enough to mix.



Phosphorus pumping hypothesis for Honeoye Lake ... maintains HAB.

Honeoye Lake z_{\max} = 9 m: deep enough to stratify: shallow enough to mix.



Approach:

- 1) Document seasonal changes in thermal stratification:
Measure temperature vs depth throughout summer**
- 2) Explore causes of mixing events by measuring wind speed/direction, precipitation, and other meteorological parameters**
- 3) Measure phosphorus, chlorophyll (and other parameters as a function of depth)**
- 4) Model lake processes with hydrodynamic model to understand how basin shape, weather, and nutrient supply influence bloom dynamics**

Field Chemistry / Sample Processing – FLCC Muller Lab

Weekly by depth:

Dissolved Oxygen

Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (SRP)

Total Phosphorus (TP)

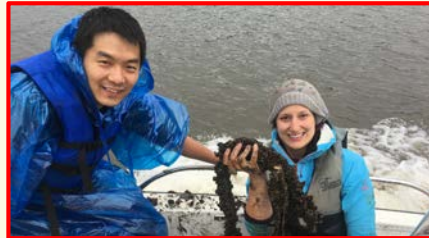
Soluble Iron, Sulfur and TSP

Weekly depth integrated:

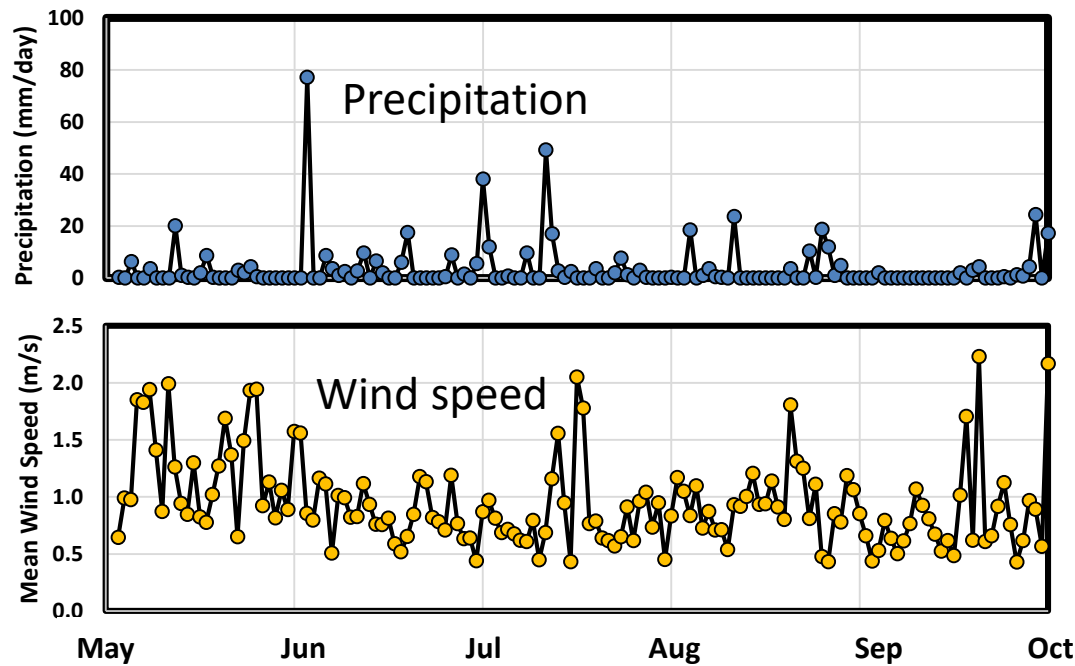
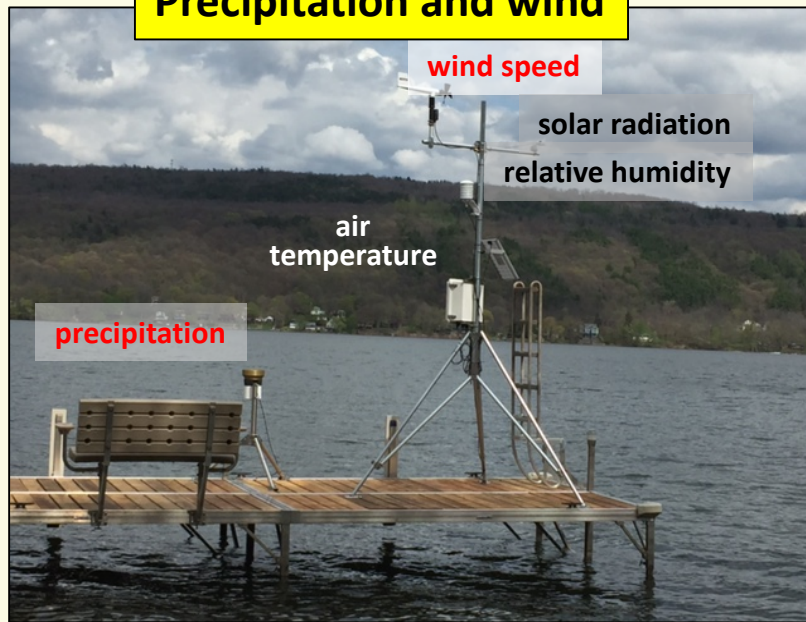
Chlorophyll-a (phytoplankton biomass)

Phytoplankton (qualitative)

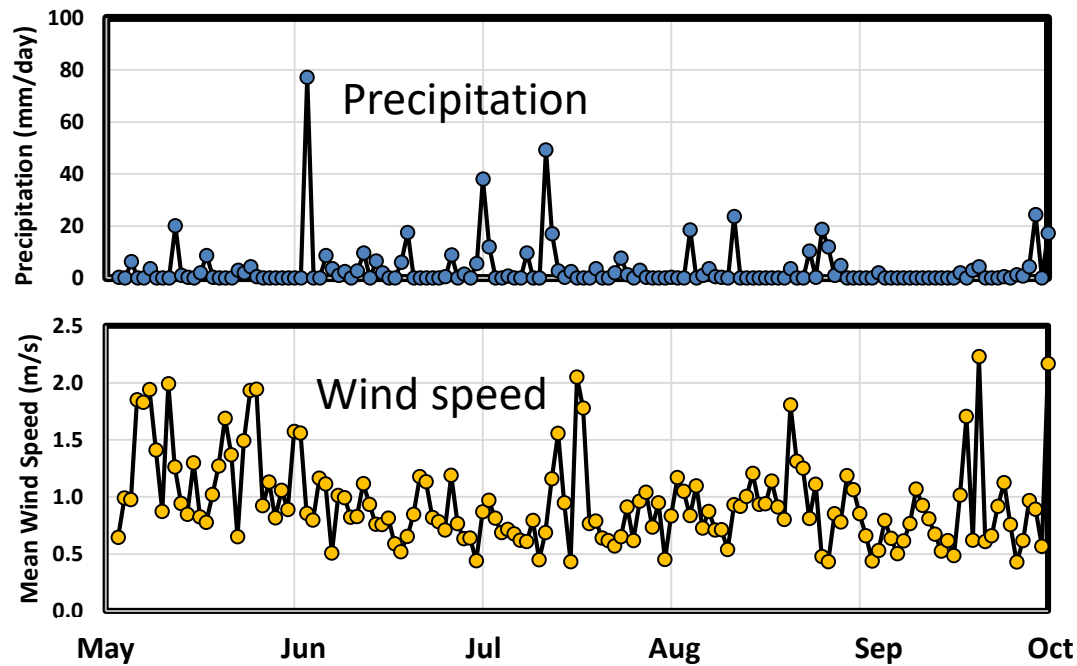
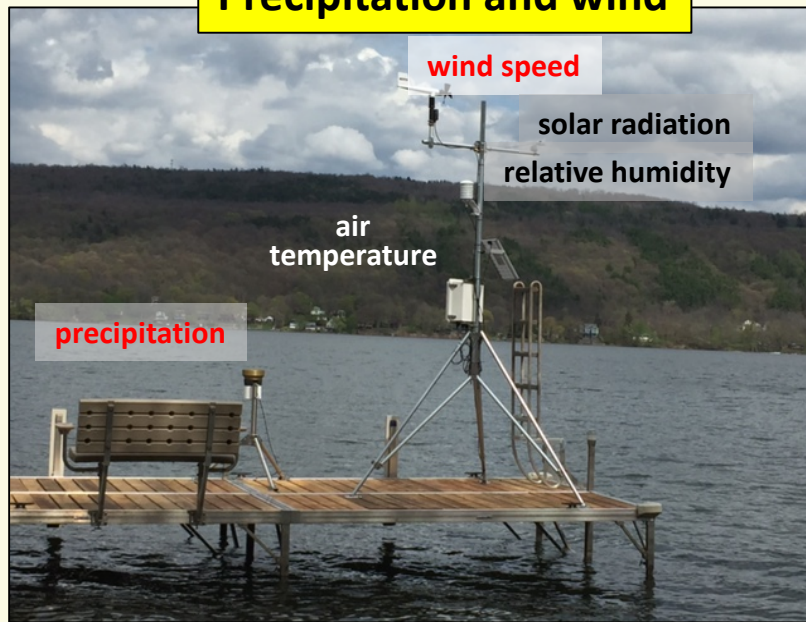
Zooplankton (qualitative)



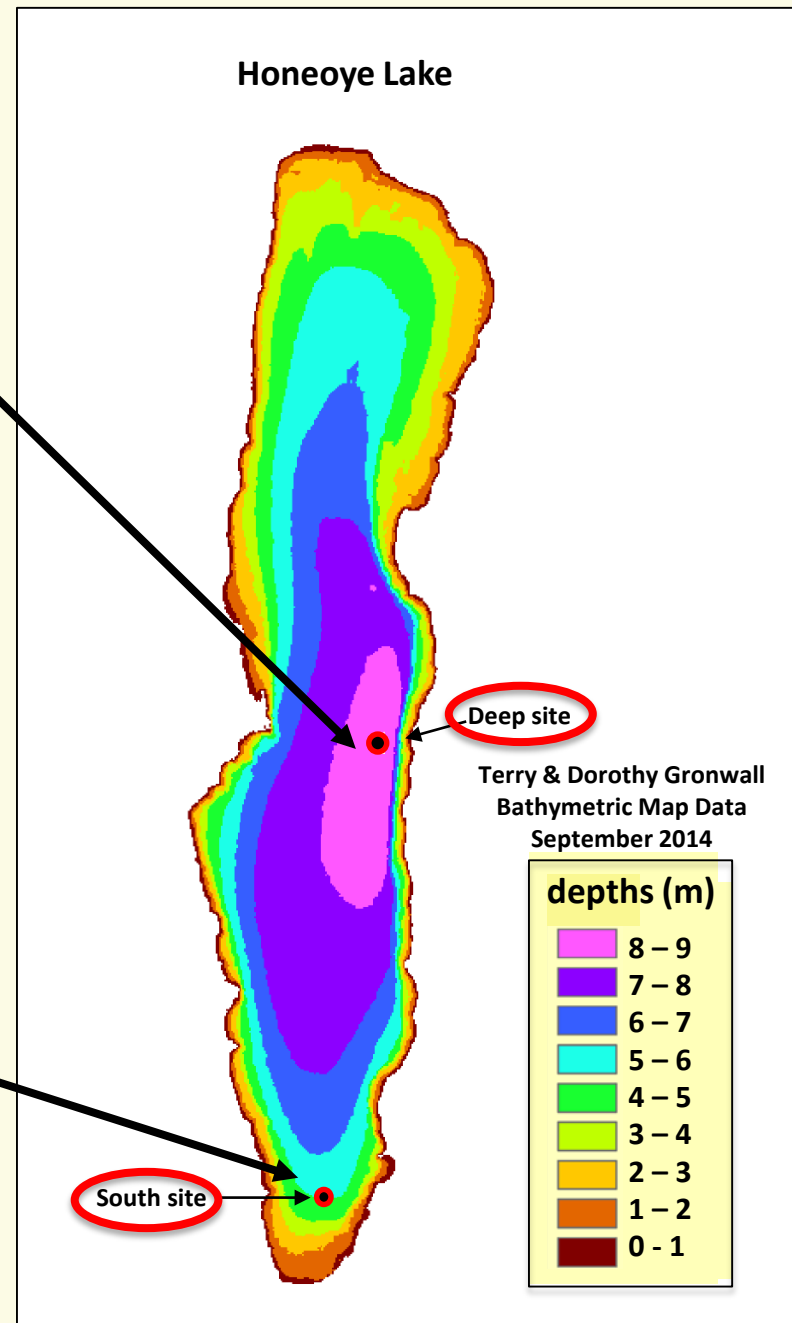
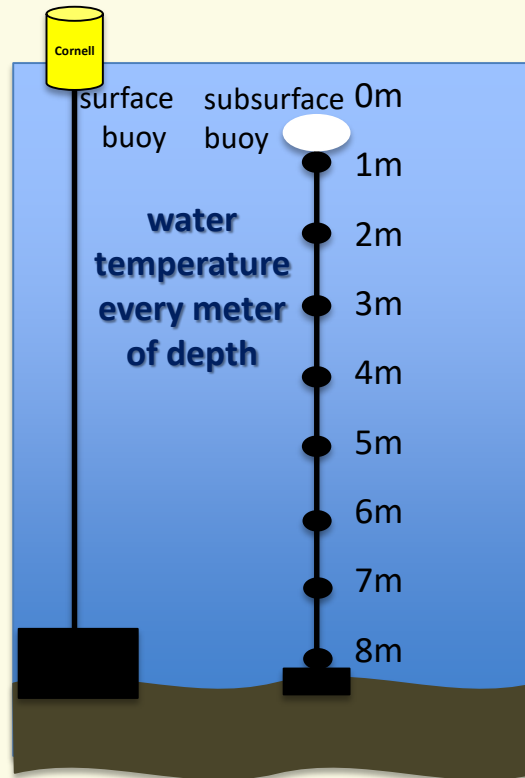
Precipitation and wind



Precipitation and wind

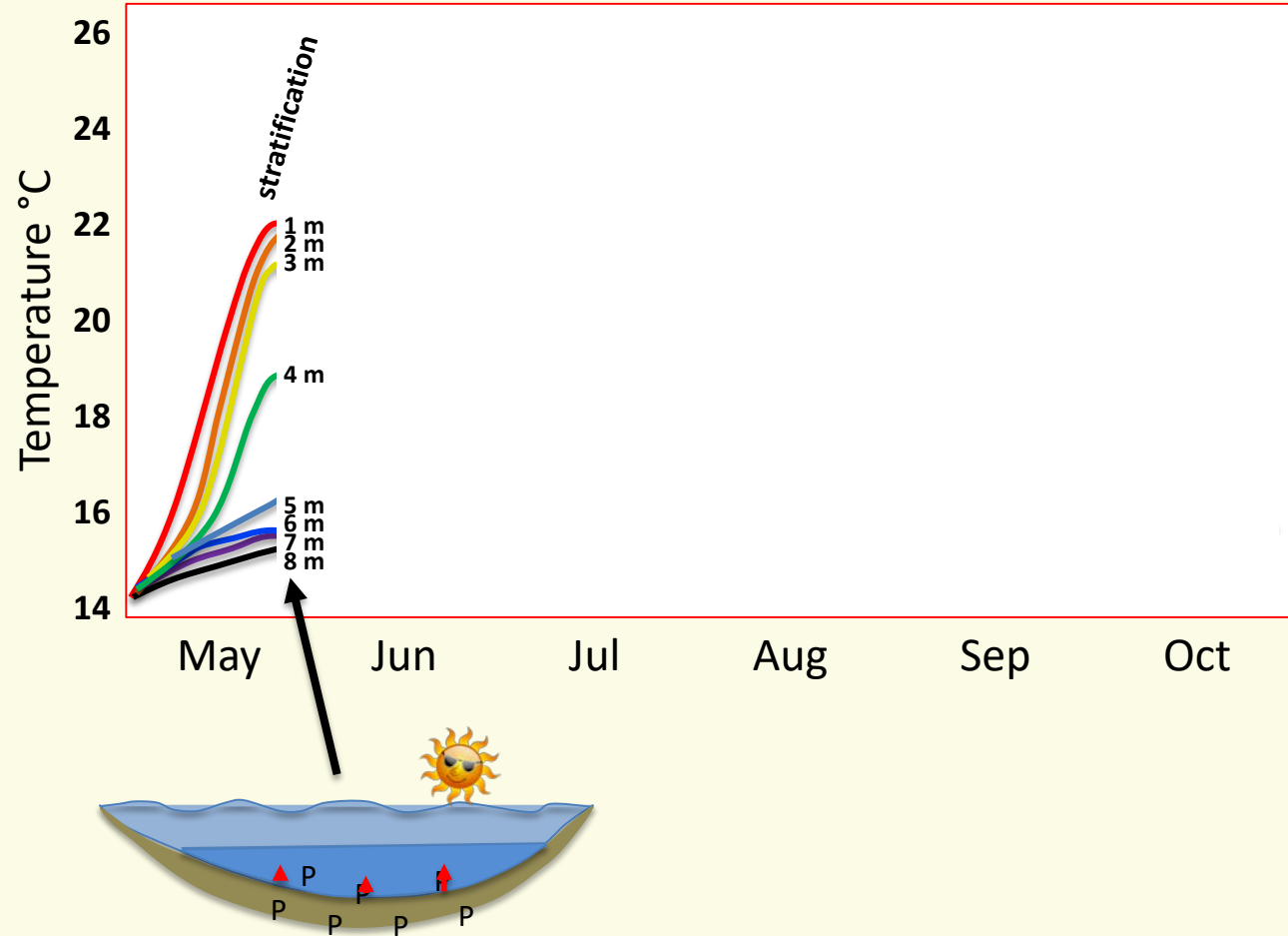
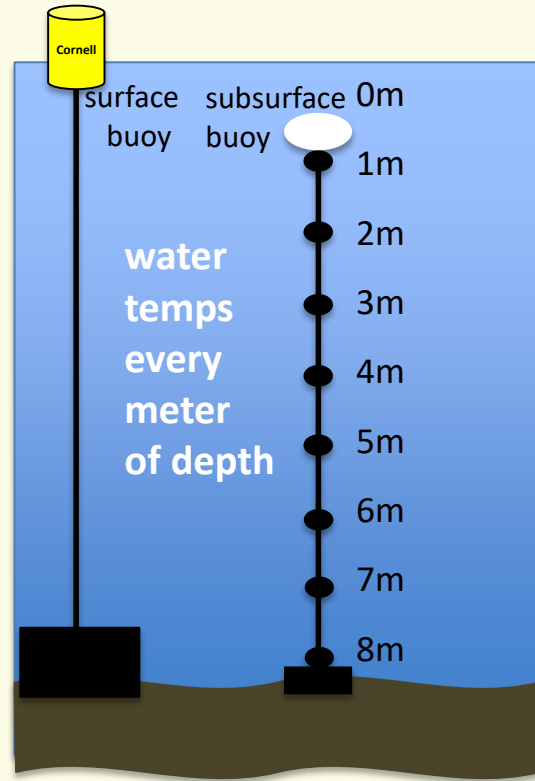


Water temperature by depth



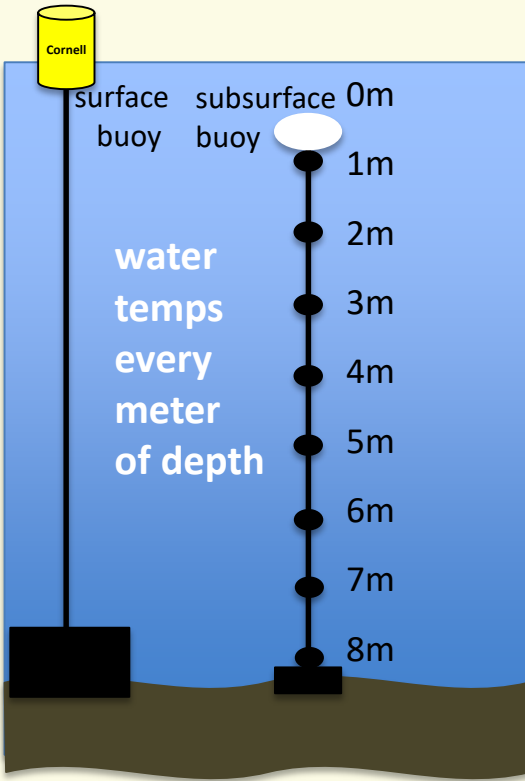
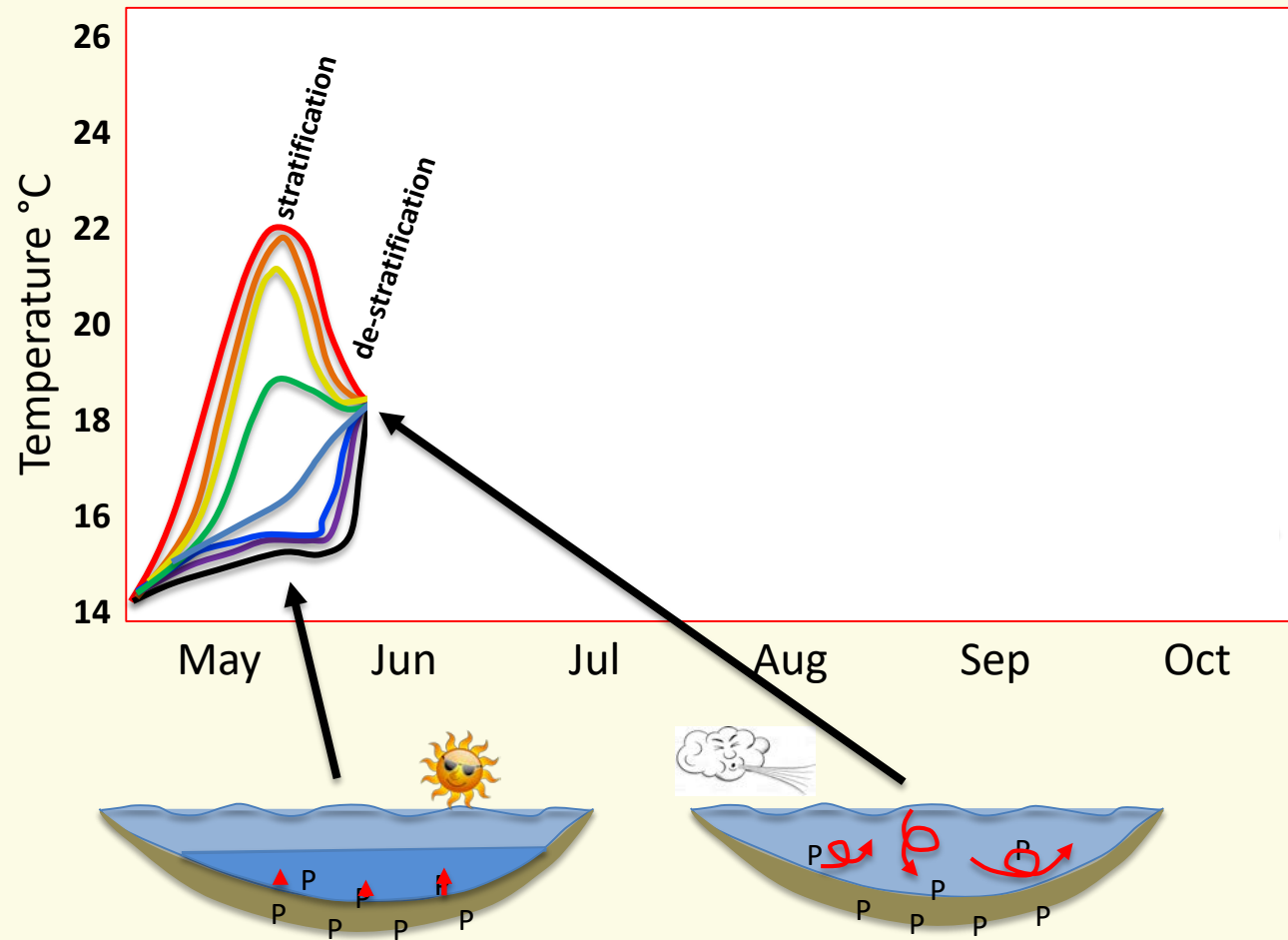
Honeoye Lake: deep enough to stratify, shallow enough to mix.

Hypothetical pattern of stratification & de-stratification



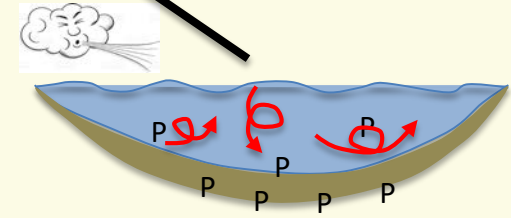
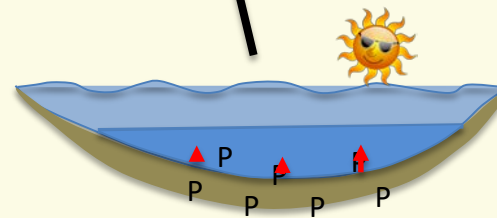
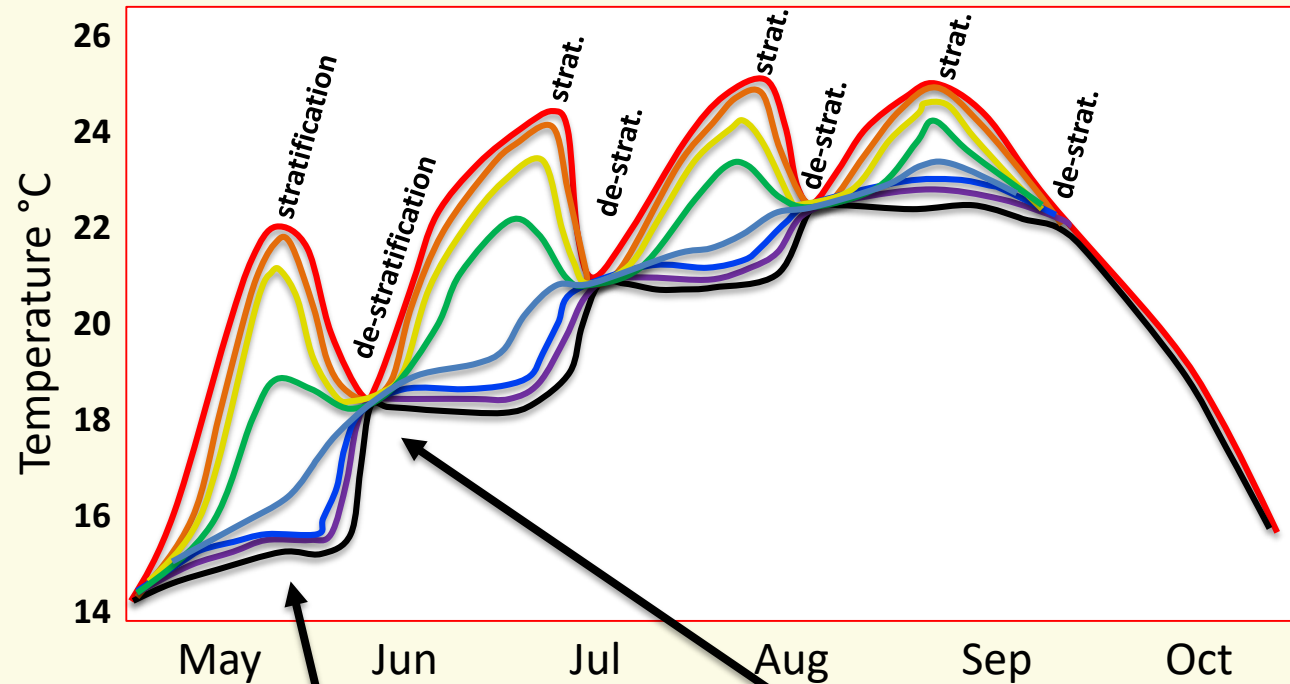
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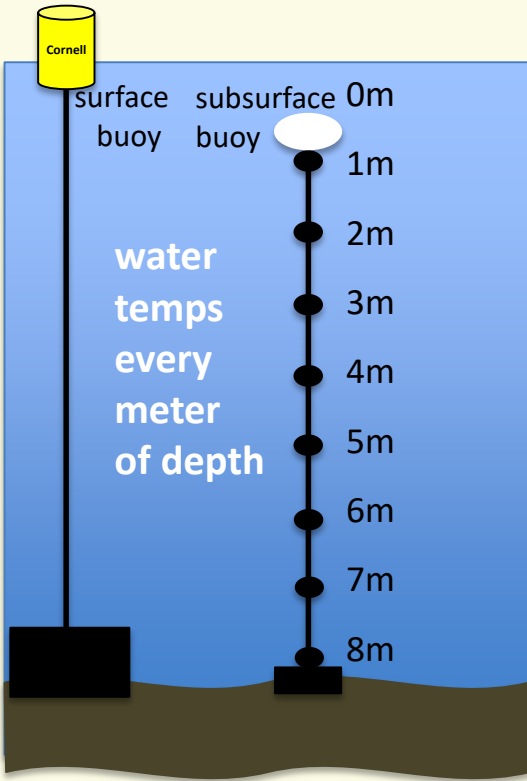
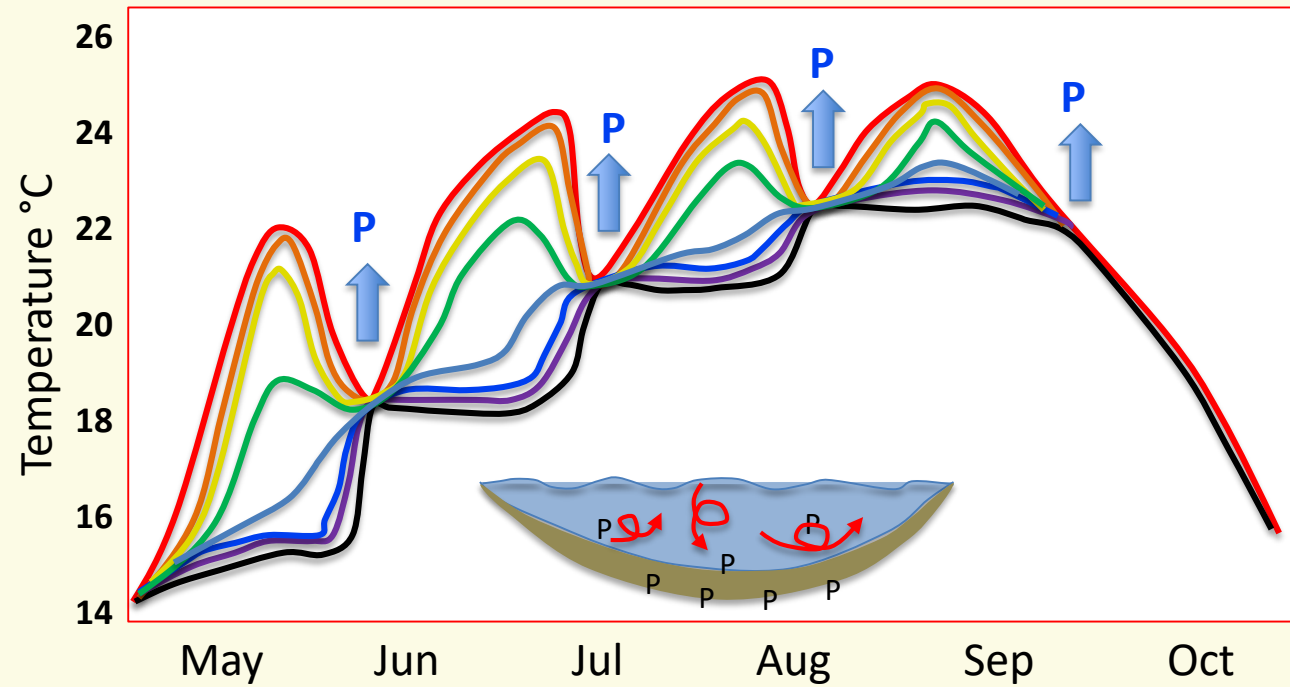


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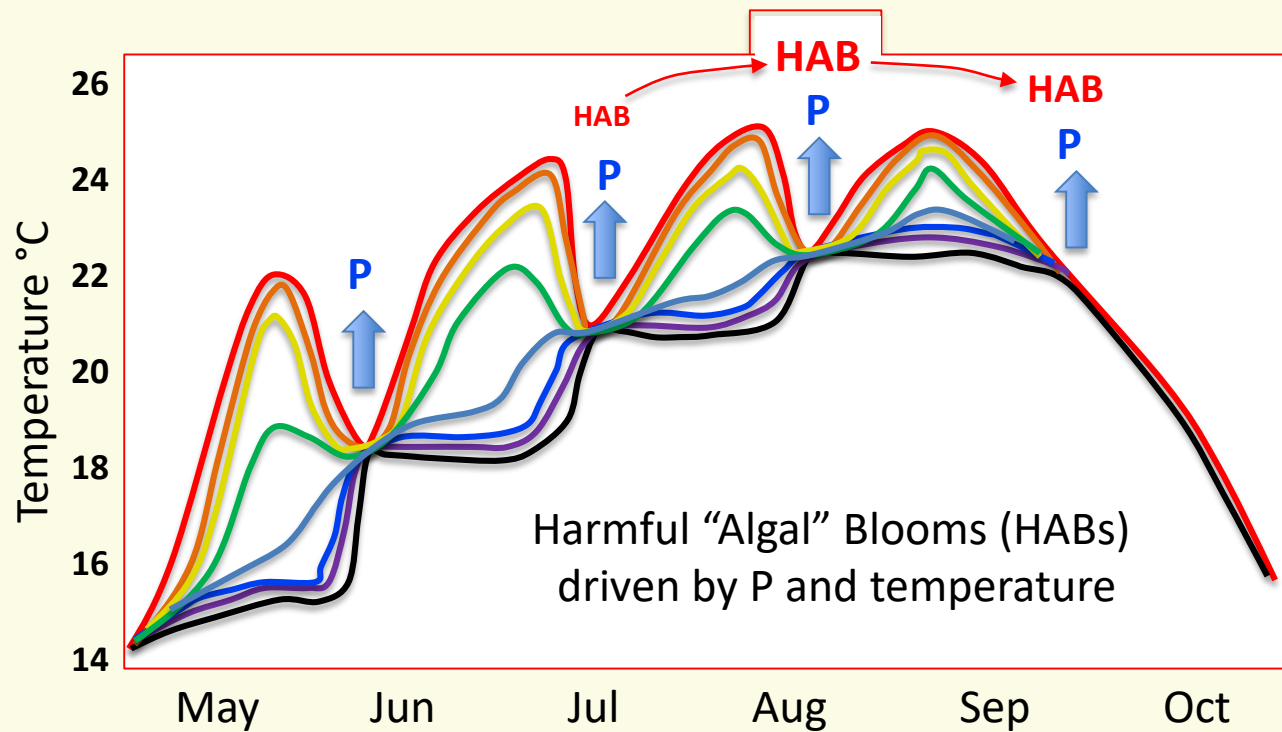
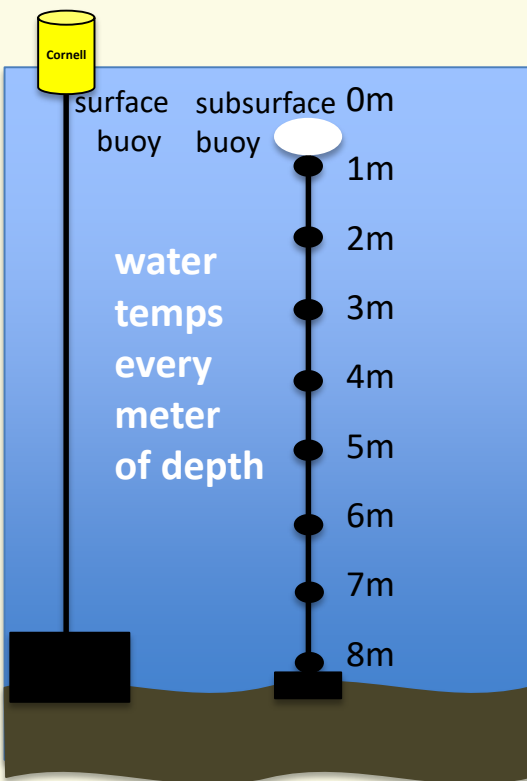
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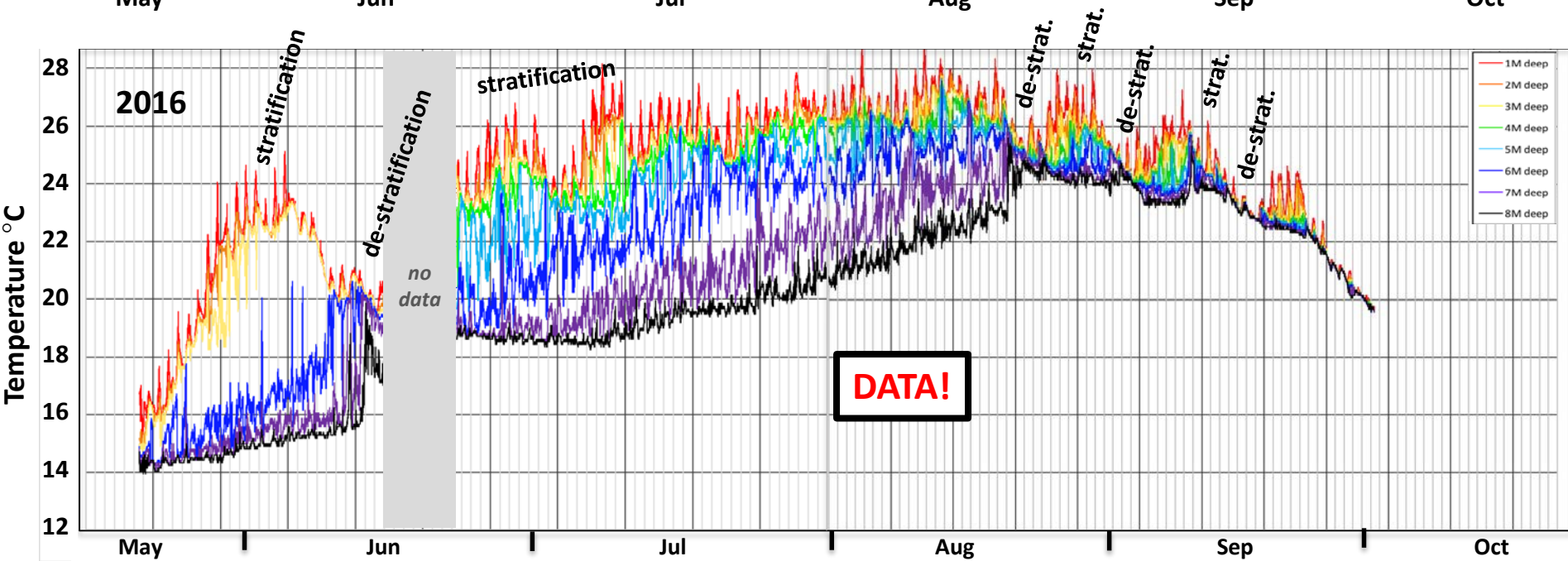
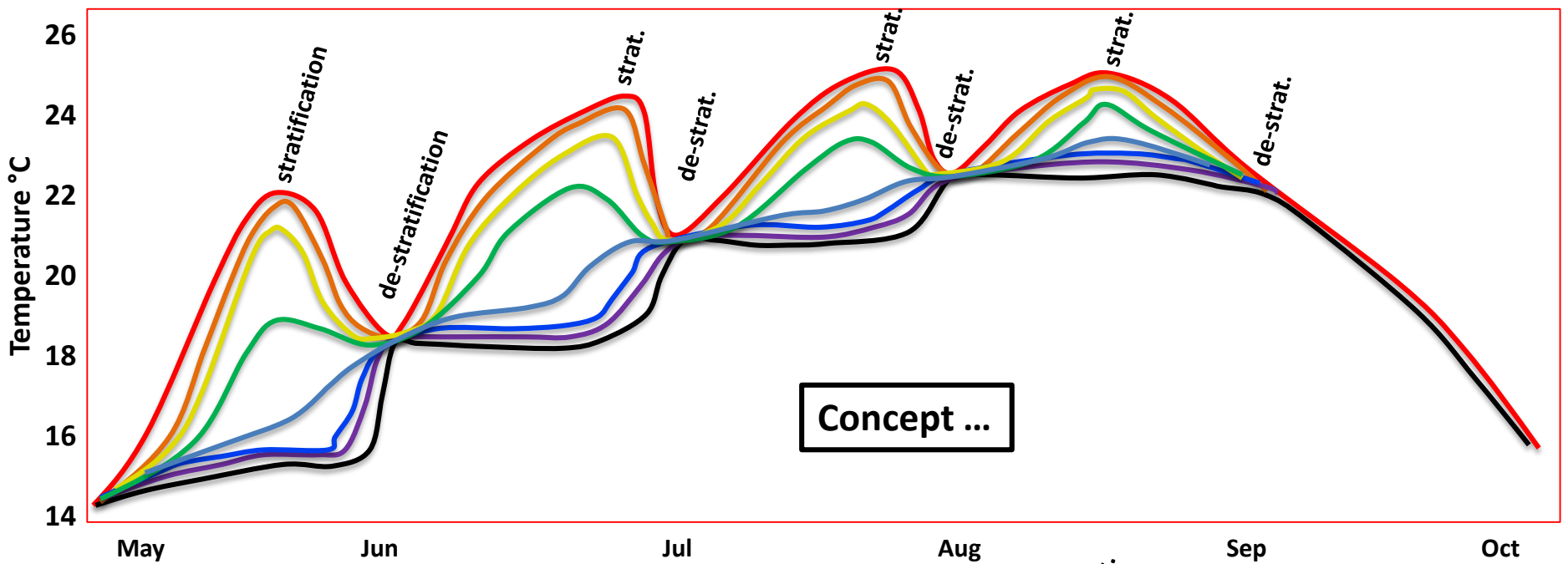


Hypothetical pattern of phosphorus pumping

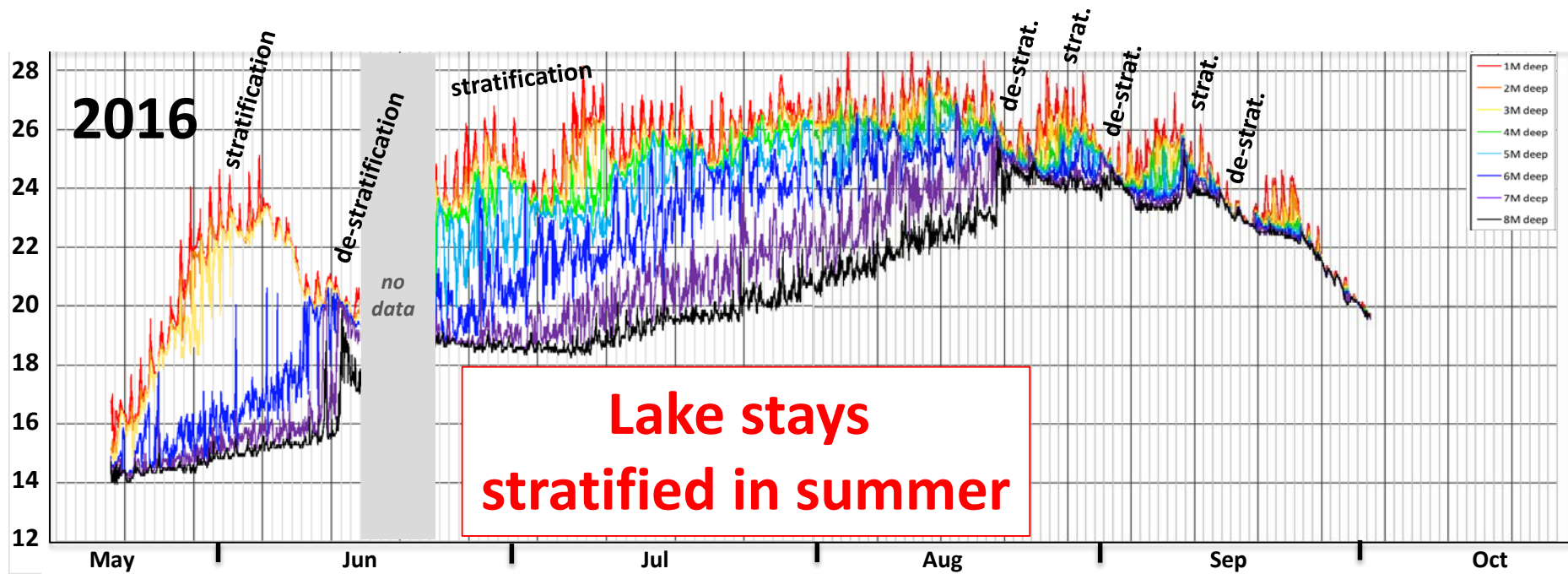


Hypothetical pattern of phosphorus pumping and HABs

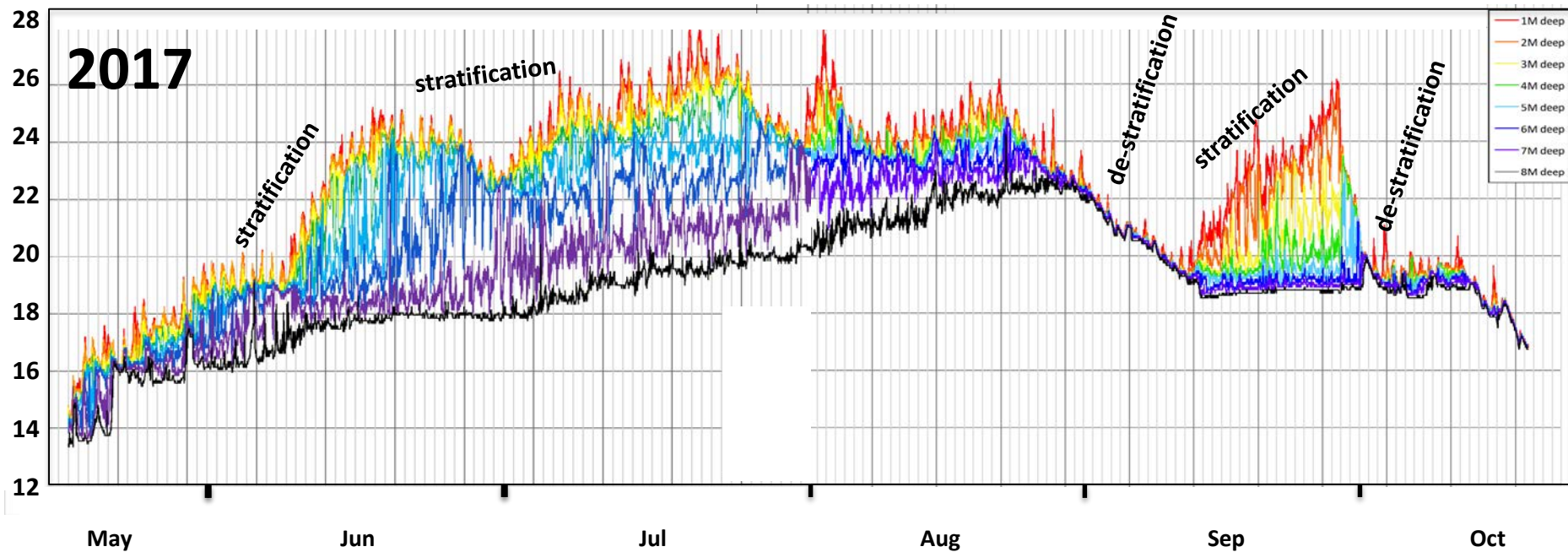


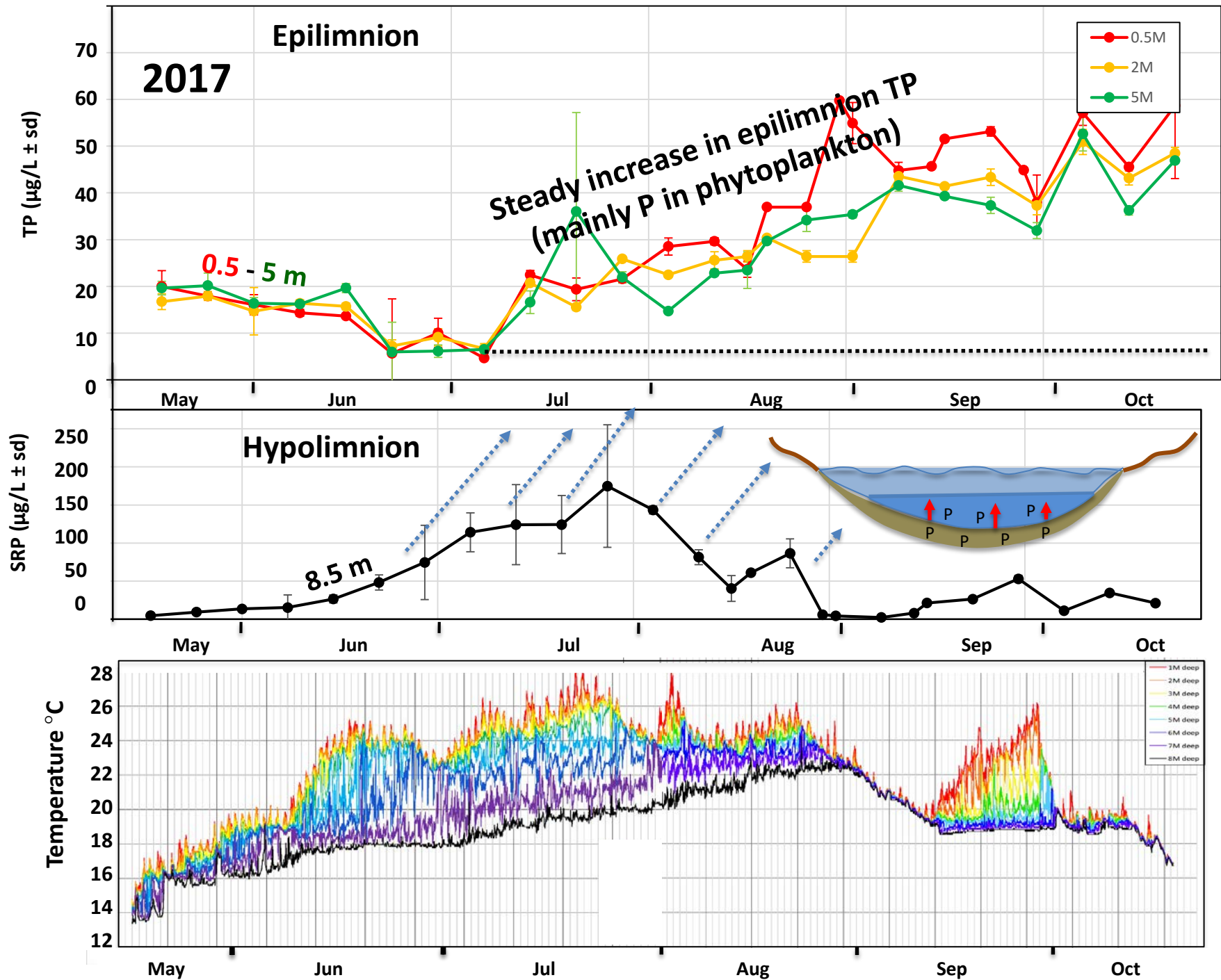


Temperature °C

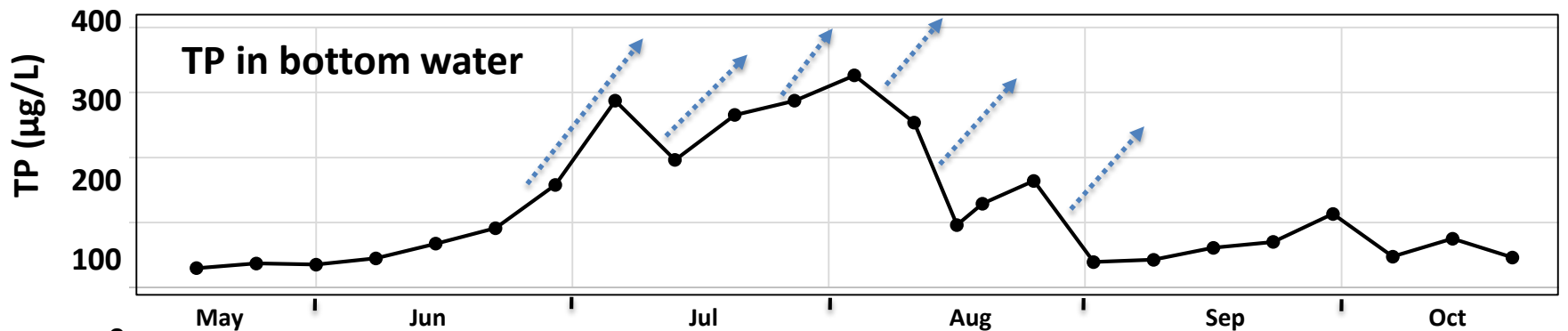
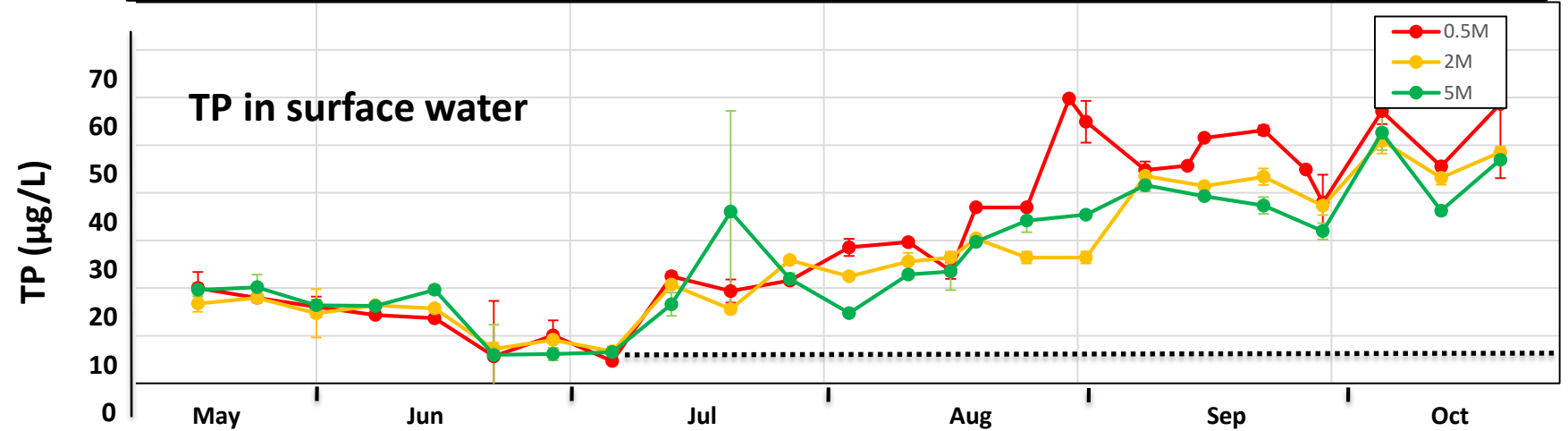
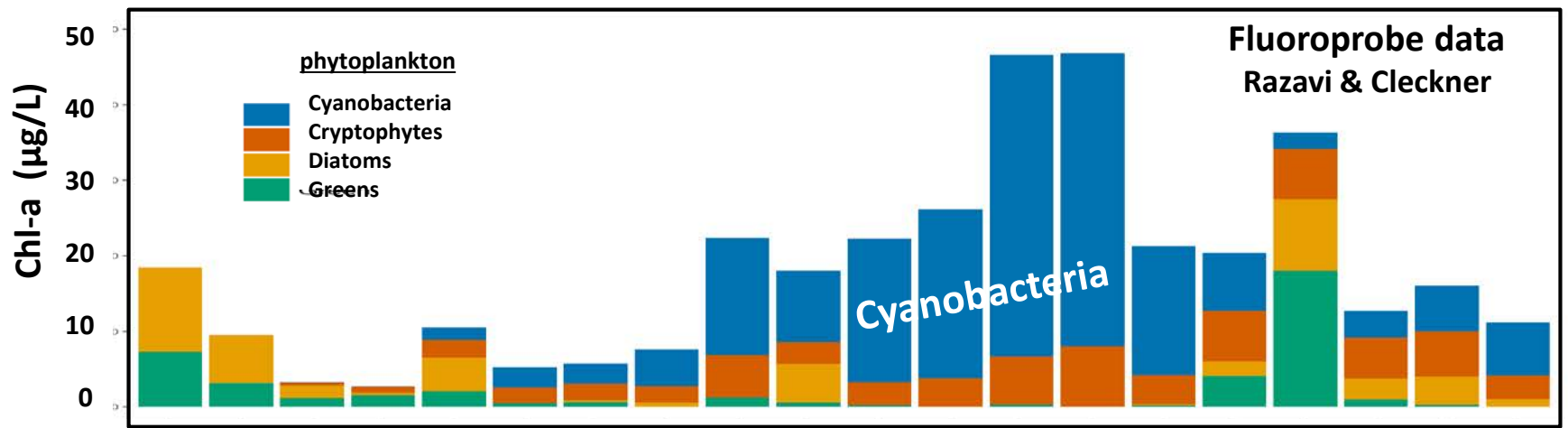


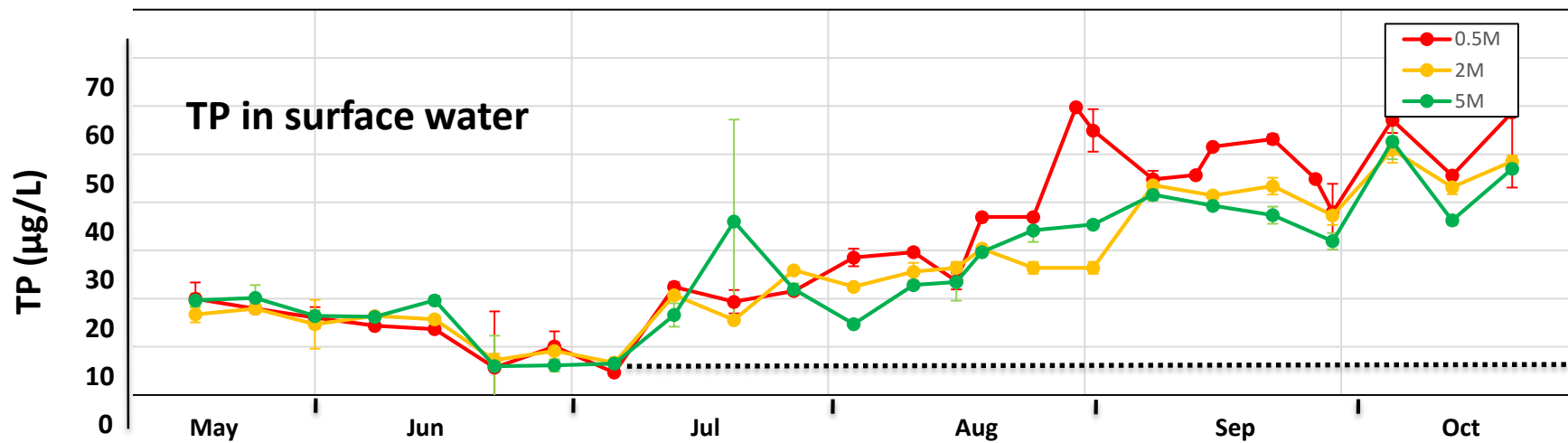
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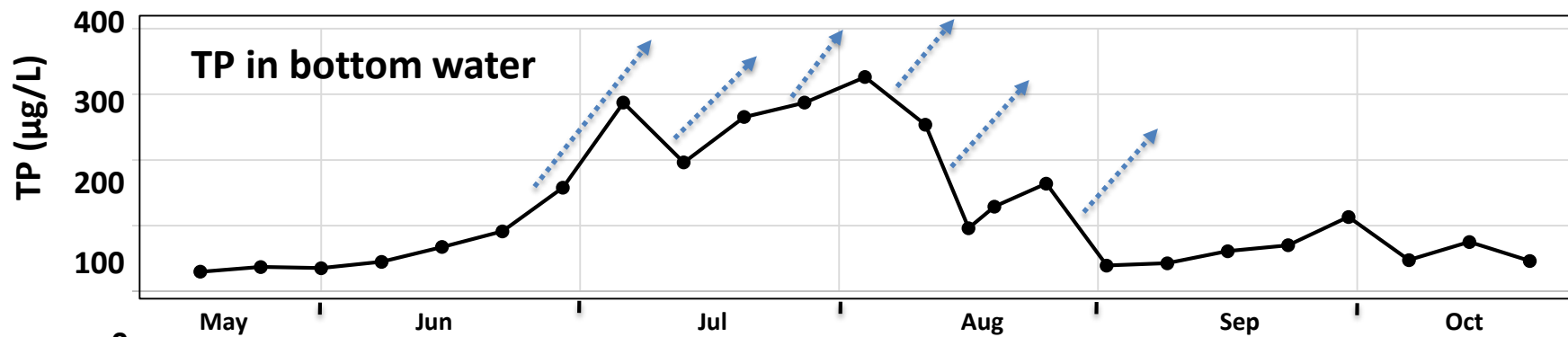
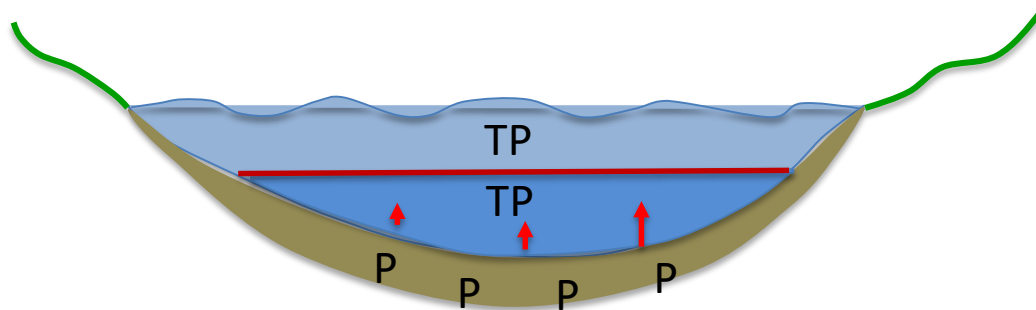


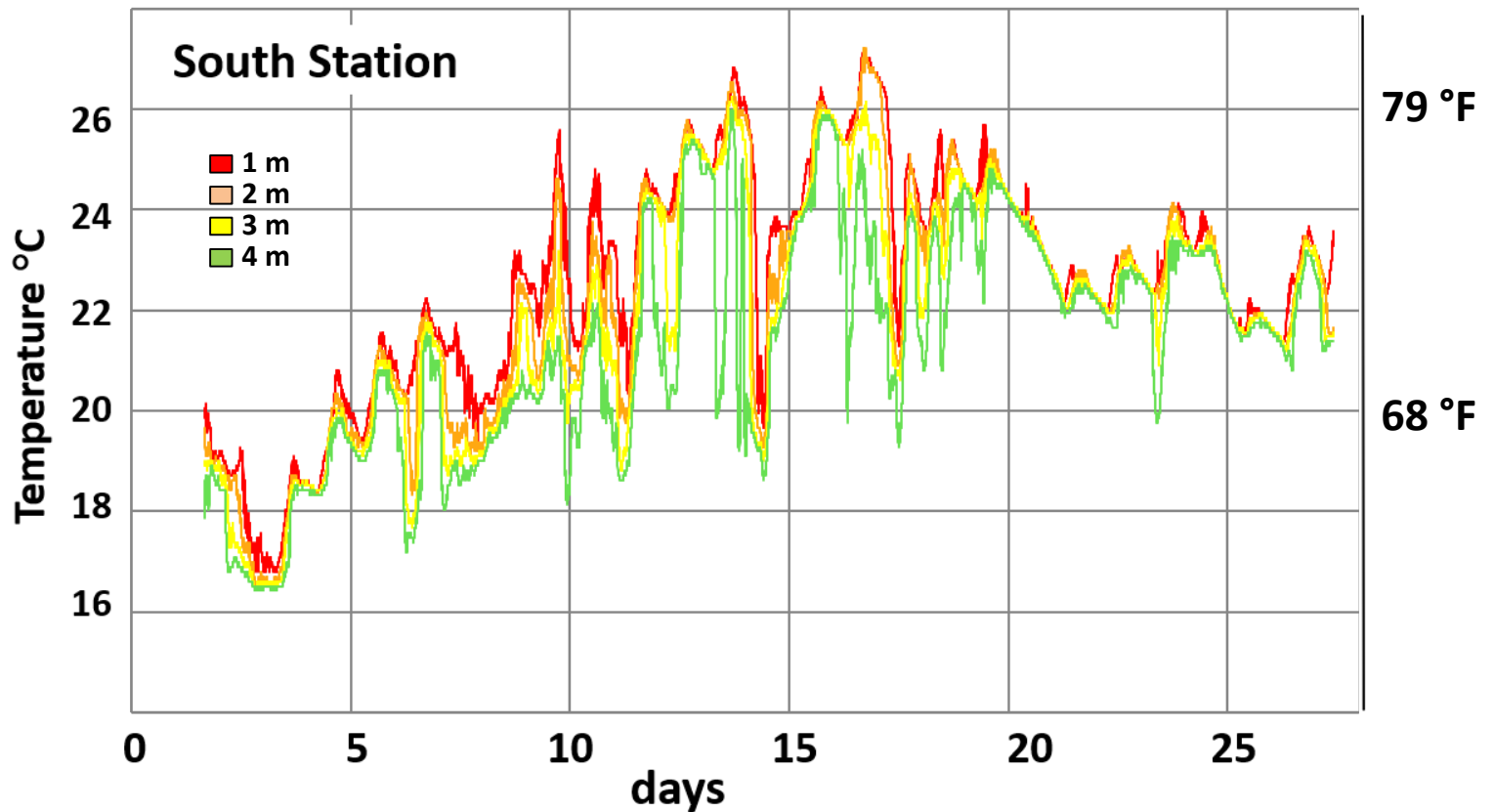
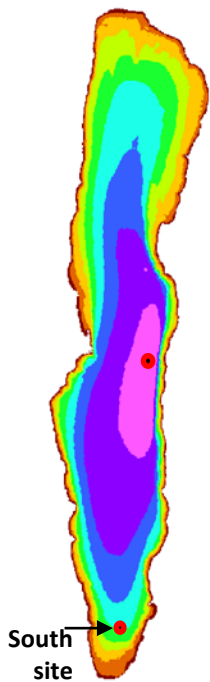
Phytoplankton biomass in surface water (0 – 5 m)



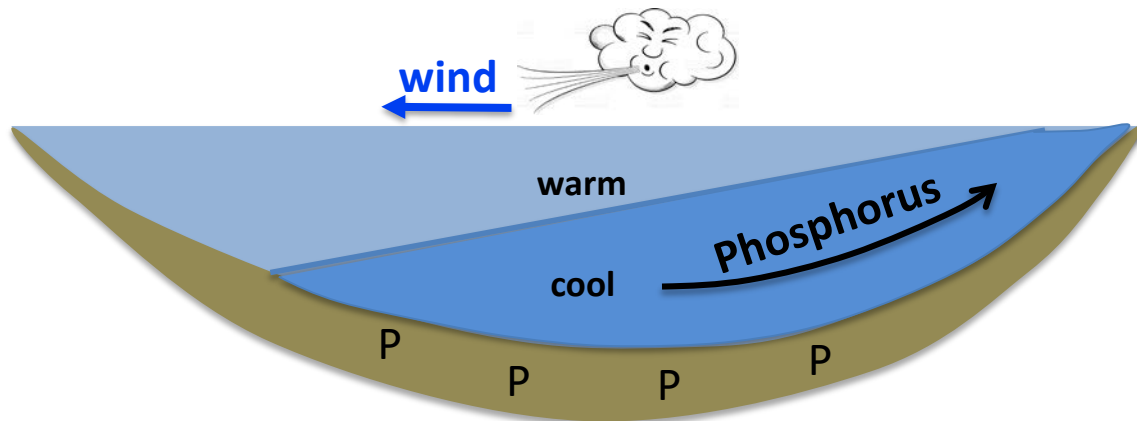


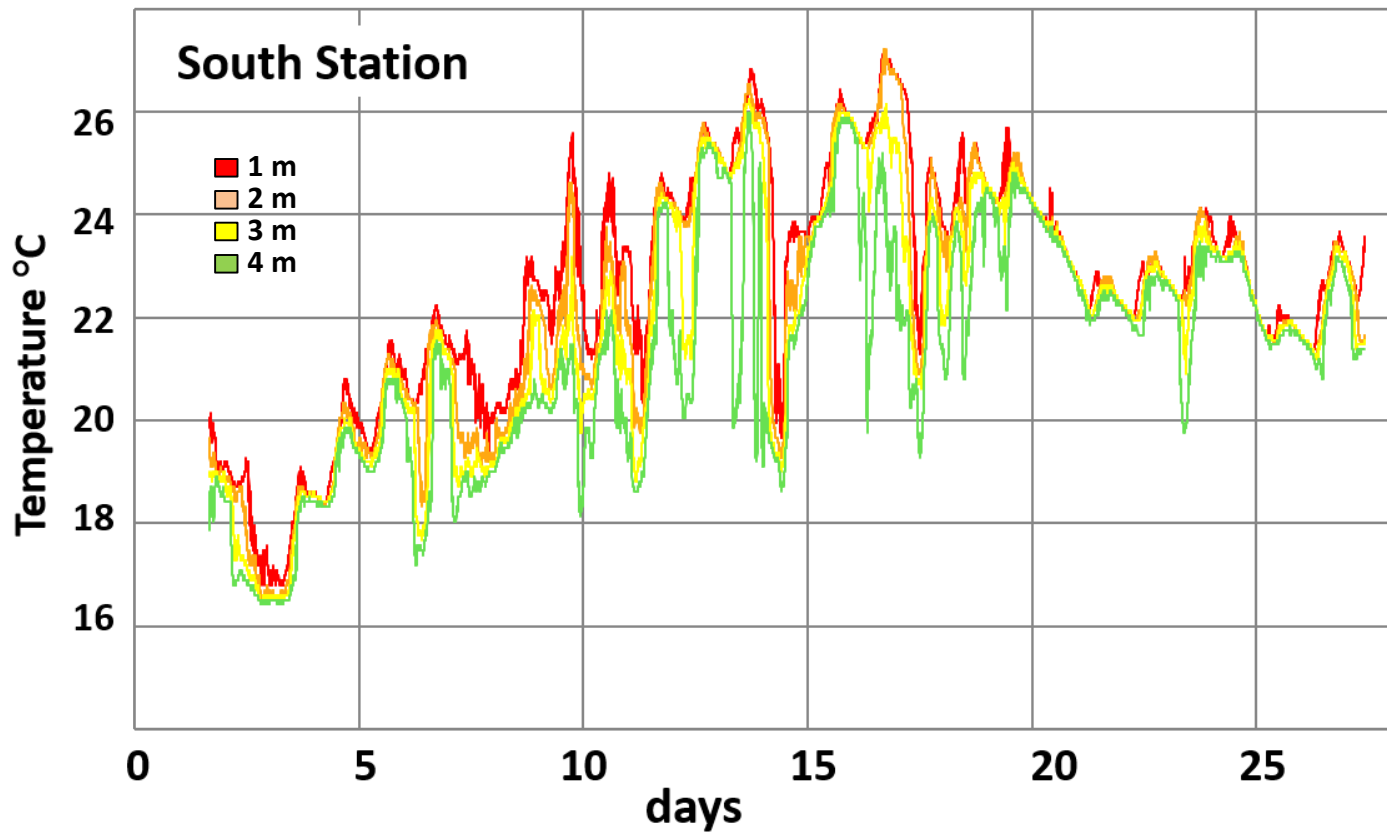
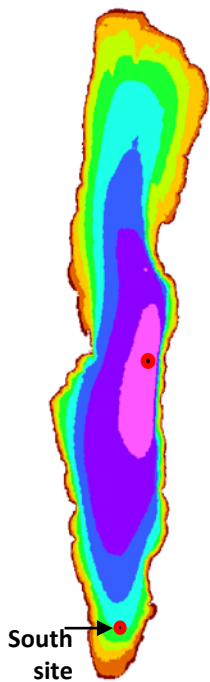
How did the P get into the epilimnion while the lake was stratified?



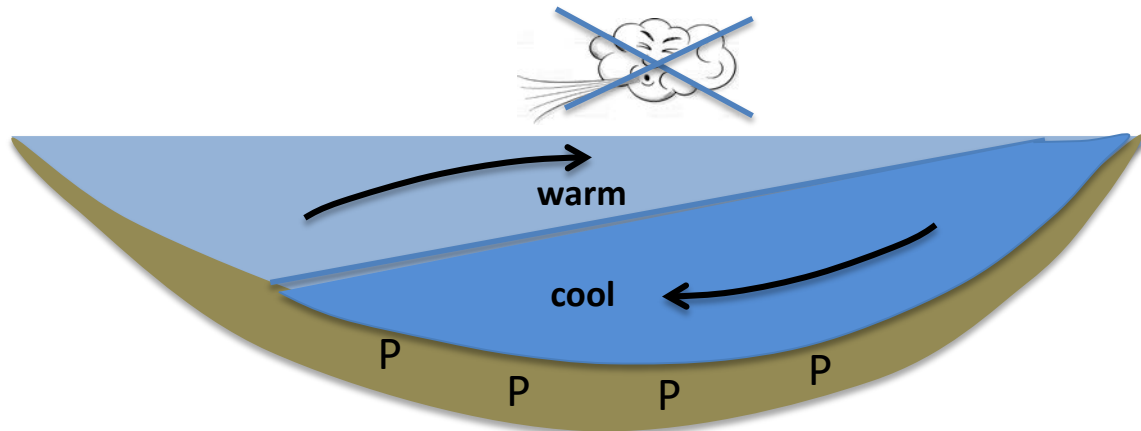


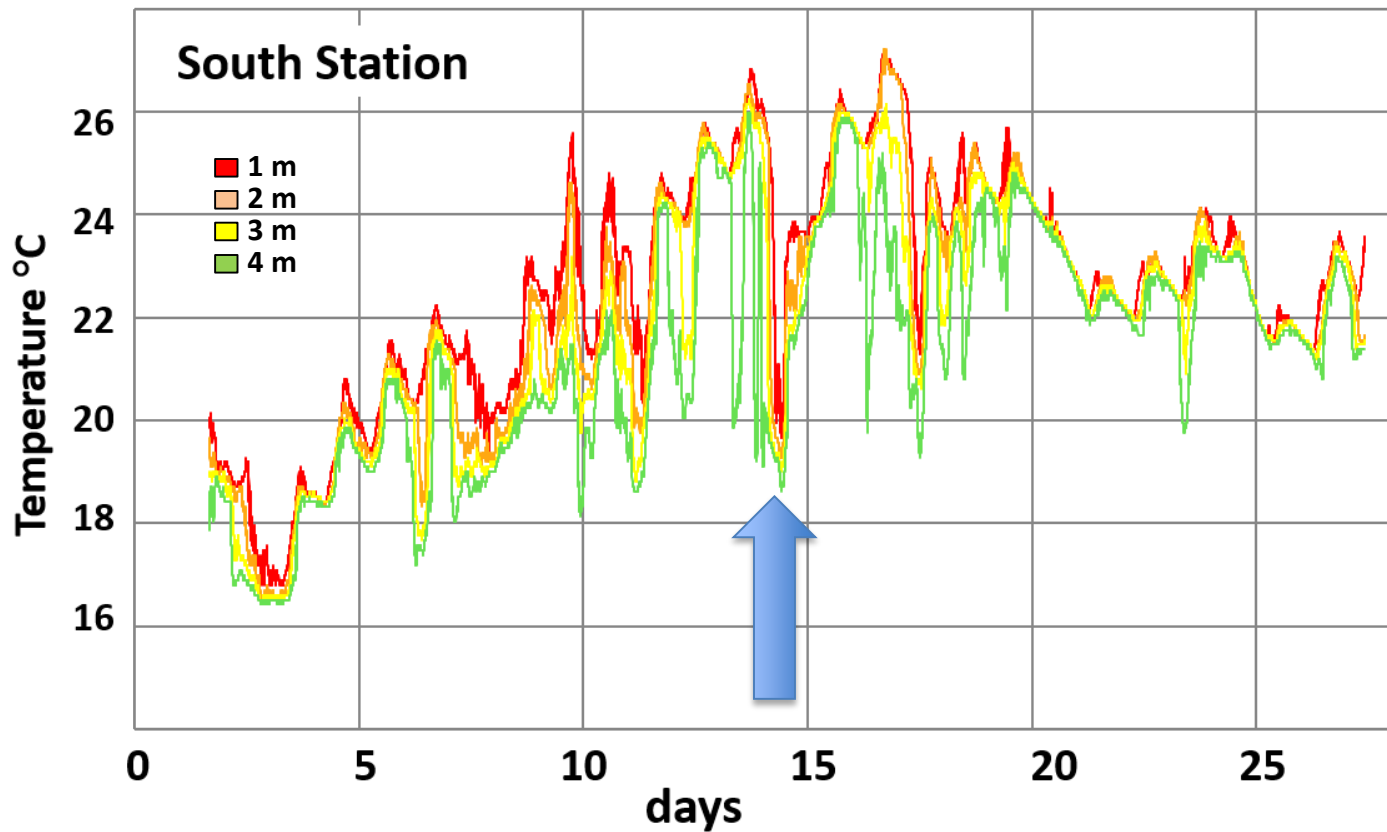
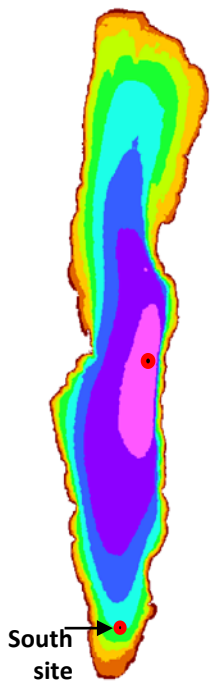
Thermocline tilt: upwelling of cool nutrient-rich bottom water



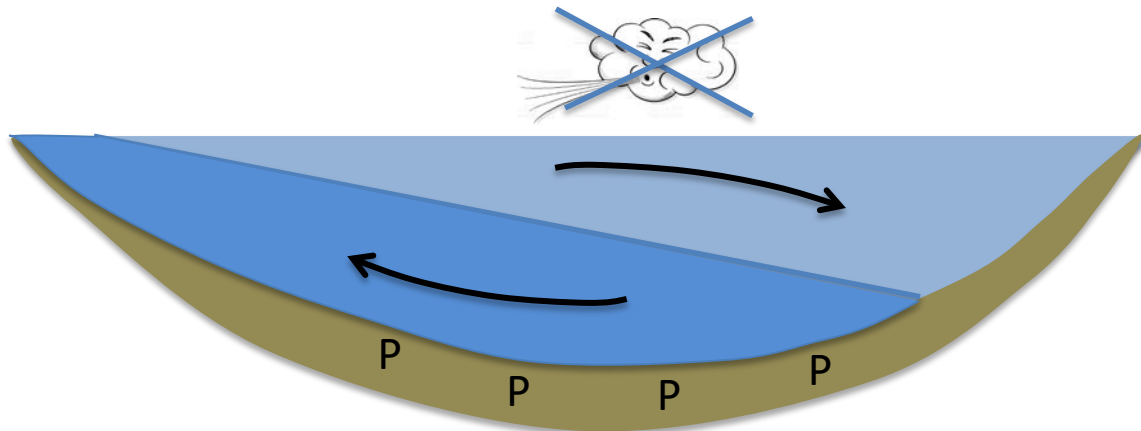


Thermocline tilt: upwelling of cool nutrient-rich bottom water

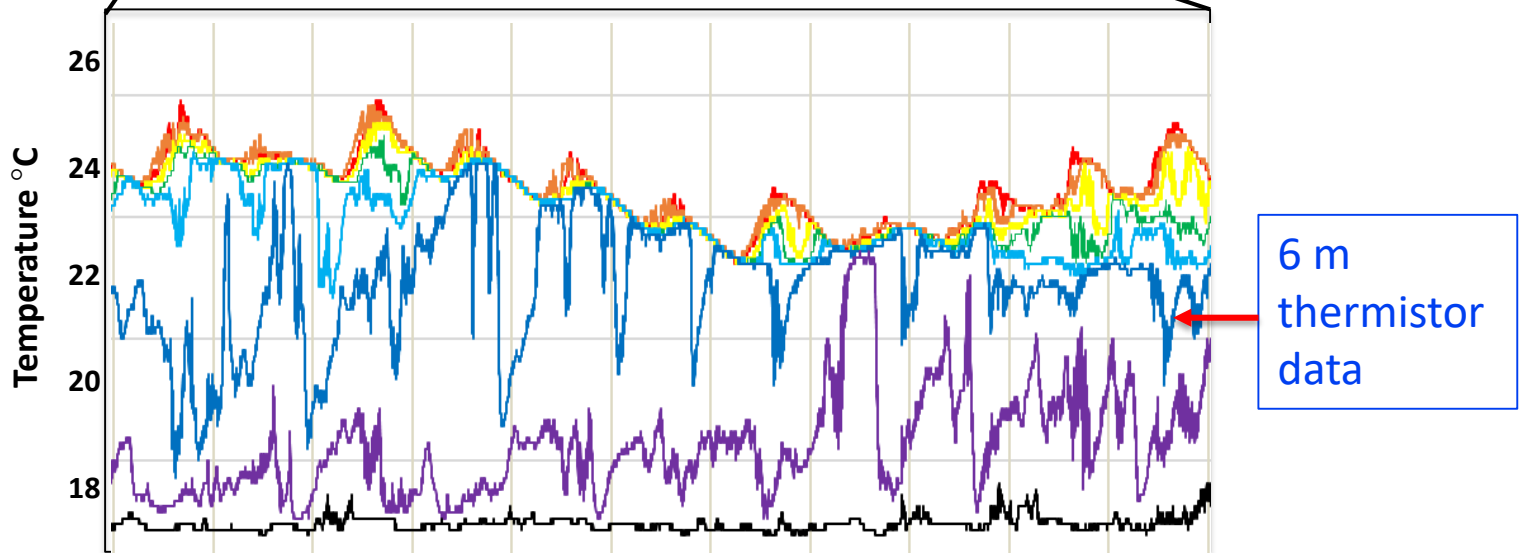
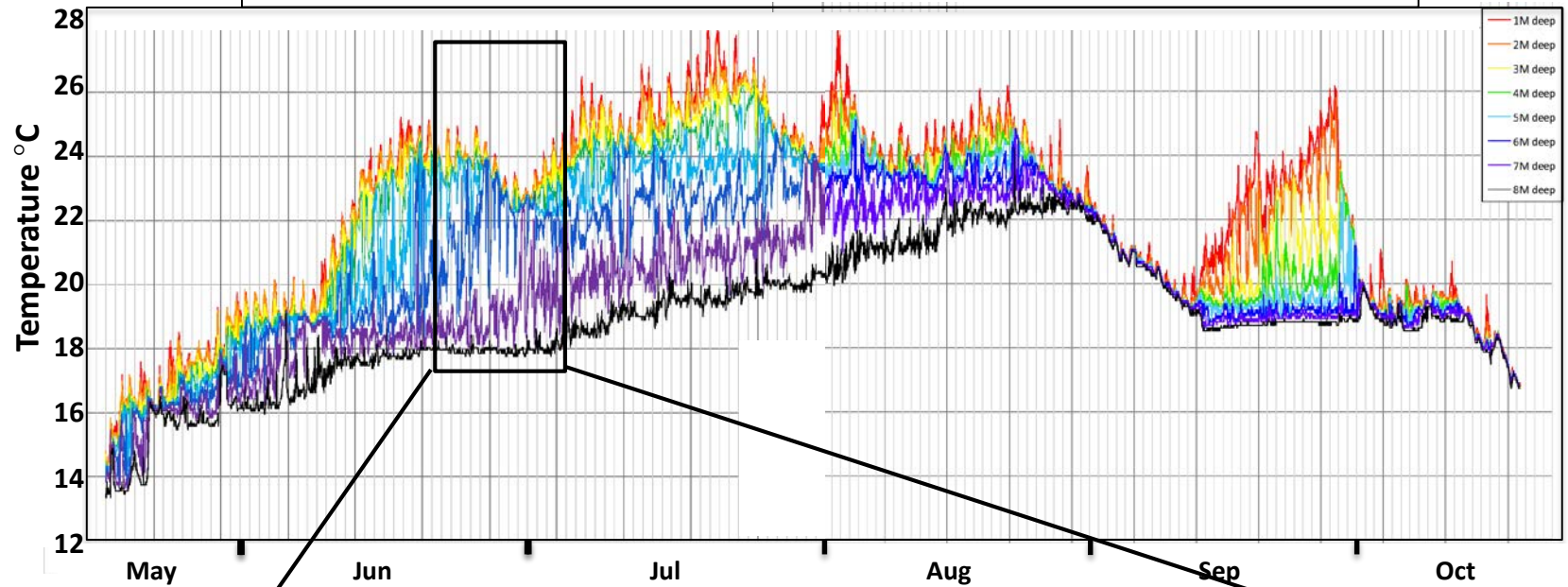




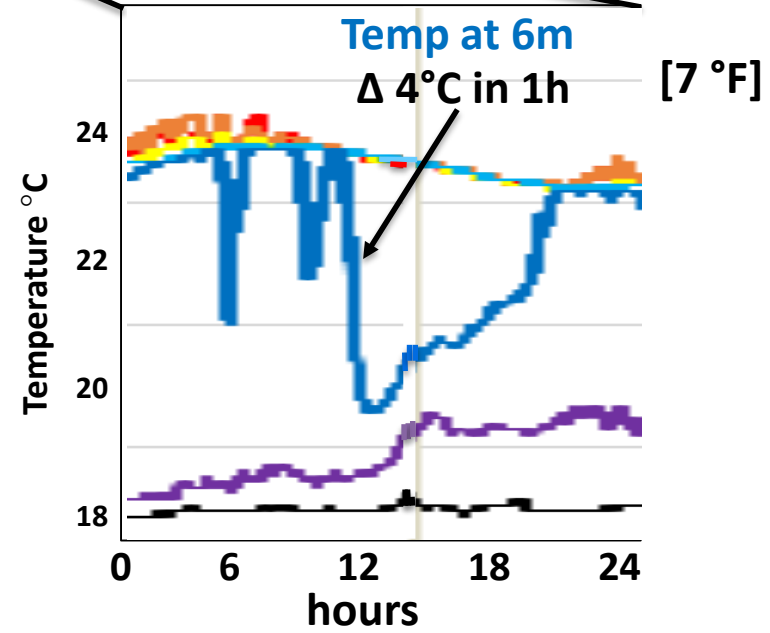
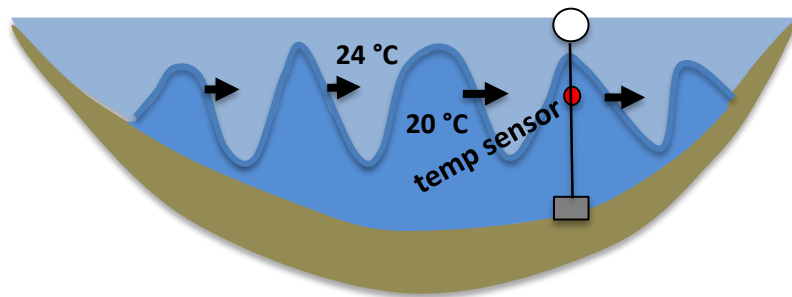
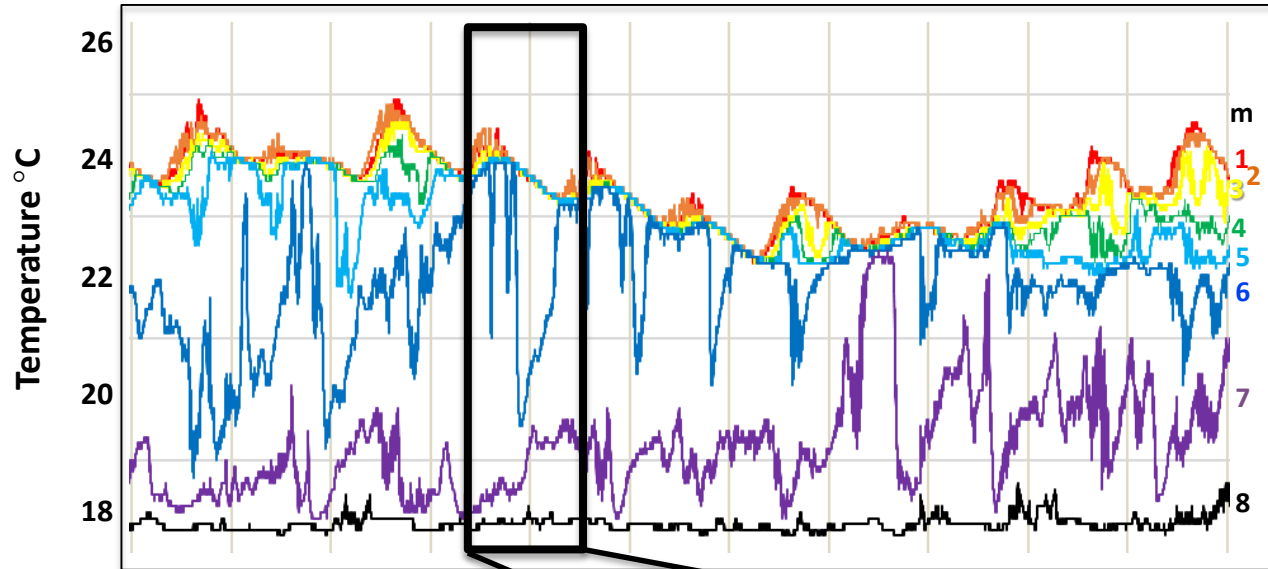
Thermocline tilt: upwelling of cool nutrient-rich bottom water



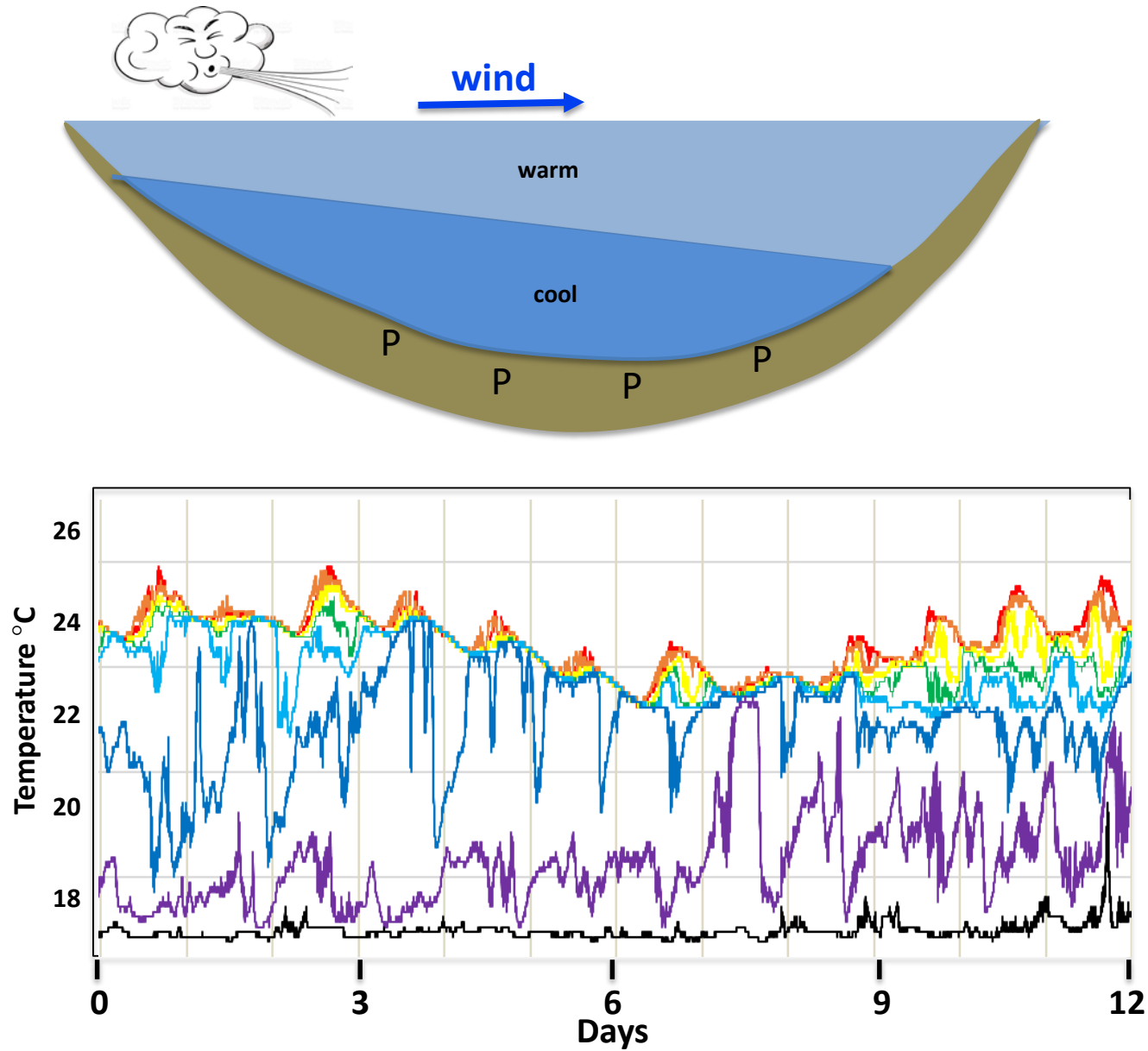
ALSO ...Internal waves along the thermocline



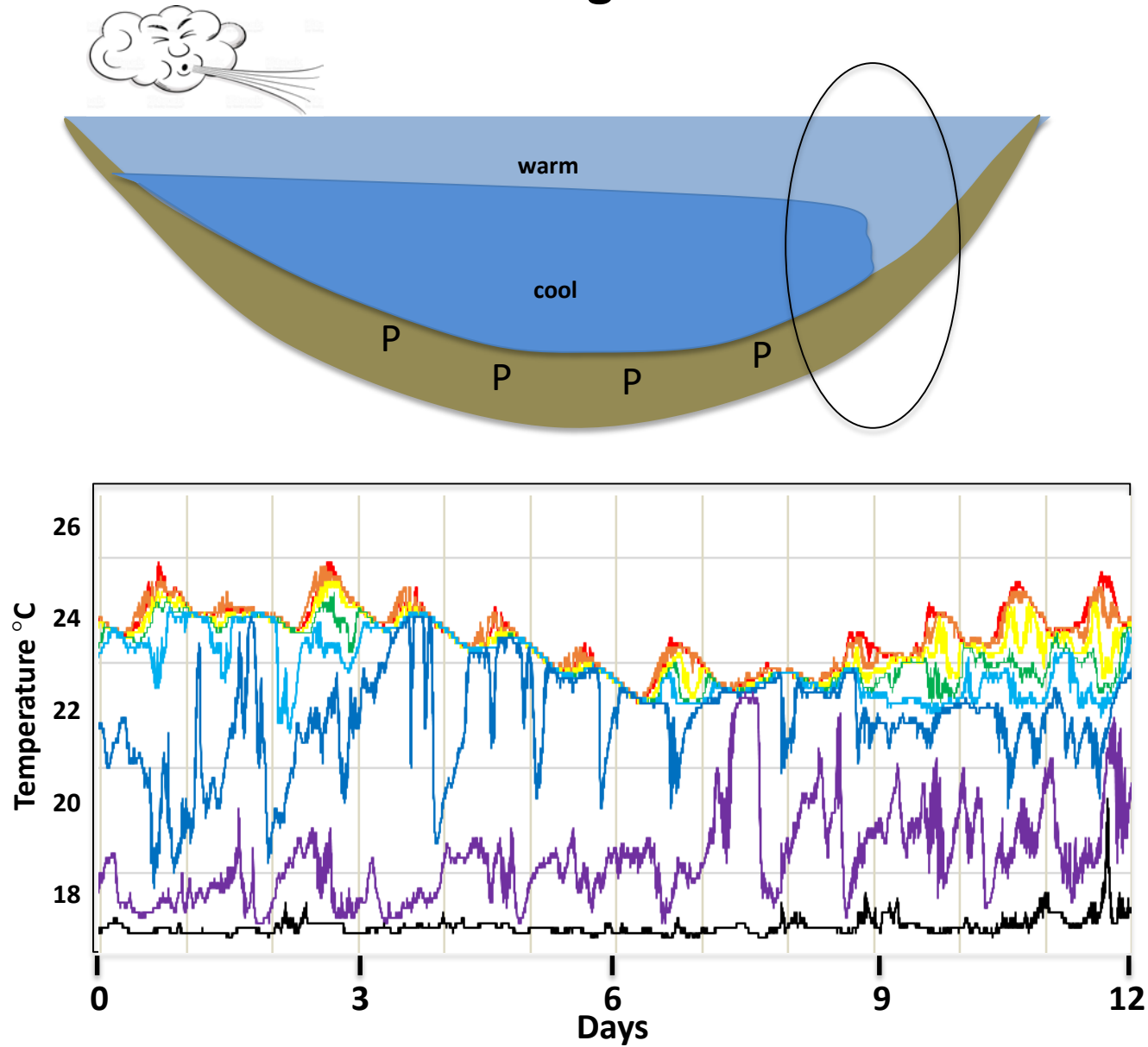
Internal waves along the thermocline



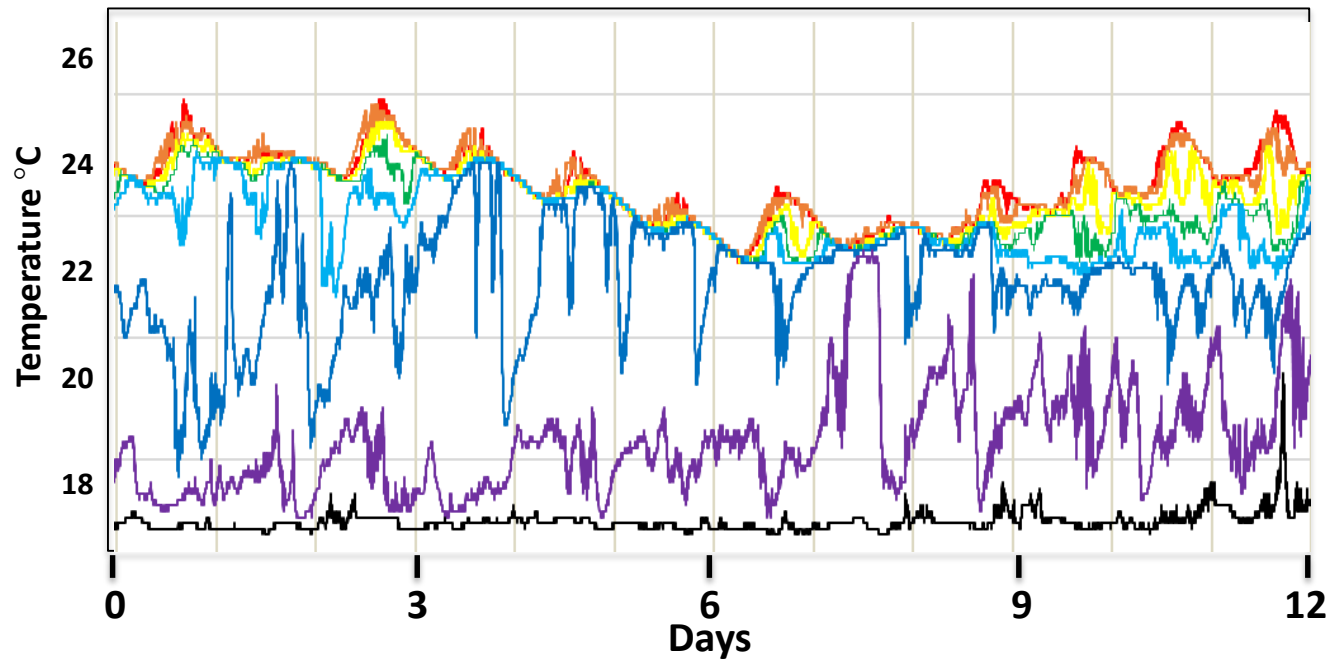
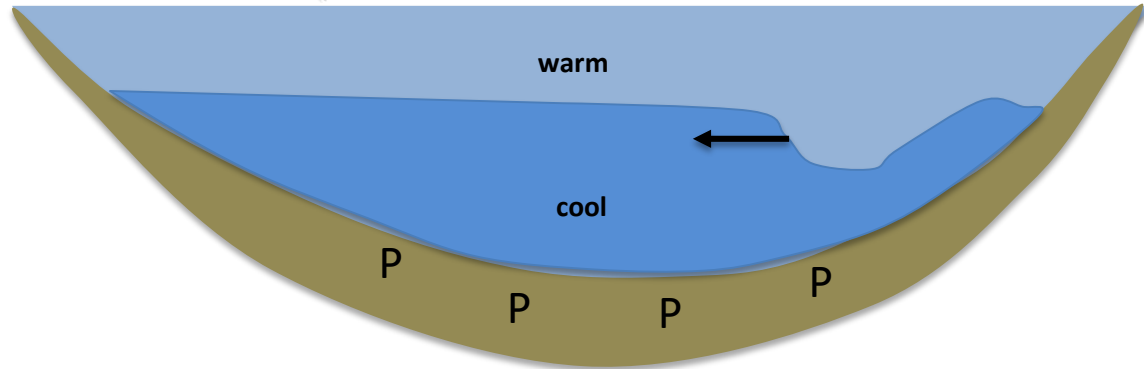
Internal waves along the thermocline



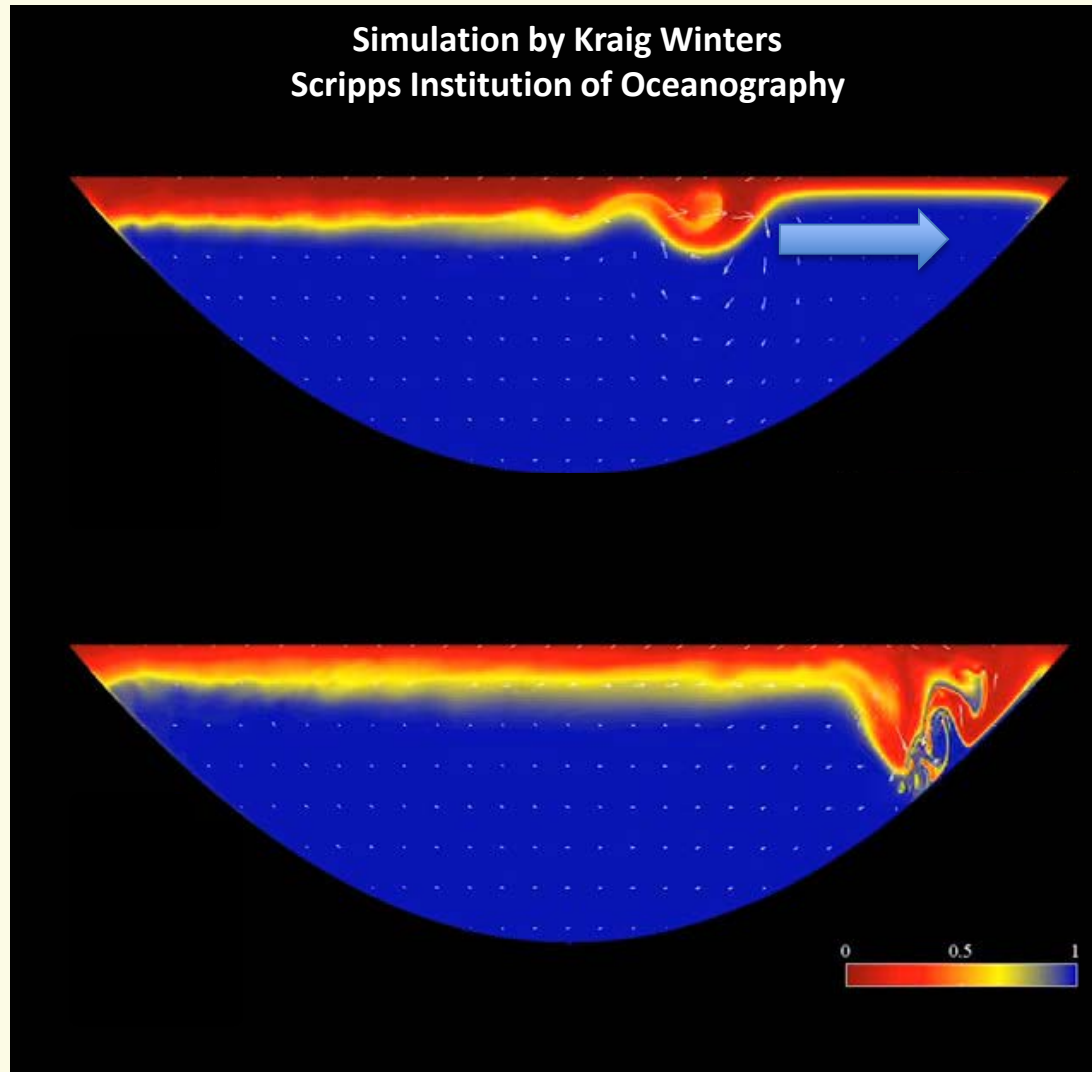
Internal waves along the thermocline



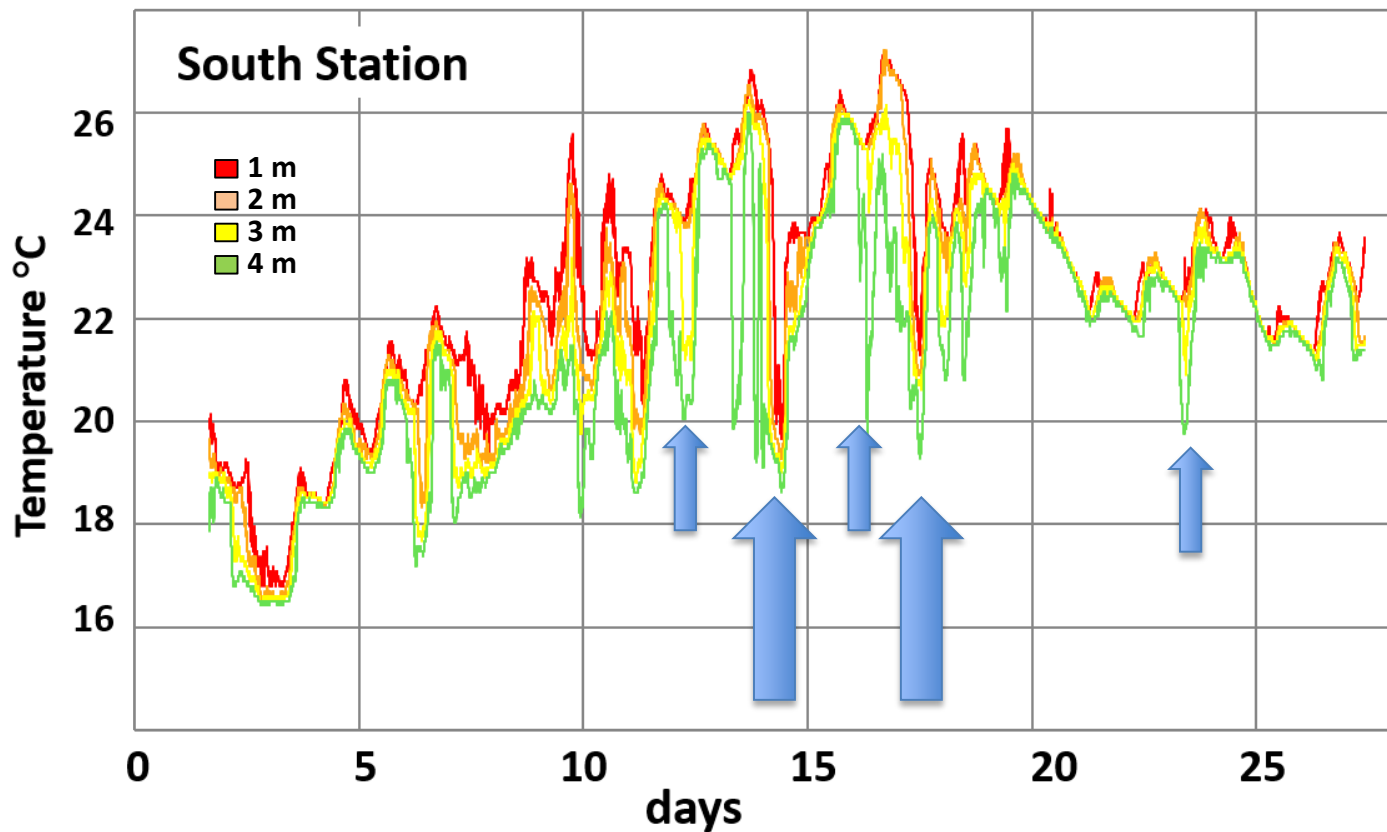
Internal waves along the thermocline



Internal waves hit the slope at the end of the lake → turbulent mixing

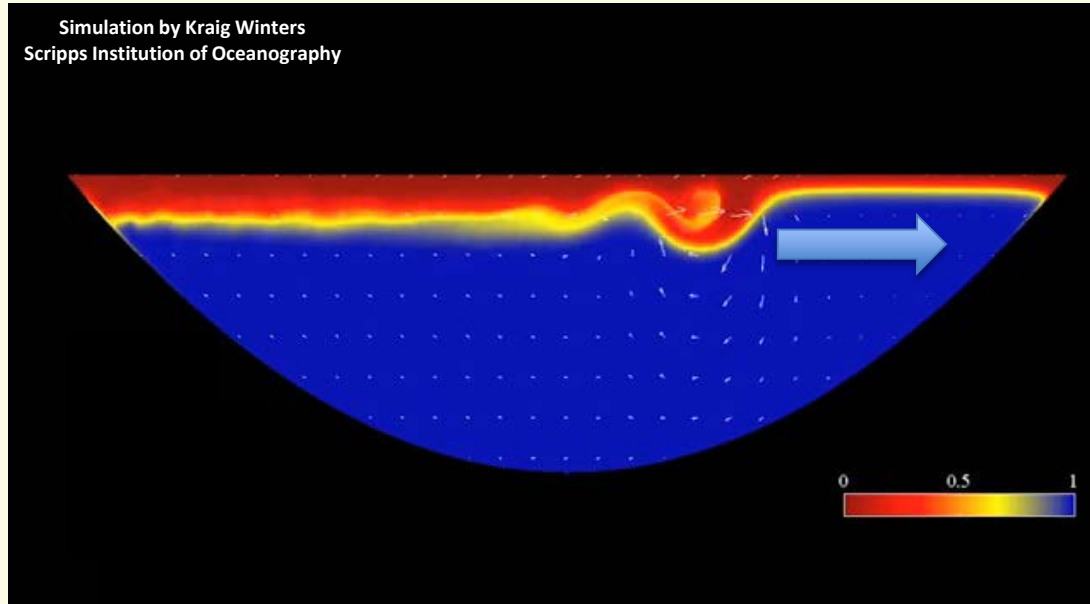


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoROLW5D2X0&feature=youtu.be>



Multiple upwellings and internal waves bringin cool nutrient-rich bottom water to illuminated surface

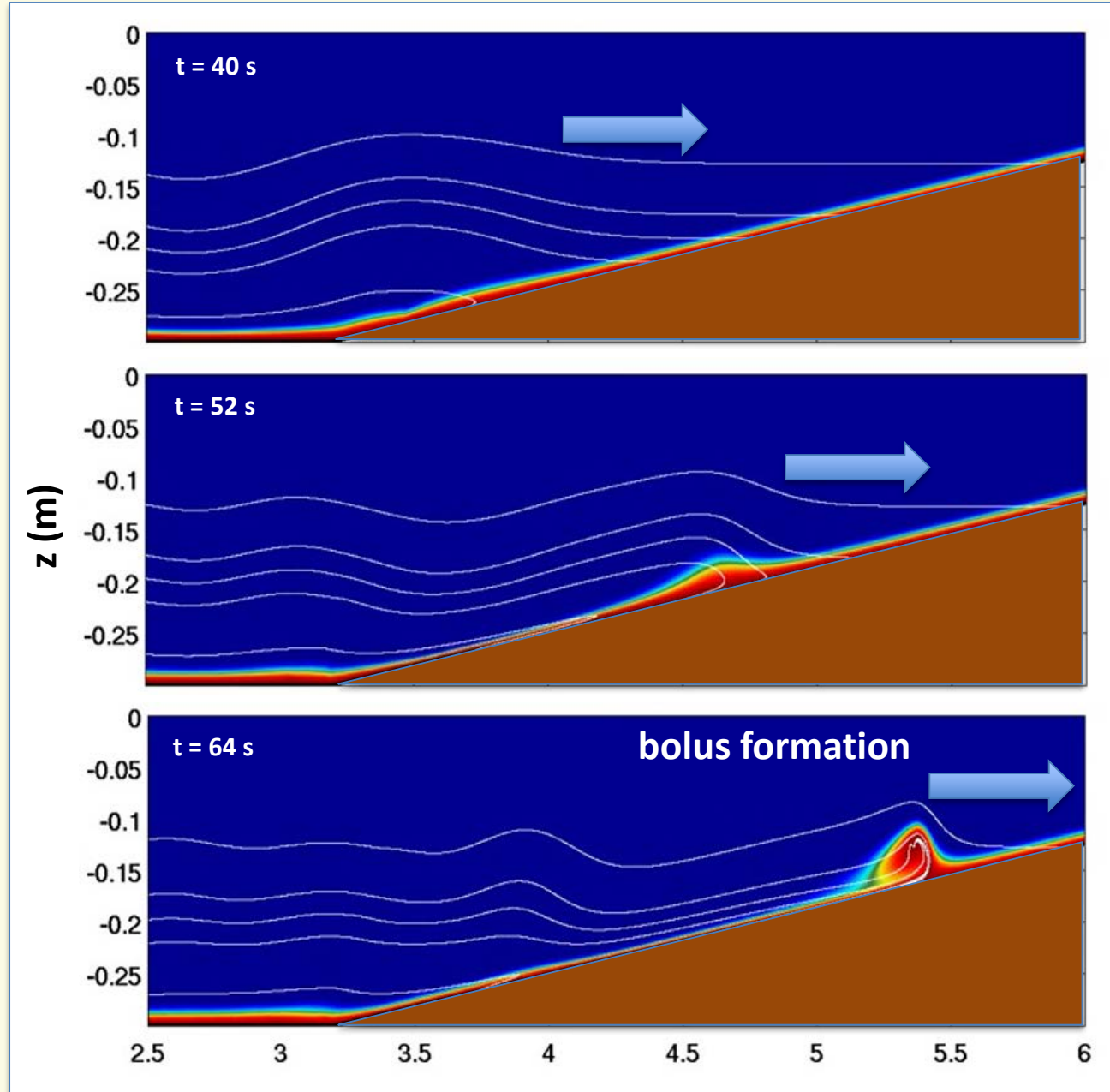
Internal waves hit the slope at the end of the lake → other mixing?



<http://loyalkng.com/2010/06/14/the-shorebreak-art-of-clark-little-photography-inside-30ft-40ft-waves-surfs-up/>

Clark Little Photography

Wave steepens and draws up nutrient rich boundary layer water and sediment

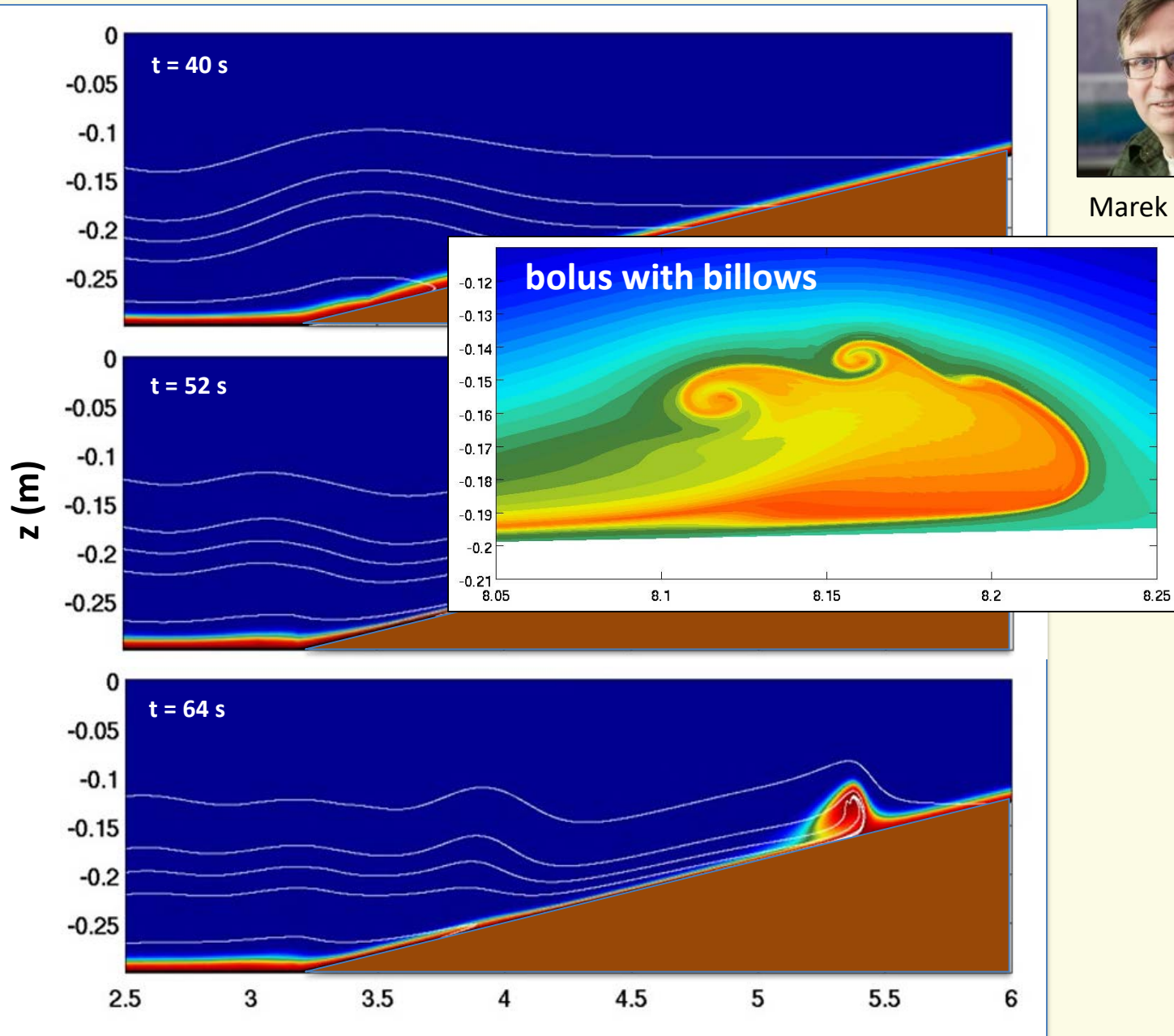


Marek Stastna

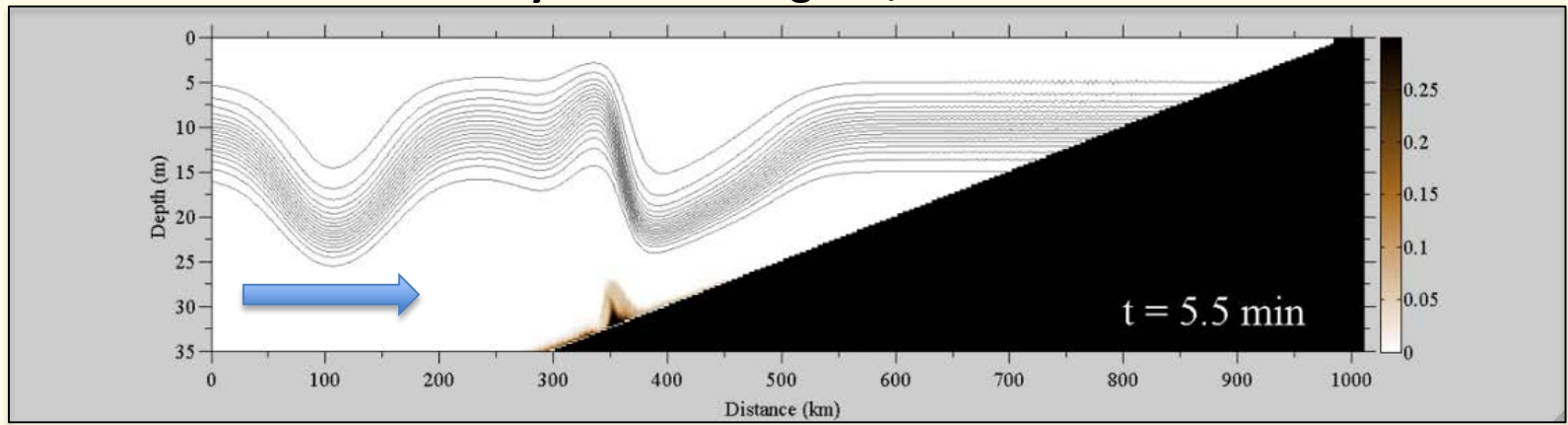
With mixing ...



Marek Stastna



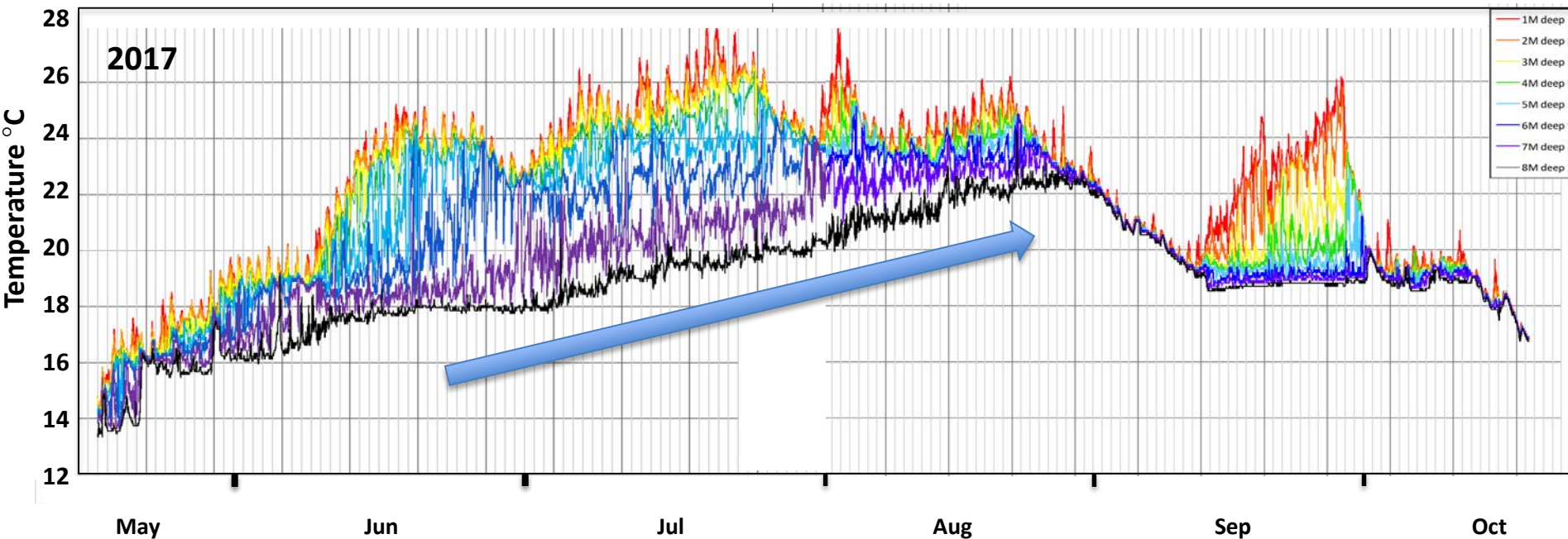
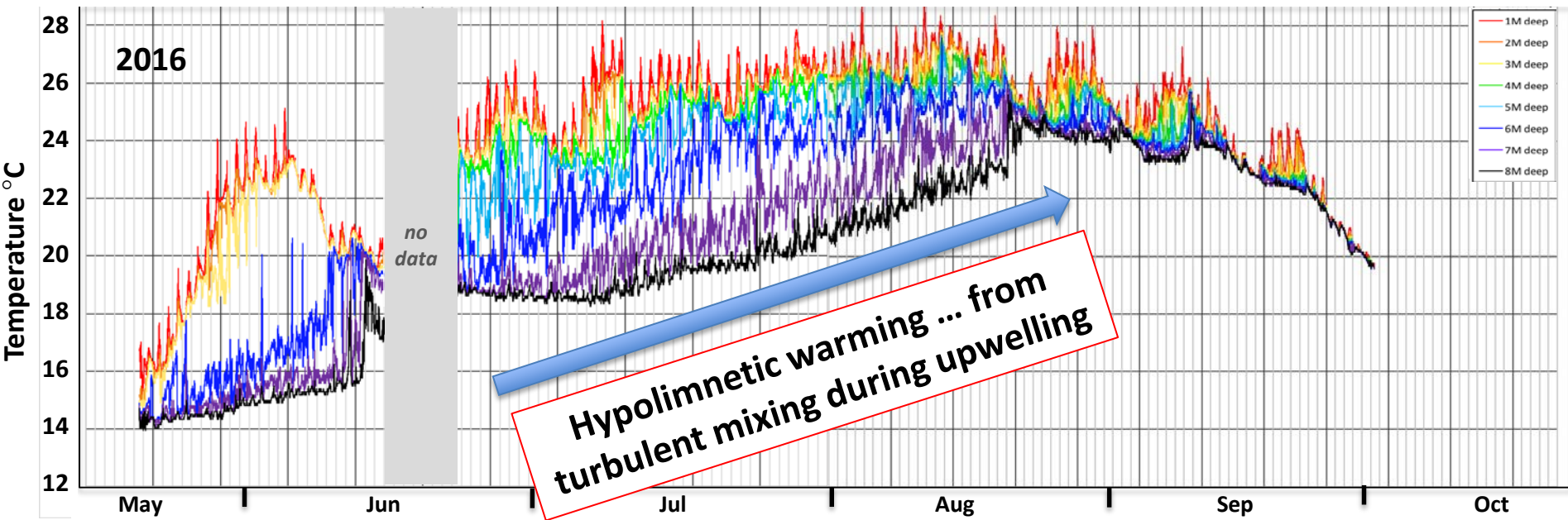
Simulation of internal waves bringing up sediment by Daniel Bourgault, UQAR



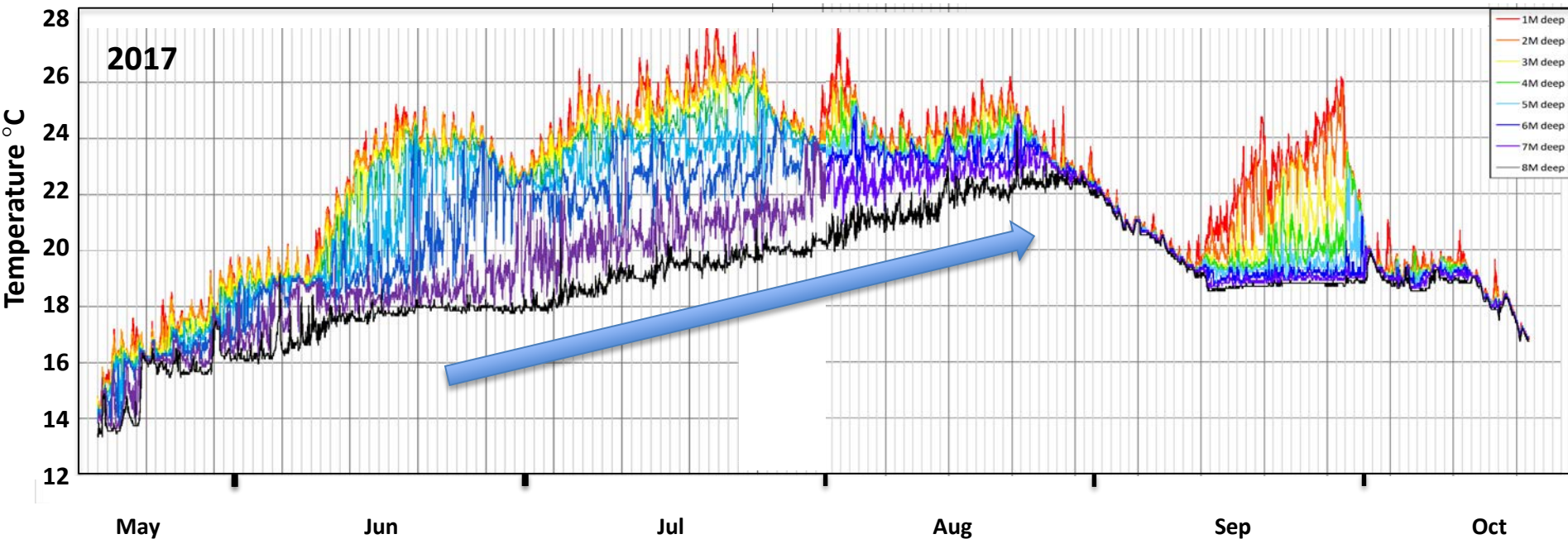
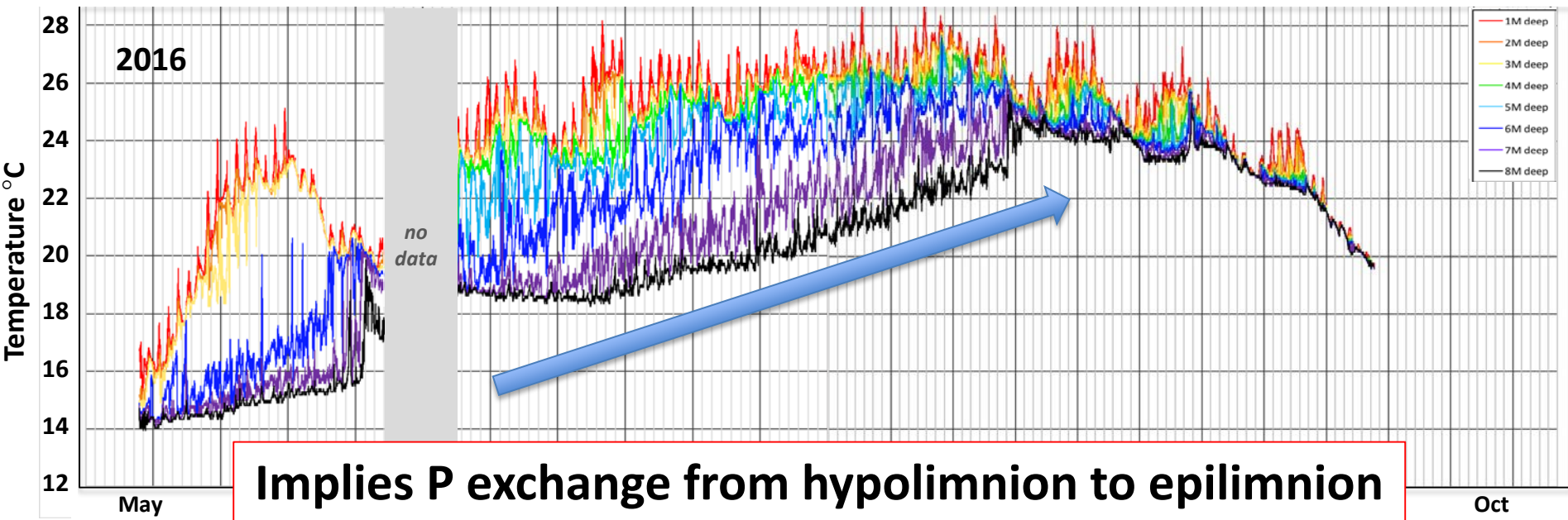
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbNbxBlrsXY>

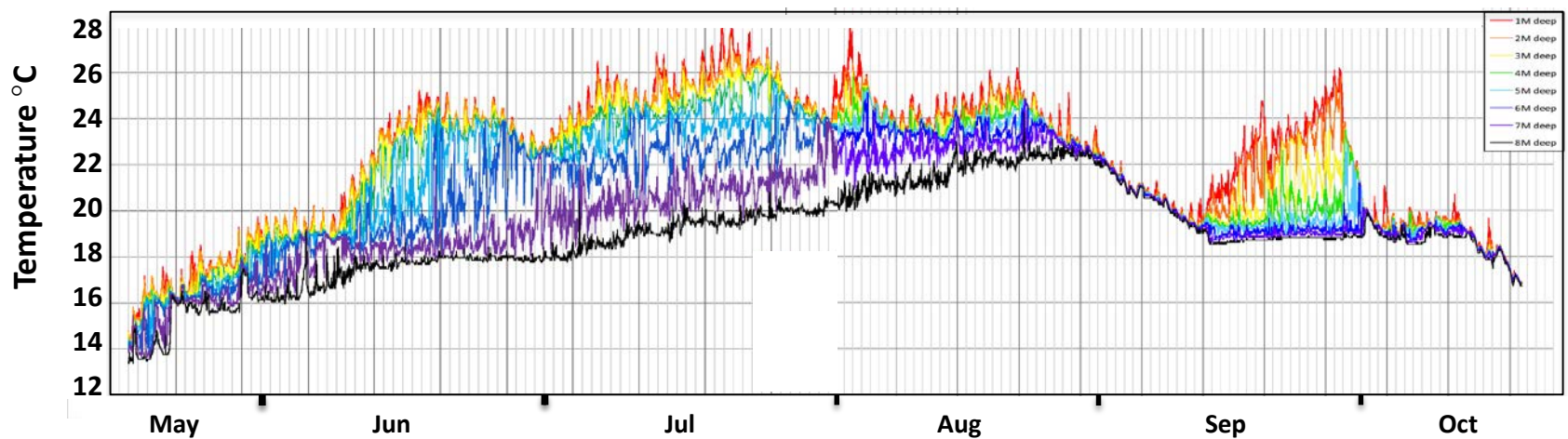
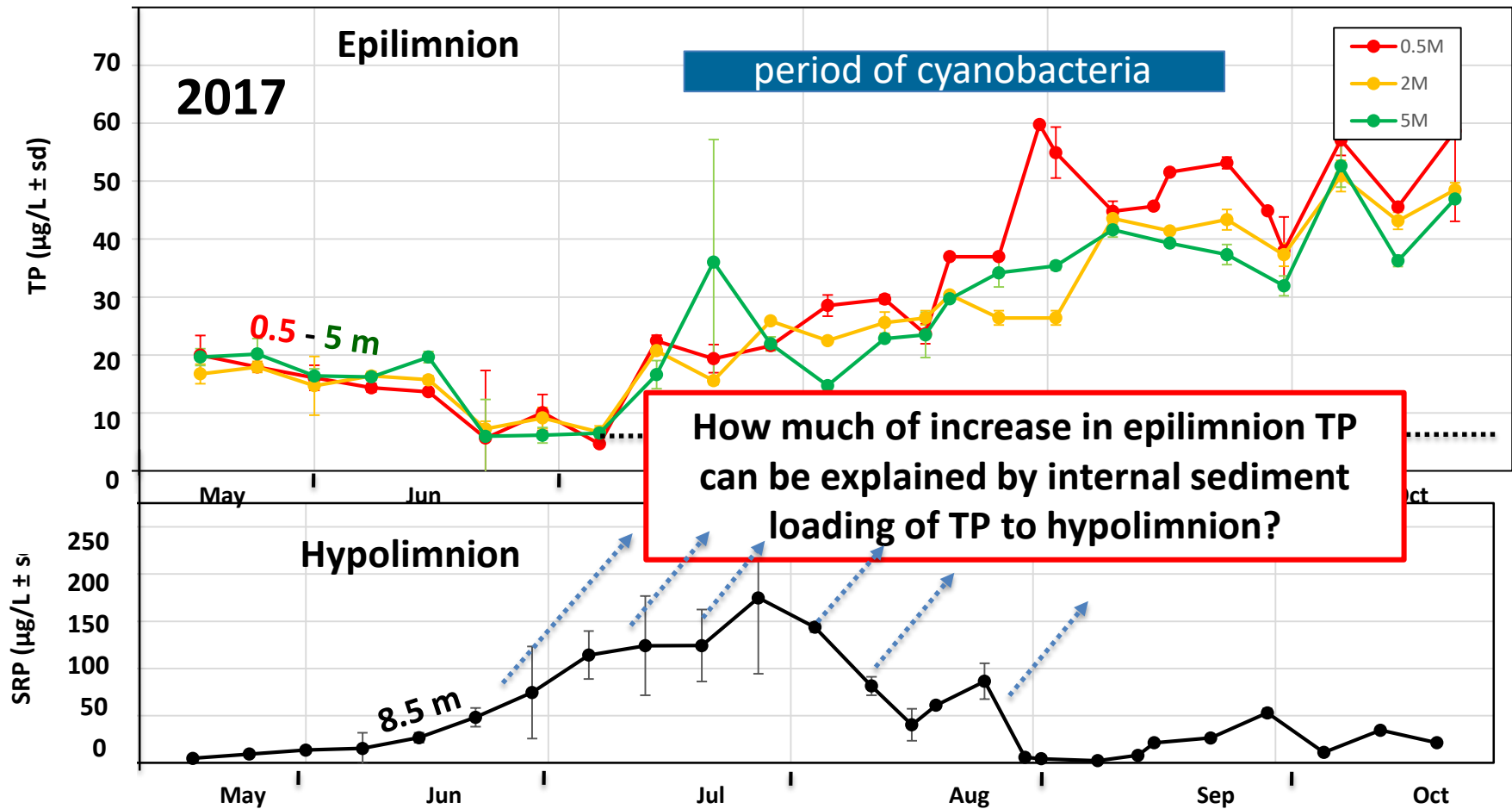
I didn't show this slide but the link is to a nice video that shows bolus formation as internal wave climbs slope at end of lake

Evidence for exchange between epilimnion and hypolimnion

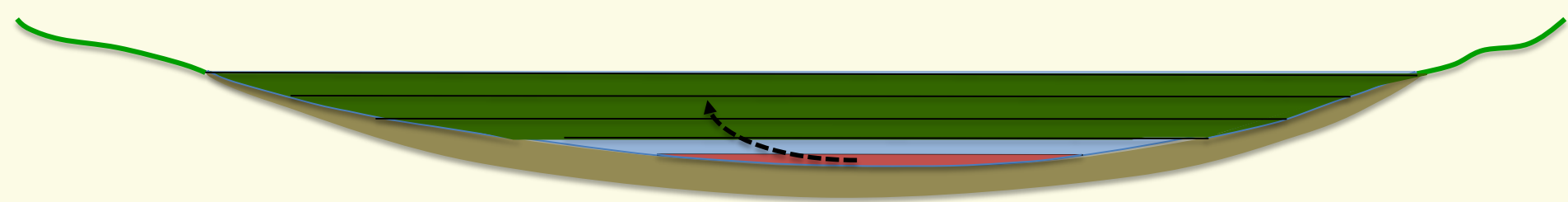


Evidence for exchange between epilimnion and hypolimnion





How much of TP increase in epilimnion can be attributed to P release from sediments into hypolimnion?



Calculation:

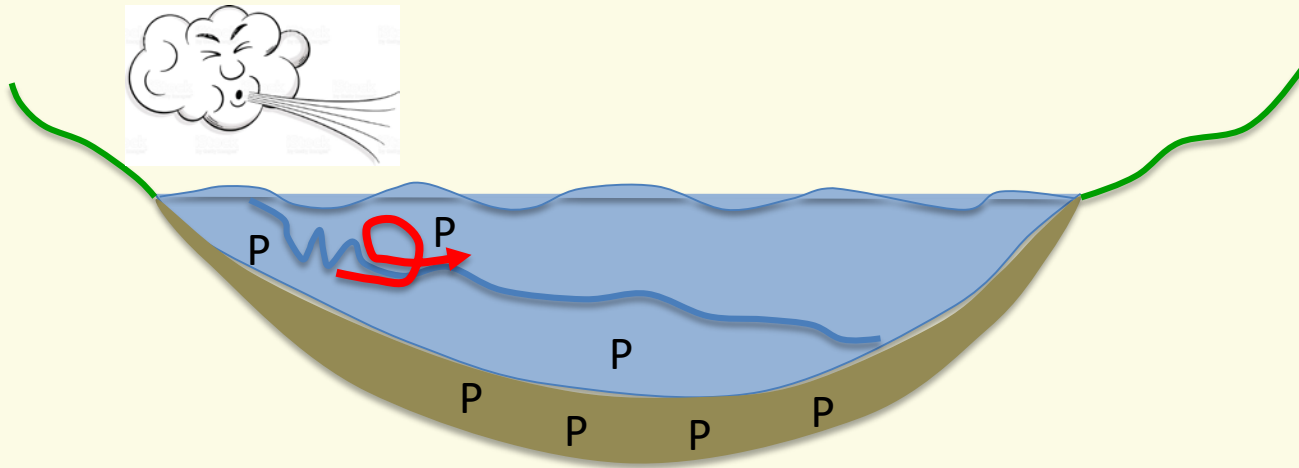
- 1) *Average rate of increase* in TP mass in hypolimnion
- 2) Convert to total TP mass increase
- 3) Compare with TP mass increase in epilimnion

How much of TP increase in epilimnion can be attributed to P release from sediments into hypolimnion?

Internal loading (lake-sediment release of P)

2016 – *a dry year* - Between 68% and 100% of HAB phosphorus

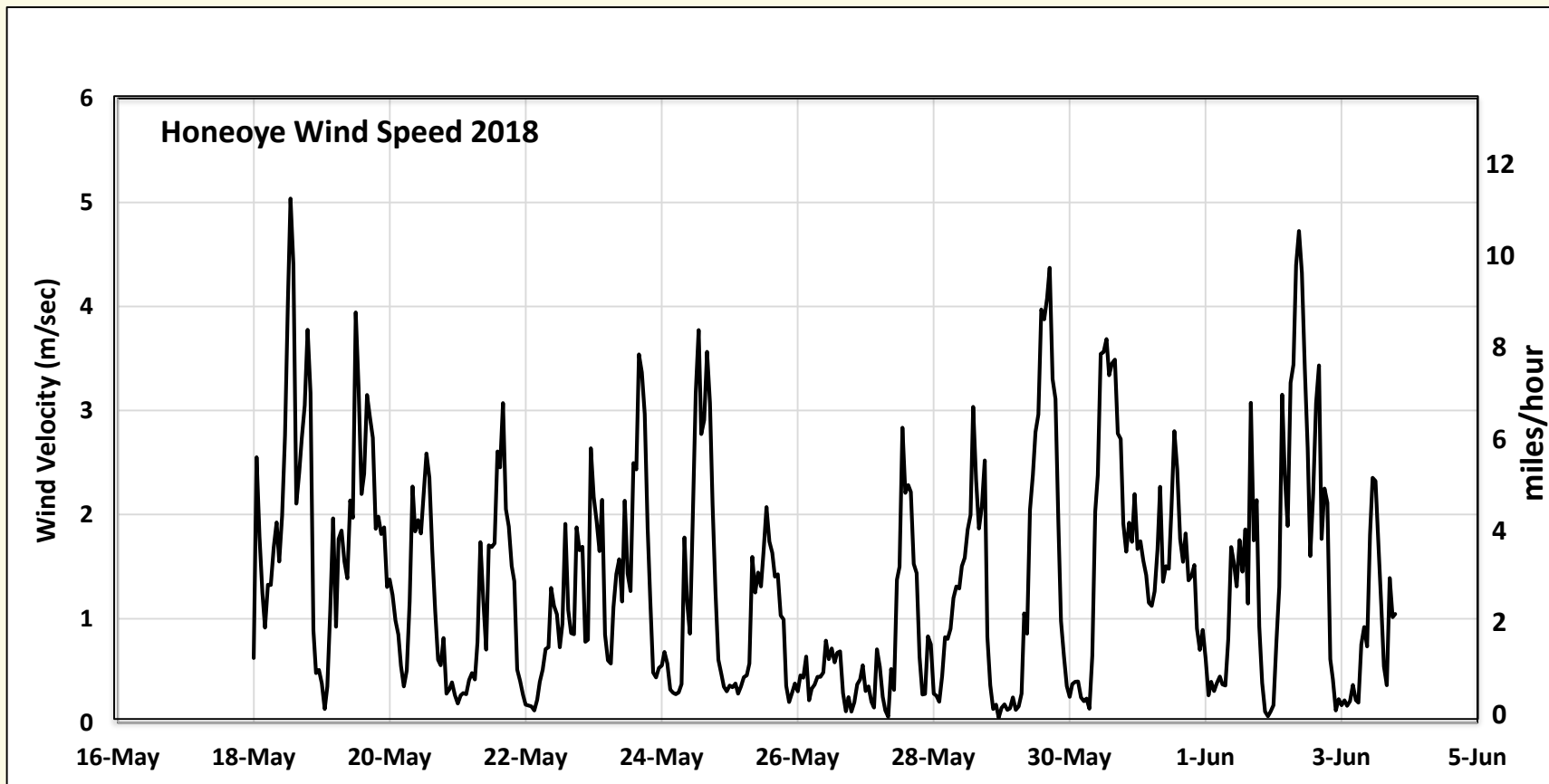
2017 – *a wet year* - Between 41% and 78% of HAB phosphorus explained by P release from sediments

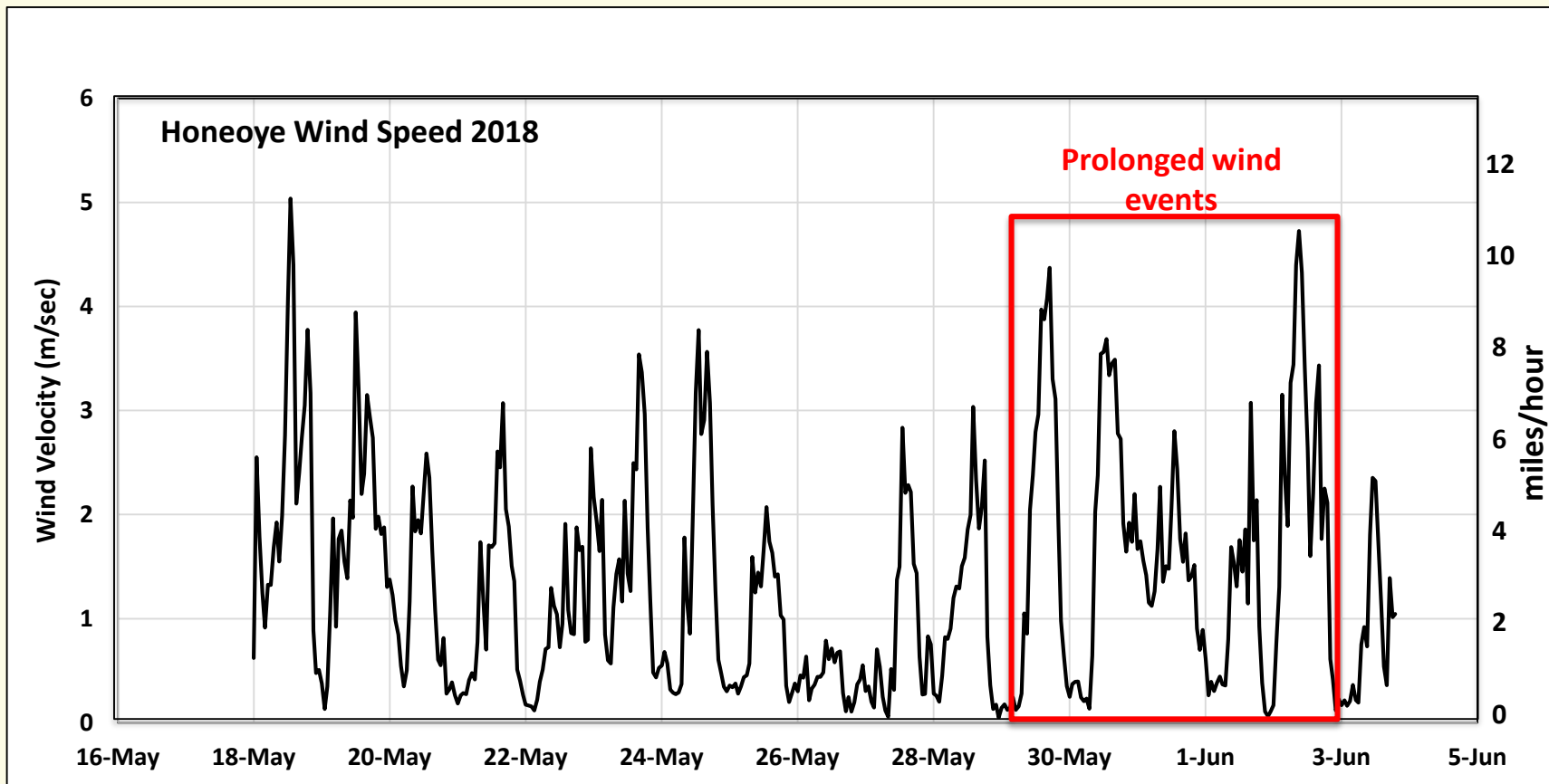


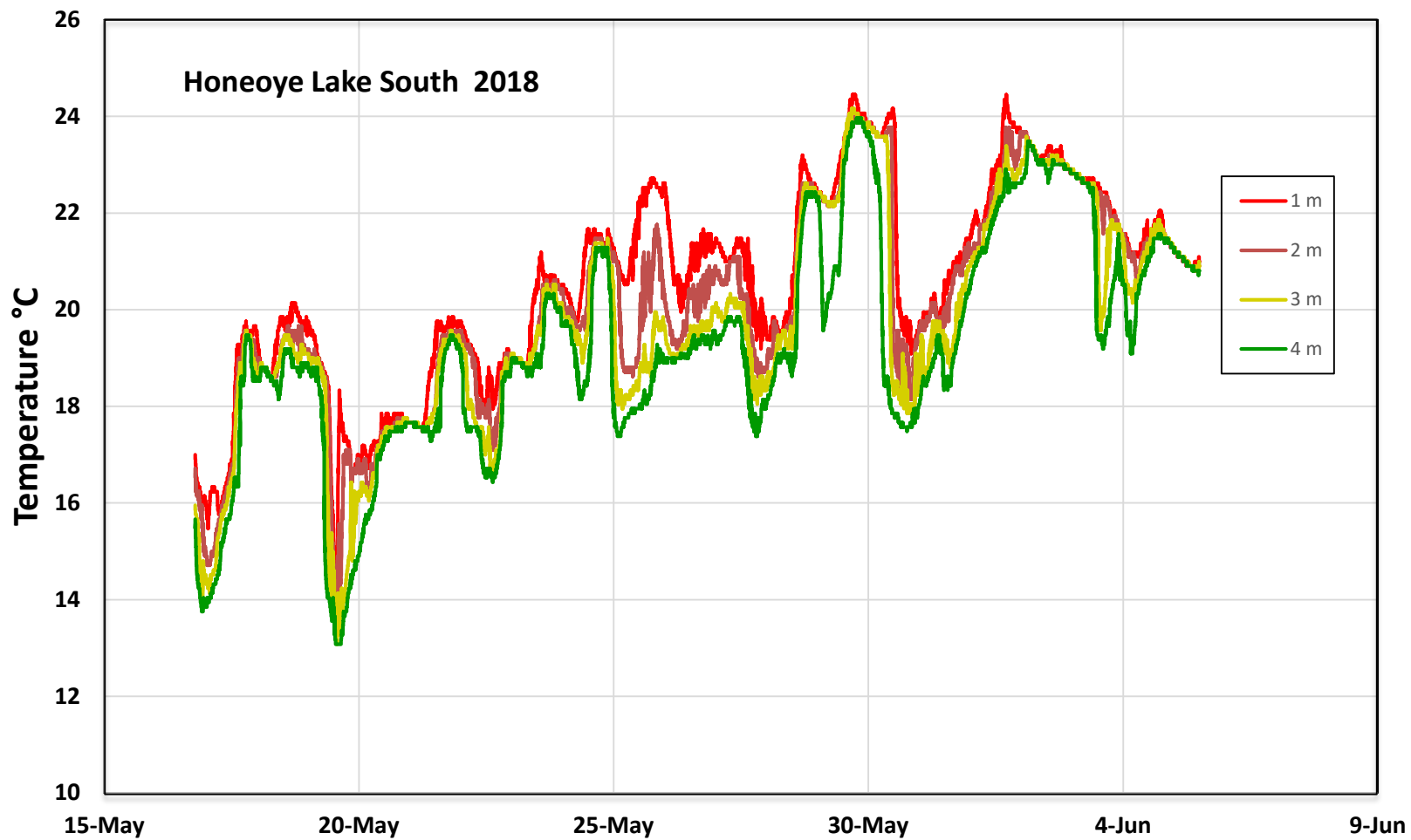
**Honeoye Lake
cyanobacteria
Bloom**

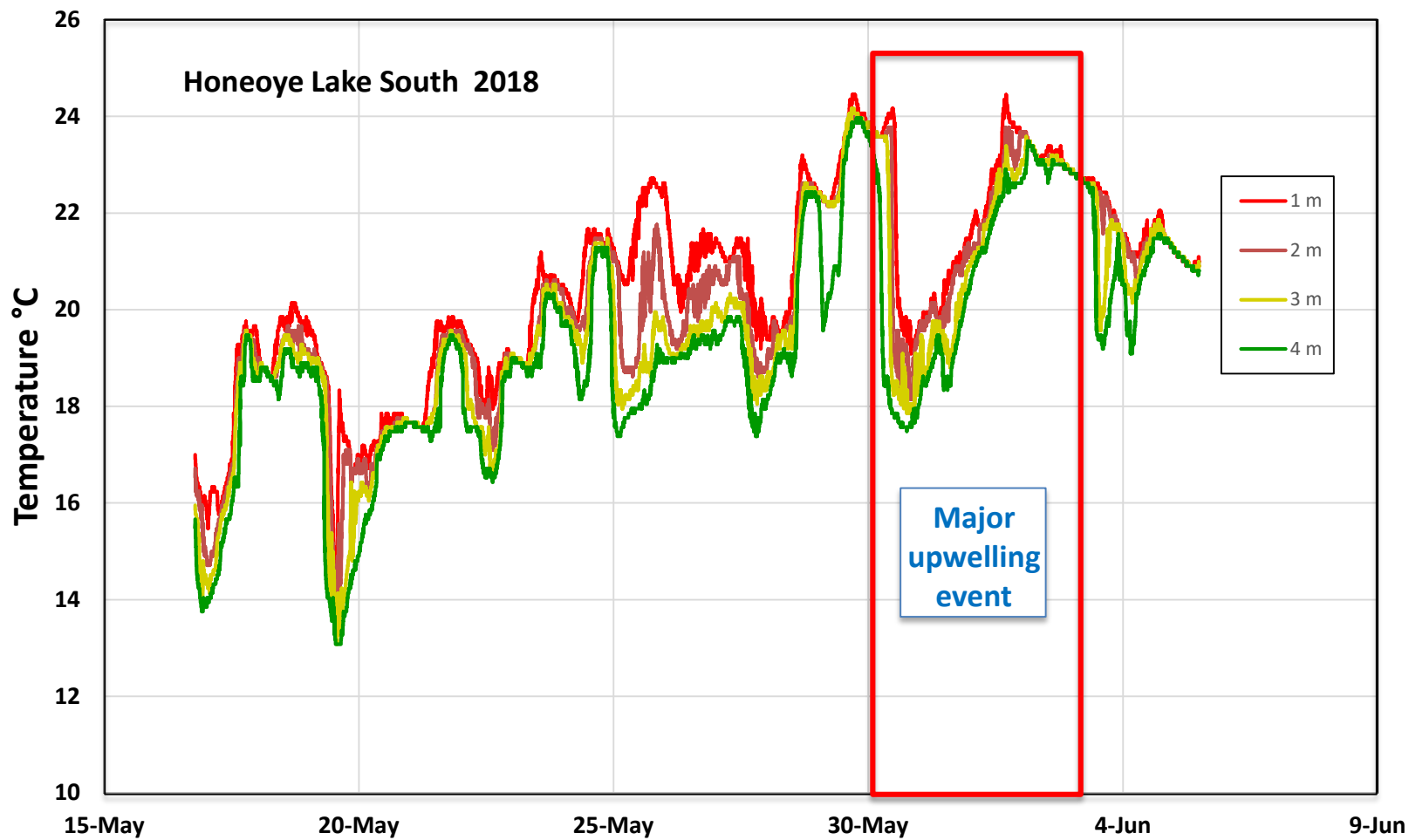
**Thursday
7 June 2018**

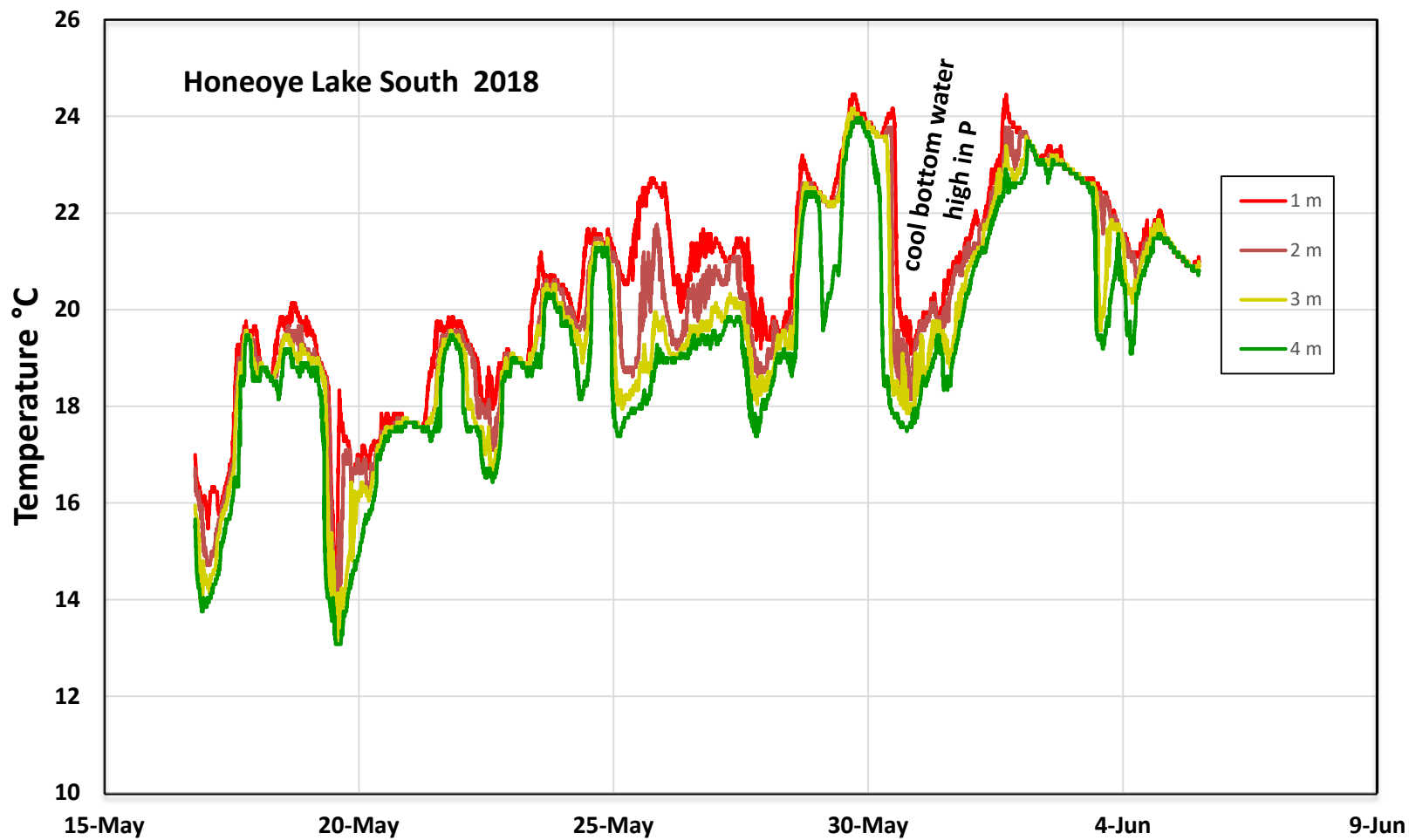












**Honeoye Lake
cyanobacteria
Bloom**

**Thursday
7 June 2018**



Next steps:



Research Associate on project:
Allie King – hydrodynamics PhD

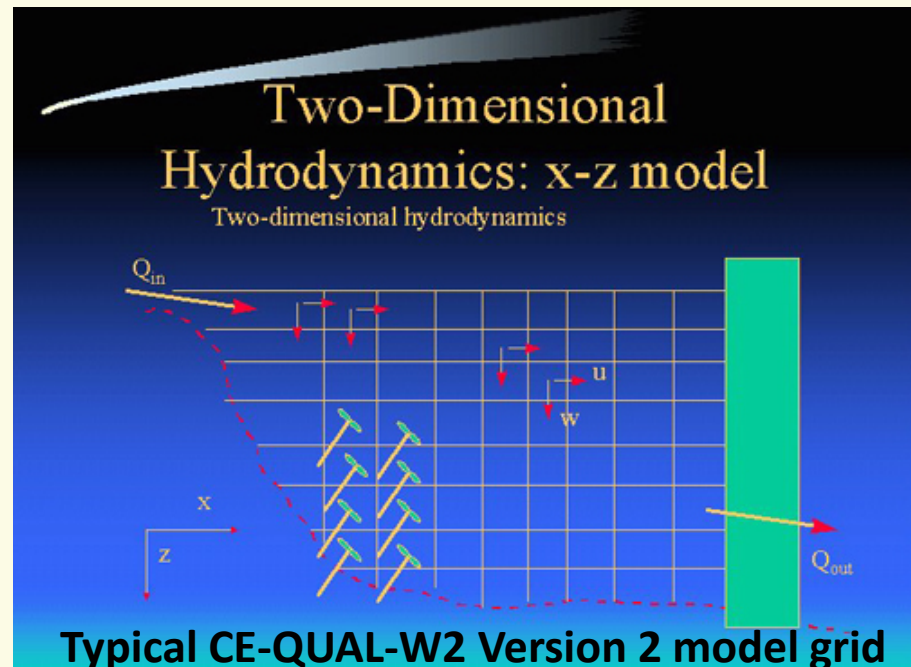


Consultant on project:
Sue O'Donnell, UFI
CE-QUAL-W2 expert

Model of water-column mixing and nutrient loading – *CE-QUAL-W2* (driven by weather data)

Get model to “do what the lake does” in terms of seasonal nutrient and HAB concentrations

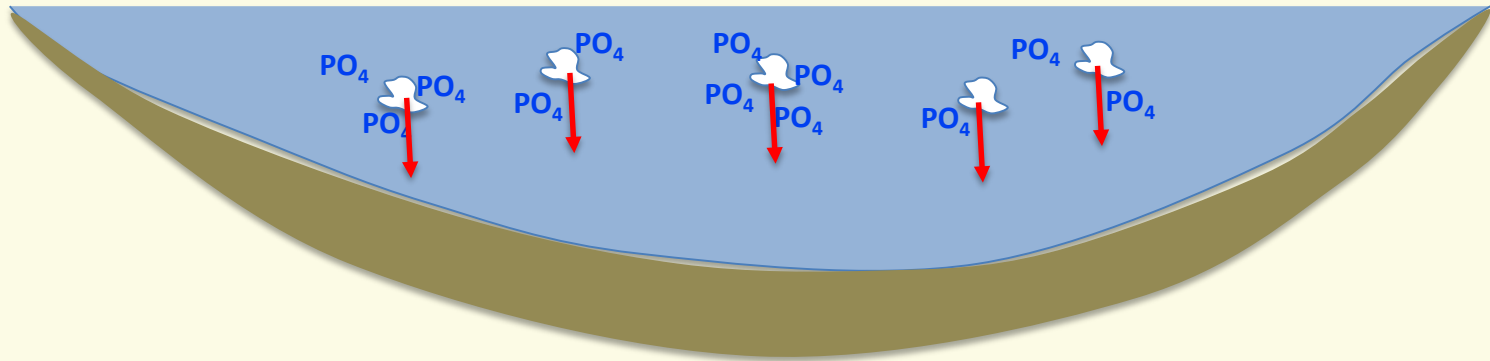
Use model to try out different management options to see what works to control HABs



Management options for internal loading:

1) Apply Alum or Phoslock

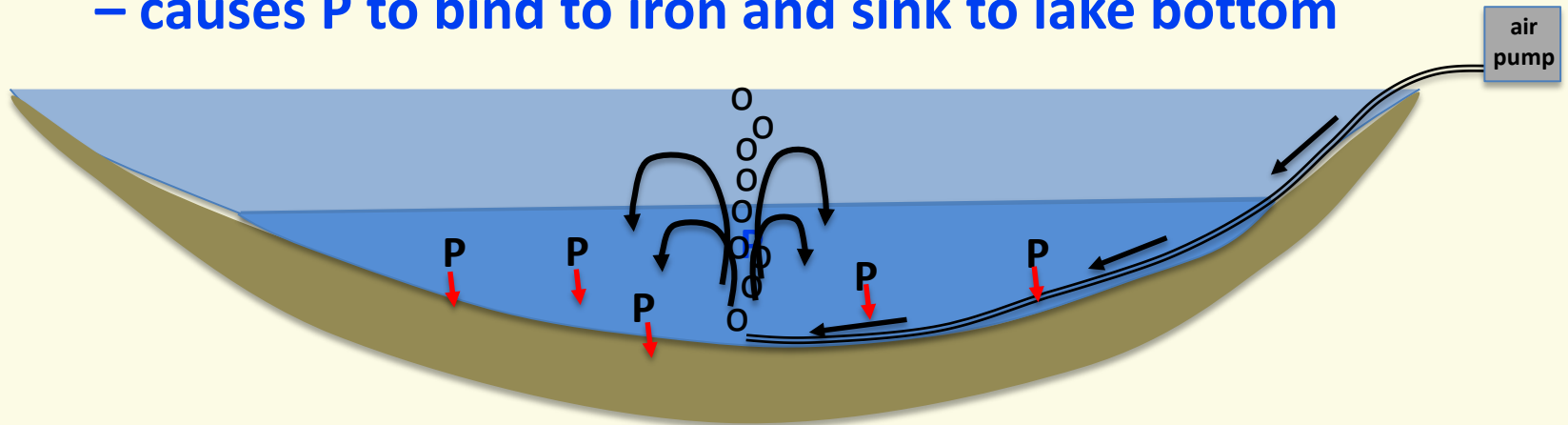
- particles bind phosphate in water and carries it to lake bottom



Expensive – requires repeated application – current strict gov't regulation

Management options for internal loading:

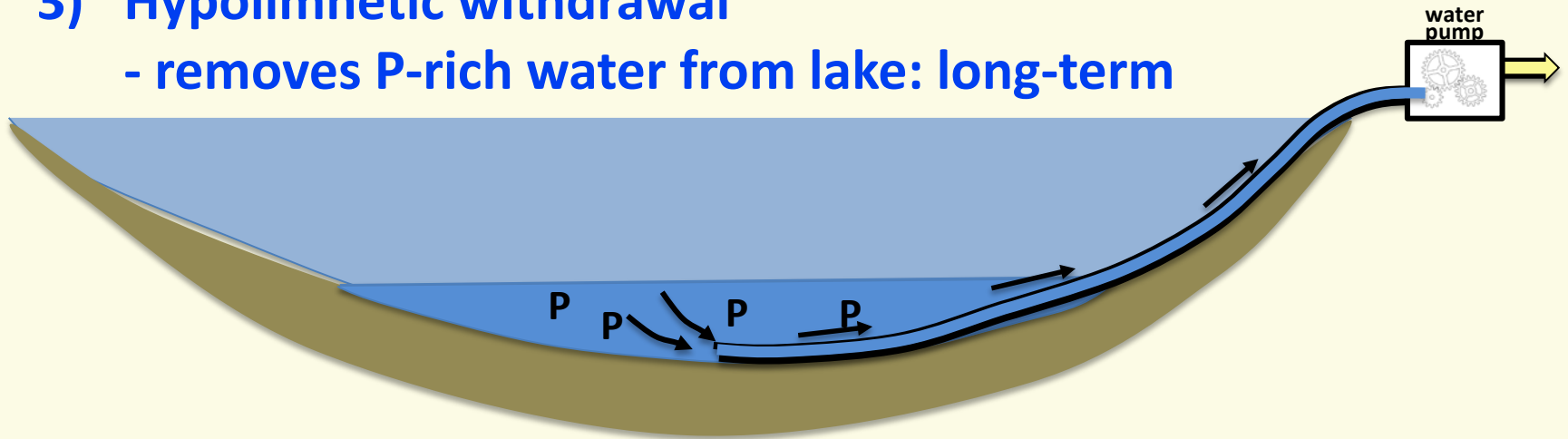
- 1) Apply Alum or Phoslock
 - binds phosphate in water and carries it to lake bottom
- 2) Bubble bottom water with air to introduce oxygen
 - causes P to bind to iron and sink to lake bottom



Also de-stratifies lake with potential to bring P to surface,
if iron-binding is ineffective

Management options for internal loading:

- 1) Apply Alum or Phoslock
 - binds phosphate in water and carries it to lake bottom
- 2) Bubble bottom water with air to introduce oxygen
 - causes P to bind to iron and sink to lake bottom
- 3) Hypolimnetic withdrawal
 - removes P-rich water from lake: long-term



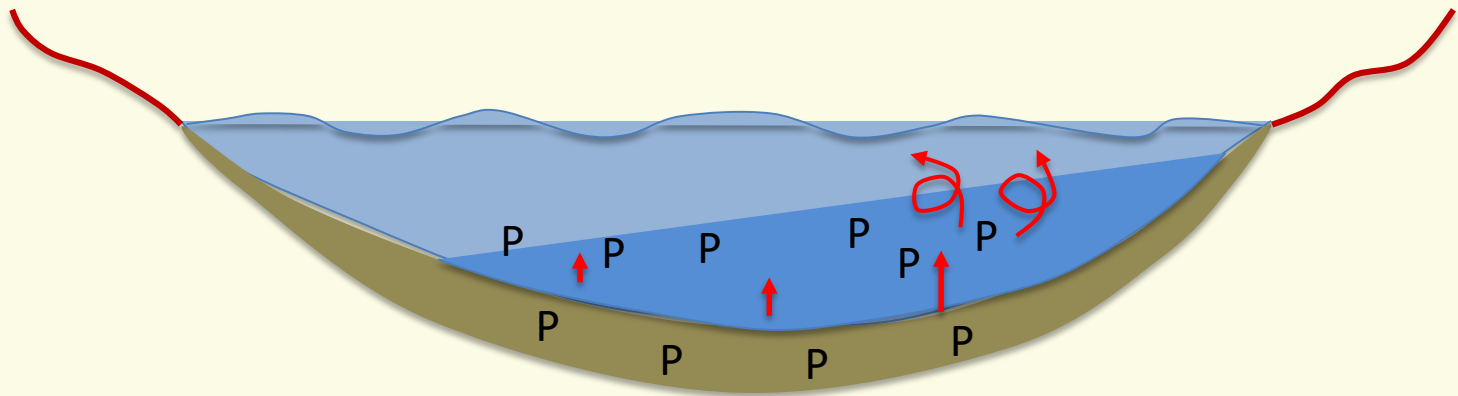
Where does the P-rich water go?
Also de-stratifies lake with potential to bring P to surface,
if iron-binding is ineffective



Honeoye is Special



Honeoye is Special

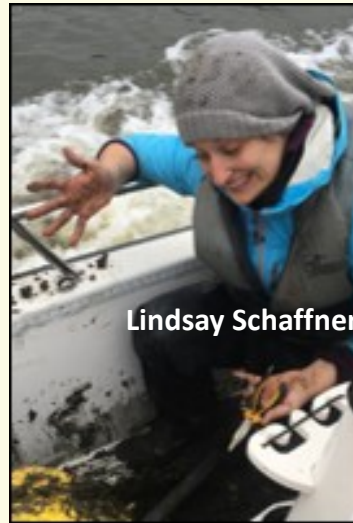


AND ... Thanks!

Honeoye Lake internal loading study



Dorothy and Terry Gronwall



Lindsay Schaffner



Allie King & Bruce Gillman



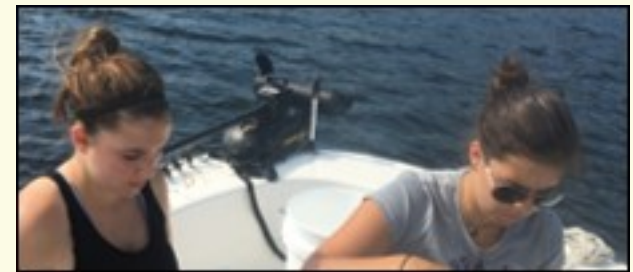
Elizabeth Yardley & Roxanne Razavi



Max Cassell



Ludi Sanchez Arias



Emma Dietz & Corinne Klohmann



Marek Stastna

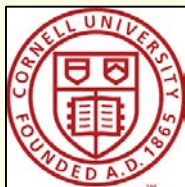


National Institute of Food and Agriculture

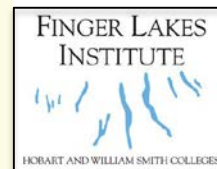


Cornell University

Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future

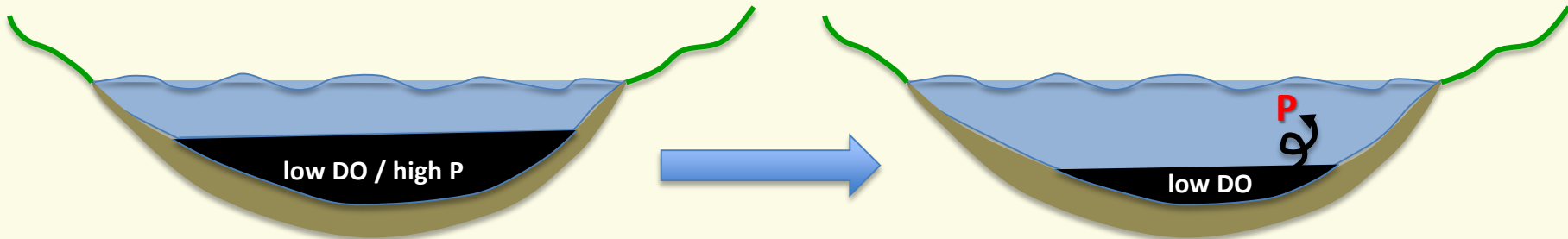
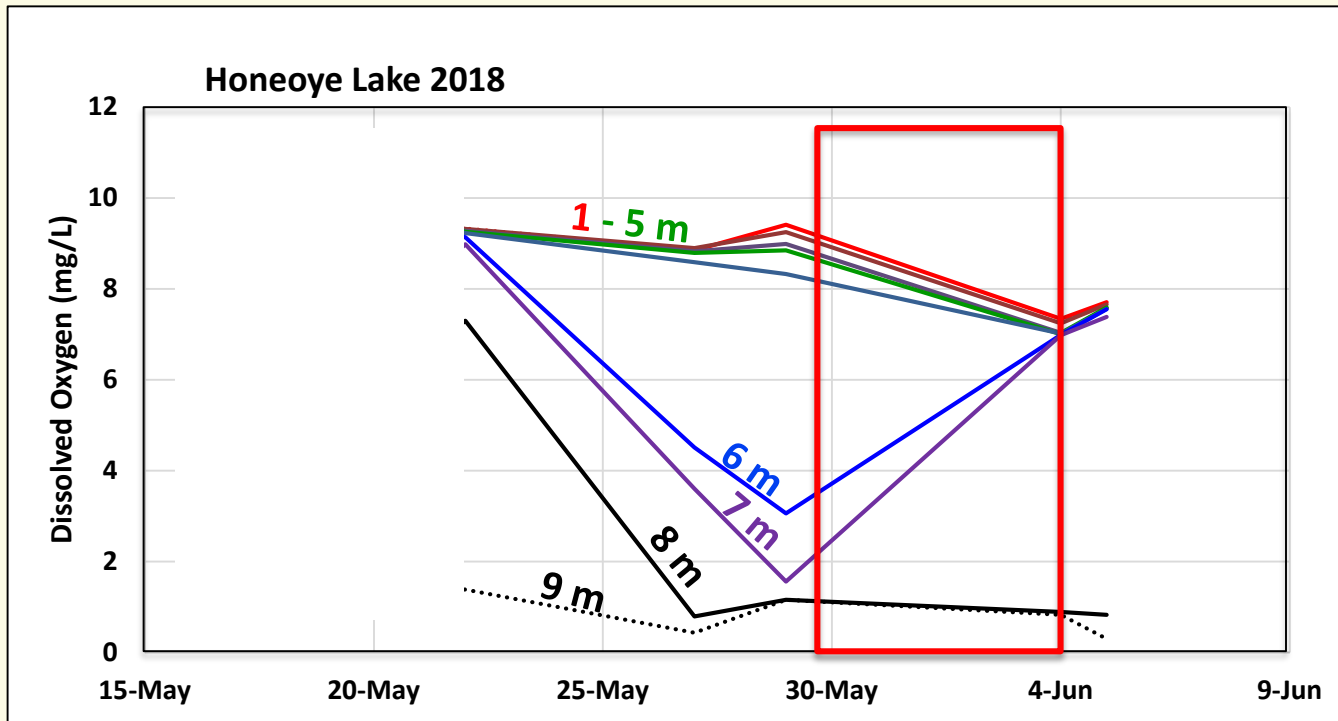


**Honeoye Lake
Watershed
Task Force**

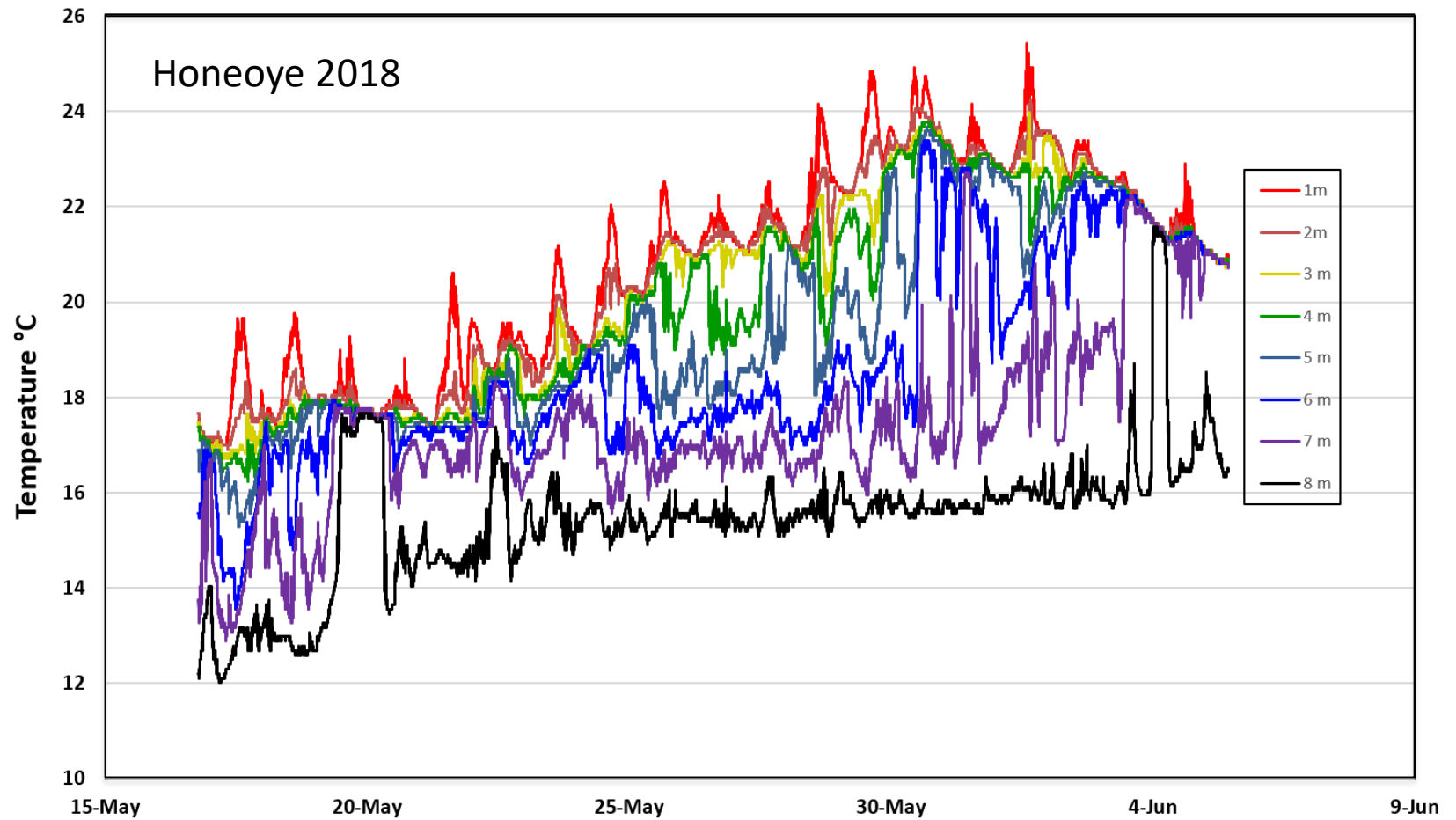


END

Upwelling event mixed deep water up to surface



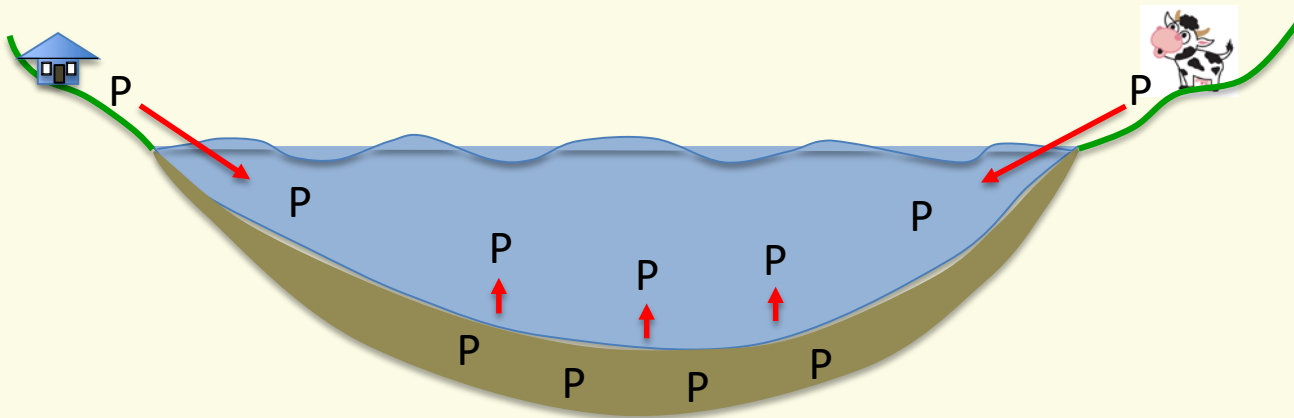
Honeoye 2018



What about other lakes?

How important will internal loading be?

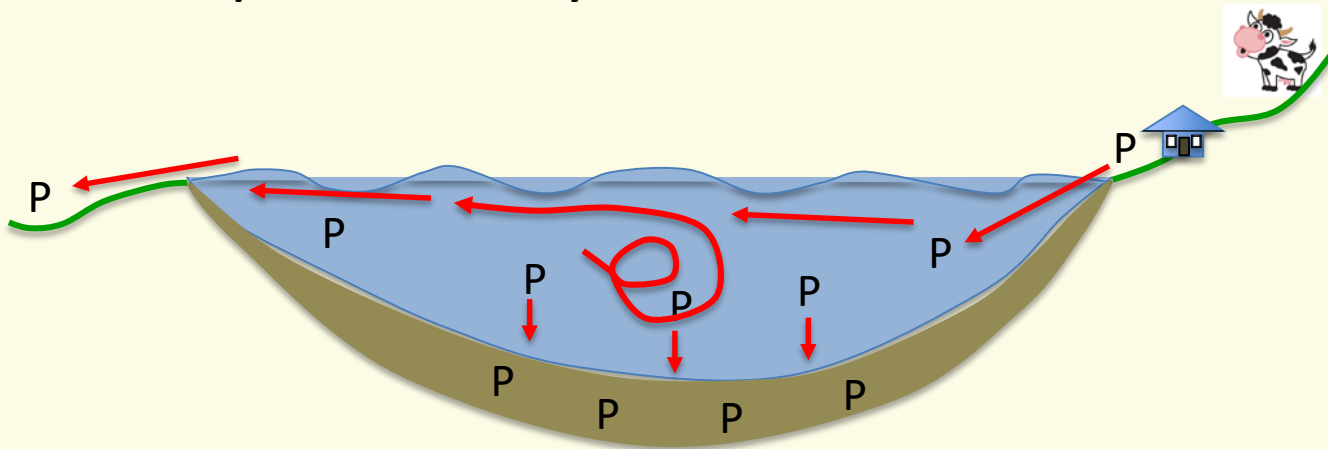
All lakes have *both* external and internal loading of nutrients.
Relative importance will vary.



What about other lakes?

How important will internal loading be?

All lakes have *both* external and internal loading of nutrients.
Relative importance will vary.



Depends on amount of past external nutrient loading.

How much of that was retained in the lake sediments vs. being washed out.

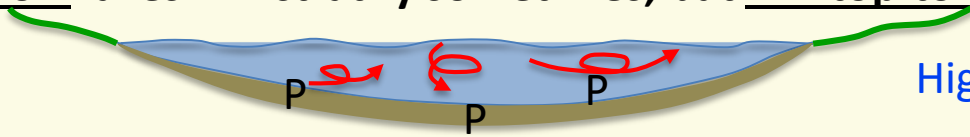
Honeoye Lake water retention time in summer is about 1 year, so not much washes out.

What about other lakes?

How important will internal loading be?

Summer temperature stratification varies with lake depth.

Really shallow lakes will stratify sometimes, but mix top-to-bottom frequently.



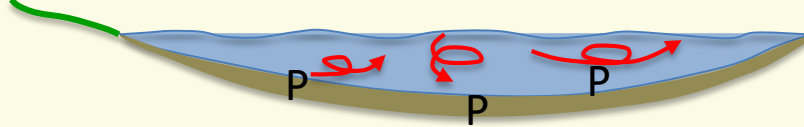
High chance for internal loading

What about other lakes?

How important will internal loading be?

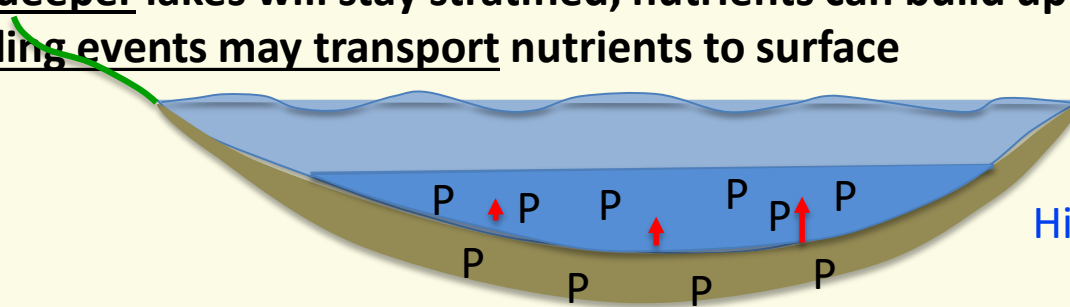
Summer temperature stratification varies with lake depth.

Really shallow lakes will stratify sometimes, but mix top-to-bottom frequently.



High chance for internal loading

Slightly deeper lakes will stay stratified, nutrients can build up to high levels in bottom water. upwelling events may transport nutrients to surface



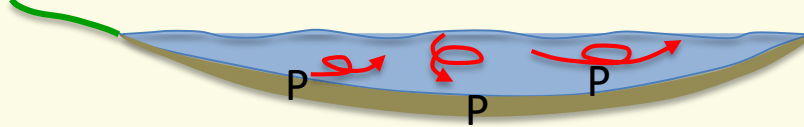
High chance for internal loading

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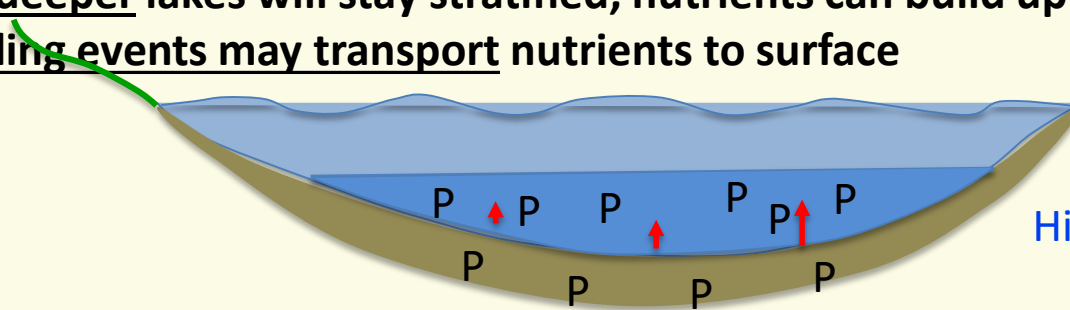
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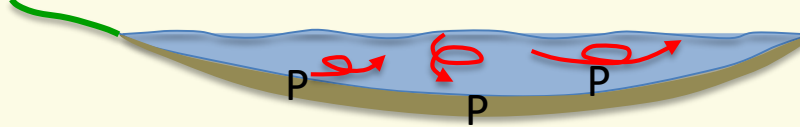
Honeoye

What about other lakes?

How important will internal loading be?

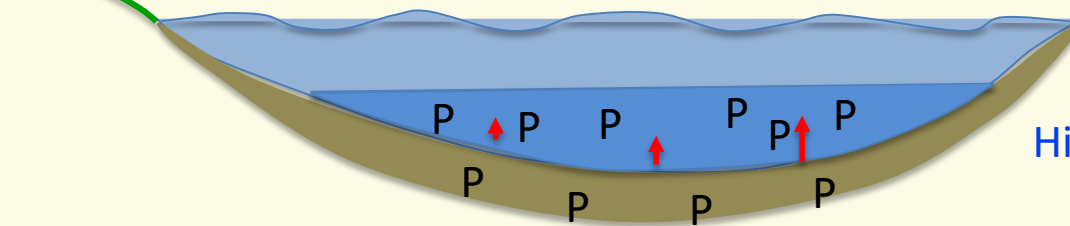
Summer temperature stratification varies with lake depth.

Really shallow lakes will stratify sometimes, but mix top-to-bottom frequently.



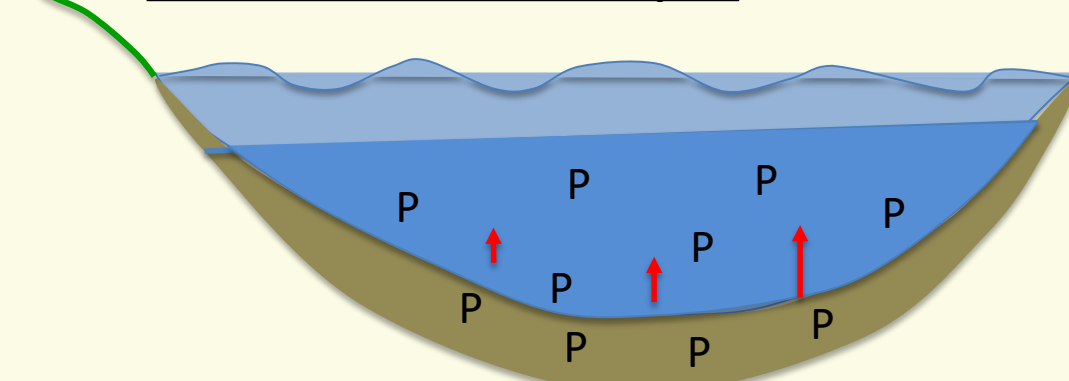
High chance for internal loading

Slightly deeper lakes will stay stratified, nutrients can build up to high levels in bottom water. upwelling events may transport nutrients to surface



High chance for internal loading

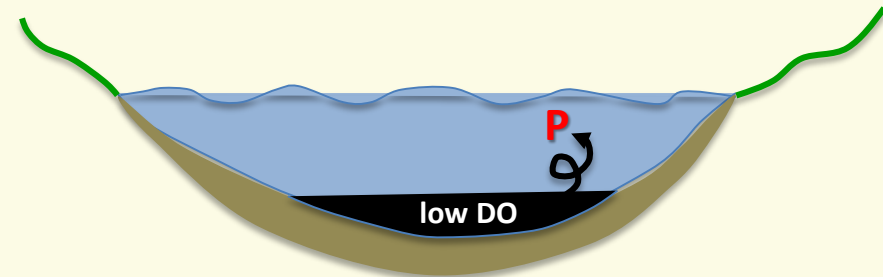
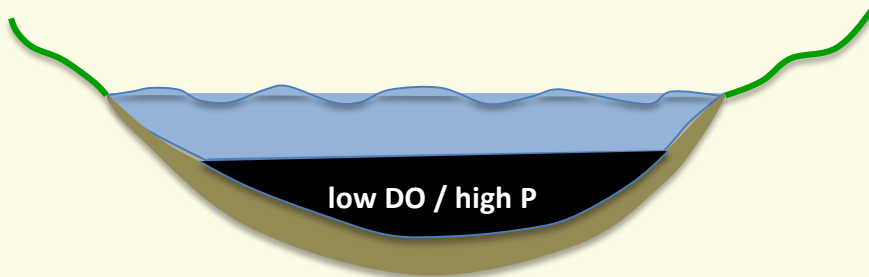
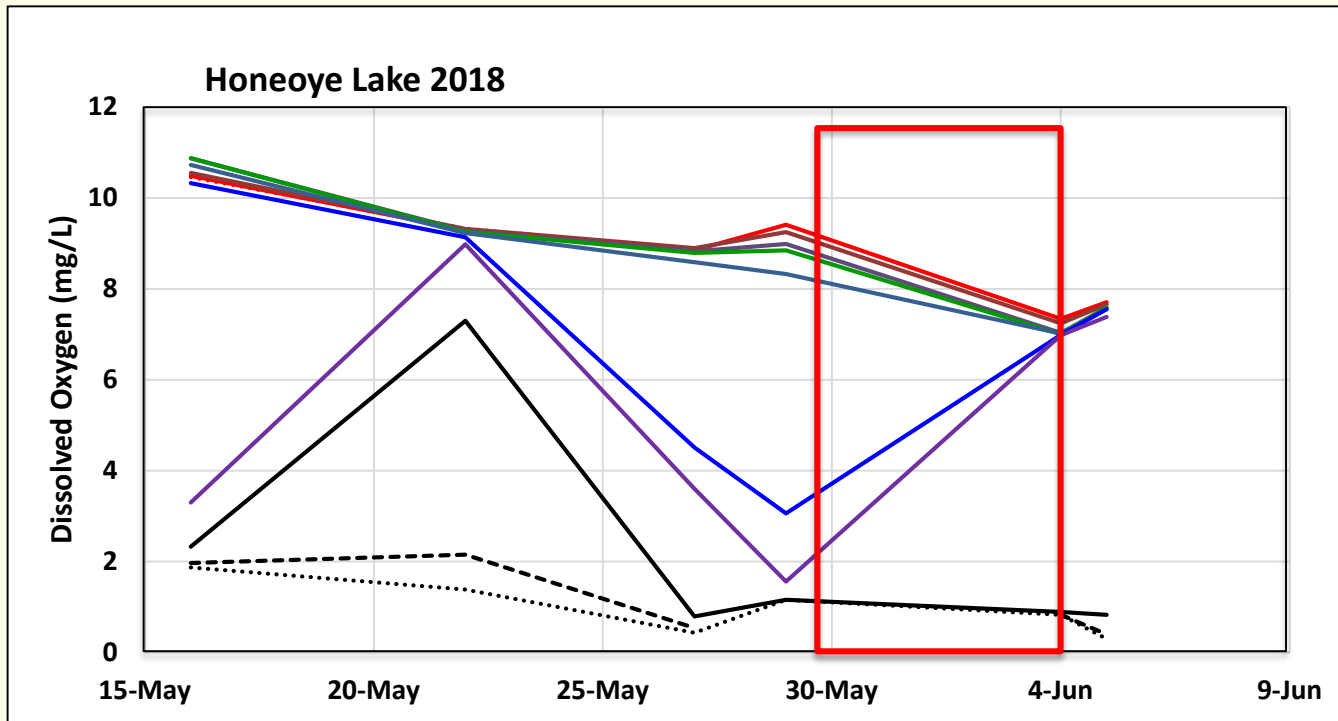
Really deep lakes will stay stratified, nutrients won't get very high in bottom water. upwelling events won't have much to transport.



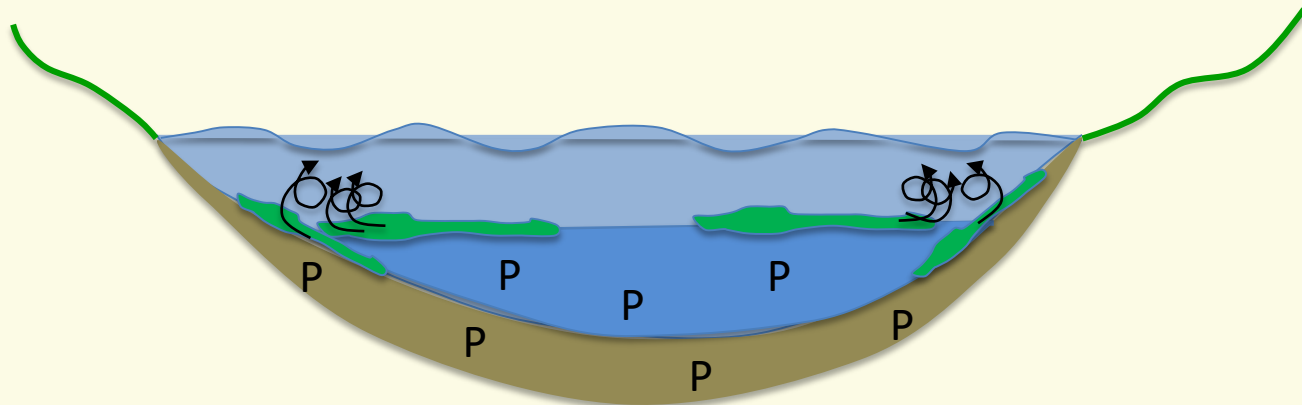
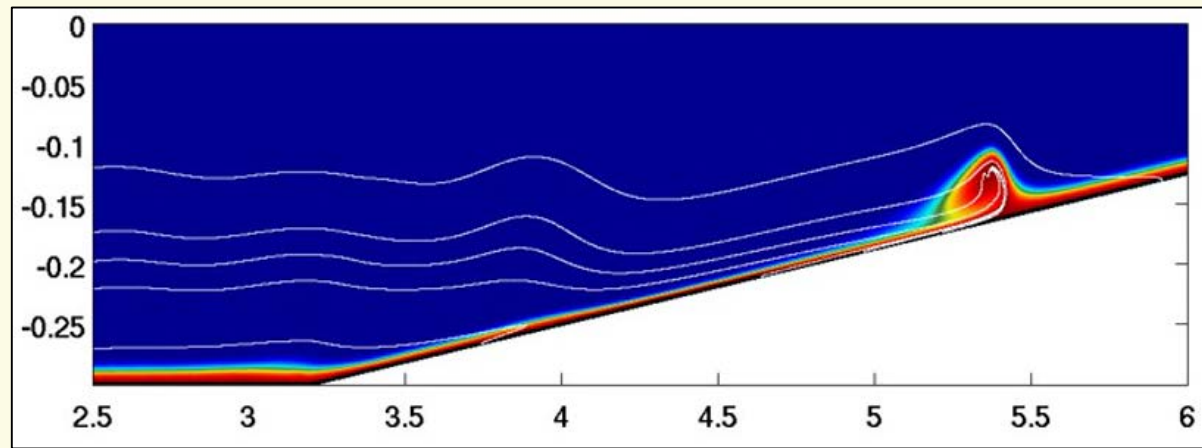
Low chance for internal loading

Honeoye

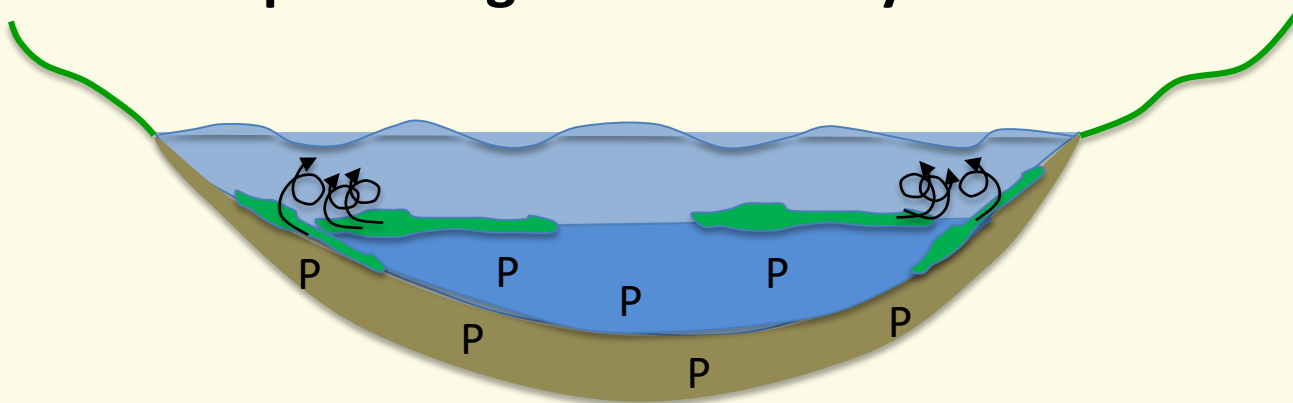
Upwelling event mixed deep water up to surface



Not only transport up of nutrients, but also living phytoplankton that has sunk to the thermocline or to the lake sediments



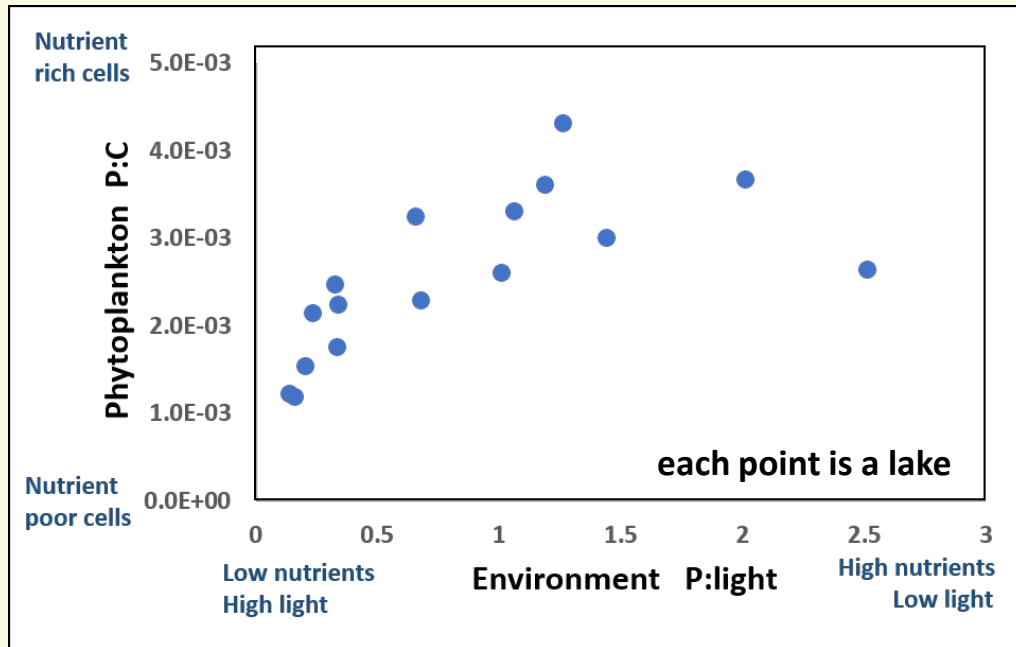
Does bolus transport and mixing in shallow water bring up
“super-charged” cells ready to bloom?



Ludivine Sanchez Arias
ENGES
NATIONAL SCHOOL FOR WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Phytoplankton in high nutrients, low light
→ “luxury nutrient uptake”

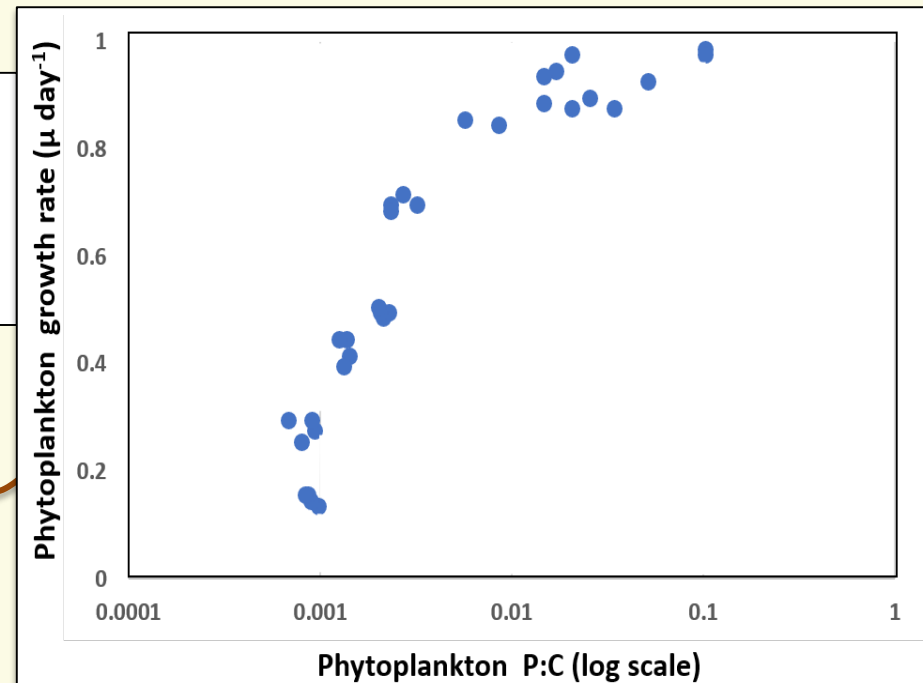
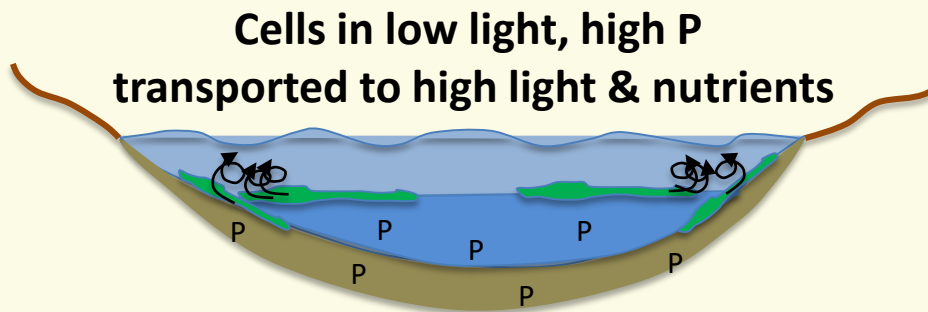
Cells are high in P and N relative to C ... and ready to divide
when given light ...



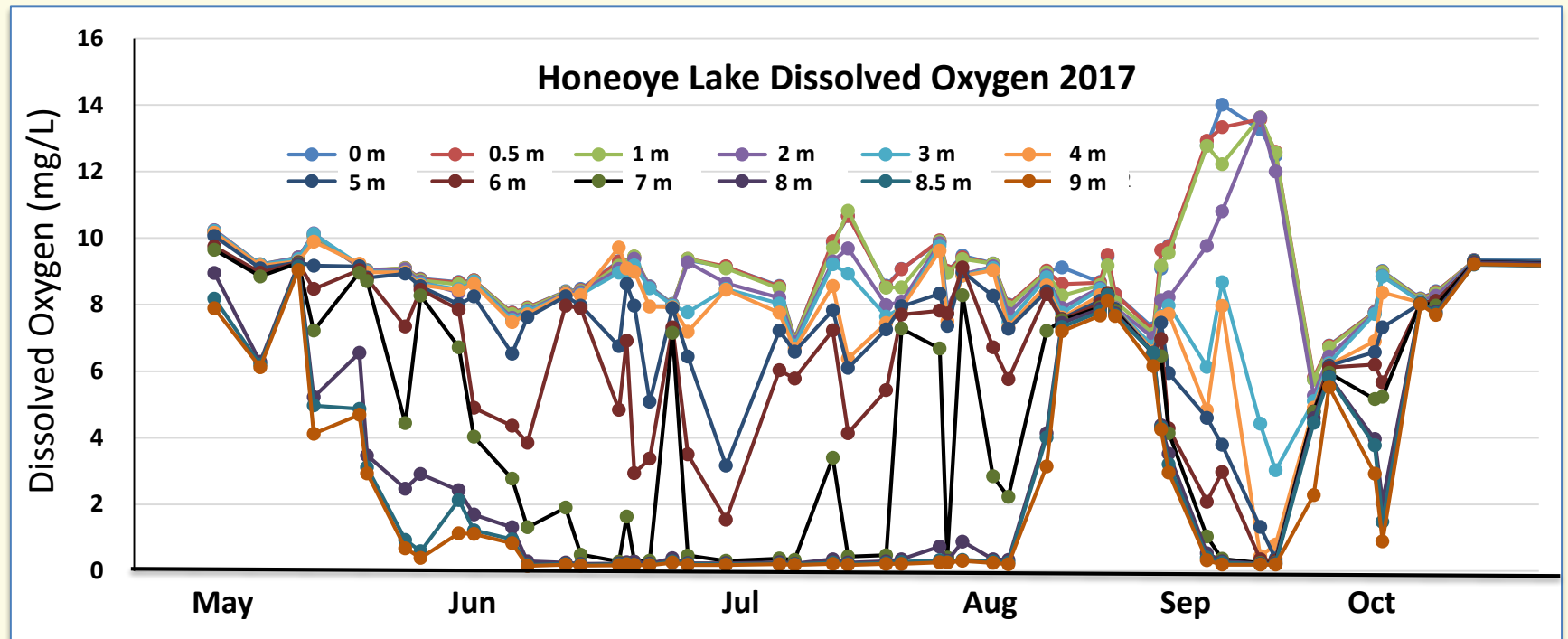
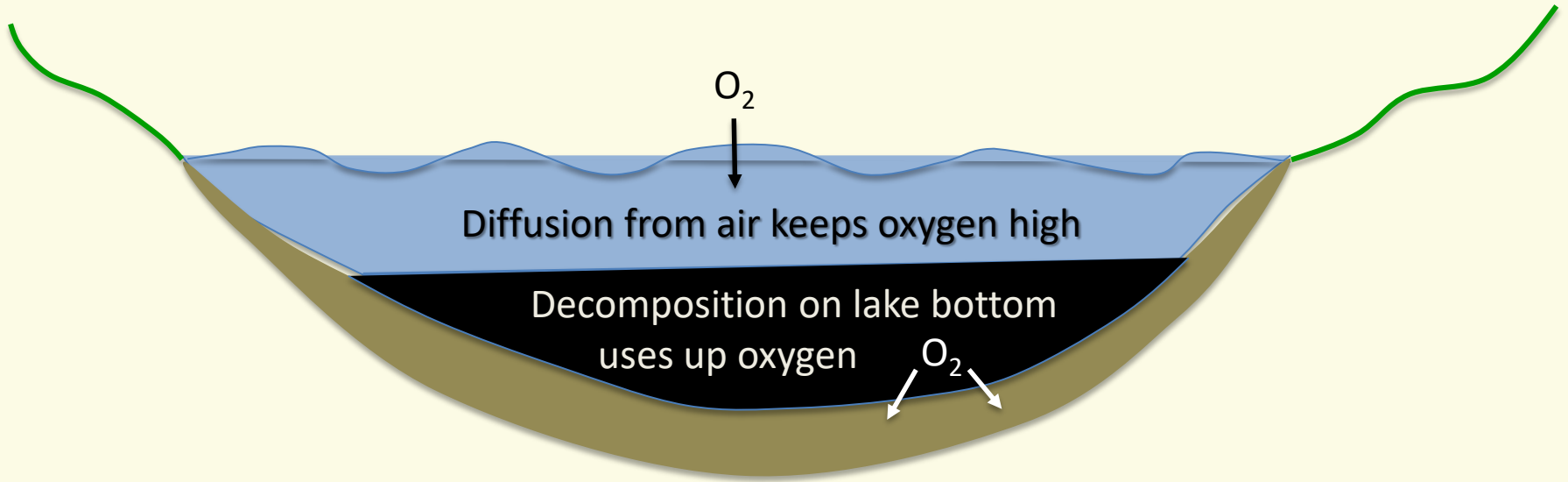
Redrawn from Sterner et al. 1997

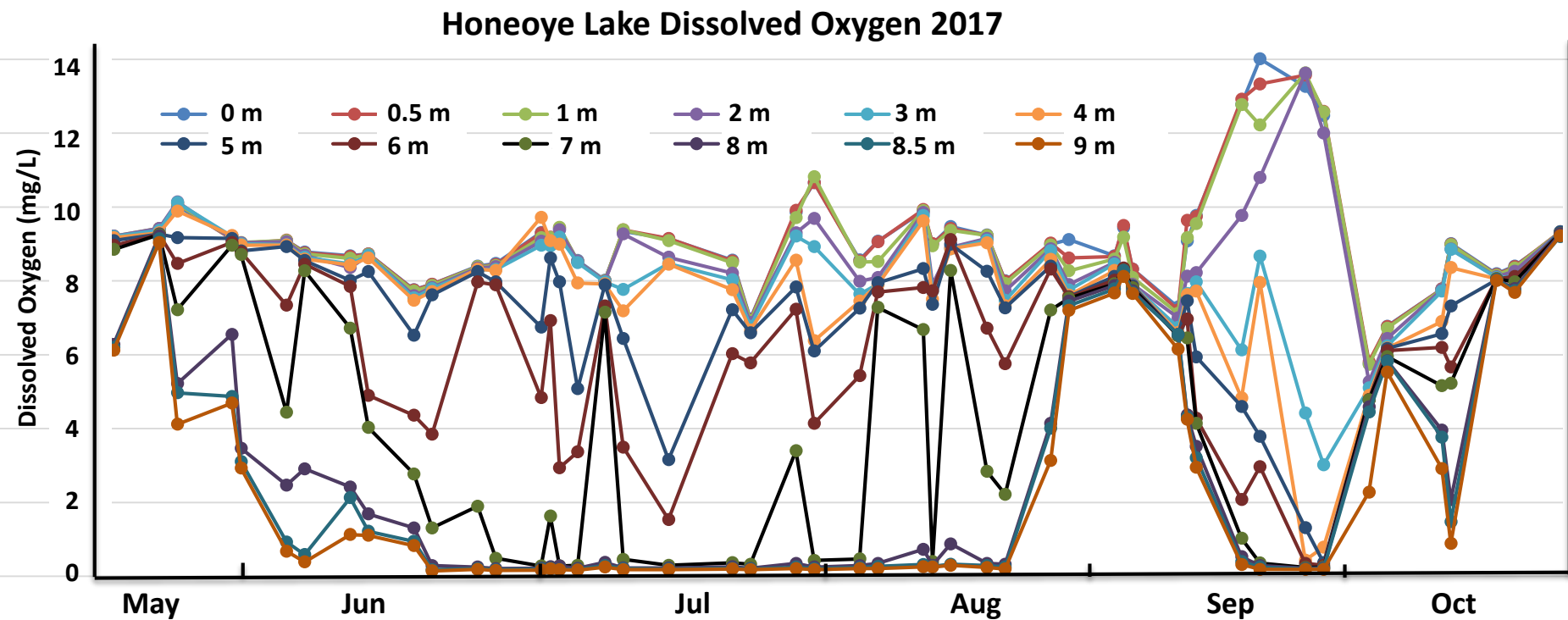
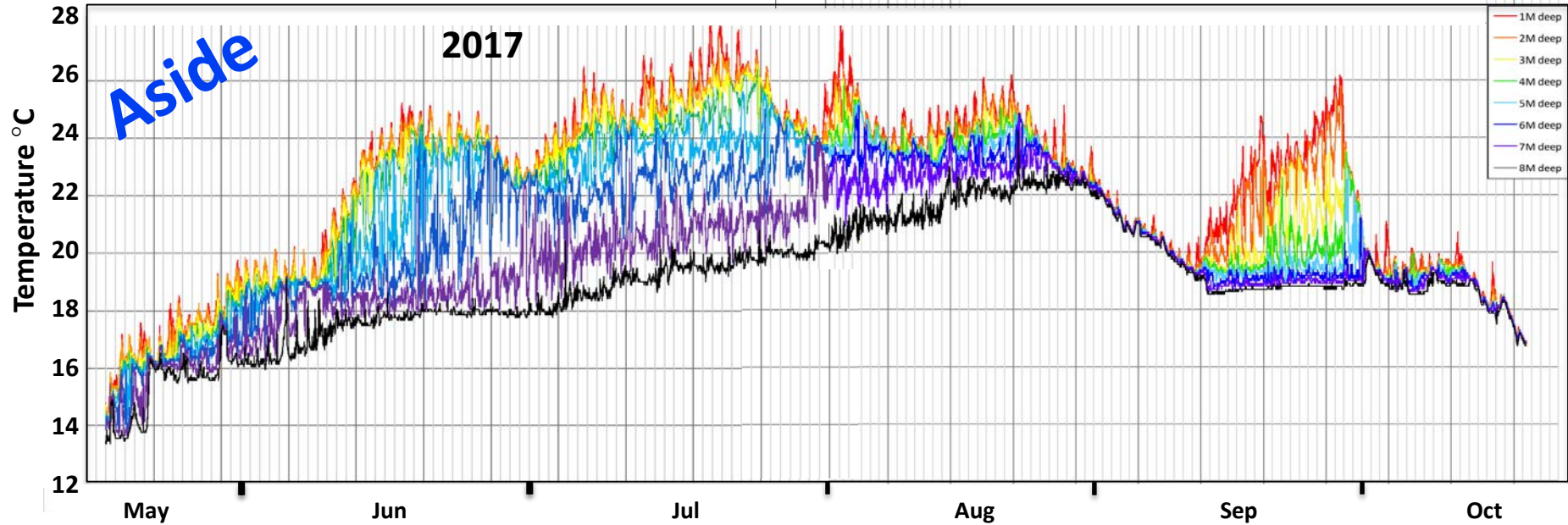
Phytoplankton cells from low light and high P have a high P:C content

Cells with a high C:P content grow fastest



Redrawn from Goldman et al. 1979





Internal waves along the thermocline

