## **Historical perspective of eutrophication**

## Erik Jeppesen, Aarhus University, Denmark



#### Lake Washington (Lake Edmondson)

Hampton and Winder

#### Lake Constance, Germany mean depth 100 m



(R.Eckmann and R. Rösch, 1998)

530 km2,



## **TP loading reduction**



#### Figure 1: Changes in water quality variables during the last two decades



Major changes In European waters in BOD, inorganic N and Orhto-P

# Severe problems – e.g. channelised streams





## Loading to coastal waters in Denmark

## and concentrations



## **Chlorophyll a and Secchi depth**





### **Total macrofauna**

### **Filter feeders**

### **Deposit feeders**



### **Cyanobacterial blooms in Lake Dianchi**



#### Sewage from Kunming of key importance



#### Water hyacinth in Lake Dianchi

### High fish production in natural lakes implying stocking and or feeding leads to a major detrioration of water quality



### Zhou et al., Water Research, Changes in Chinese<sup>201</sup>70 Yess</sup>



## **Improvments in China in the last decade**





#### Map 1: Proportion of classified river and lake water bodies in different River Basin Districts (RBD) holding less than good ecological status or potential



the set a set of the s



## Lake TP

#### **Diffuse pollution a hot topic in DK !**

## **My country!**



5 mill. people (great sewage treatment) and 20 mill. pigs and cattle, walking around even without any underpants!!!!!



### Nitrogen and phosphorus loading depend on catchment type (Danish lakes)



Jeppesen et al, 1999

Proportion agricultural land (%)



## Shallow Deep

Nielsen et al, 2011

## **Danish Action Plans**

- **NPo Action Plan 1985.**
- Action Plan for the Aquatic Environment I 1987.
- Action Plan for Sustainable Agriculture, 1991 and 1996.
- Action Plan for the Aquatic Environment II 1998
- Action Plan for the Aquatic Environment III 2004
- Water Framework Directive 2009-2015

### Mitigation of Nitrogen and Phosphorus leaching

- Green fields in winter
- Livestock harmony
- Demand for building of slurry tanks (6-9 months storage capacity)
- Crop and fertiliser plans
- Fertiliser accounts and levy system
- Nitrogen quota system
- Catch crops
- 10 % reduction in nitrogen standards for crops
- Required utilisation of nitrogen in animal manure
- Livestock density requirements
- Potential taxes on P fertilisation planned

## **Storage capacity for slurry -DK**





### Net accumulation of phosphorus in Danish agriculture









#### **Artificial wetlands**





## Bring the rivervalleys back to the rivers!





## **Environmental** Science & lechnology

#### Reducing Phosphorus to Curb Lake Eutrophication is a Success

David W. Schindler,<sup>\*,†</sup> Stephen R. Carpenter,<sup>‡</sup> Steven C. Chapra,<sup>§</sup> Robert E. Hecky,<sup>||</sup> and Diane M. Orihel<sup>⊥</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E9, Canada <sup>‡</sup>Center for Limnology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin 53706, United States <sup>§</sup>Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts 02155, United States <sup>II</sup>Large Lakes Observatory, University of Minnesota-Duluth, Duluth, Minnesota 55812, United States <sup>II</sup>Department of Biology, University of Ottawa, 30 Marie Curie, Ottawa Ontario K1N 6N5 Canada, Canada

ABSTRACT: As human populations increase and land-use intensifies, toxic and unsightly nuisance blooms of algae are becoming larger and more frequent in freshwater lakes. In most cases, the blooms are predominantly blue-green algae (Cyanobacteria), which are favored by low ratios of nitrogen to phosphorus. In the past half century, aquatic scientists have devoted much effort to understanding the causes of such blooms and how they can be prevented or reduced. Here we review the evidence, finding that numerous long-term studies of lake ecosystems in Europe and North America show that controlling algal blooms and other symptoms of eutrophication depends on reducing inputs of a single nutrient: phosphorus. In contrast, small-scale experiments of short duration, where nutrients are added rather than removed, often give spurious



and confusing results that bear little relevance to solving the problem of cyanobacteria blooms in lakes.



### Chlorophyll a (ug l-1)



#### Map 1: Proportion of classified river and lake water bodies in different River Basin Districts (RBD) holding less than good ecological status or potential



#### Water quality has improved but the nutrient load of water bodies remains a problem



continue to deliver pollution control, diffuse nitrogen pollution remains problematic. And TP!



### Takes time to respond to loading reduction



## **Chemical and biological resistance may delay lake recovery**







### **Expected changes in temperature**





Figure 3.4. Change in annual runoff by 2041-60 relative to 1900-70, in percent, under the SRES A1B emissions scenario and based on an ensemble of 12 climate models. Reprinted by permission from Macmillan Publishers Ltd. [Nature] (Milly et al., 2005), copyright 2005.



### Loading depending on runoff Diffuse N



33-42% increase in the last 80 years due to increase in discharge – present days fertilisation

Jeppesen et al, 2009

Diffuse P

#### Temperate lake in balance

**Degraded temperate lake** 



#### **Temperate lake in balance**

#### Degraded temperate lake

#### Warm lakes



## **SALGA and ECOFRAME-lakes**



Kosten et al , GCB, 2012





## Climate Change effects?



### **Total macrofauna**

### **Filter feeders**

### **Deposit feeders**

## **Warming effects**

- Stratification more pronounced or initiated
- Warming enhances the risk of eutrophication and enhances the Chla:TP ratio,lower water clarity
- Higher risk cyanobacteria blooming
- Higher predation from fish, less zooplankton grazing, more truncated food webs with higher degree of omnivory
- Lower nutrient thresholds needed to obtain/maintain "good ecological status"

# Lets wait and seeeee.....

### Climate change - actions

Many of the symptoms of warming are similar to those of europhication – so we can compensate to some extent by taking....

#### Action folks!!!!



Reduce the external nutrient loading!

## 6 degree warming....

Then we need to reduce the external loading of P and N by about 76% to reach the present water quality state (Chlorophyll a and Secchi depth)!!

www.snuffx.com

## A bit scaring

# , Thanks for inviting me

Copyright @ 2003 Eric H Cheng