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Large Marine Ecosystems and coastal water archetypes implemented in LCIA methods for marine eutrophication and metals ecotoxicity

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TU260

Summary

- Modelling framework for **marine eutrophication (MEu)** and **marine metals ecotoxicity (MEc)**.
- Characterisation Factors (CFs) integrate **Fate, Exposure or Bioavailability**, and **Effect** Factors.
- 64 **Large Marine Ecosystems (LME)** – spatial units of coastal areas for spatial differentiation.
- **Residence Time (RT)** for nitrogen and metals is required for the parameterisation of fate models.
- RT expresses the flushing of the system and the **losses** of nitrogen/metals by advection.
- RT data was found in **literature** or obtained from **4 archetypes** defined by hydrodynamics.

Conclusions!

- The **LME classification system** was chosen for its data availability, modelling feasibility, and adequacy of size and number of spatial units.
- **Archetypical RT data** was a useful solution for the parameterisation needs of the fate models.
- The **spatial differentiation** of the resulting CFs was found essential to increase the discriminatory power of the models.

Background

Marine Eutrophication (MEu)

- Ecosystem response to excessive input of nitrogen (N) with increase of primary production in the photic zone of coastal waters [1].
- Heterotrophic bacteria respire the accumulated organic matter consuming dissolved oxygen.
- Excessive depletion of oxygen may lead to hypoxic stress of benthic organisms and loss of biodiversity.

Marine metals Ecotoxicity (MEc)

- Response of ecosystems to excessive level of metals in the integrated environment [2].
- Organisms become exposed to excessive metals concentration in marine water.
- Exposure may lead to uptake of metals and toxicity effect by e.g. decreasing or blocking the uptake of essential elements by binding with the transporters.

Life Cycle Impact Assessment (LCIA)

- Characterisation modelling of environmental mechanisms.
- Characterisation Factors (CFs) are used in LCIA to convert emissions into impacts.

Methodology

1 LCIA indicators

- The **MEu** indicator expresses the eutrophying impact of nitrogen (N).
- **MEc** the toxic impact of metals emissions to the marine environment.

Characterisation Factor for Marine Eutrophication:

- Fate of N (FF), habitat Exposure Factor (XF), and Factor for the Effects on biota (EF).

$$CF_{[PAF \cdot m^{-3} \cdot d \cdot kgN^{-1}]} = FF_{[d]} * XF_{[kgO_2 \cdot kgN^{-1}]} * EF_{[PAF \cdot m^{-3} \cdot kgO_2^{-1}]}$$

Characterisation Factor for Marine metals Ecotoxicity:

- Fate of metals (FF), Bioavailability Factor of metals (BF), and Effect Factor on biota (EF)

$$CF_{[PAF \cdot m^{-3} \cdot d \cdot kgMetal^{-1}]} = FF_{[d]} * BF_{[-]} * EF_{[PAF \cdot m^{-3} \cdot kgMetal^{-1}]}$$

2 Models parameterisation

- Residence Time (RT) is applied in the Fate terms of both models:

Fate modelling in Marine Eutrophication:

$$FF_{LME} = \frac{\int_{exp}}{\lambda_{LME}} \quad f_{exp} [-] \text{ is the fraction of the emitted N that reaches coastal marine waters (exported)}$$

$\lambda_{LME} [d^{-1}]$ is the N-loss rate coefficient in each LME

- The N-losses (λ) can be caused by denitrification, advection and sedimentation:

$$\lambda_j = \lambda_{denitrification} + \lambda_{advection} + \lambda_{sedimentation}$$

- The N-loss by advection is estimated with the residence time (τ) on each LME:

$$\lambda_{advection} = \frac{1}{\tau_{LME}}$$

Fate modelling in Marine metals Ecotoxicity:

- Multi-media fate model embedded in USEtox[®].
- Models losses by advection with RT, plus metals removal by sedimentation and diffusion to sediment.

3 Residence time and archetypes

- The 4 archetypes are defined by the exposure to currents and regional marine circulation, depth and profile of the continental shelf, and water stratification:

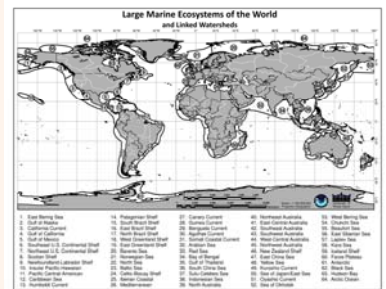
- **Archetype 1 (high dynamics and exposure): RT=3 months**
- **Archetype 2 (medium dynamics and exposure): RT=2 years**
- **Archetype 3 (low dynamics): RT=25 years**
- **Archetype 4 (very low dynamics, embayed, often stratified): RT=90 years**

- **Assumption:** System dynamics determines the RT of both N and metals in the water column.

Results

Spatial units

- Biogeographical classification system.
- **Large Marine Ecosystems (LME)**.
- **64 spatial units** of coastal marine waters.
- Neritic zone from river basins and estuaries to the seaward boundaries of continental shelves.
- Distinct bathymetry, hydrography, productivity and trophically dependent populations [3].
- Mixing processes, light and nutrients.



The Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) spatial units

Residence Time (RT) dataset and sources: Literature and archetypes

LME	RT	Source
1. East Bering Sea	2.00	2
2. Gulf of Alaska	0.25	1
3. California Current	0.25	1
4. Gulf of California	1.50	1
5. Gulf of Mexico	90.00	4
6. Southeastern U.S. Continental Shelf	0.25	1
7. Northeastern U.S. Continental Shelf	0.25	1
8. Scotian Shelf	0.25	1
9. Newfoundland-Labrador Shelf	0.25	1
10. Intra-Pacific-Tasmanian	0.25	1
11. Pacific Central-American	0.25	1
12. Caribbean Sea	0.25	1
13. Humboldt Current	0.25	1
14. Patagonian Shelf	0.25	1
15. South Brazil Shelf	0.25	1
16. East Greenland Shelf	0.25	1
17. West Greenland Shelf	0.25	1
18. Barents Sea	2.00	2
21. Norwegian Sea	2.00	2
22. North Sea	2.00	2
23. Baltic Sea	21.00	2
24. Celtic-Biscay Shelf	2.00	2
25. Iberian Coastal	0.25	1
26. Mediterranean	90.00	4
27. Canary Current	0.25	1
28. Guinea Current	1.50	1
29. Benguela Current	0.25	1
30. Agulhas Current	2.00	2
31. Somali Coastal Current	0.25	1
32. Arabian Sea	4.00	1
33. Red Sea	40.00	1
34. Bay of Bengal	12.00	1
35. Gulf of Thailand	0.04	1
36. South China Sea	21.00	1
37. Sulu-Oilena Sea	21.00	1
38. Indonesian Sea	0.25	1
39. North Australia	0.25	1
40. North-west Australia	0.25	1
41. South-west Australia	0.25	1
42. South-east Australia	0.25	1
43. Southeast Australia	0.25	1
44. West-Central Australia	0.25	1
45. North-east Australia	0.25	1
46. New Zealand Shelf	0.25	1
47. East China Sea	1.50	1
48. Yellow Sea	2.00	1
49. Kurushio Current	2.30	1
50. Sea of Japan/East Sea	24.00	1
51. Oyashio Current	0.25	1
52. Sea of Okhotsk	2.00	1
53. West-Bering Sea	0.25	1
54. Chukchi Sea	1.00	1
55. Beaufort Sea	1.00	1
56. East Labrador Sea	1.00	1
57. Labrador Sea	1.00	1
58. Kara Sea	3.00	1
59. Laptev Sea	0.25	1
60. Farer Plateau	0.25	1
61. Atlantic	4.00	1
62. Black Sea	90.00	4
63. Hudson Bay	4.00	1
64. Arctic Ocean	11.00	1

Number and size of spatial units.

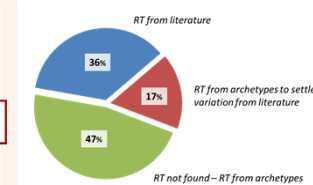
- **Integrated approach: productivity and oceanography, fish and fisheries, pollution and ecosystem health, socioeconomics, and governance [4].**

- **Data availability for productivity, residence species, currents and circulation, and ease of adaptation to a climate zonation.**

- **The LME classification system was adopted for both MEu and MEc, out of a comparison of 13 alternative zonation systems.**

Distribution of data sources for Residence Time (RT)

- RT from literature (36% of LMEs).
- 4 archetypes used for the remaining to:
- Provide RT data (47%),
- Settle differences in sources (17%).



References:

[1] Nixon SW (1995) Ophelia 41:199-219
 [2] Truhaut R (1977) Ecotoxicol Environ Saf 1(2):151-173
 [3] Sherman K & Duda AM (1999) Fisheries 24(12):15-26
 [4] Spalding MD, Fox HE, Allen GR, et al. (2007) BioScience 57(7):573-583