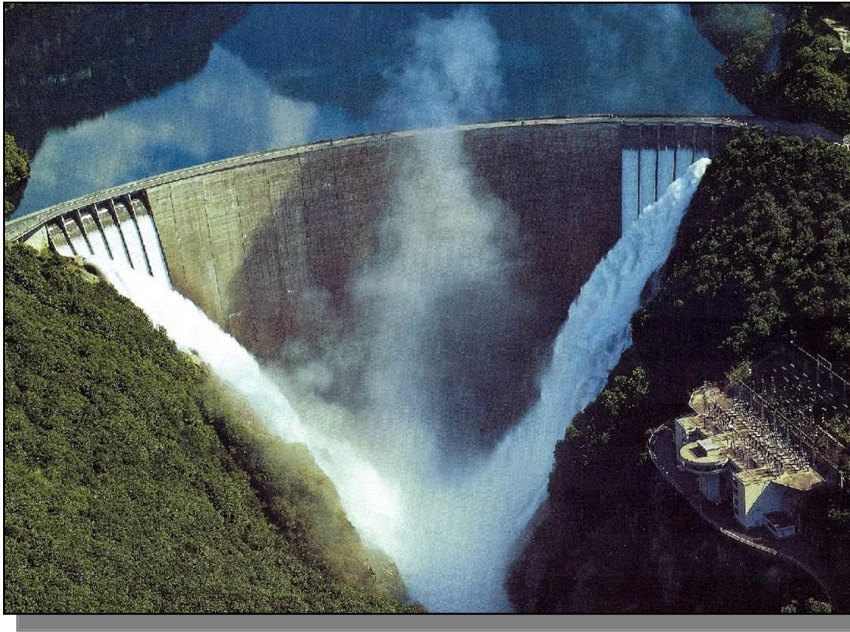


Reservoir Sedimentation and Sediment Management



ISI International Training
Workshop on Integrated
Sediment Management in
River Basin

5. – 10. November 2018

Lecture Note by
Manfred Spreafico
Switzerland

Content

- 1. Brief overview of environmental impacts and problems of reservoirs in the context of erosion and sedimentation**
- 2. Determination/estimation of necessary information and basic sediment data**
- 3. Possibilities and effects of measures for the reduction of sediment input into the reservoir**
- 4. Reservoir sedimentation**
- 5. Procedures of the removal of sediment from reservoirs and impacts on the ecology**
- 6. Modification of the hydrological regime and changes in erosion and sediment downstream of reservoirs**
- 7. Difficulties by the determination of the impacts of reservoirs on downstream areas (Example Grimsel reservoirs)**

1. Brief overview of environmental impacts and problems of reservoirs in the context of erosion and sedimentation

Water Reservoirs

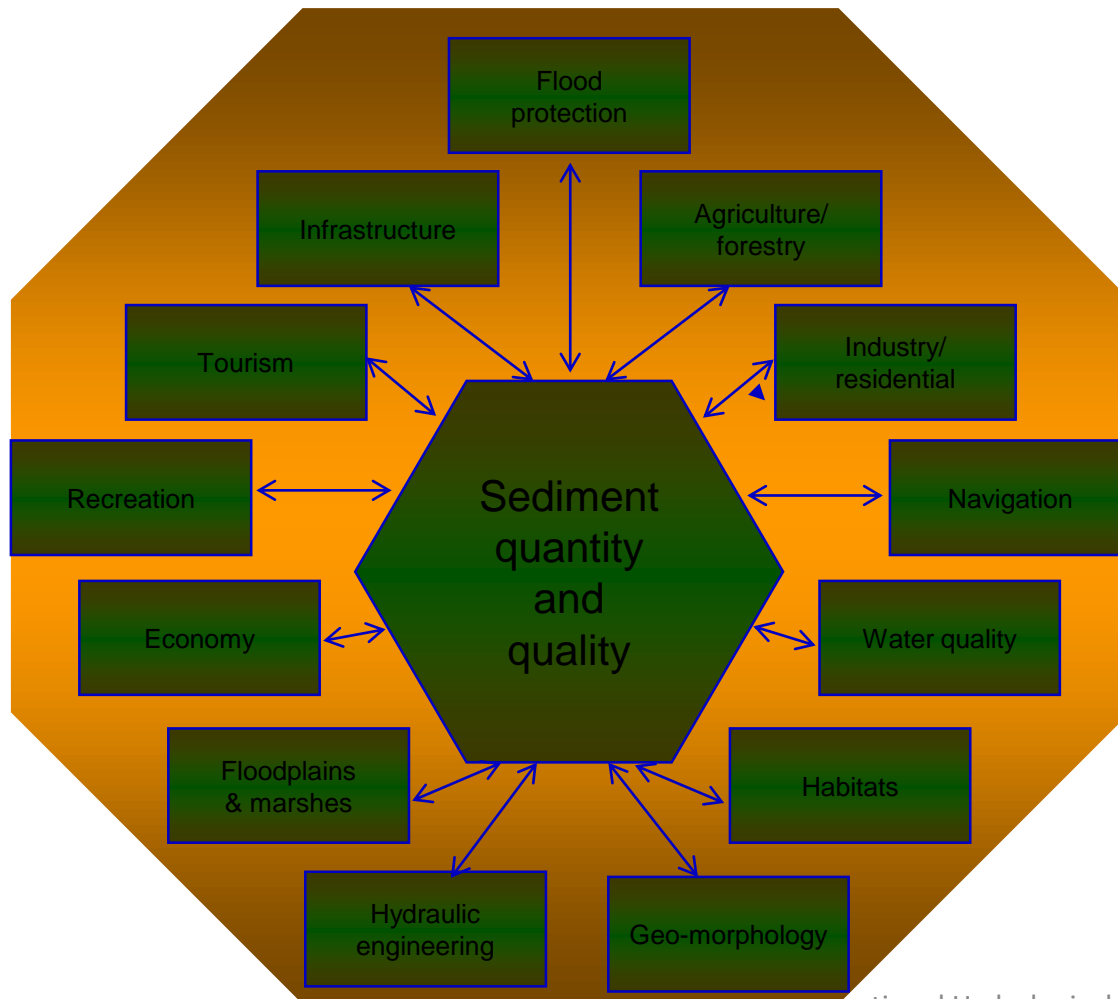
```
graph TD; A[Water Reservoirs] --> B[Generate]; B --> C[Long-term socio-economic benefits and costs]; B --> D[Long-term environmental impacts];
```

Generate

Long-term
socio-economic
benefits and costs

Long-term
environmental
impacts

Interrelation between sediment management and other players in sustainability



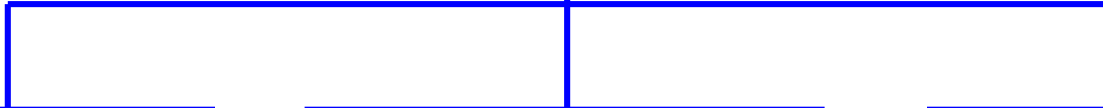
Aim of the sediment management



Recovery of a quasi-stationary
state of the sediment balance



Method used



Prevention of
sedimentation

Remobilizing or
removal of
surplus
sediment from
the reservoir

Input of the
remobilized
sediment into
river reaches
with sediment
deficiency

Basic sediment control strategies for reservoir sedimentation

**Reduce
sediment
inflow**

**Route
sediments**

**Sediment
removal**

**Provide large
storage volume**

**Sediment
placement**

Actions to achieve sustainable use

**Sedimentation
assessment**

**Evaluation of
sedimentation
impacts**

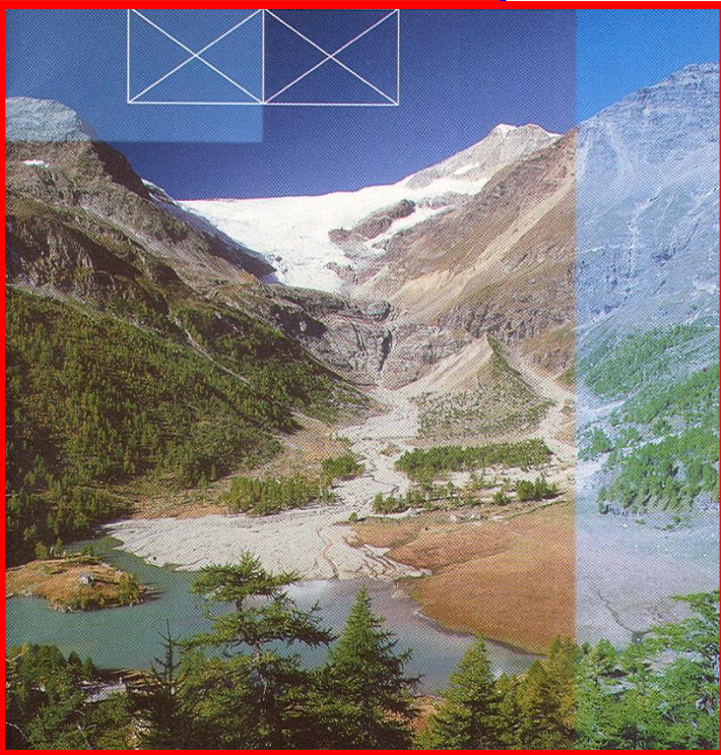
**Identification of
priority sites**

**Screening of
sediment
management
alternatives**

**Design,
implementation,
monitoring**

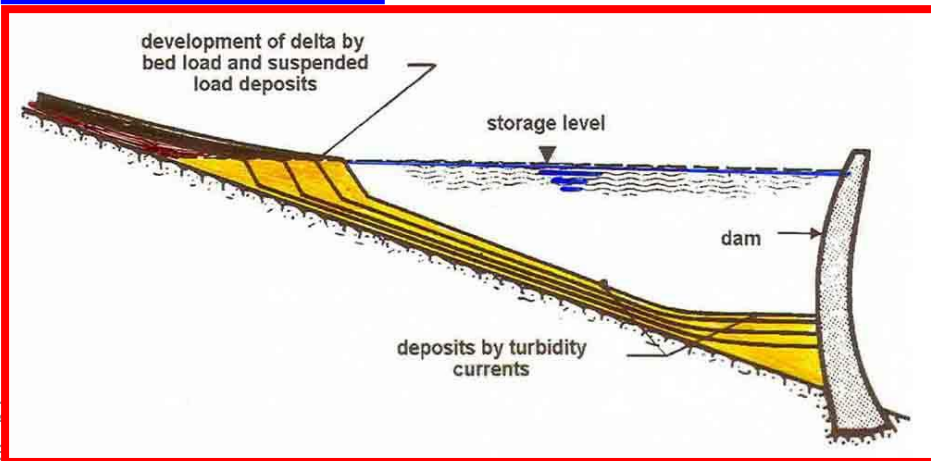
Environmental issues related to sediment and its management

Upstream of the reservoir



Within the reservoir

Downstream of the reservoir



Environmental issues upstream of the reservoir

- Reduction of river slope due to the prolongation of the river length by the deposits in the delta area.
 - Reduction in discharge and transport capacity
 - Disturbance of the surface/groundwater interaction

Environmental issues within the reservoir

- Loss of storage capacity due to sedimentation resulting in reduced water availability for water supply, hydropower and flood control.
- Water quality can be negatively influenced by the storage of contaminated sediments contributed from upstream or primary producers in the reservoir. The bottom water can get anaerobic due to the oxygen demand.
- Sediment removal can mobilize contaminated sediment.

- Turbidity can reduce the clarity of the water and makes the reservoir aesthetically unpleasant for recreation. Turbid water reduces depth of photic zone resulting in a decrease of primary productivity.
- Loss of houses and infrastructure in the flooded area by the reservoir
- Loss of agricultural land occupied by the reservoir
- Impact on health
- Effects on fauna
- Salinisation and water logging in newly irrigated areas

Environmental issues downstream of the reservoir

- Modification of the hydrological regime
 - Reduction of peak discharge
 - Change of the seasonal flow variability
 - Creation of pulsed flows
 - Reduction of discharge and transport capacity (Lateral sediment input, vegetative encroachment)
- Modification of the river hydraulic
 - Changes in slope and width
 - Change of the sediment balance
 - Bridges, river training works can be undermined
 - Riverbed will coarsen and may become unsuitable for spawning.

- Reduction of fine sediment load
 - Loss of sediment-dependent wetlands
 - Reduced nutrient and sediment inputs to floodplains
 - Decrease of delta area downstreams
 - Higher recreation value due to clear water
 - Reduced sedimentation and dredging in navigational channels.
- Increased suspended sediment due to flushing can impact downstream aquatic system

- Significant benefits to flora and fauna can arise if sediment areas become wetlands.

Fine sediment deposition can reduce resting habitat for fish.

Sediment islands

Dry low water zones during winter time



Old bed of the Alpine river near to the mouth



Habitat of the old Alpine river



Example of vegetation after rehabilitation



Problems caused by reservoir sedimentation

Technical problems

- Blocking of water outlets
- Abrasion of turbines
- Static problems of the dam construction
- Reduction of sediment transport in downstream areas resulting in river bed erosion

a. s. on

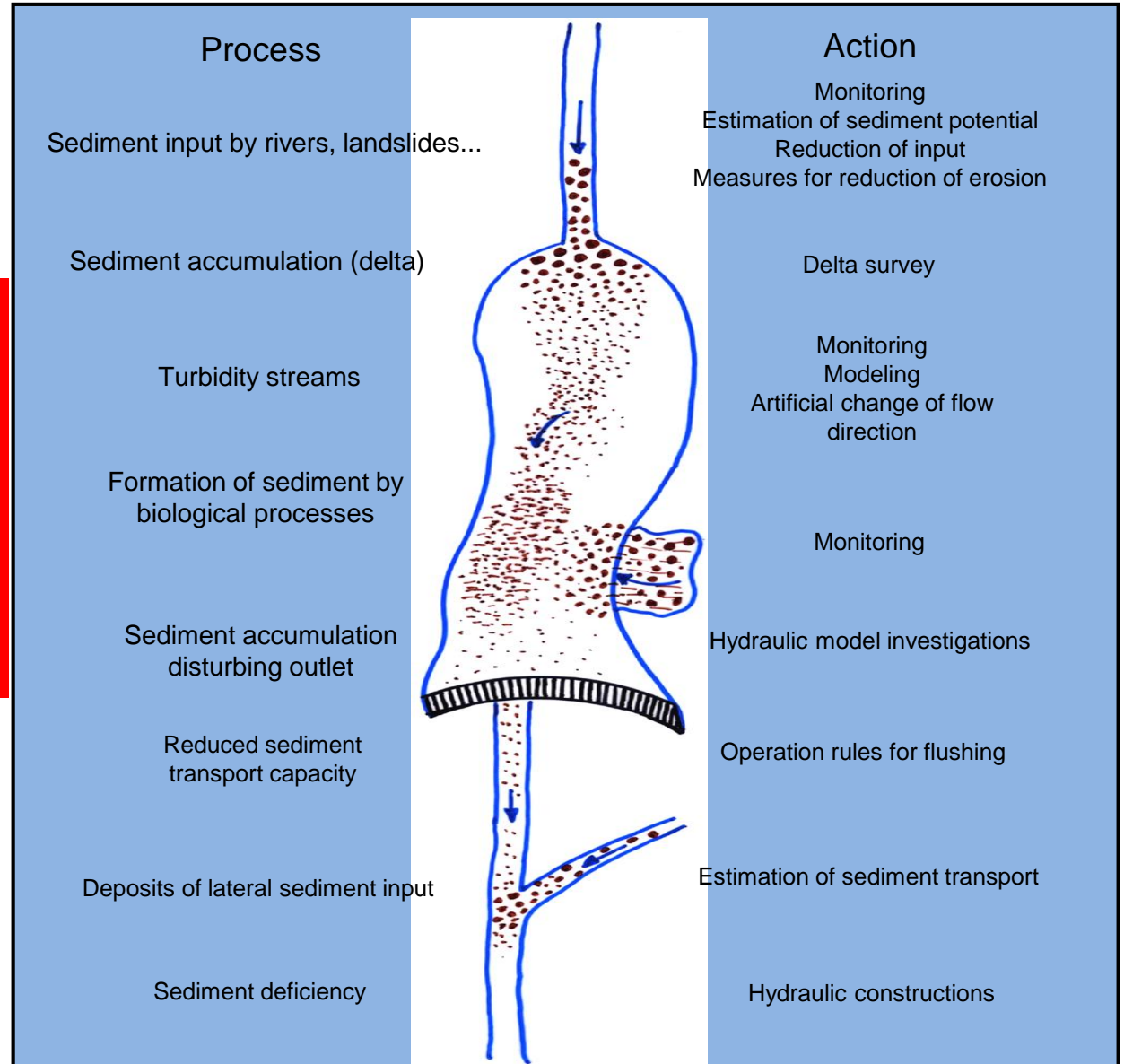
Economic problems

- Water losses due to spilling of sediment out of the reservoir
- Interruption of power production during flushing

Ecologic problems

- Modification of hydrological regime
- Change in sediment balance, deficiency and surplus of sediments
- Effects on the habitats typical of the benthic community
- Lowering of ground water tables
- Water pollution by contaminated sediments

Processes and actions related to reservoir sedimentation

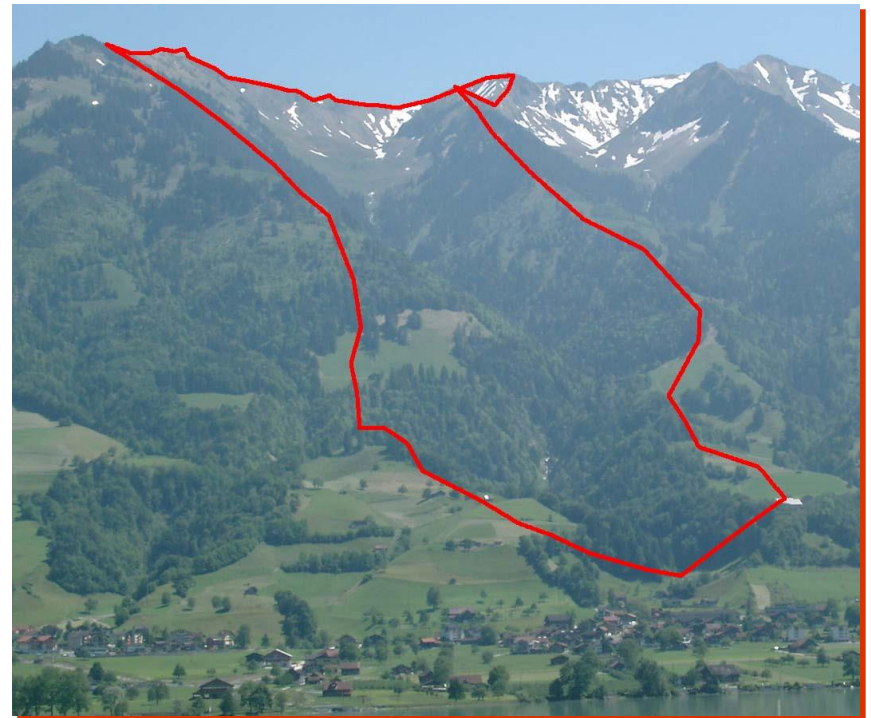


2. Determination/estimation of necessary information and basic sediment data

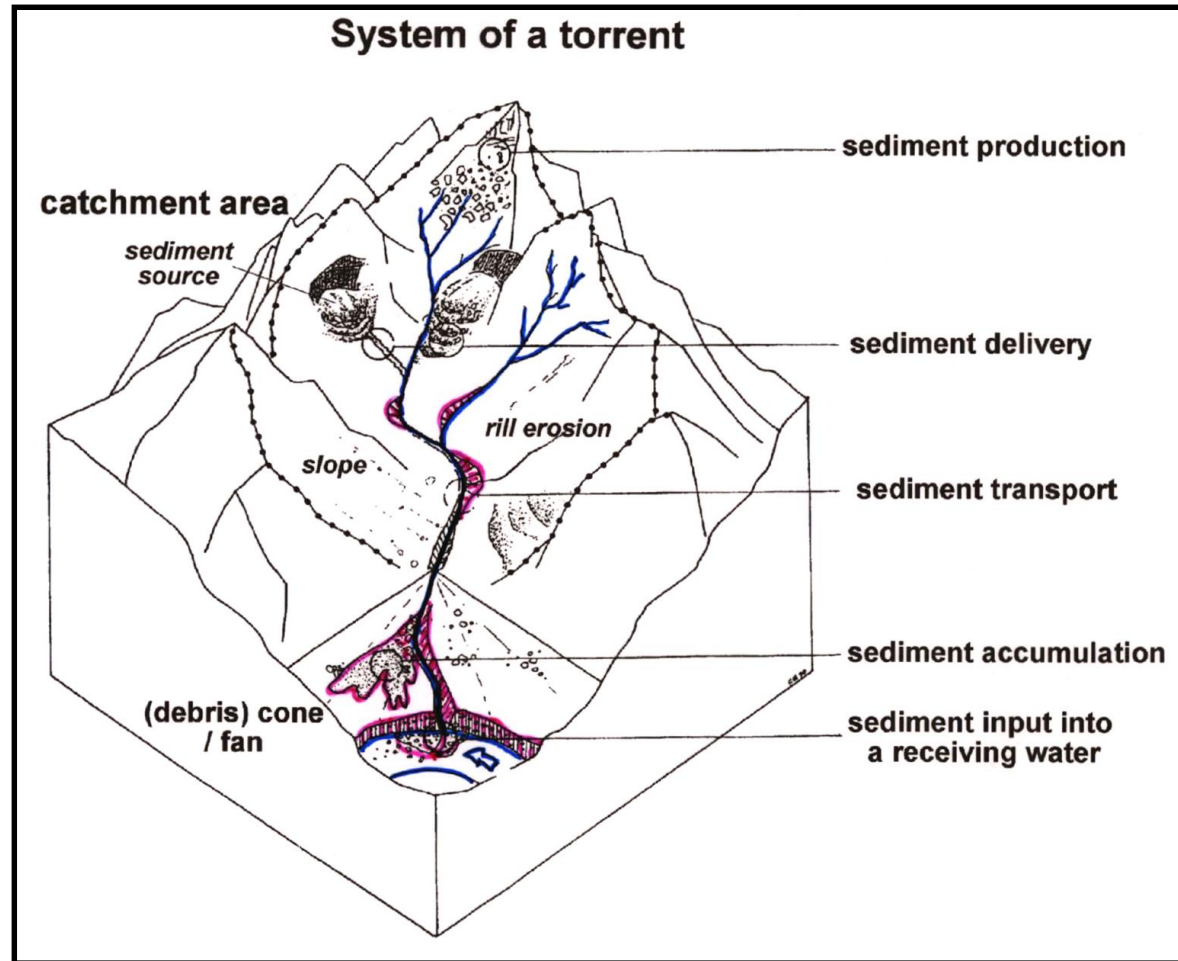
- A. Detailed description of the basin
- B. Description of the process
- C. Determination of sediment transport in mountain streams
E.g. Erlenbach CH, «benthley» of information gathering
- D. Estimation of sediment transport by sediment retention reservoirs and problems of interpretation/accuracy of such an estimation procedure
- E. Measurement of sediment
- F. Problems of interpretation/accuracy of measured sediment data
- G. Estimation procedures for sediment transport in small mountain streams
- H. Estimation of amount of soil erosion
- I. Sediment budget and balance in rivers

A. Detailed description of the catchment

1. General overview
2. History
3. Morphometry
4. Geology
5. Soil, soil cover, land use
6. Hydrology/
Meteorology
7. Geomorphology
8. Estimation of sediment
potential
9. Sediment retention basin
10. Basic information



B. Description of the processes



C. Determination of sediment transport in the research catchment Erlenbach



Monitoring systems

In operation since 1982

Area 0.74 Km²

60 % meadows, 40 % forest

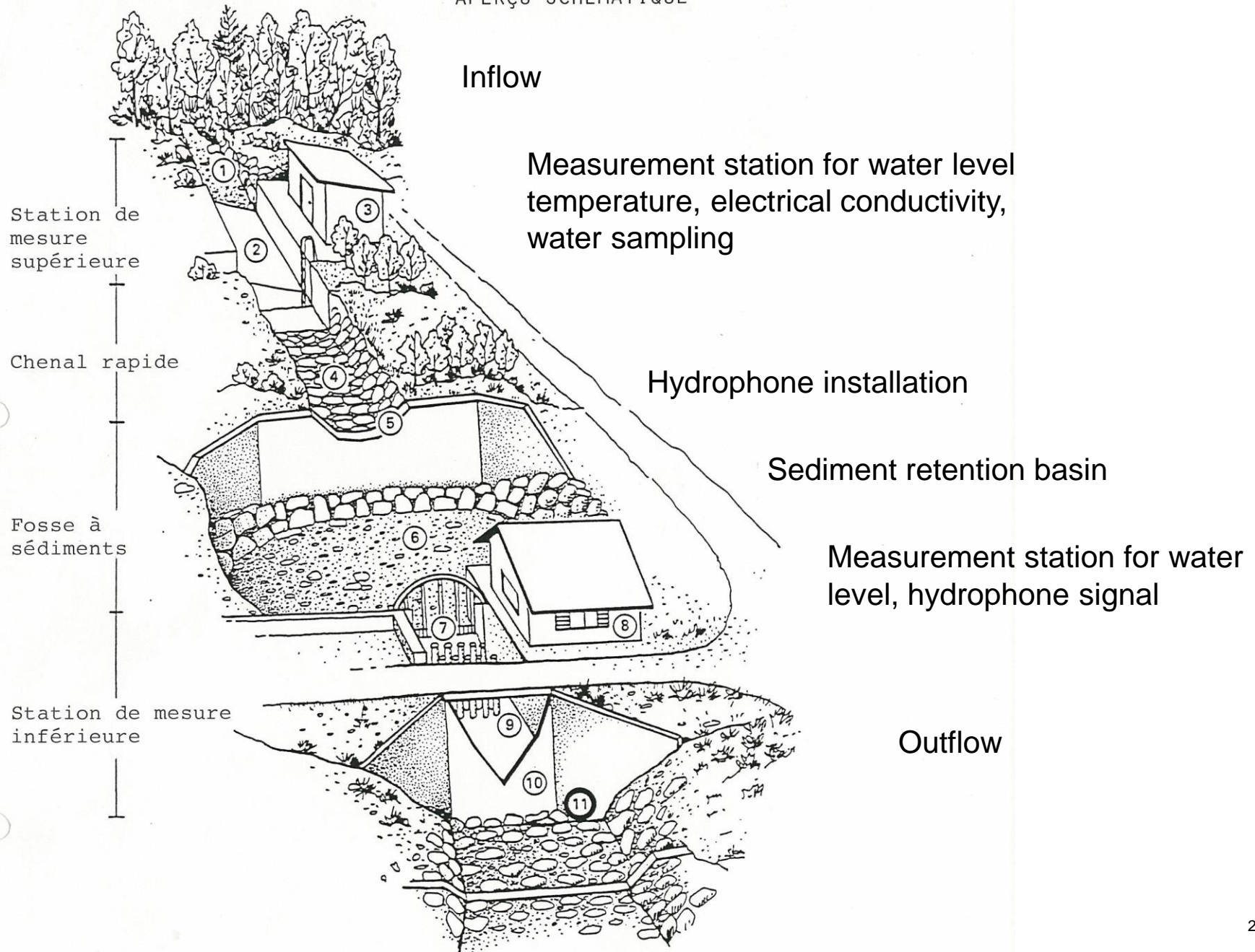
Altitude: 1110 - 1655 m asl

Precipitation: 2300 mm

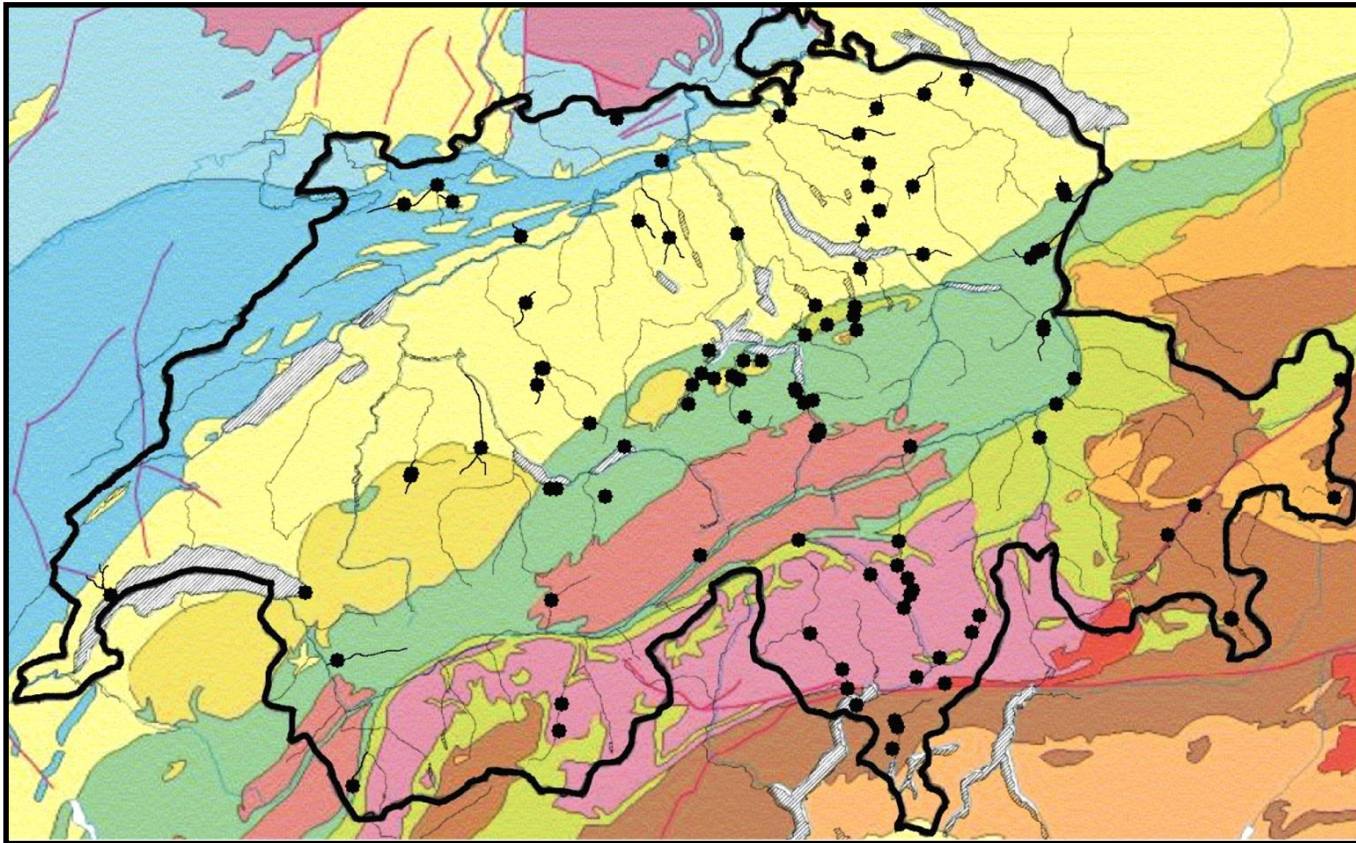
Geology: Flysch

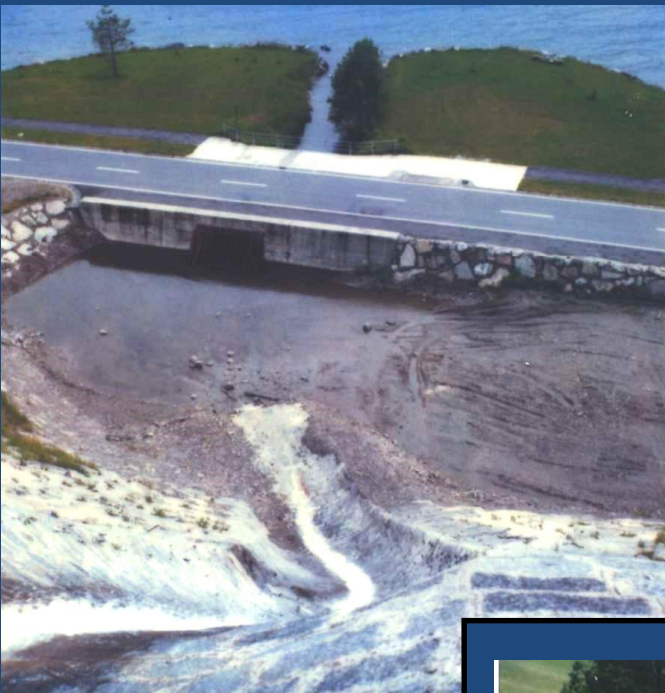
INSTALLATION DE MESURE D'ERLENTOBEL, ALPTAL

APERÇU SCHÉMATIQUE



D. Estimation of sediment transport by sediment retention basins and problems of interpretation/accuracy of such an estimation procedure





Fischlauwi Seedorf

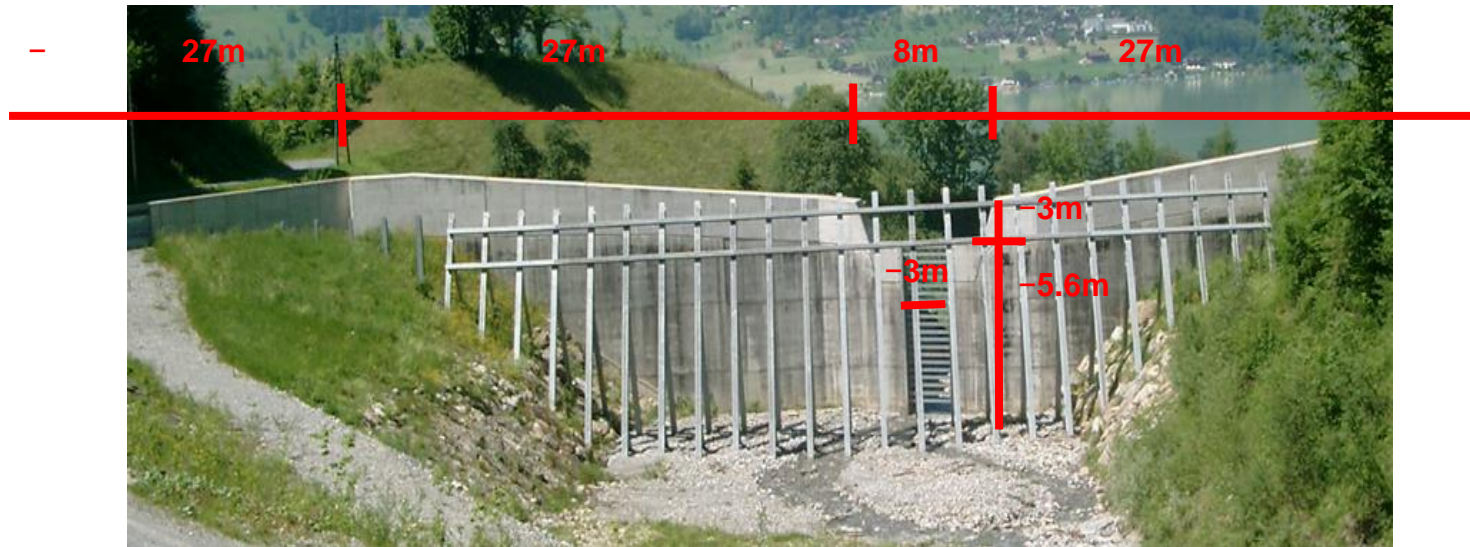


Berschnerbach Berschnis

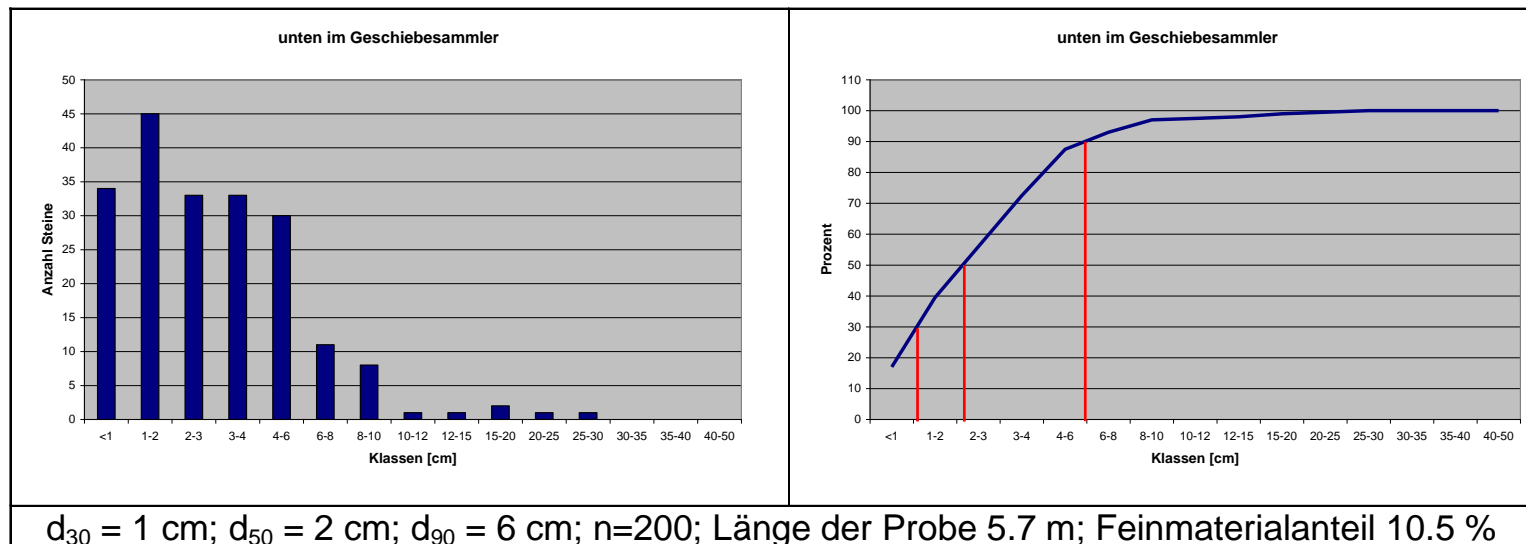


Filderenbach Hochybrig

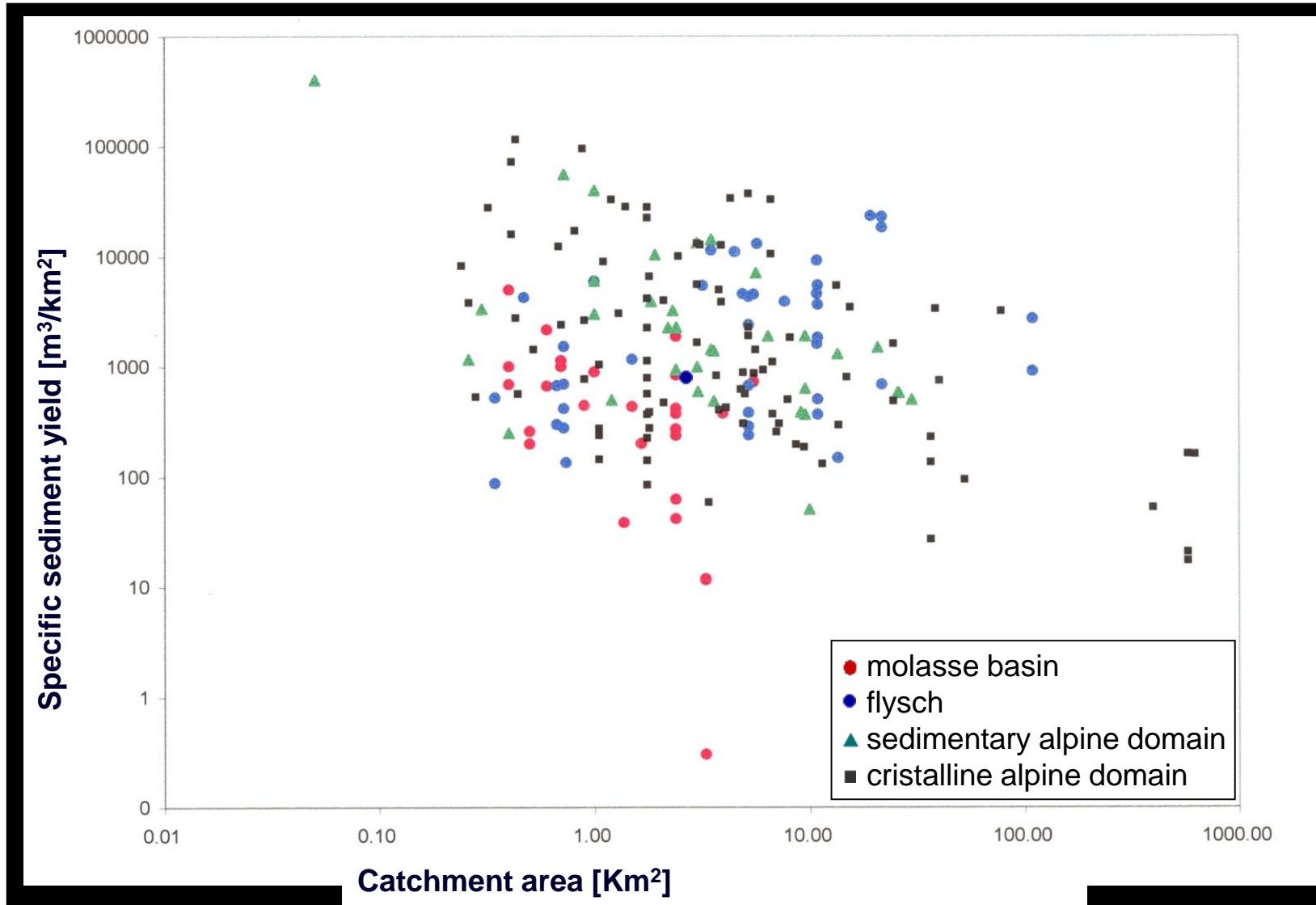
Sediment retention basin with wood retention



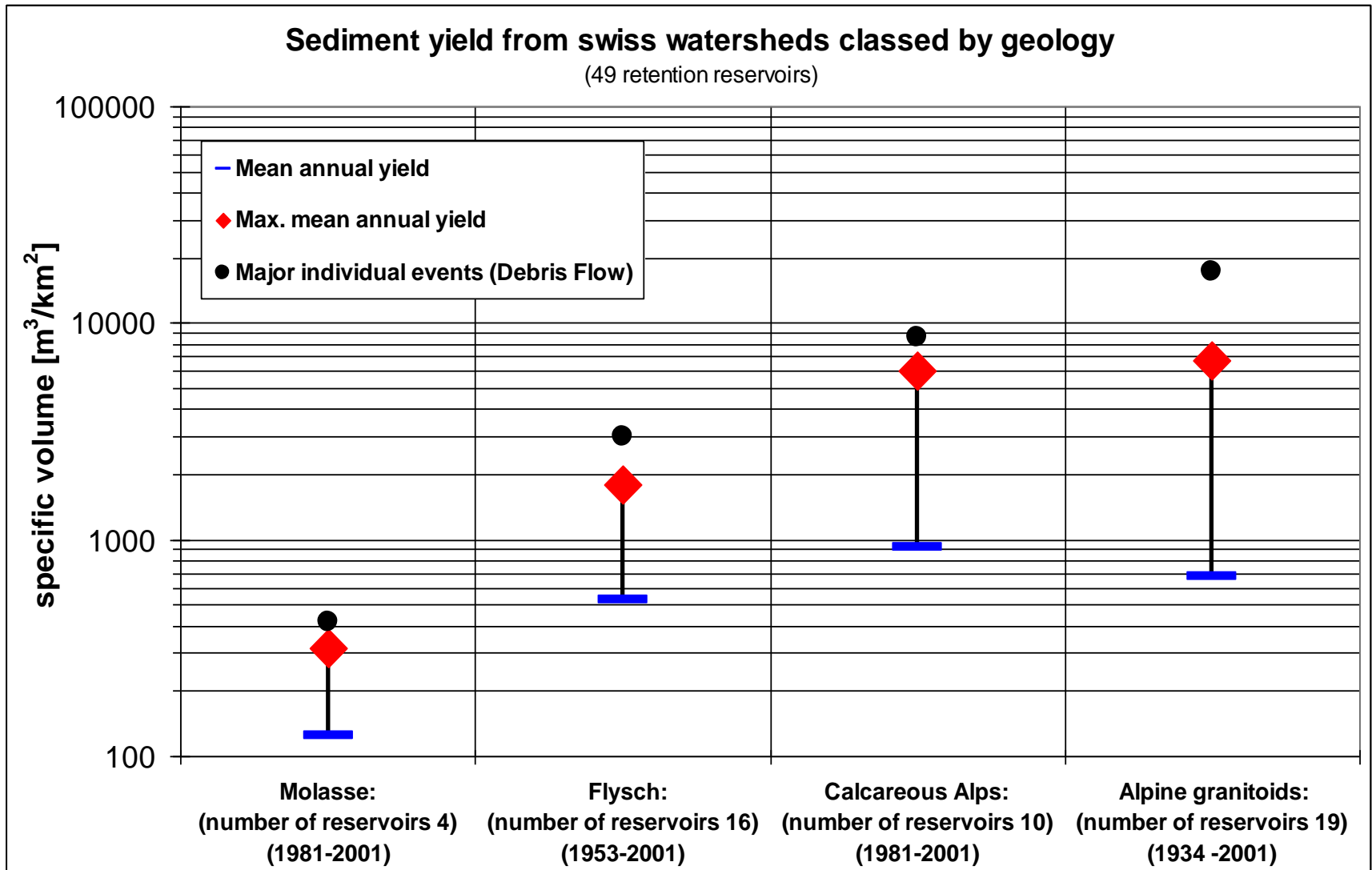
Grain size distribution in the reservoir



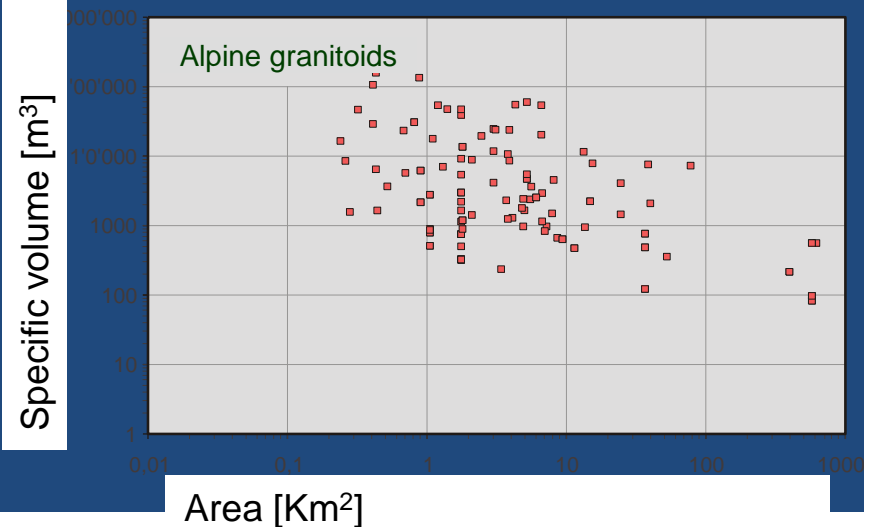
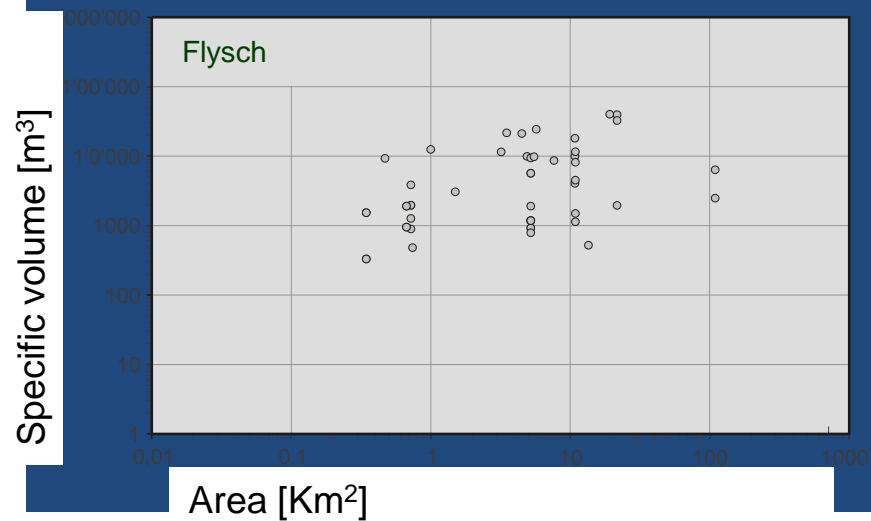
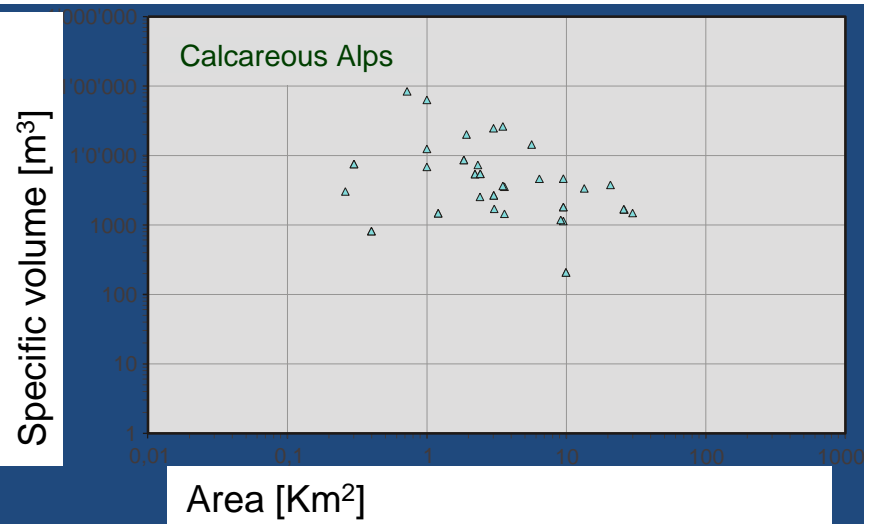
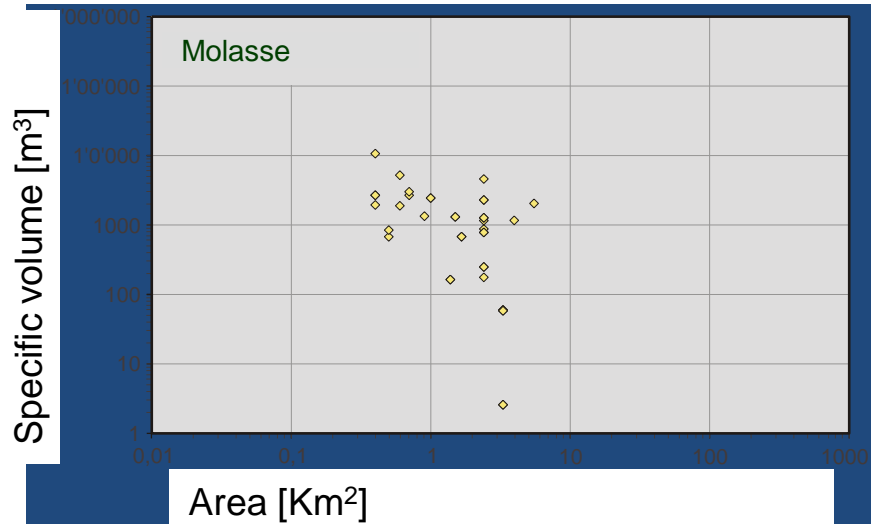
Specific sediment yield of floods and debris flows in Swiss mountain streams



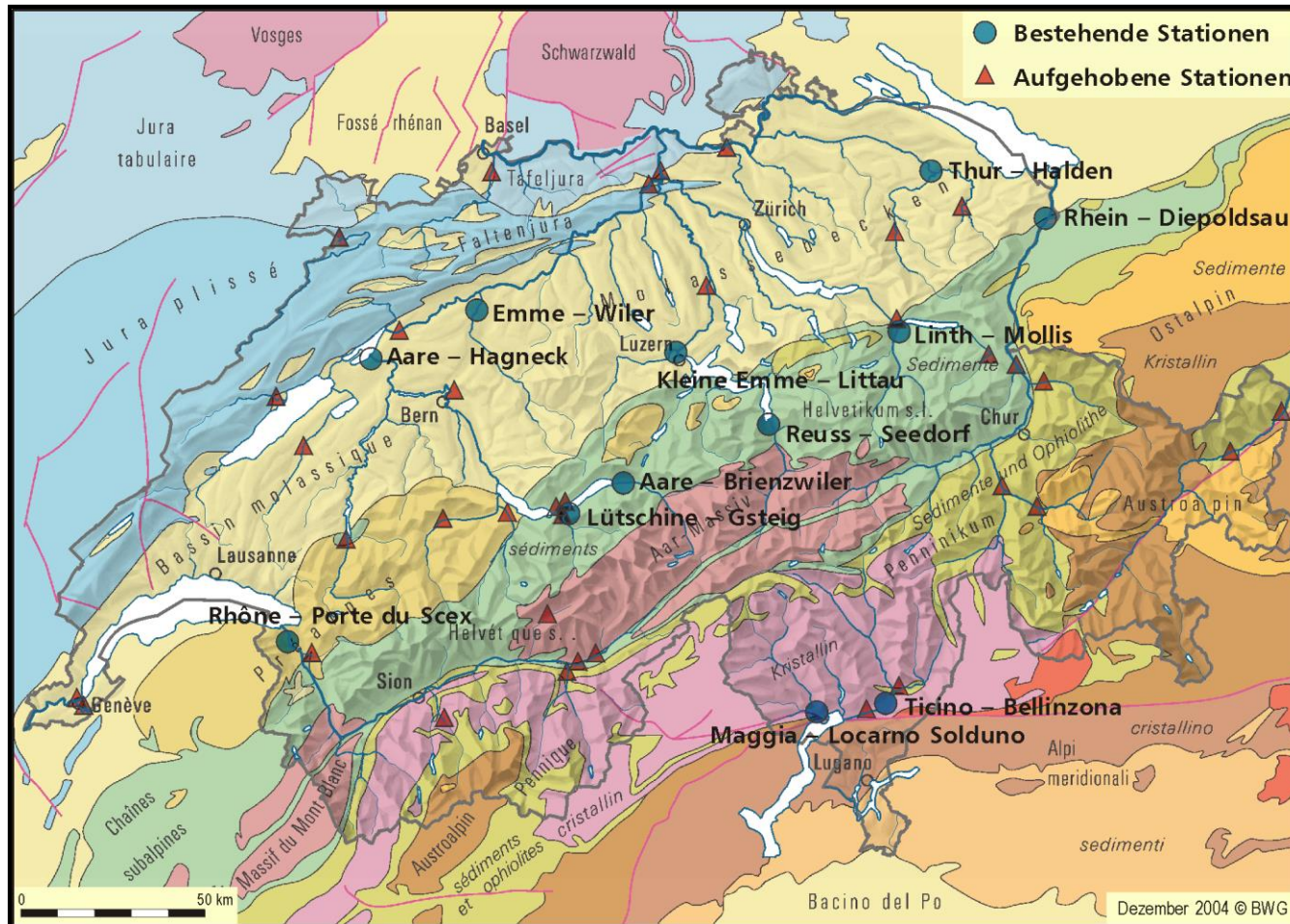
Sediment yield from Swiss watersheds classed by geology



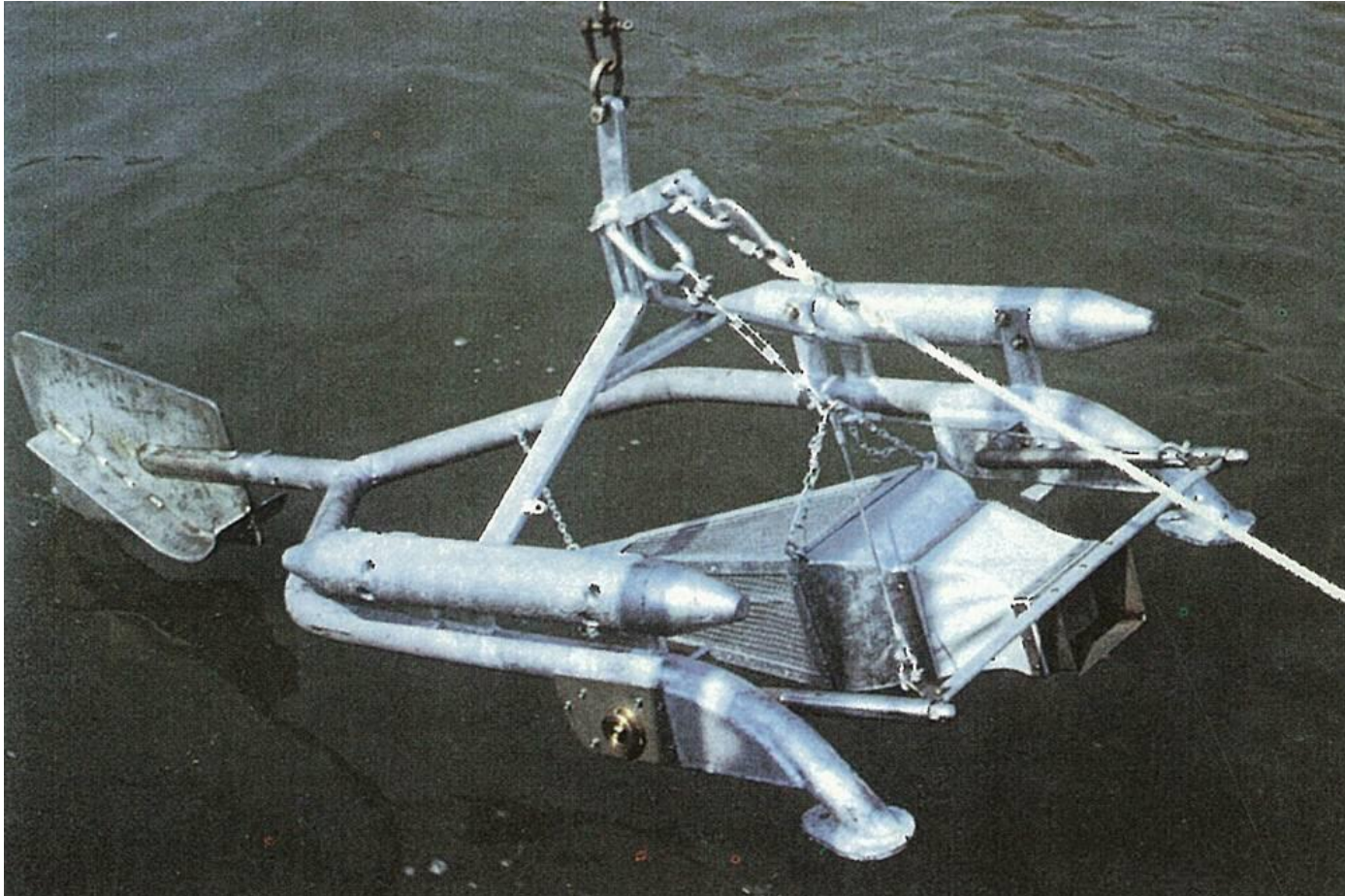
Specific sediment volumes of flood events related to catchment area and geological formations



E. Measurement of sediment



Measurement of bed load in rivers

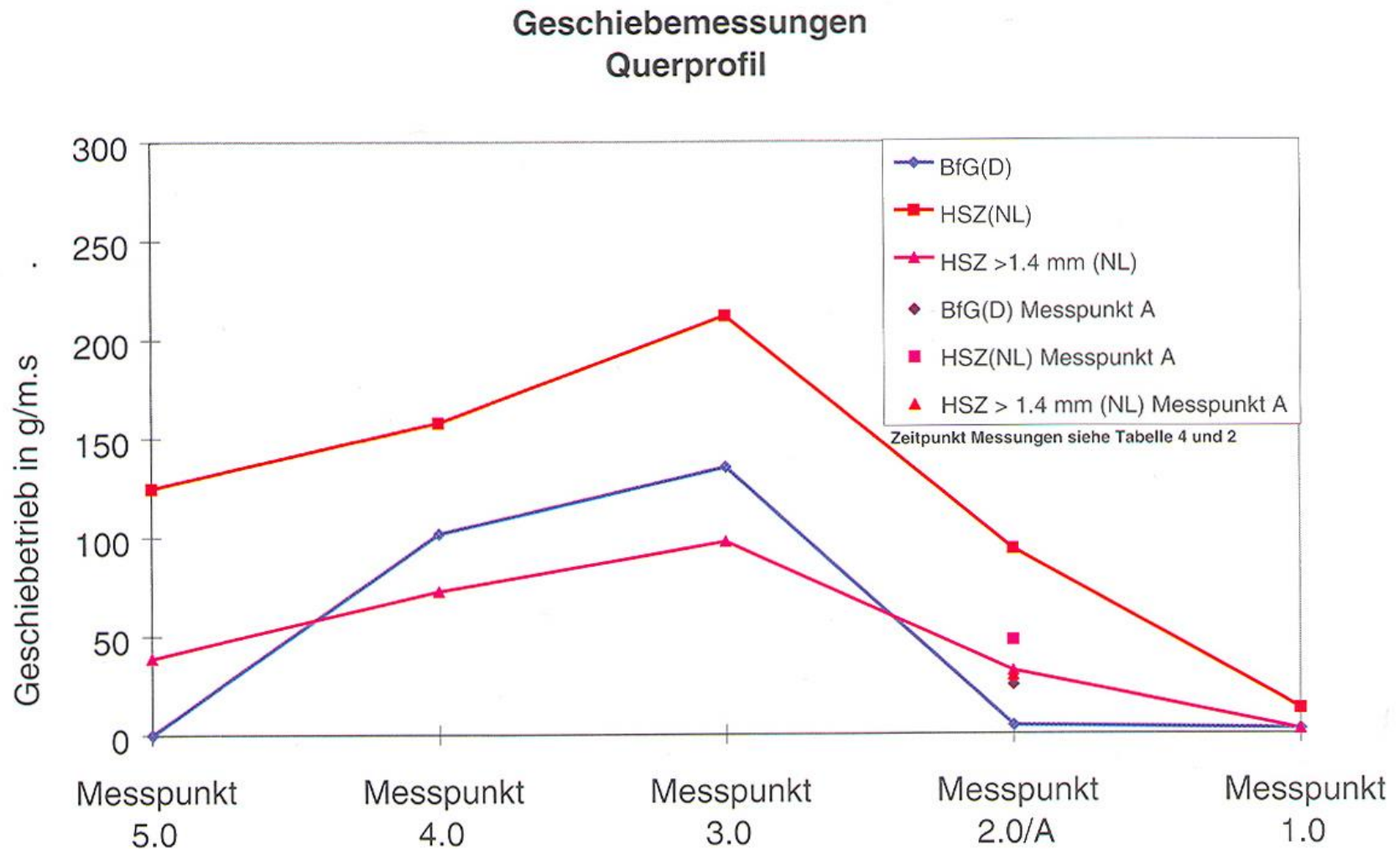


BfG bed load sampler, 1.5 mm

Measurement of bed load with the Helley-Smith sampler



Comparison of bed load samplers in the Rhine river



River bottom investigation

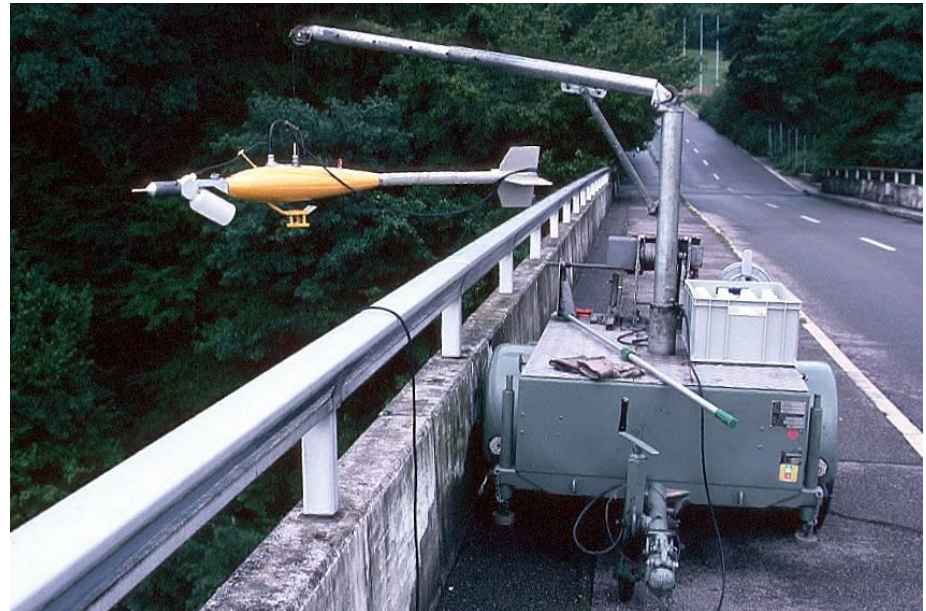


Special boat for bottom sediment sampling

Measurement of suspended sediment

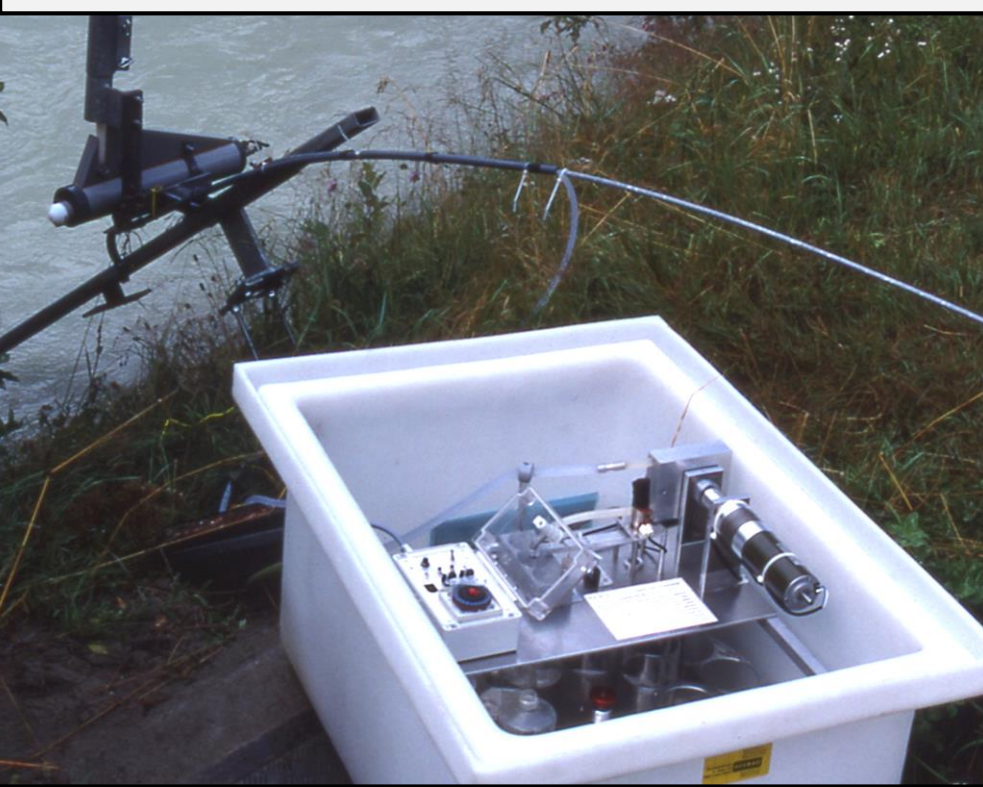


Manual
suspended
sediment sampling



Equipment for integrated
sampling of suspended sediment

Monitoring devices for automatic suspended sediment sampling



Suspended sediment measurement devices



Turbidity meter

Measurement of wood debris/driftwood

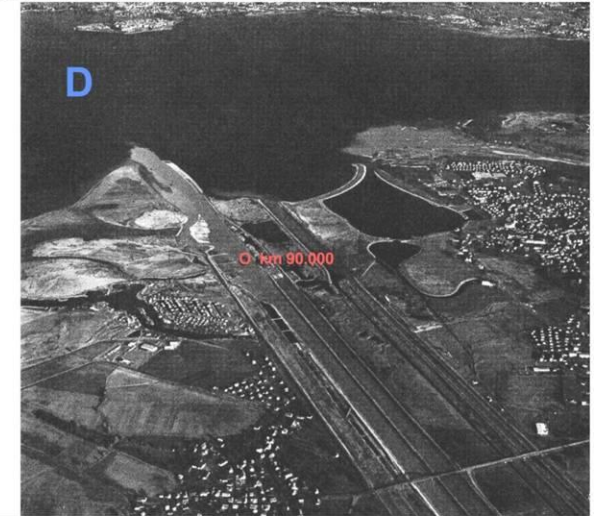
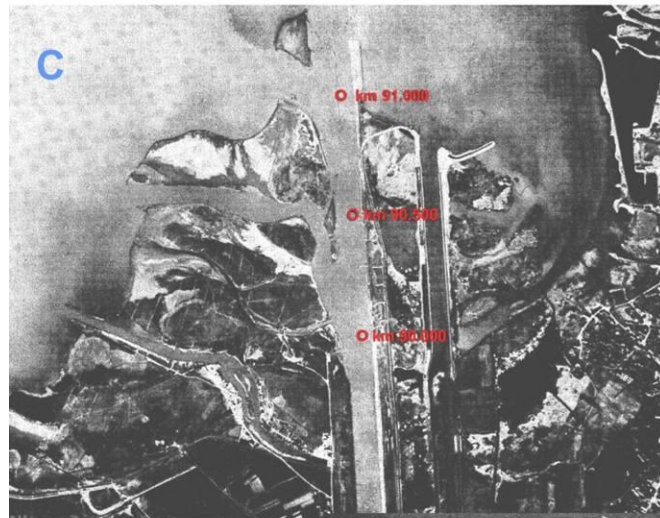
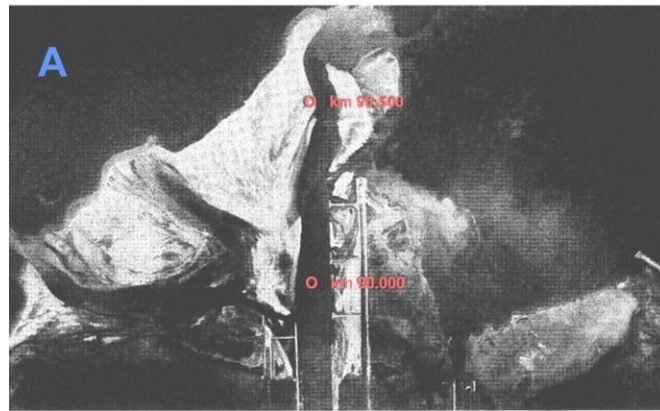
Blocked water intake of the water power station Massaboden



Driftwood in the city of Brig

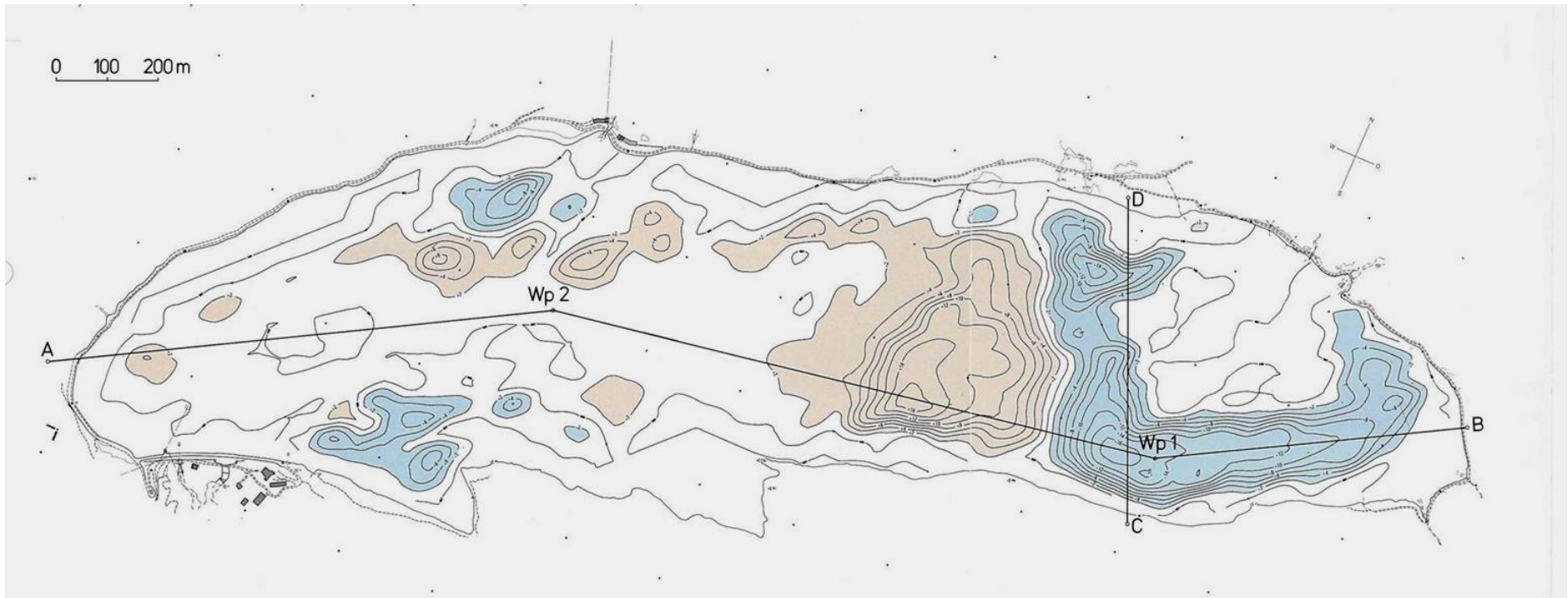


Evolution of the Rhine river delta



Bathymetric survey of artificial reservoirs

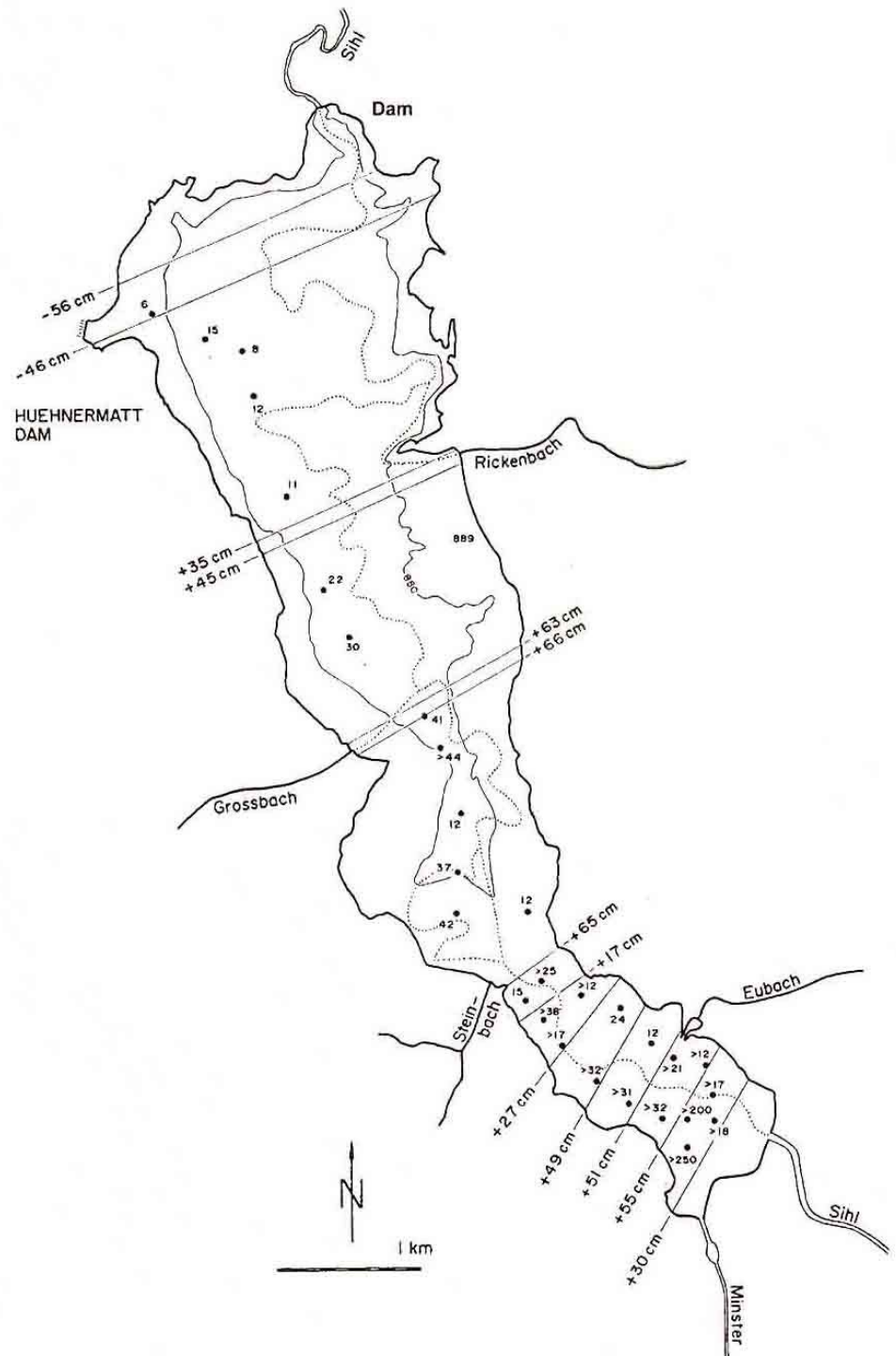
Ritom Reservoir



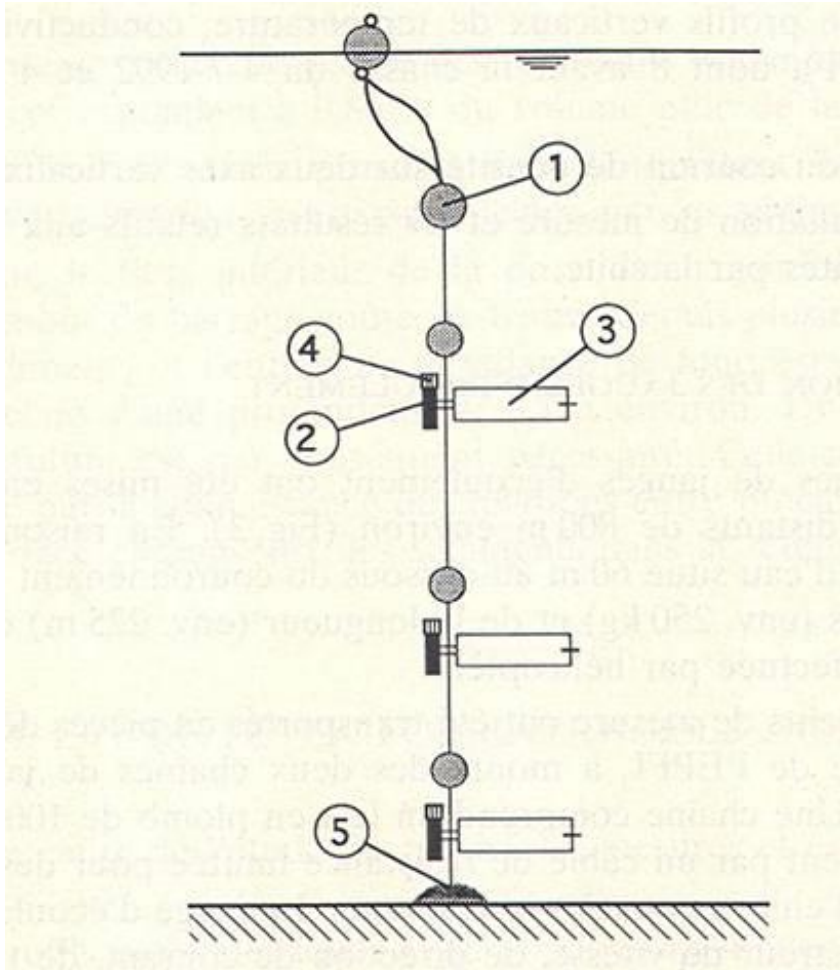
LAKE DEPOSITS AT SIHL RESERVOIR, 1937 - 1979

Legend

- - 56 cm Erosion at cross section
- + 35 cm Accumulation at cross section
- 37 Point measurement
- >44 Point measurement, but ground not reached



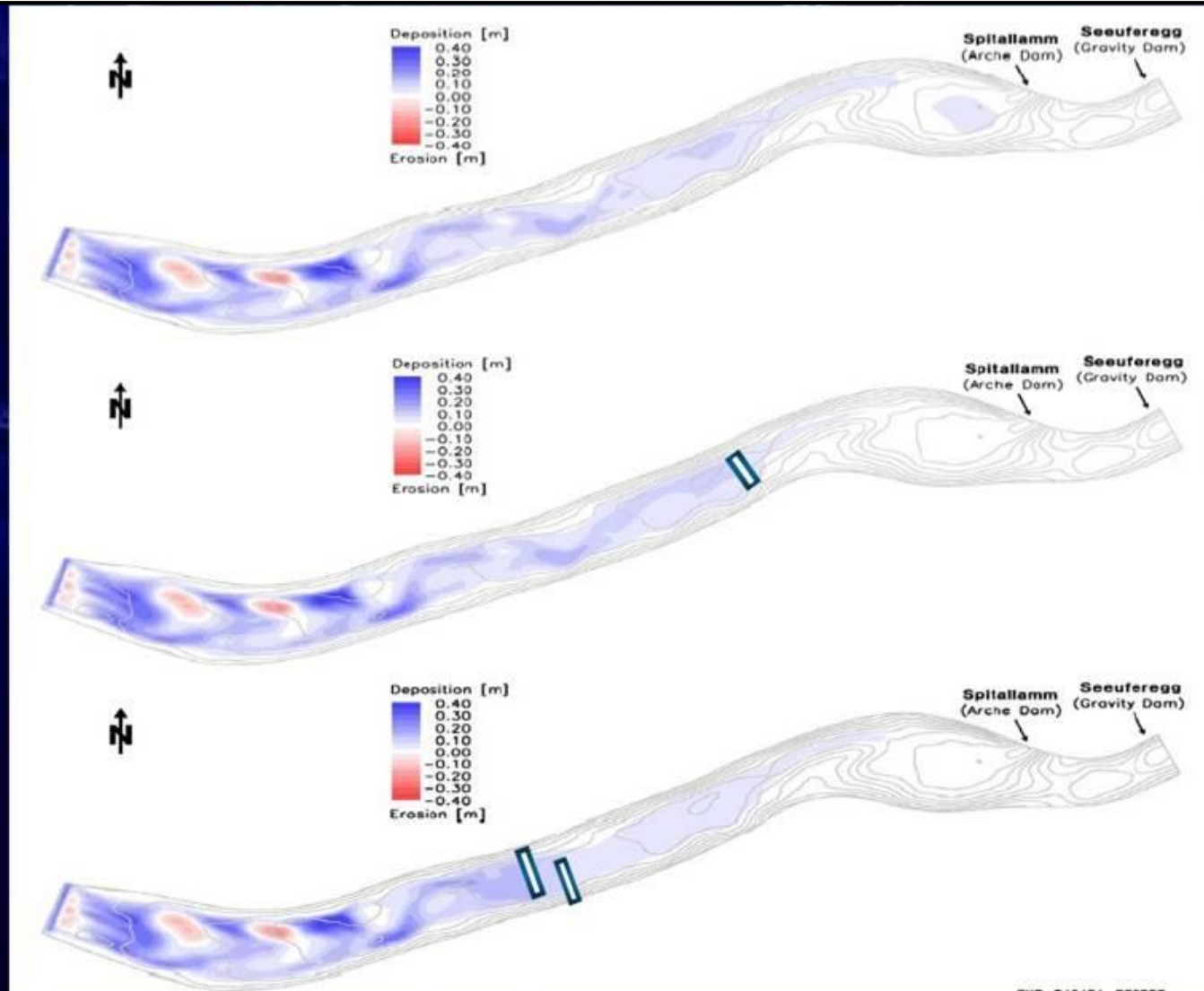
Measurement of turbidity flow



Measurement chain with three current meters

- (1)** Sub-surface buoy
- (2)** Recording unit
- (3)** Flow direction device
- (4)** Current meter
- (5)** Ballast

Example Grimsel lake



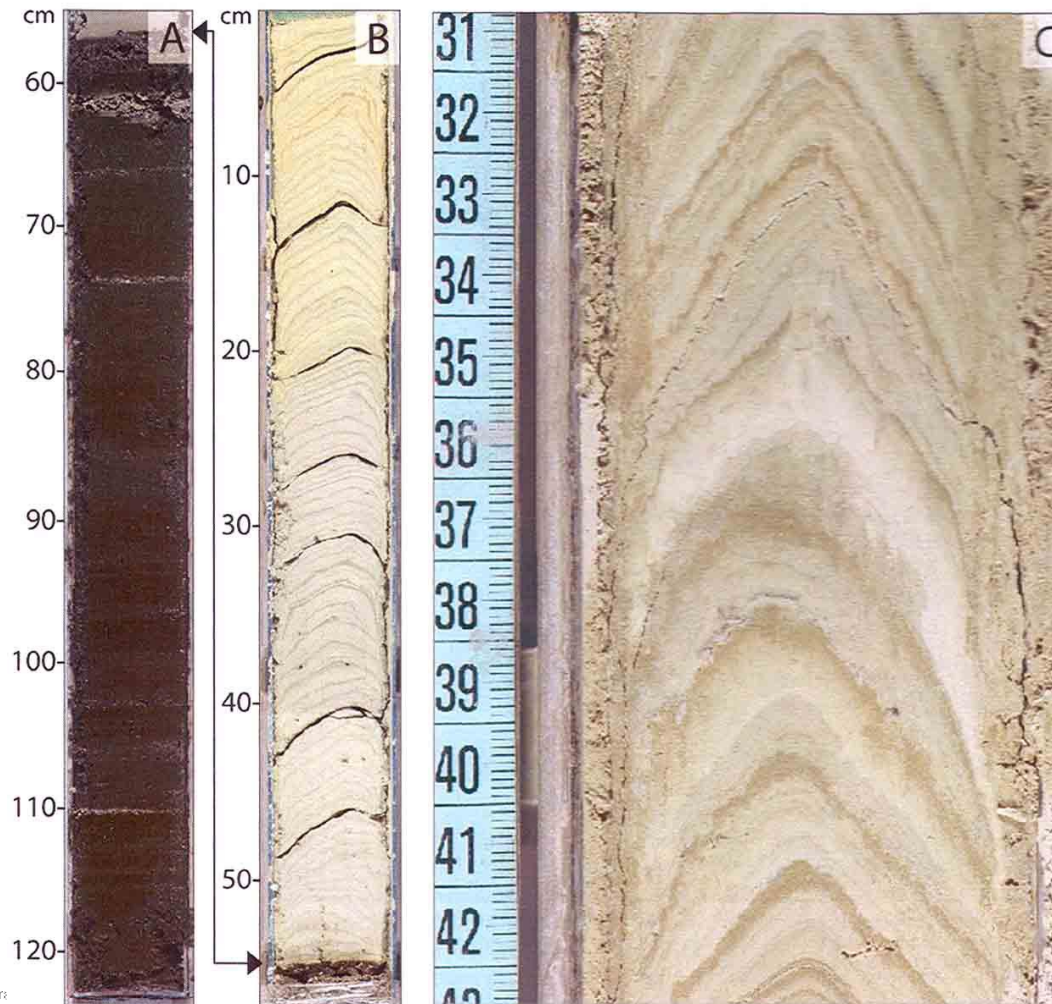
Ablagerungen und Erosionen eines im Grimselstausees simulierten Trübestroms (Hochwasser vom Oktober 2000)

Sediment cores from reservoirs in the Aare basin

Photographs of sediment cores from reservoirs:

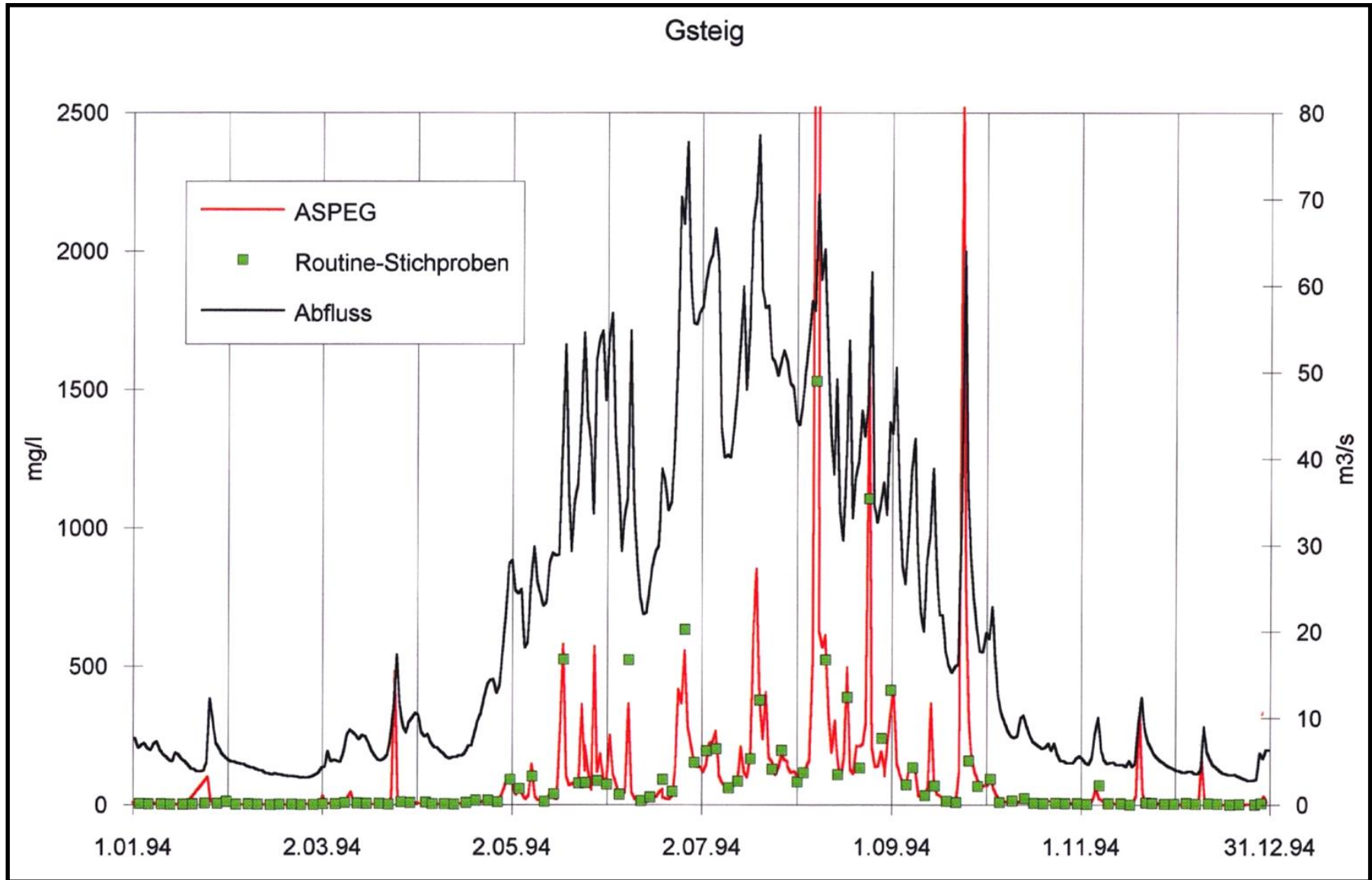
A,B: Core from Grimselsee: Sediment from former natural lakes location showing diatom-rich gyttja (dark brown, A) overlain by 71 proglacial varves (B) that were deposited after the first inundation of the Grimselsee in 1929.

C: Core from Oberaarsee showing details of proglacial varves. The darker layers represent fine-grained sediments that are deposited during winter in the frozen lake.

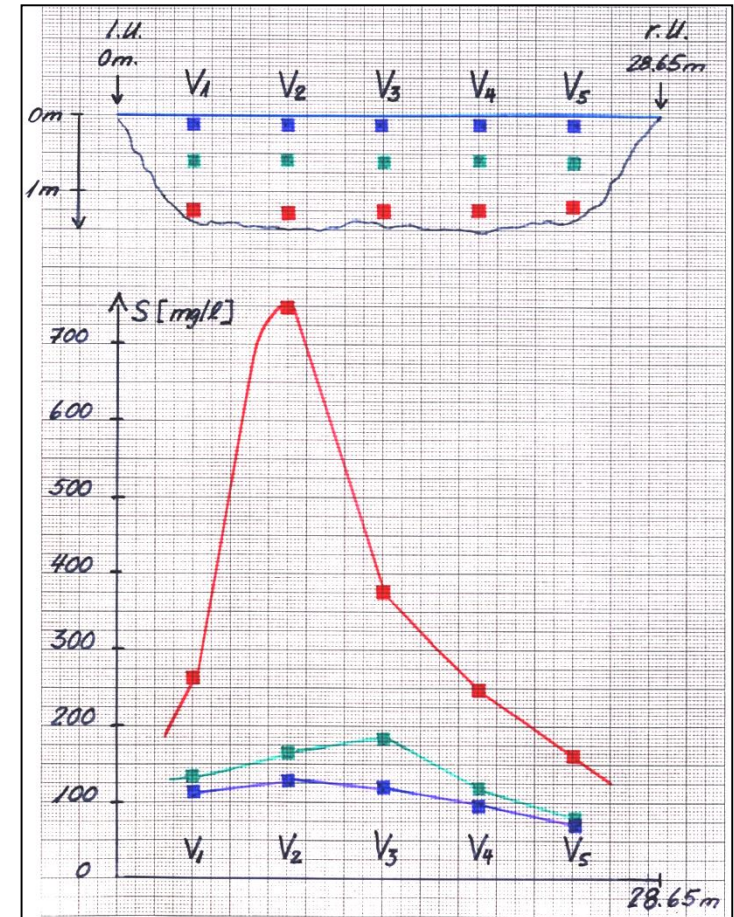
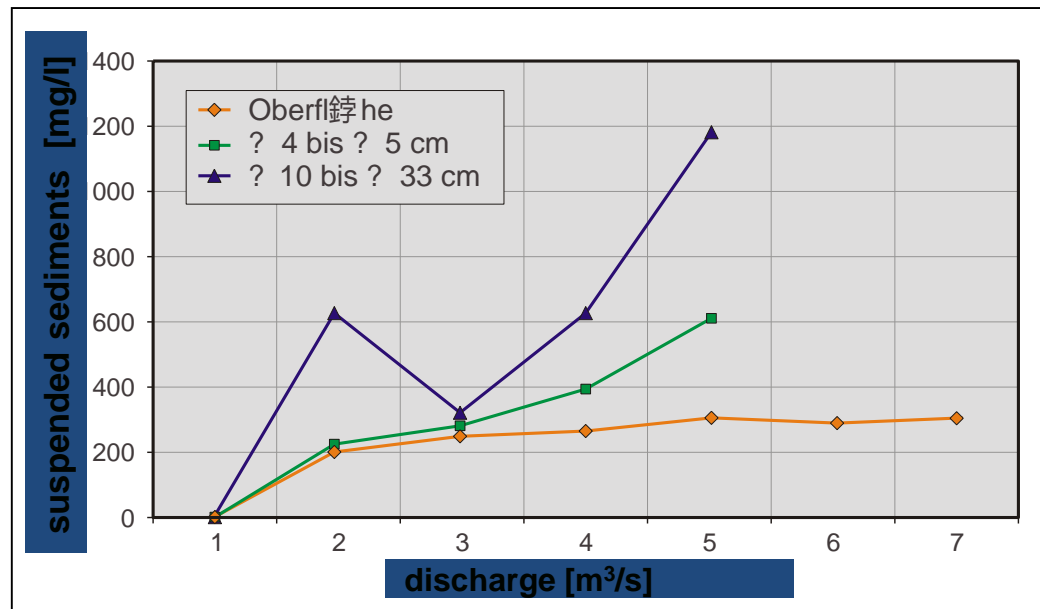


F. Problems of interpretation/accuracy of measured sediment data

Problem of representativity of random samples

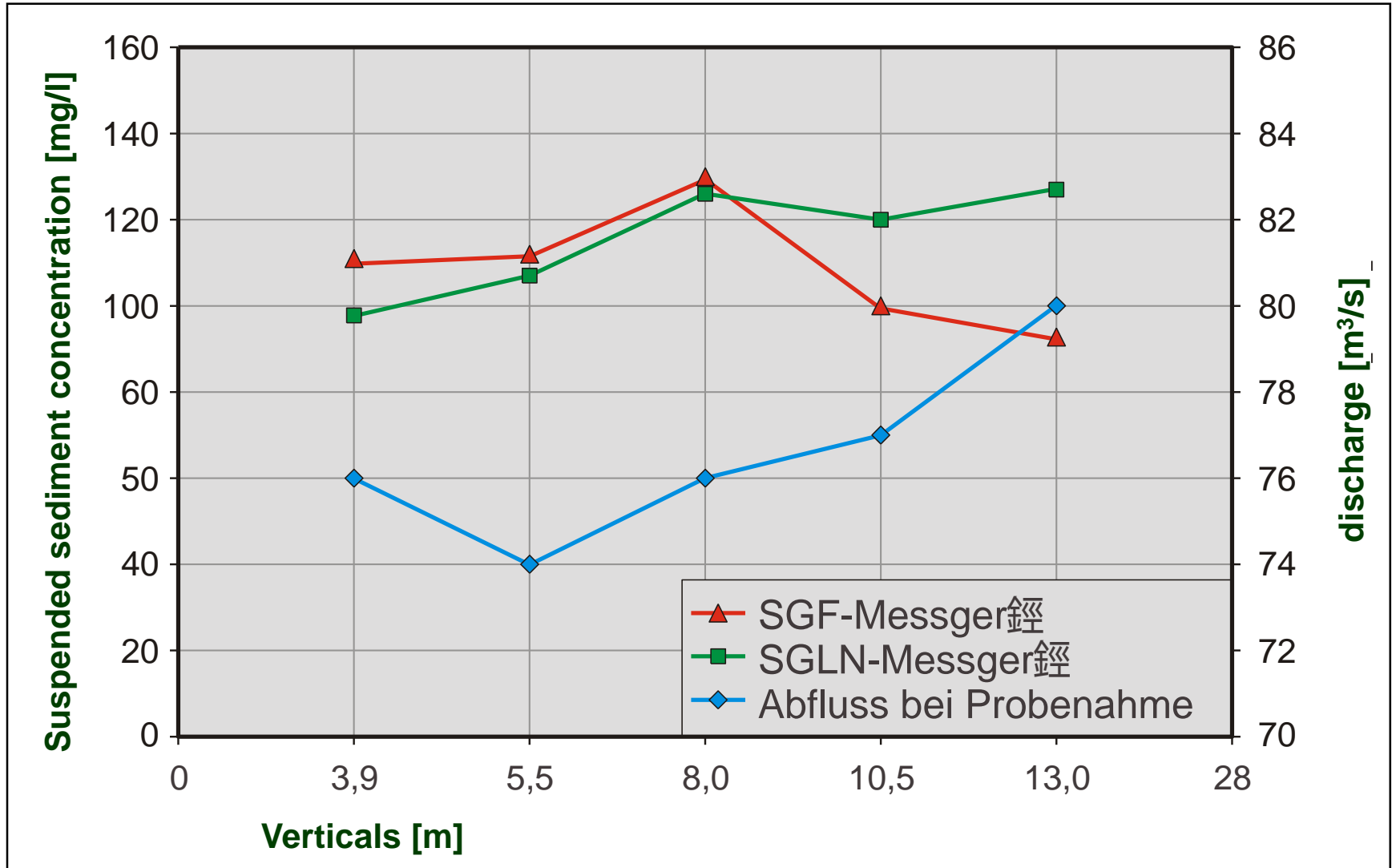


Observation in different water depth

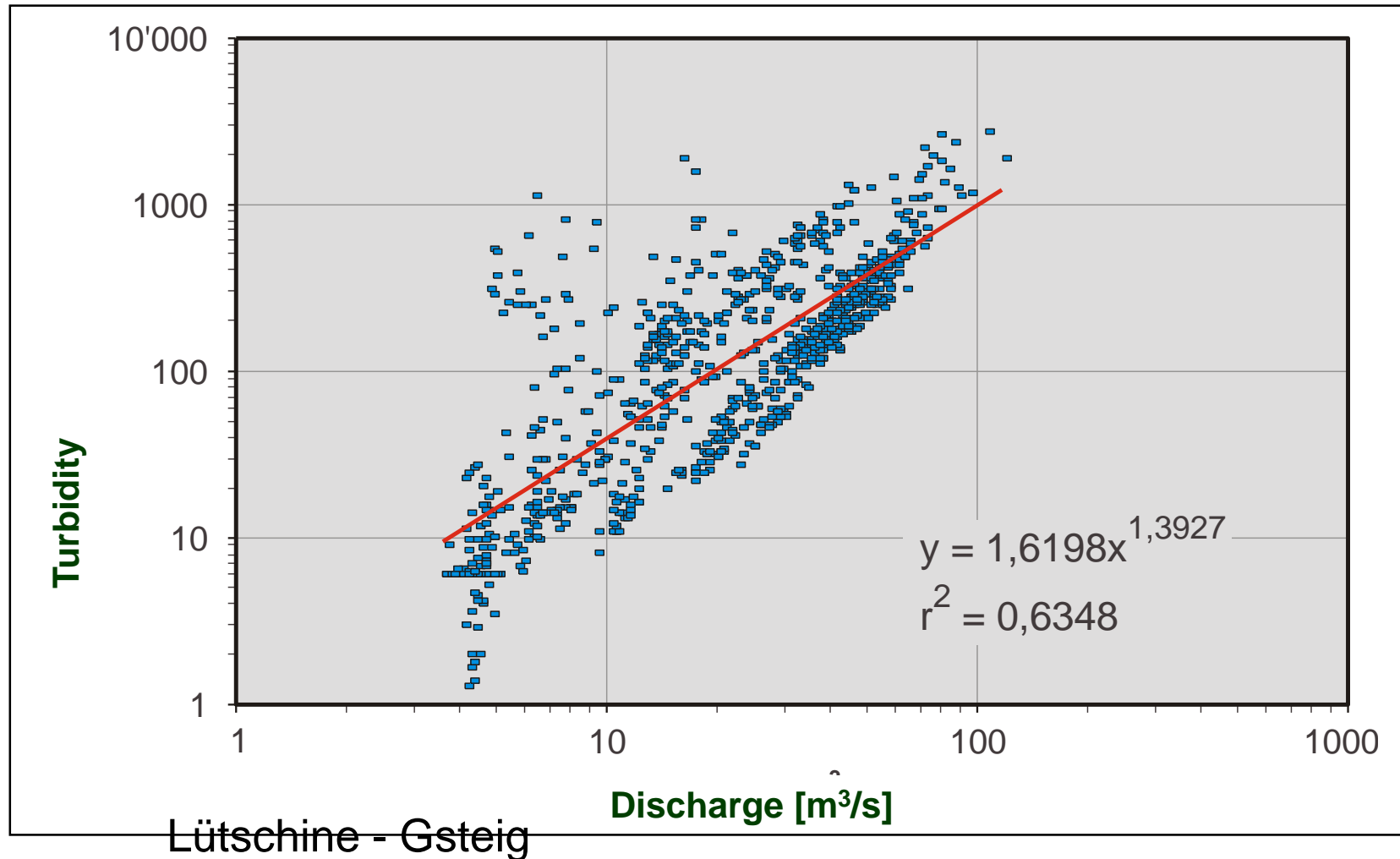


Increase of suspended sediment concentration from surface to bottom

Influence of the monitoring devices

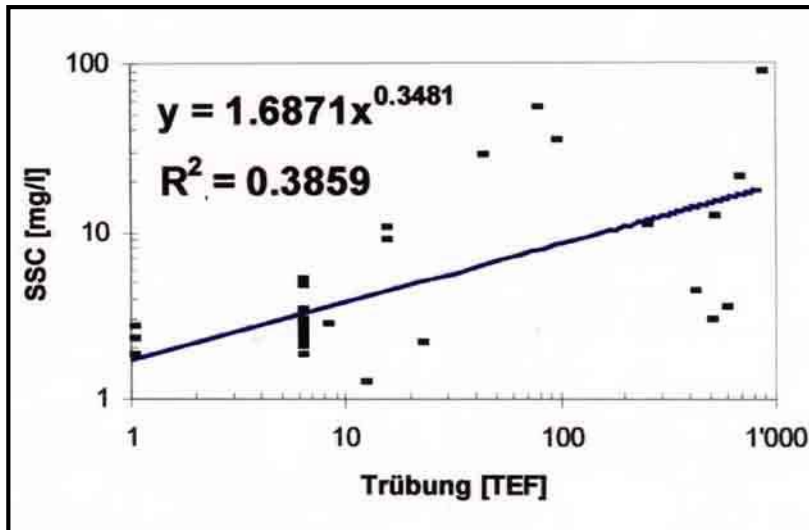


Correlation between turbidity and discharge

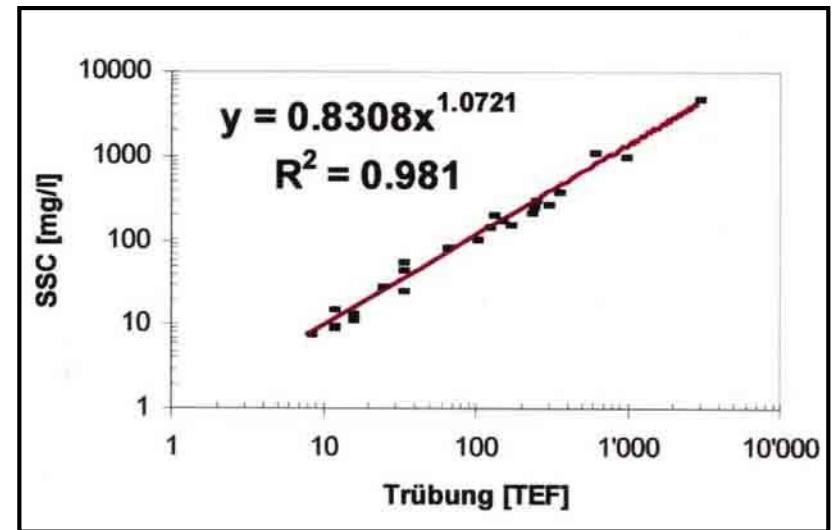


Accuracy problem

Relation turbidity - suspended sediment concentration



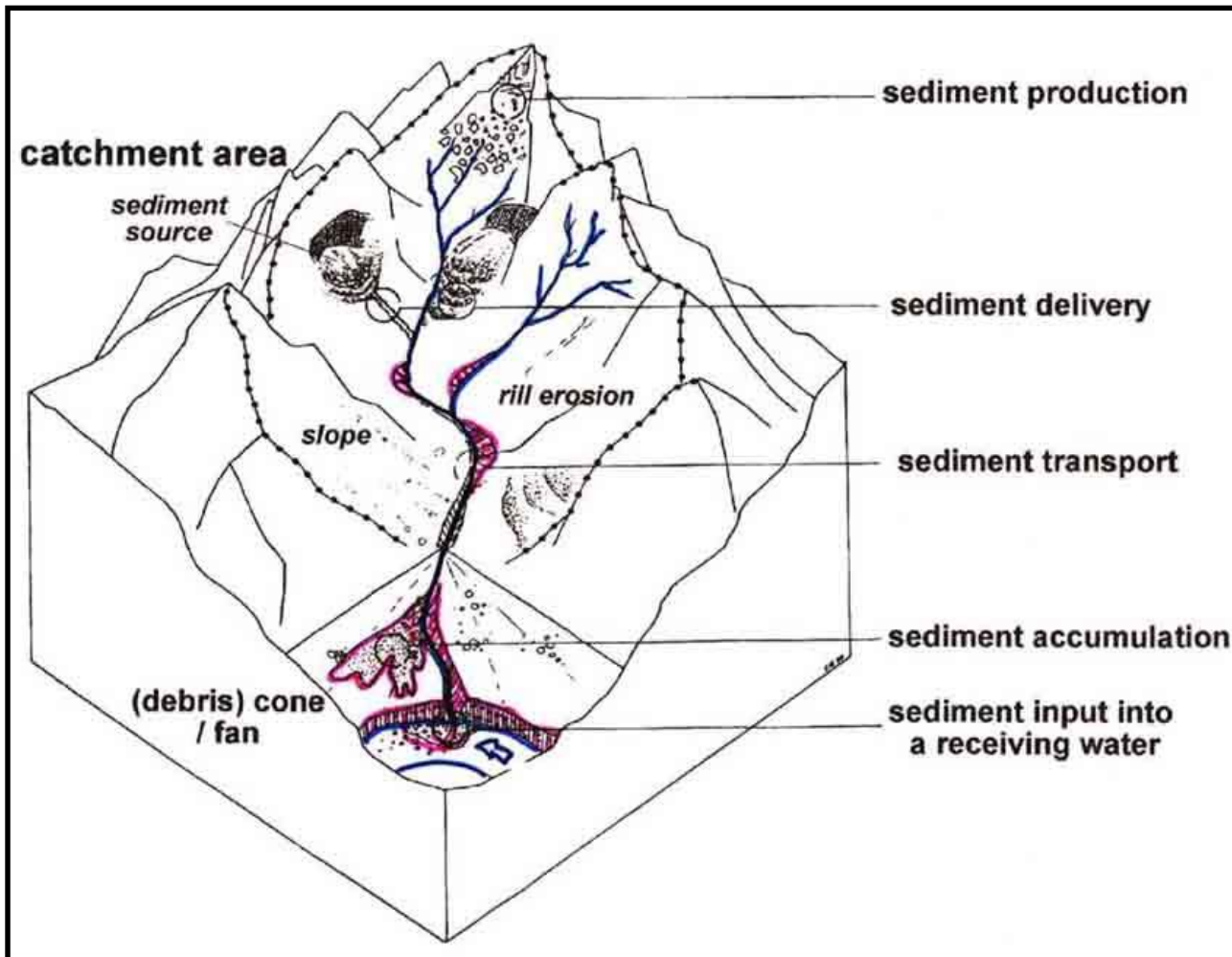
Lutschine - Gsteig



Governed by: - Snow and glacier melt
- Precipitation

G. Estimation procedure for sediment transport in small mountain streams

System

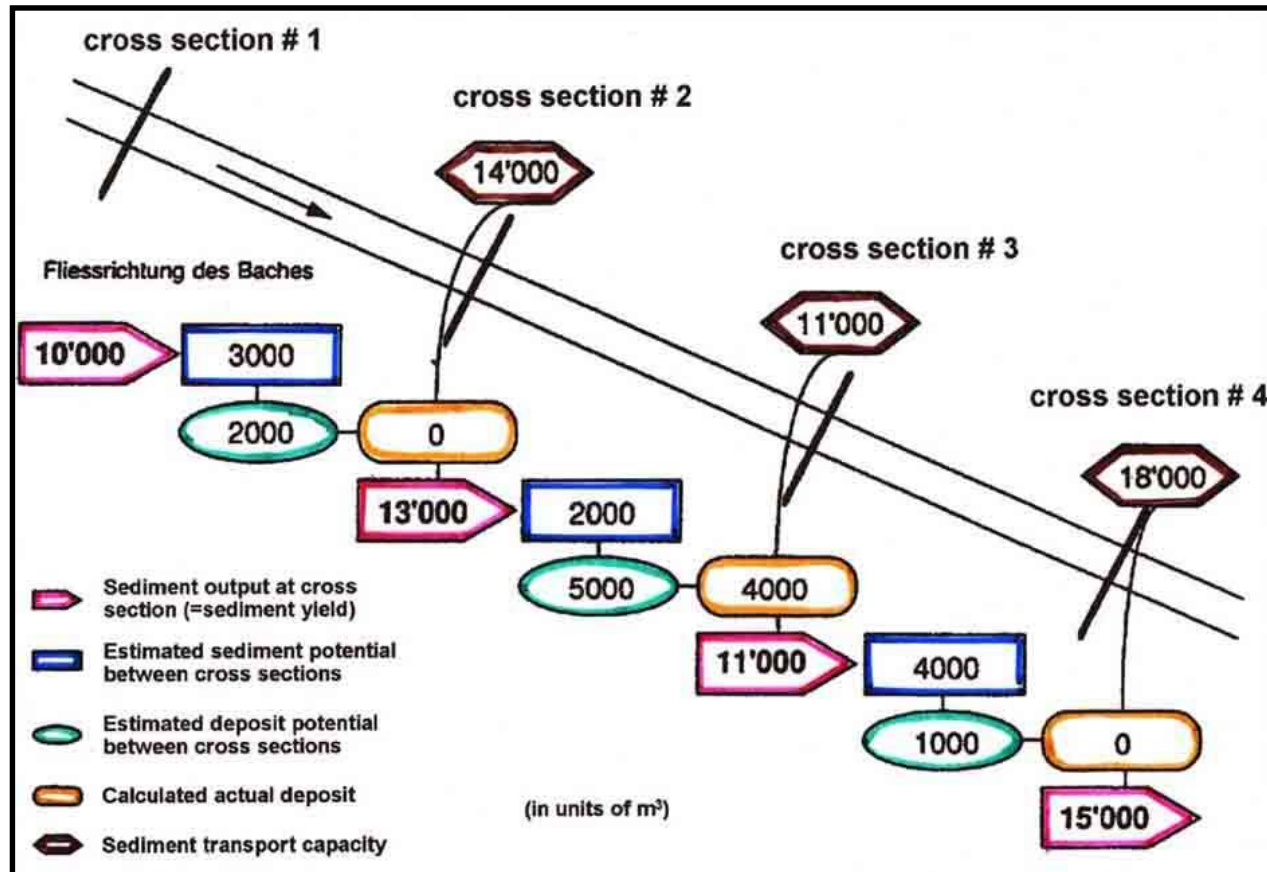


Method: LEHMA

Procedure:

- Estimation of sediment potential of specific reaches of the torrent
- Determination of transport process and calculations of transport

Assessment of sediment yield in mountain streams



Procedure:

Determination of sediment balance for each channel section

Level of operation:

- Handbook
- Theory book
- Computer program for calculation

Procedure to assess sediment yield in mountain streams

Preparations

Collect data

Study and interpret data

First evaluation of mountain stream

Collection and processing of
discharge information

Field Work

Check results of preparation work against
field conditions

Assign mountain stream to a category:

- no debris flow stream
- debris flow stream with deposits
- debris flow stream without deposits

Record parameters applicable to
category

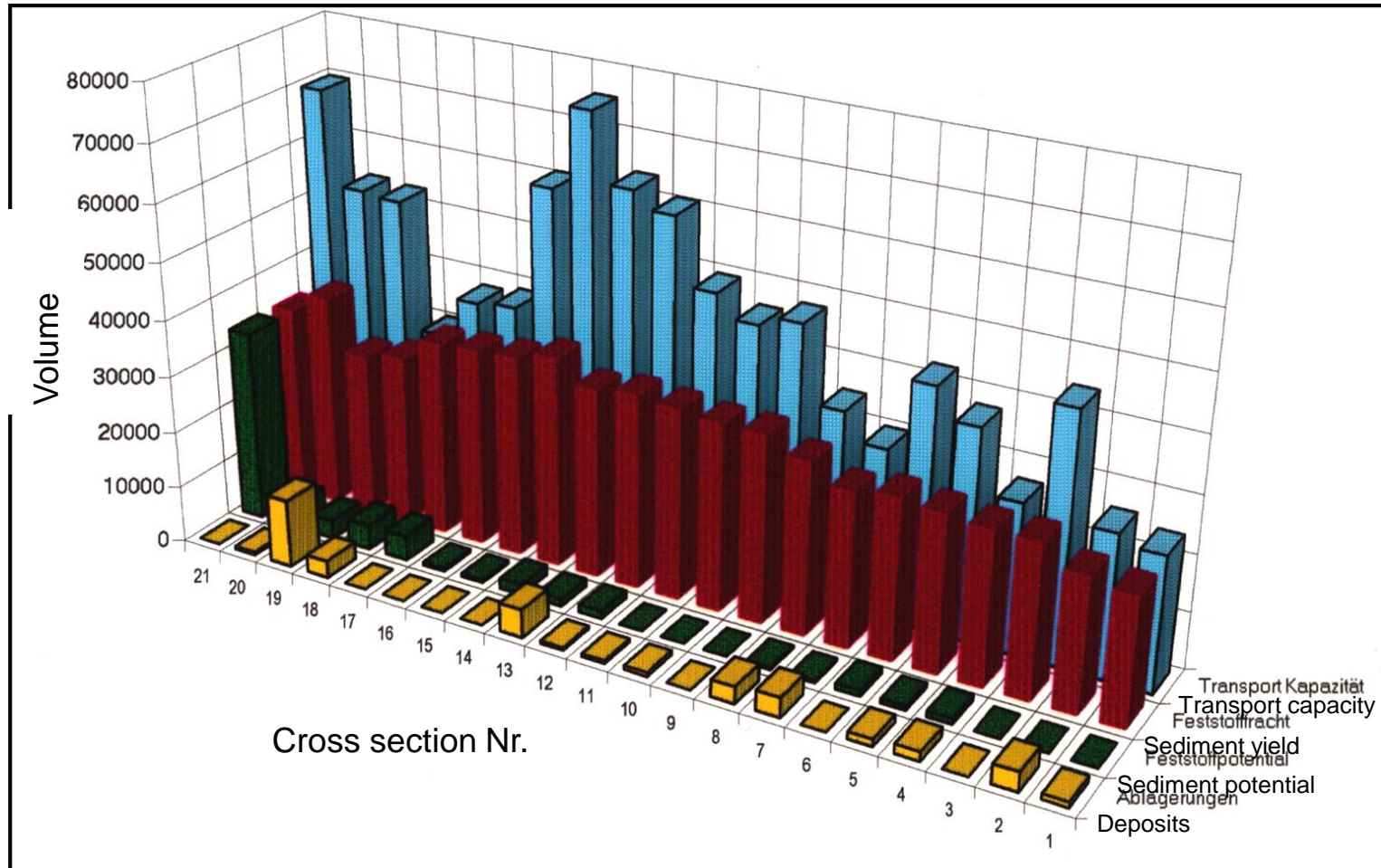
Analysis

Calculation of sediment yield at the cone
for the corresponding category

Plausibility check and sensitivity
analysis

Estimation of sediment transport in small mountain streams

Sediment transport during a 100-year flood in the Guppenruns



H. Estimation of amount of soil erosion

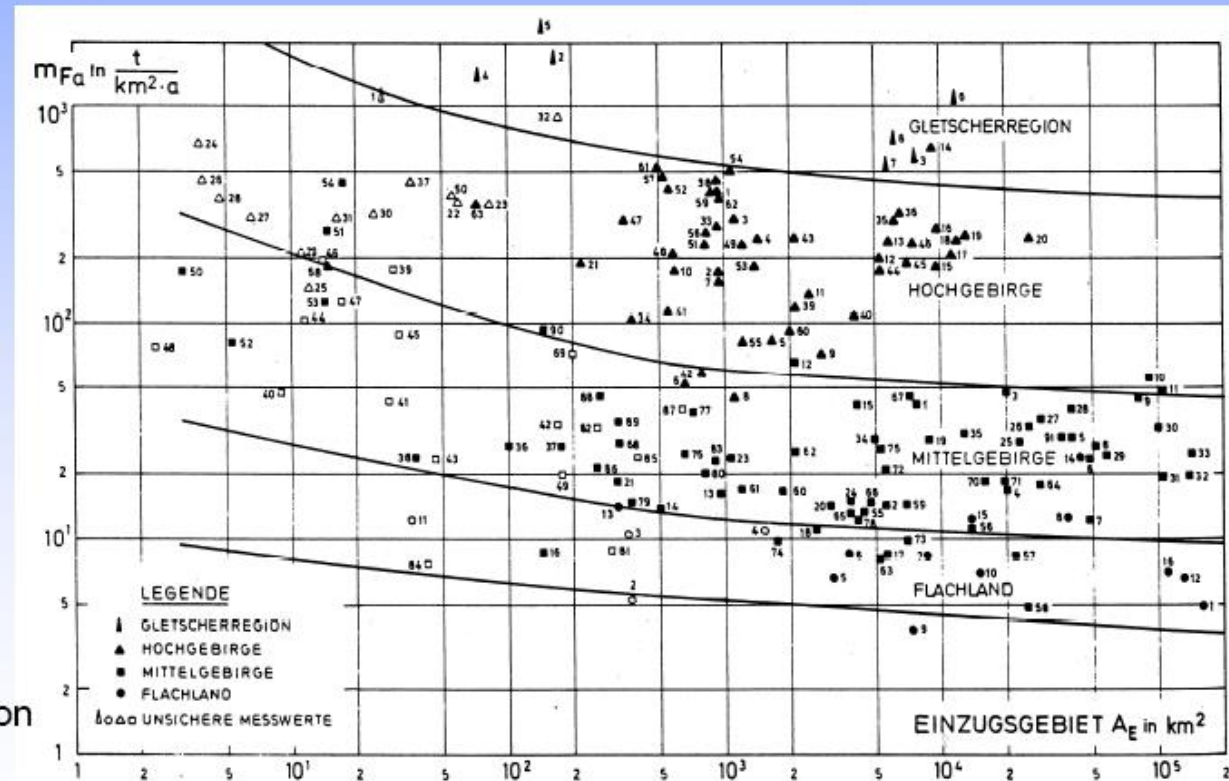
2.4 Denudation (Abtragungsrate) - Erosion / Erosion rate

Universal Soil Loss Equation

2.4.3 Sedimentaustrag / Sediment yield

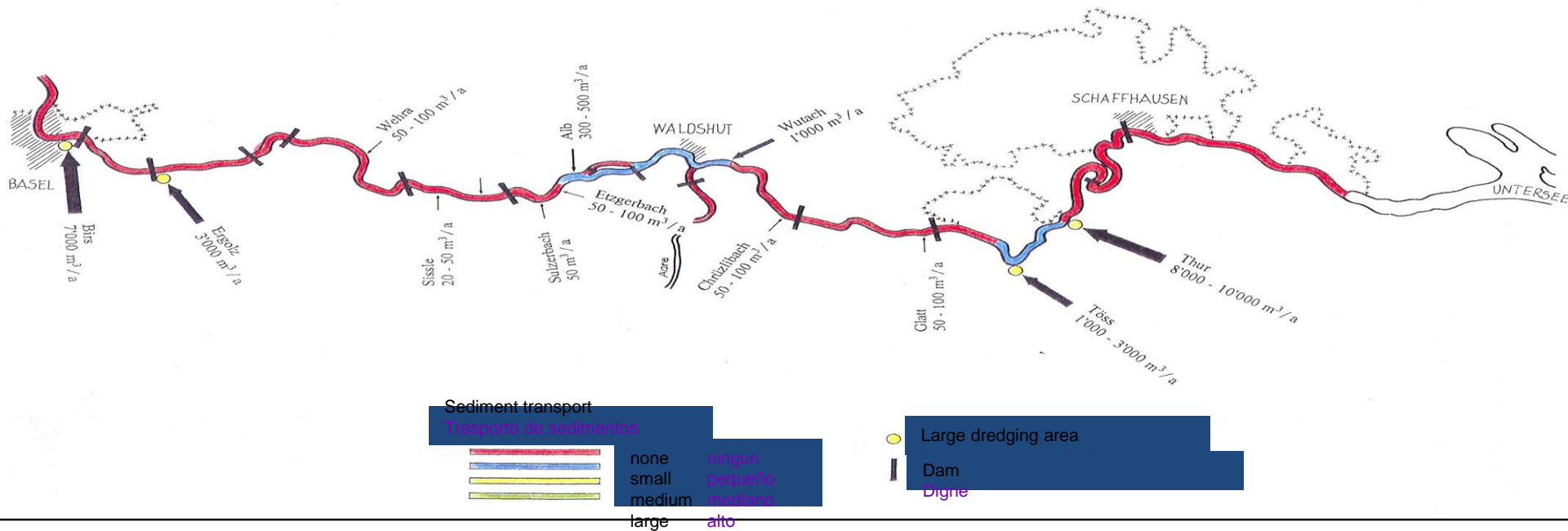
Sedimentlieferrate / Sediment delivery ratio

Jährlicher Feststoffabtrag in
Abhängigkeit von der Größe des
Einzugsgebietes A_E und der Region
(Schröder et al., 1984)

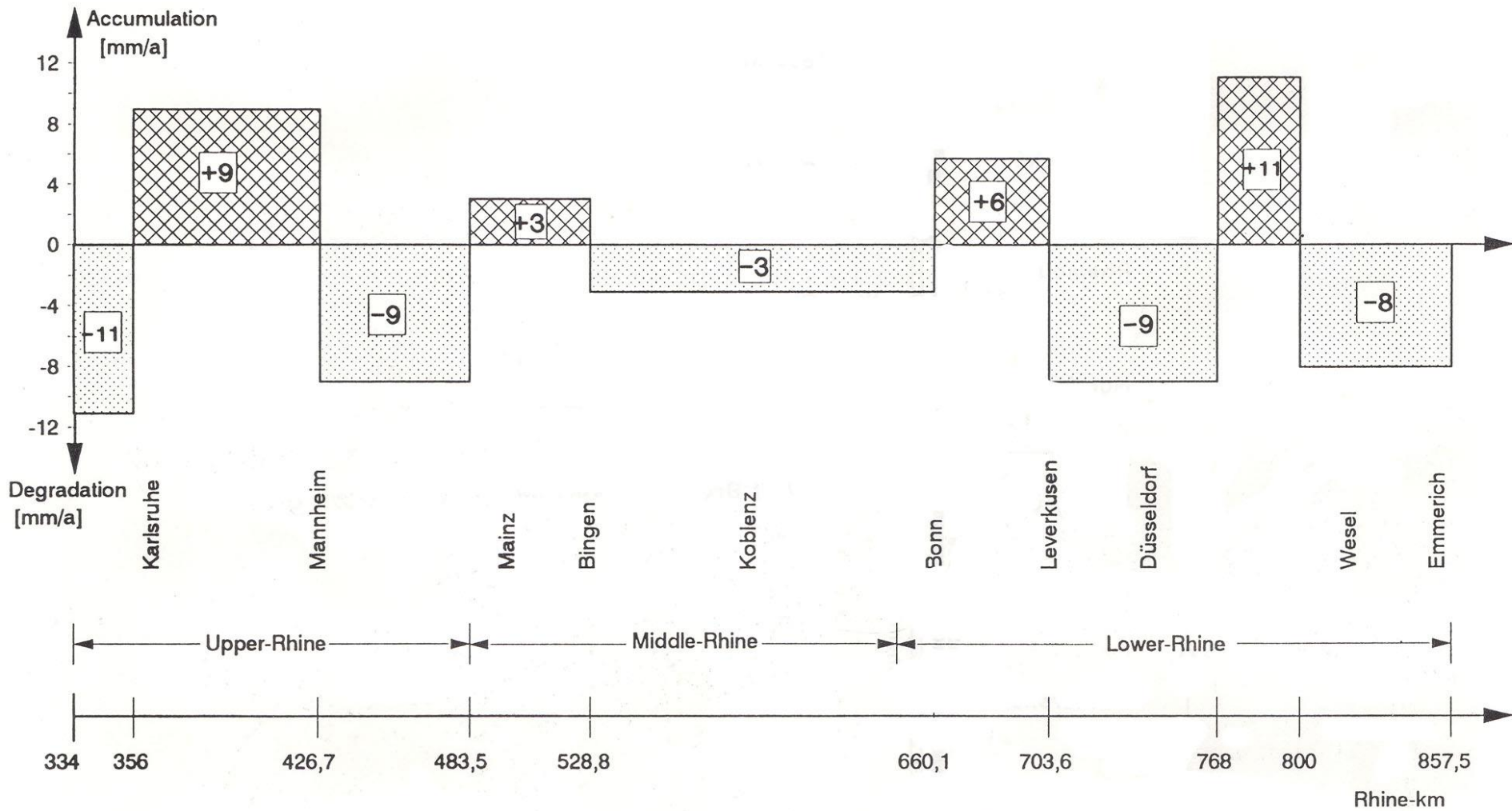


I. Sediment budget and balance in rivers

Sediment inflow and sediment balance of the Rhine river between Lake of Constance and Basel

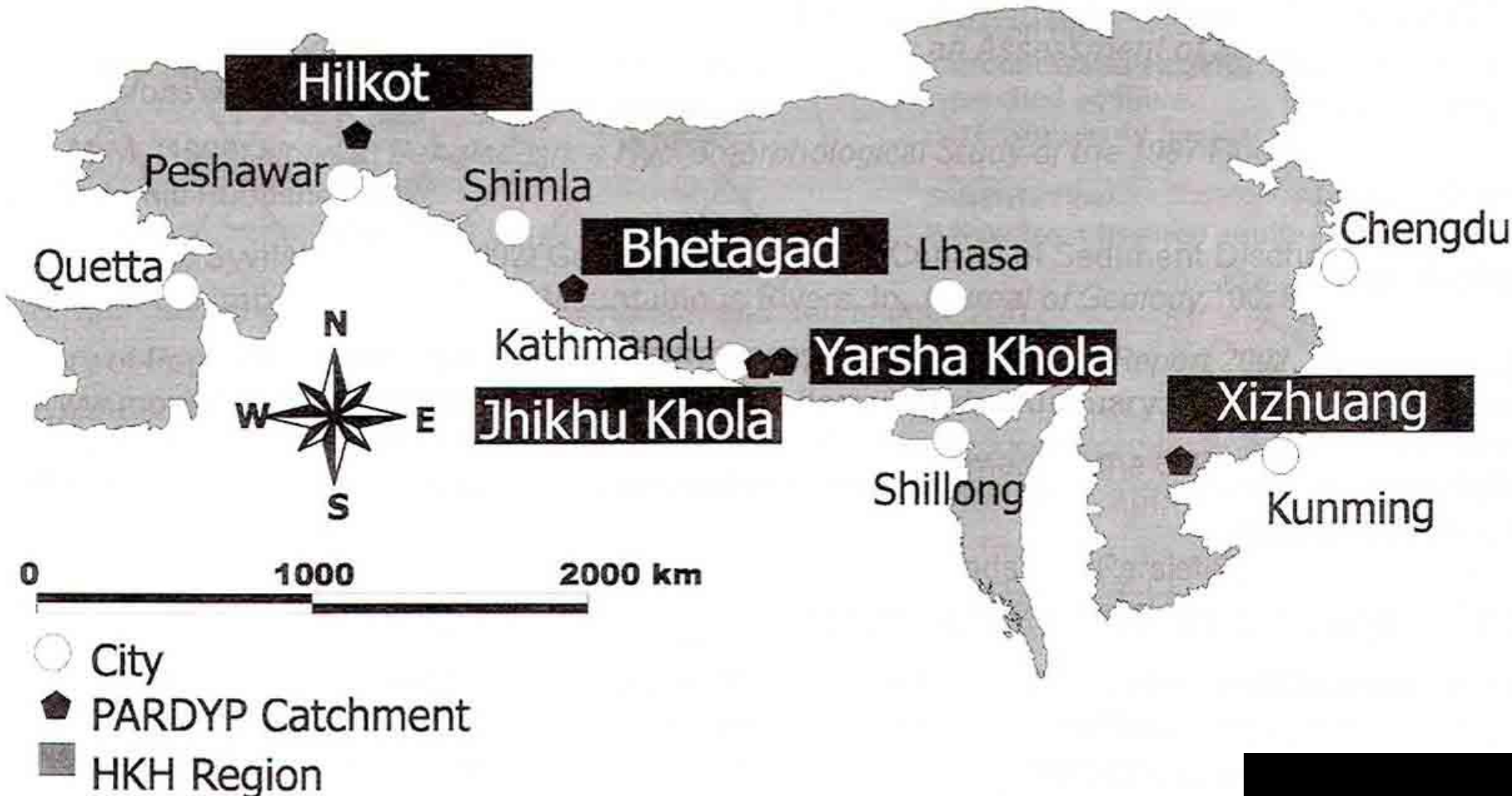


Mean annual change of the average bottom niveau and bed load balance between 1981 and 1990

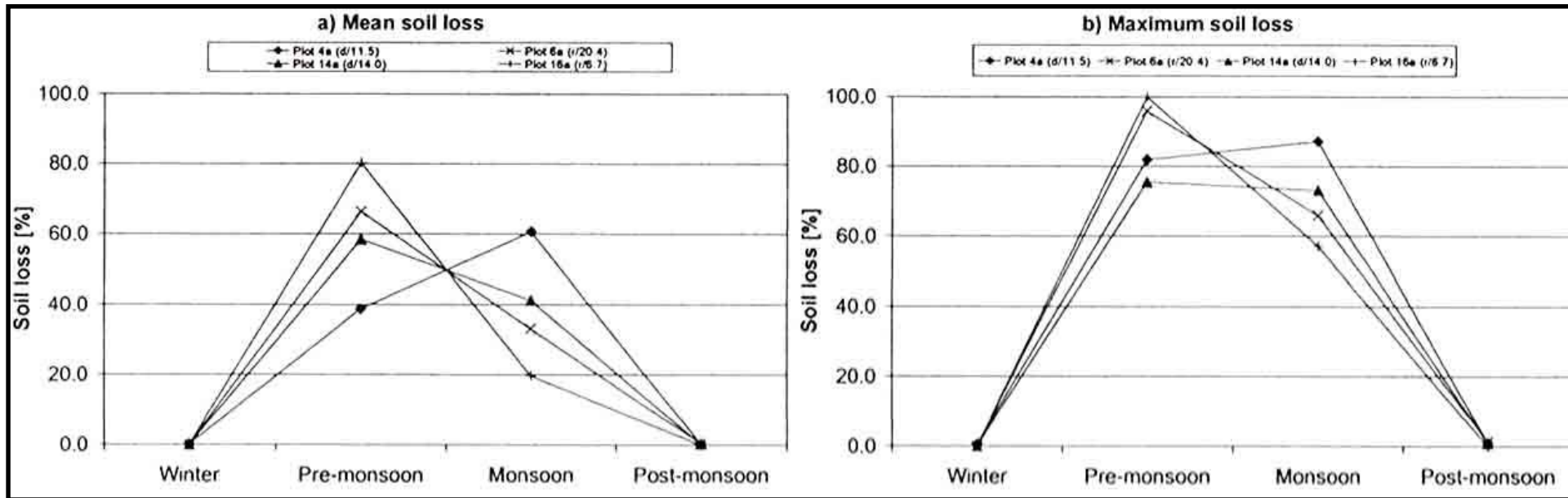


Sediment budgets in the Himalayas with special attention to Jhikhu Khola and Yarsha Khola

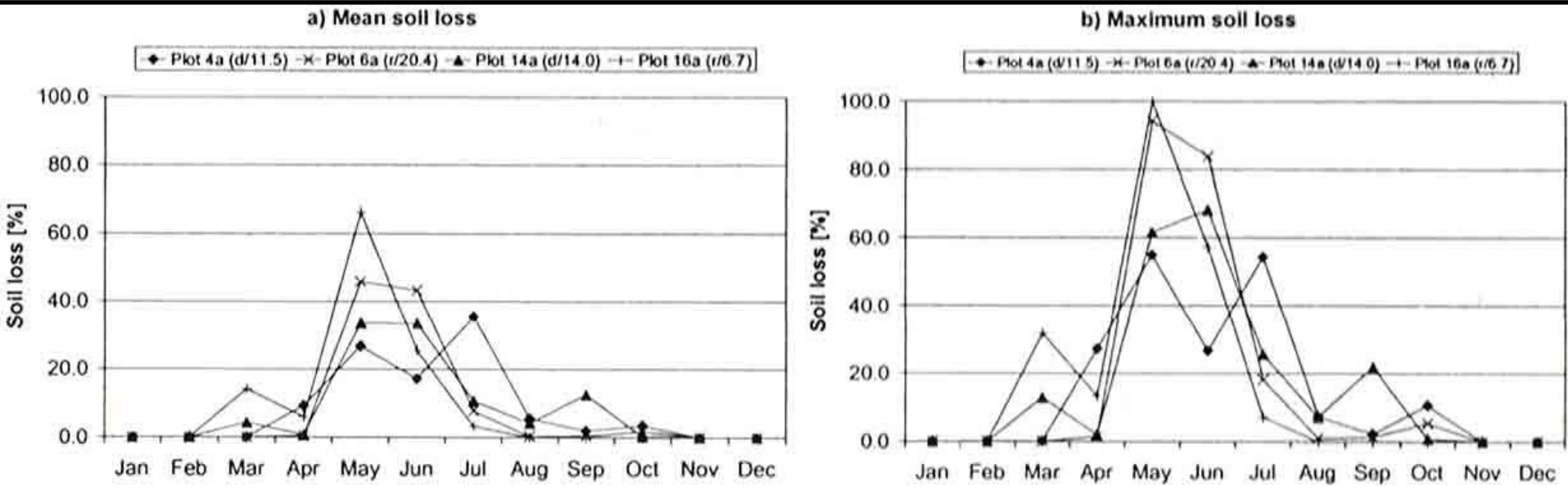
The PARDYP catchments, Jürg Merz



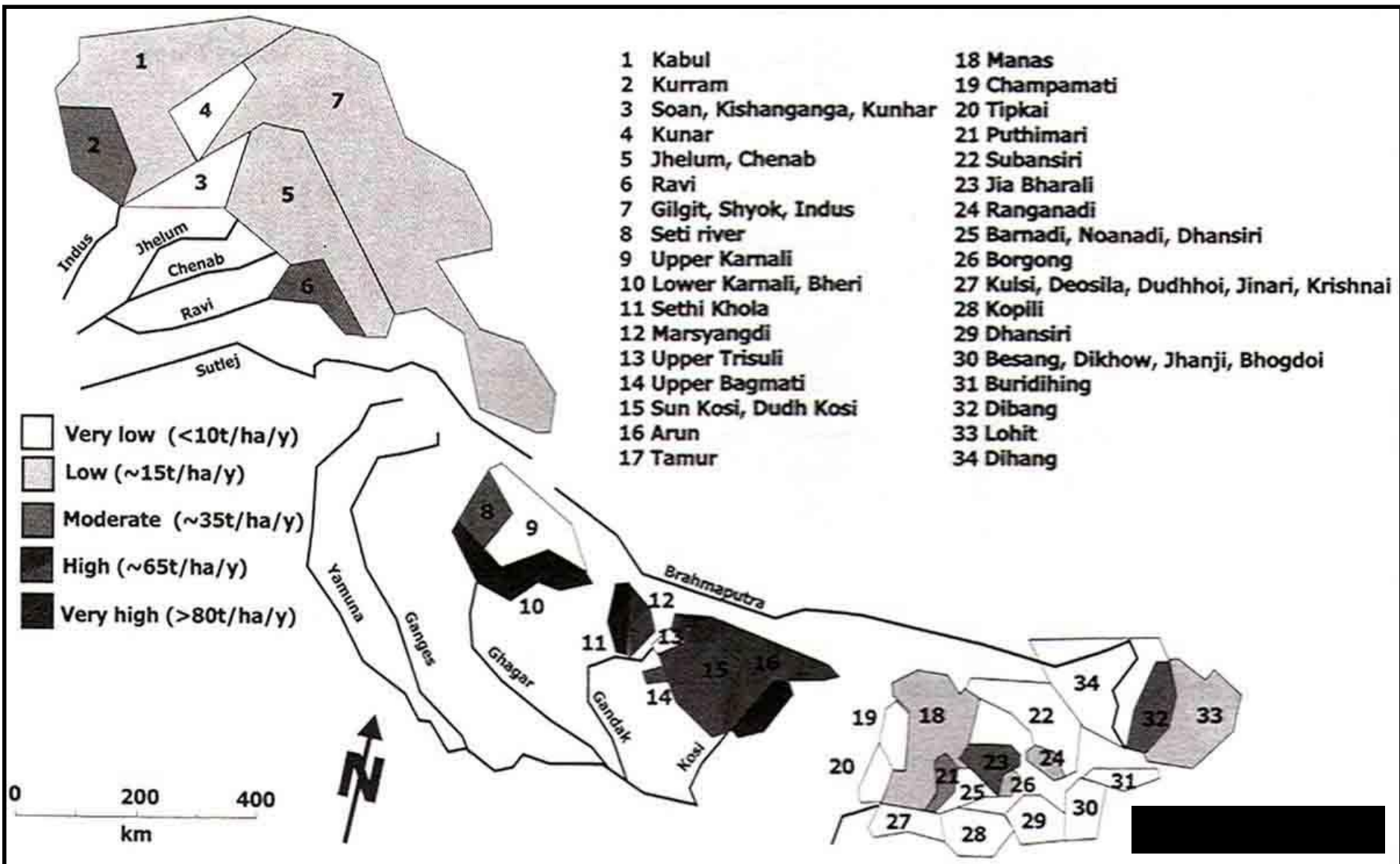
Seasonal soil loss Jhikhu Khola 1998 - 2000 (Plots monitoring)



Monthly soil loss Jhikhu Khola



Suspended sediment delivery from some Himalayan rivers (Lauterburg 1993)



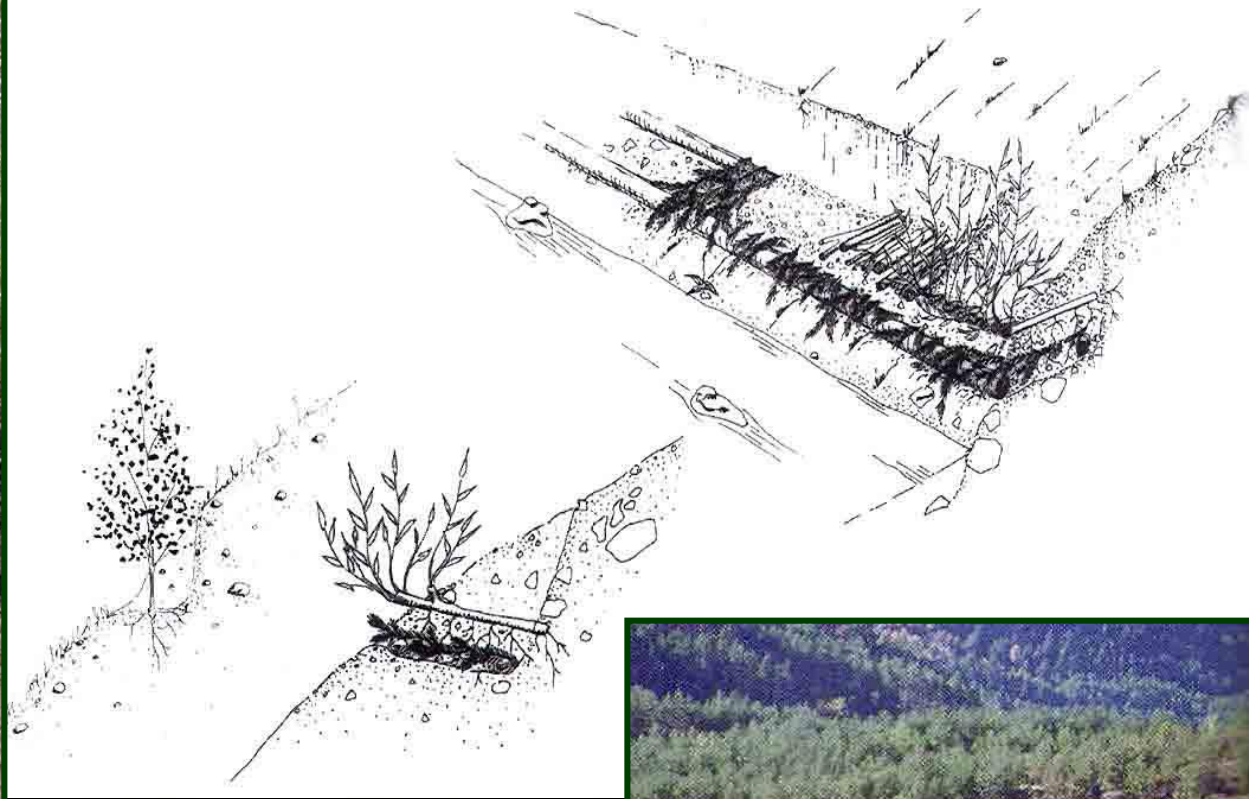
3. Possibilities and effects of measures for the reduction of sediment input into the reservoir

Reduction of erosion

- Conserving of soil vegetation
- Supporting of growth of pioneer vegetation
- Reforestation
- Stabilization measures

Supporting of growth of pioneer vegetation



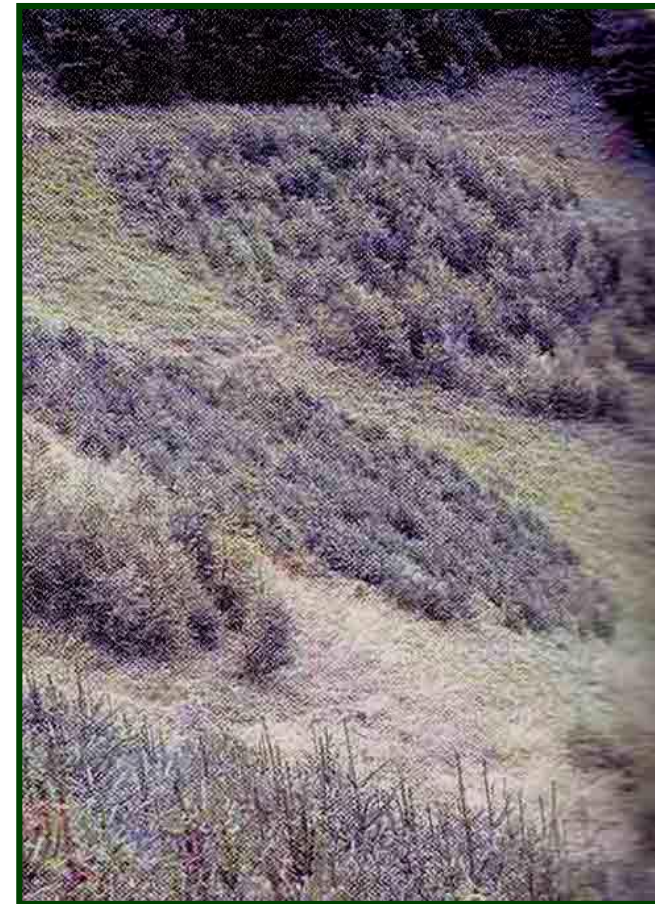
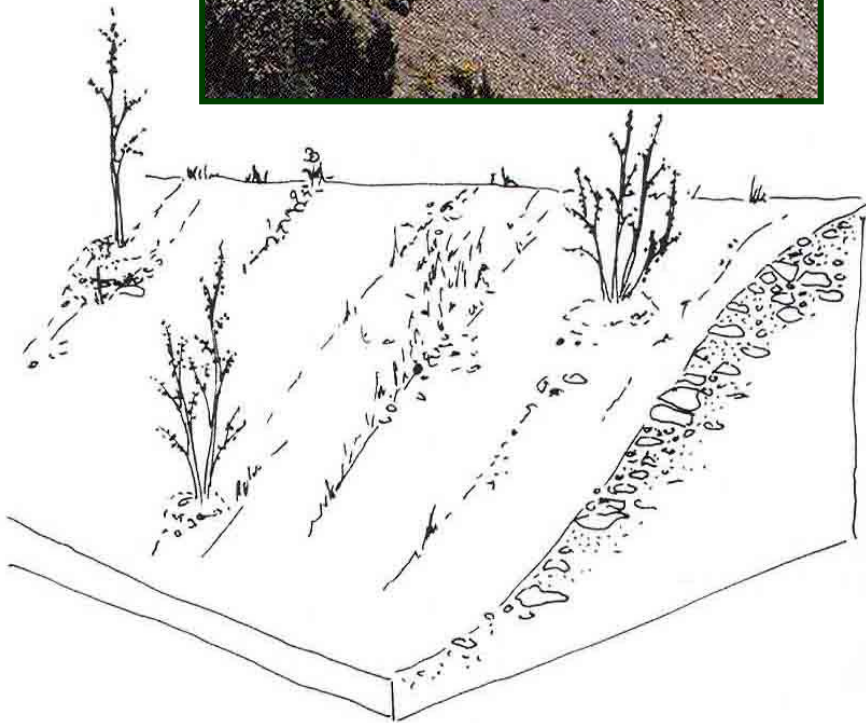


Contour planting

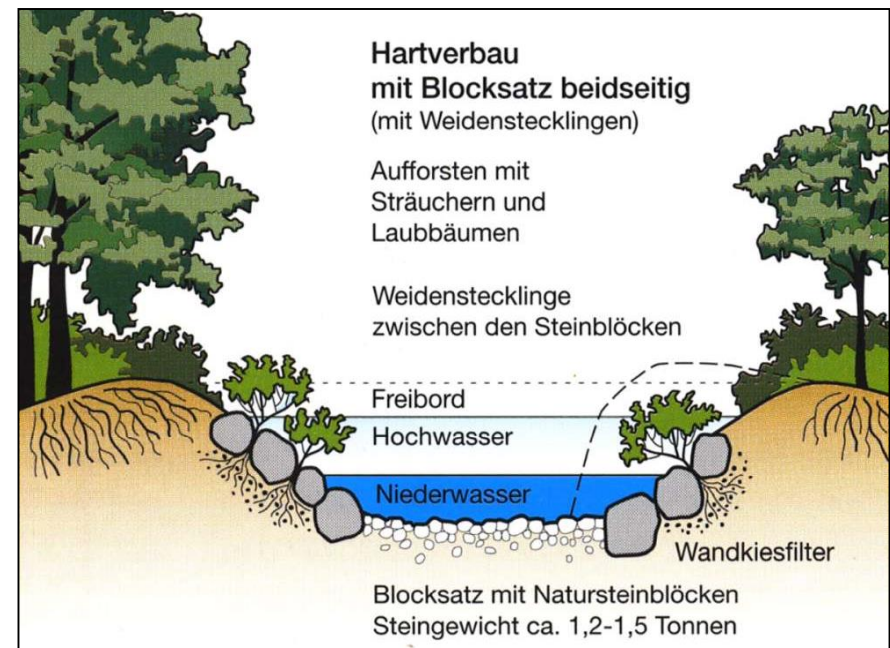
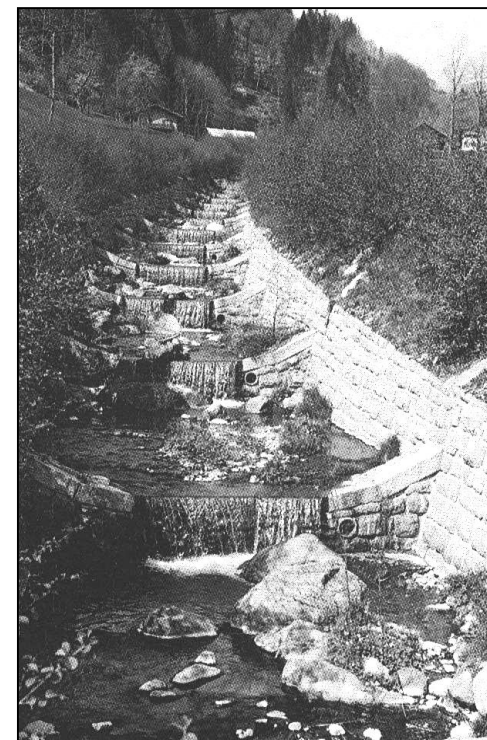
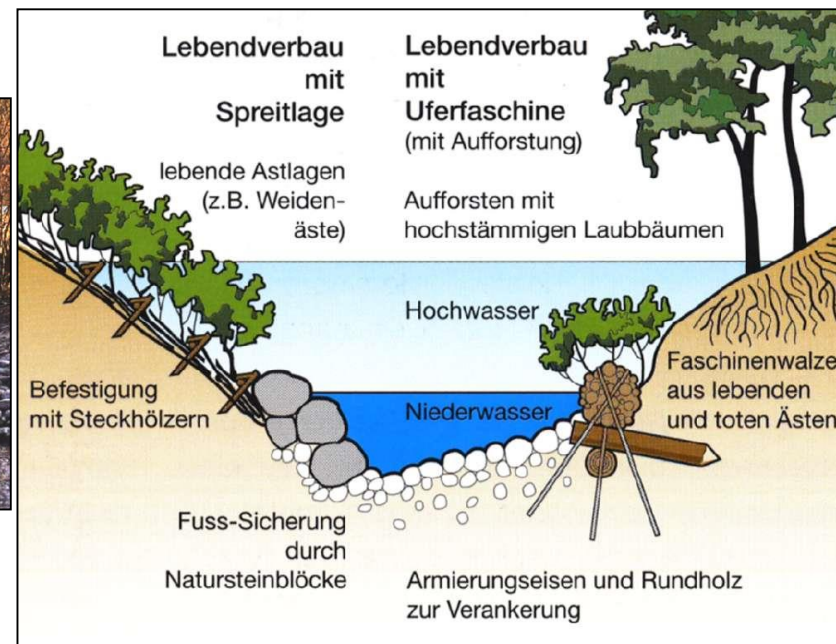
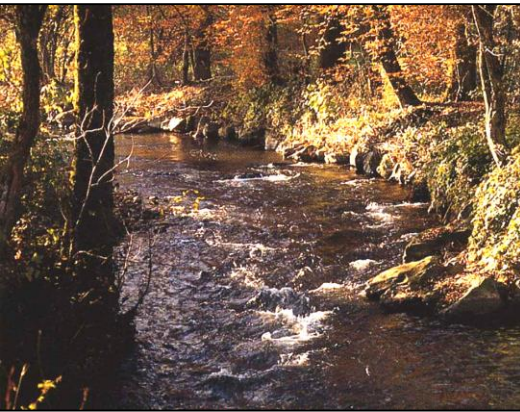
For reforestation of dry or snowy steep sites, the construction of terraces/Berms may be required in many cases.



Afforestation with mixed planting
To accelerate forestation, woody species that are suited to the site are set out on barren areas at distances as required (1-3m) using various planting methods

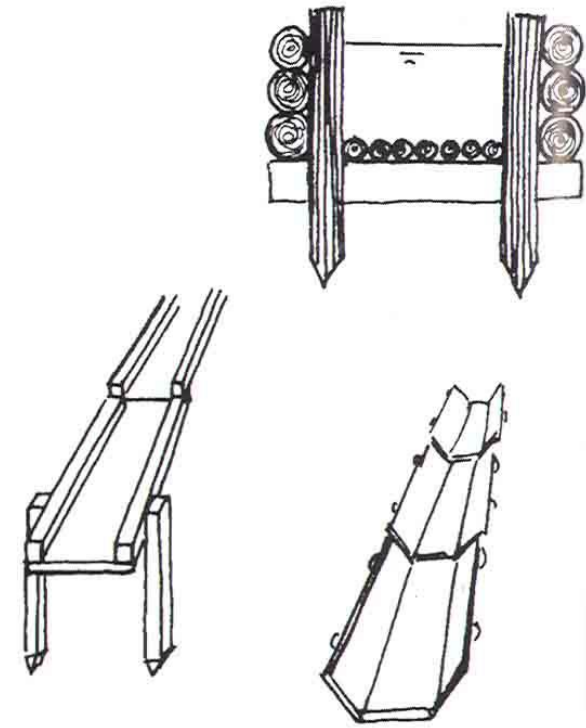
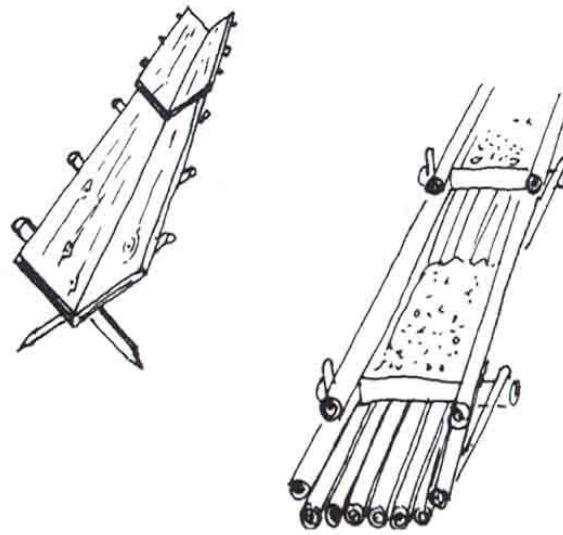


Stabilisation of rivers

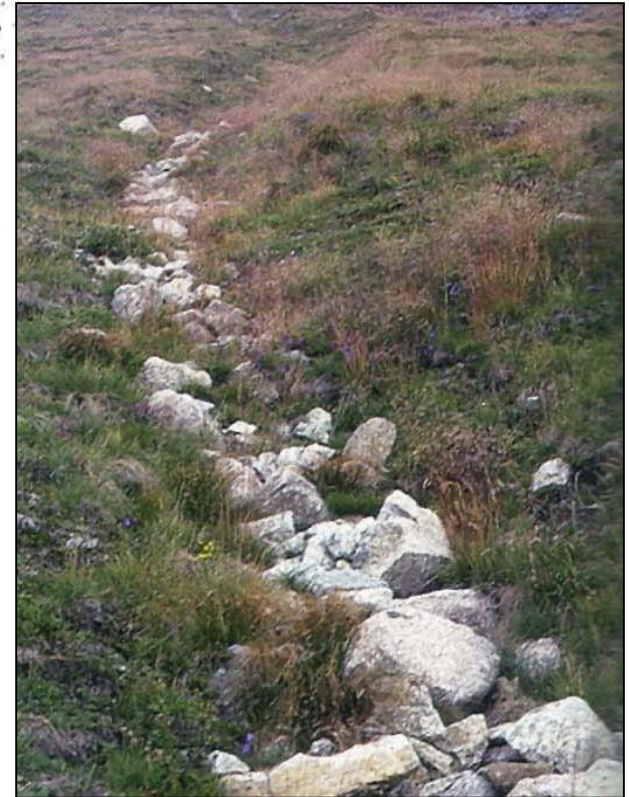
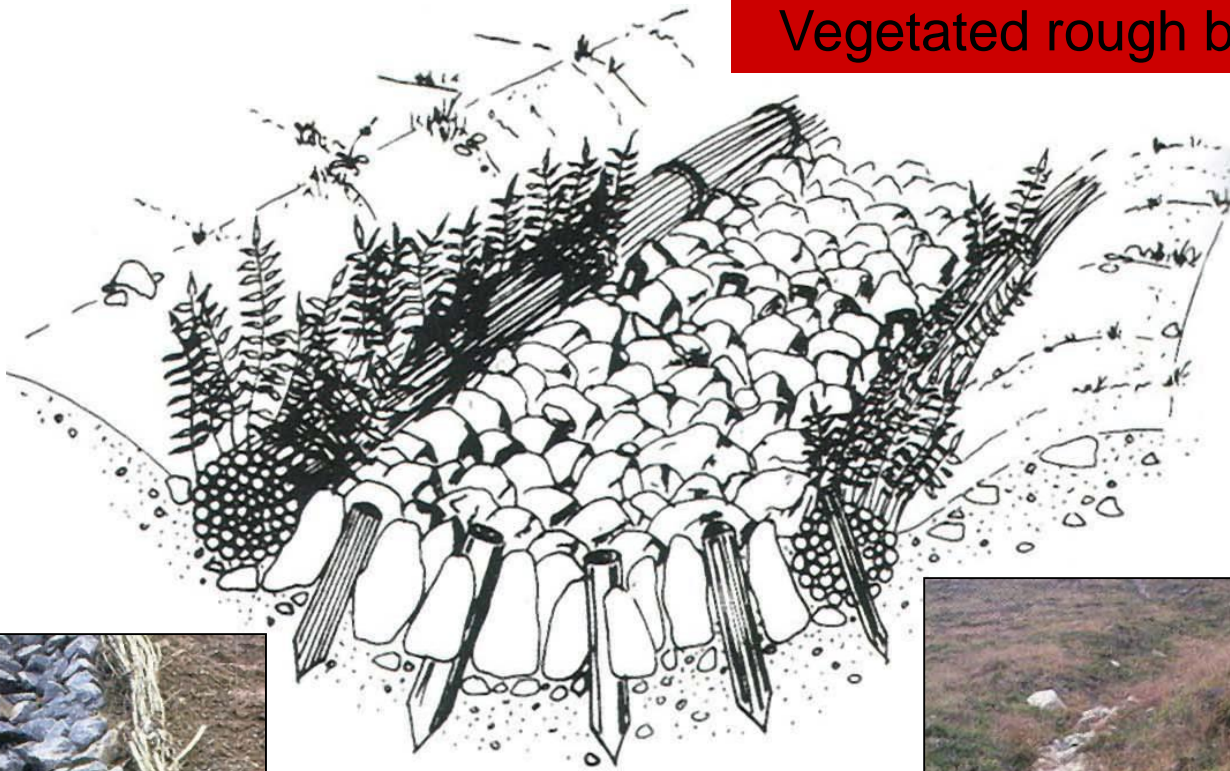


Open channels

Water that runs off the surface of a slope and cannot be taken up by vegetation alone and should not be allowed to seep into the ground either

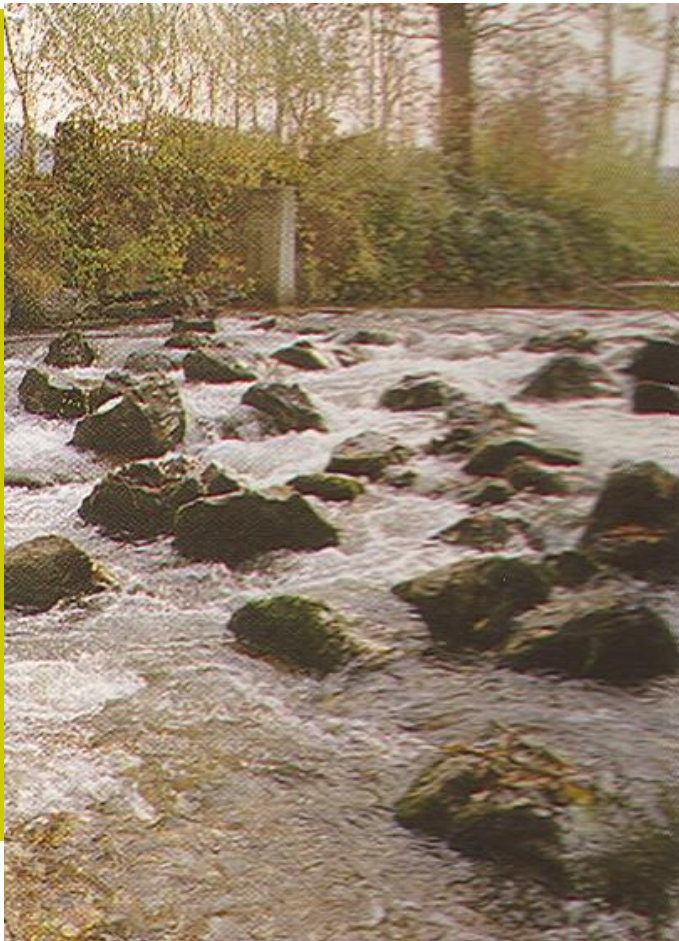


Vegetated rough bed channel



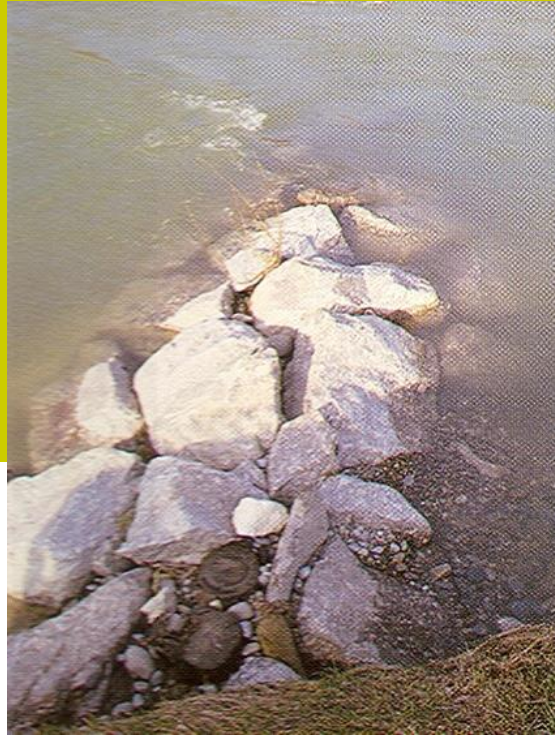
Dam construction, which allows overspill

Block ramps

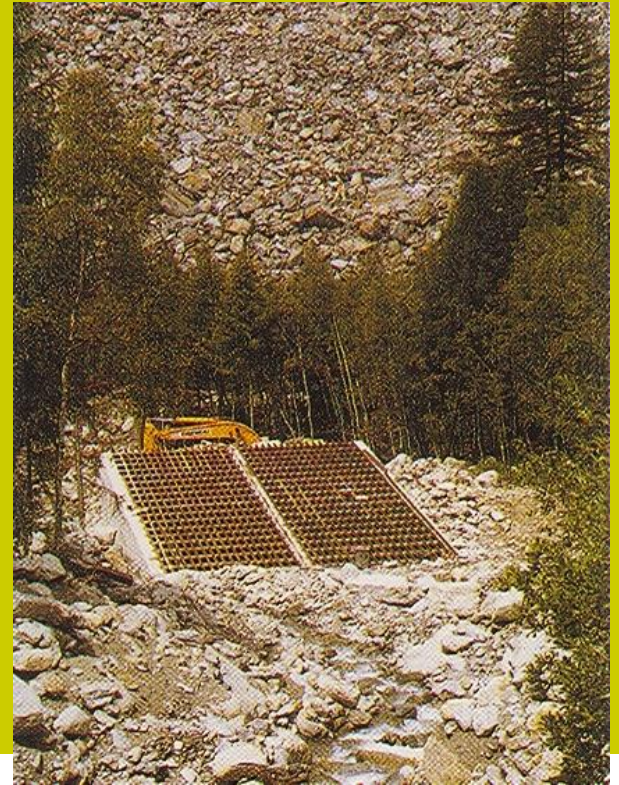




Opening of river bed



Rock groyne



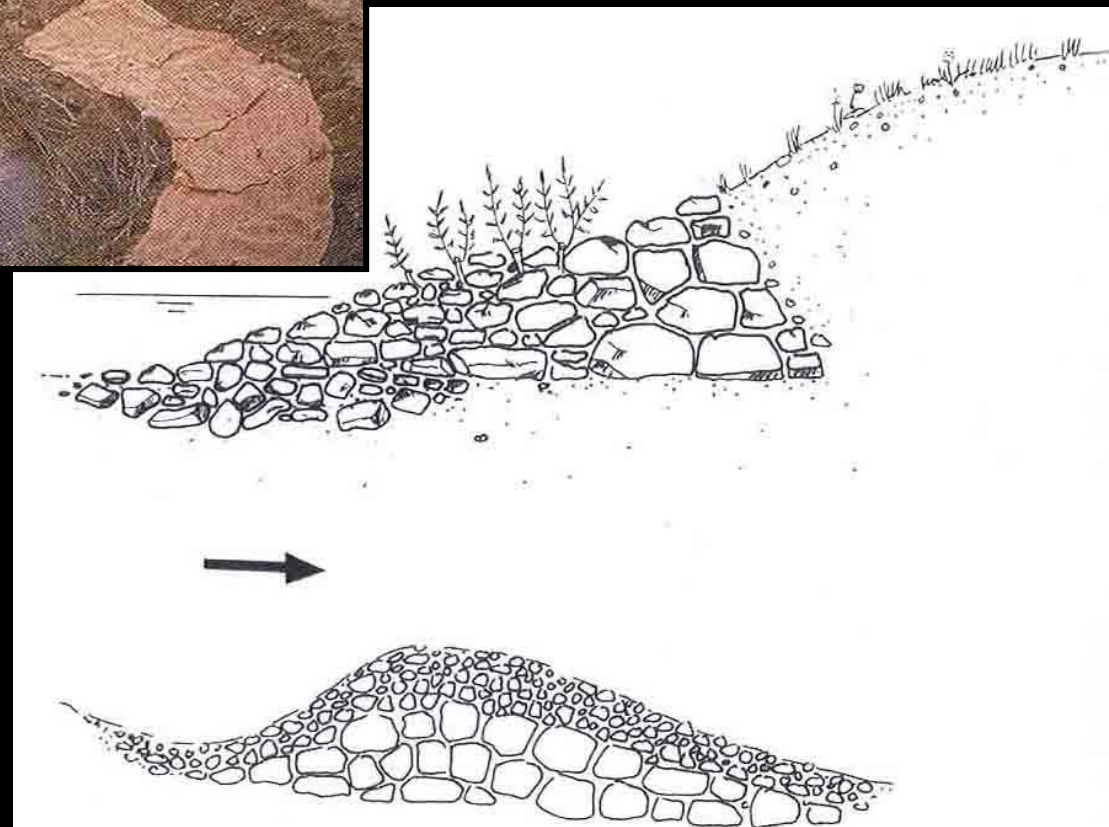
Debris flow breaker

Check dams





Rock groyne for bank protection. They guide the line of maximum velocity, generate scours and still water zones and protect the embankment

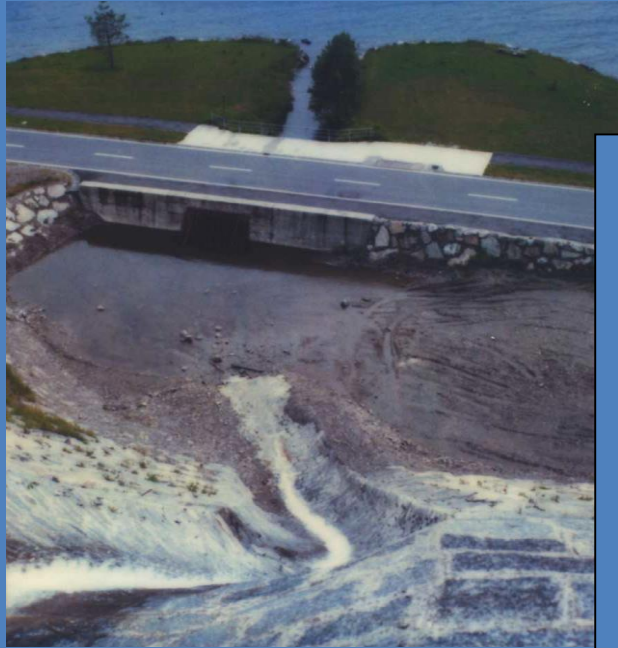


Reduction of sediment input into reservoirs

Retention of sediments
upstream of the reservoir

- Retention of bed load
- Retention of suspended material or fine material
- Dredging in river beds

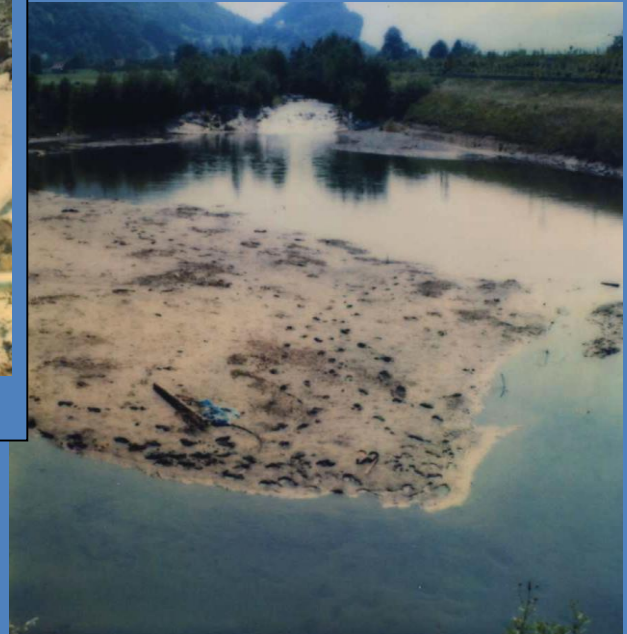
Sediment retention basins



Fischlauwi Seedorf

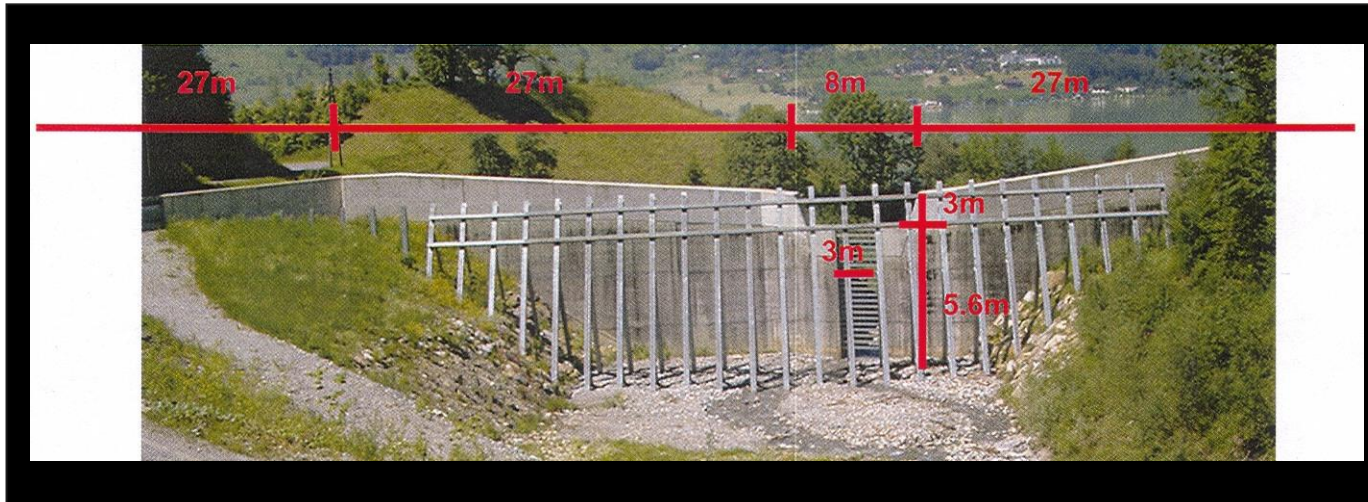


Filderenbach Hochybrig

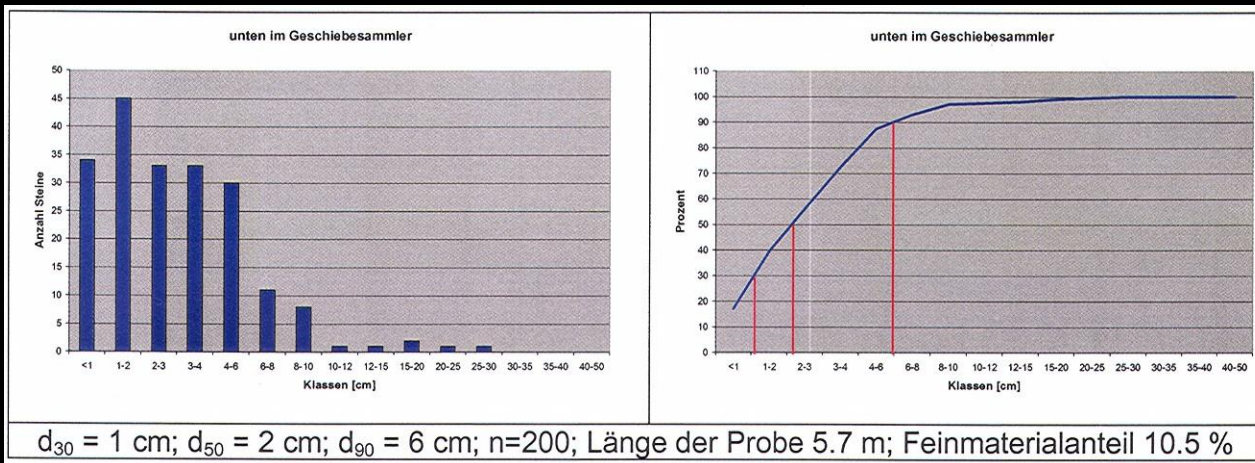


Berschnerbach Berschnis

Sediment retention basin with wood retention



Grain size distribution in the reservoir





WP8 Pilot Project Tourtemagne



Forces Motrices
de la Gougra



CANTON DU VALAIS
KANTON WALLIS
Service des
Forces
Hydrauliques

Restoration and preservation of storage capacity in the small alpine reservoir Tourtemagne (CH)

Giovanni De Cesare

Laboratory of hydraulic constructions LCH, EPFL Lausanne, Switzerland

Pierre-Benoît Raboud

formerly Service des Forces Hydrauliques SFH - VS, Sion, Switzerland

Auslass Rückhaltebecken



Rückhaltebecken und Speichersee





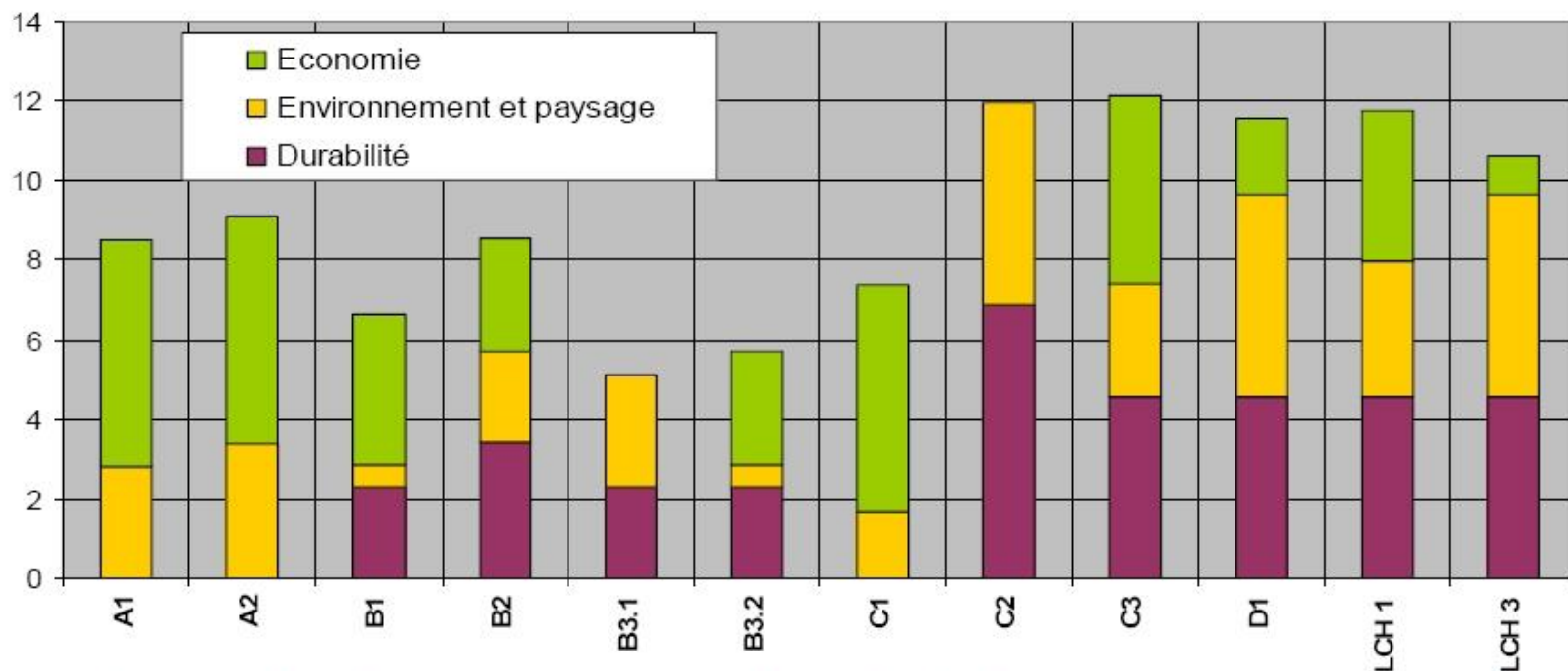
Contents: technical part (De Cesare)



1. Presentation of the Gouggra HP scheme and Tourtemagne reservoir
2. Objectives of the study
3. Description of the various alternatives
4. Technical and economical analysis
5. Conclusions and perspectives



Overall analysis



100%
deposits

Transit fine,
deposits bedload

downstream
deposits

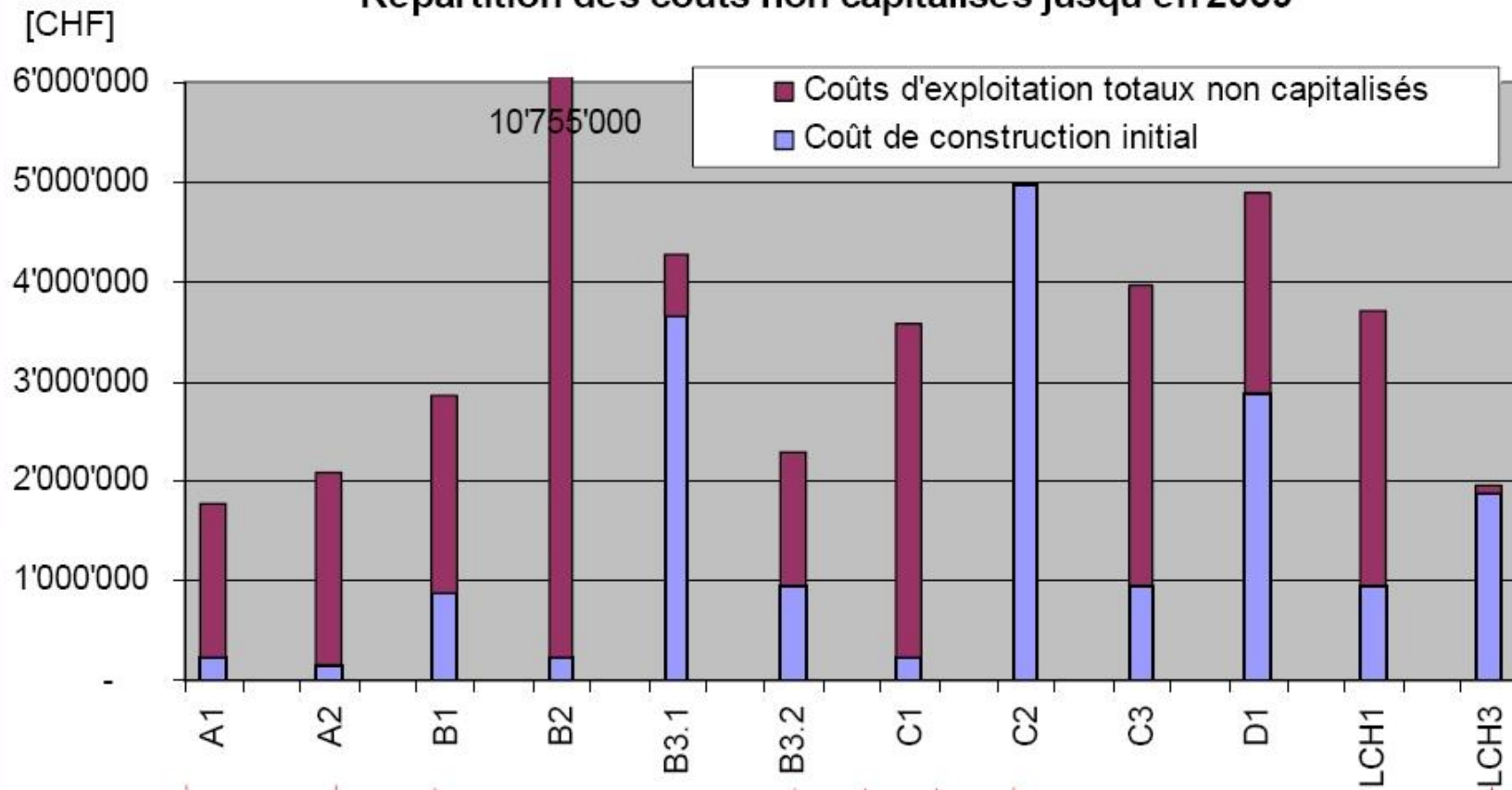
majority in transit



Economical analysis



Répartition des coûts non capitalisés jusqu'en 2039



100%
deposits

Transit fine,
deposits bedload

downstream
deposits

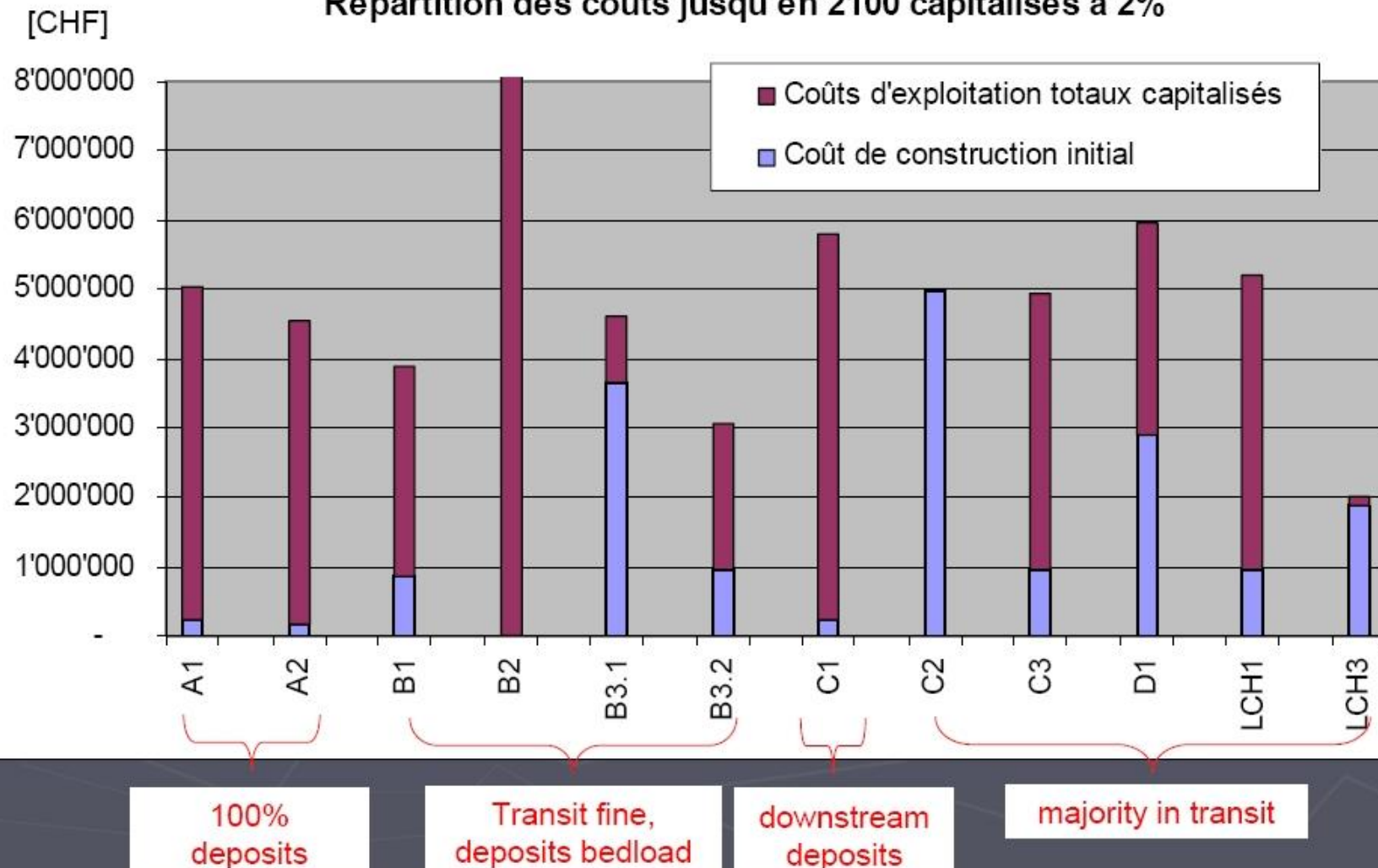
majority in transit



Economical analysis



Répartition des coûts jusqu'en 2100 capitalisés à 2%

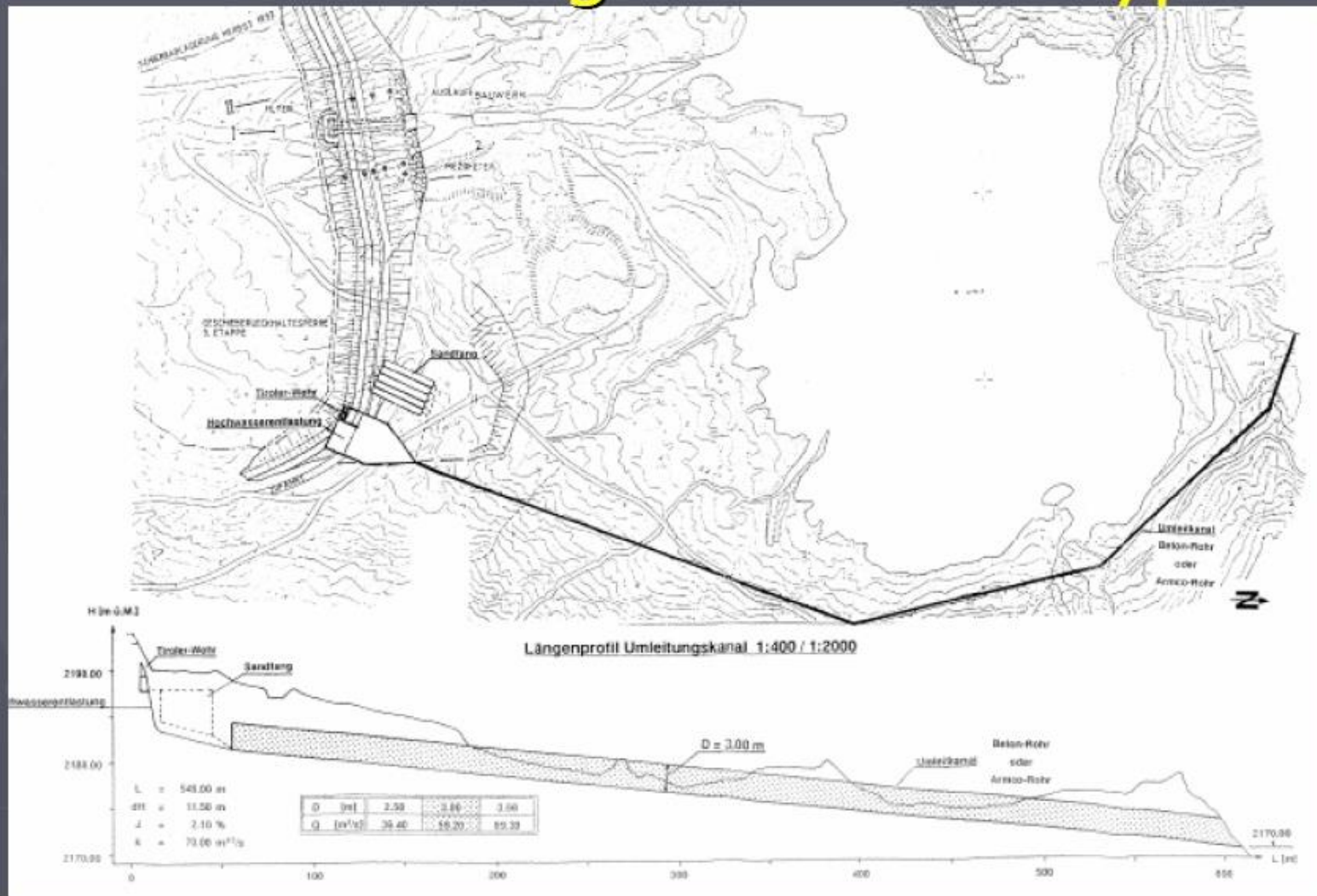




Final Project (under discussion) - overview



With desanding basins and bypass

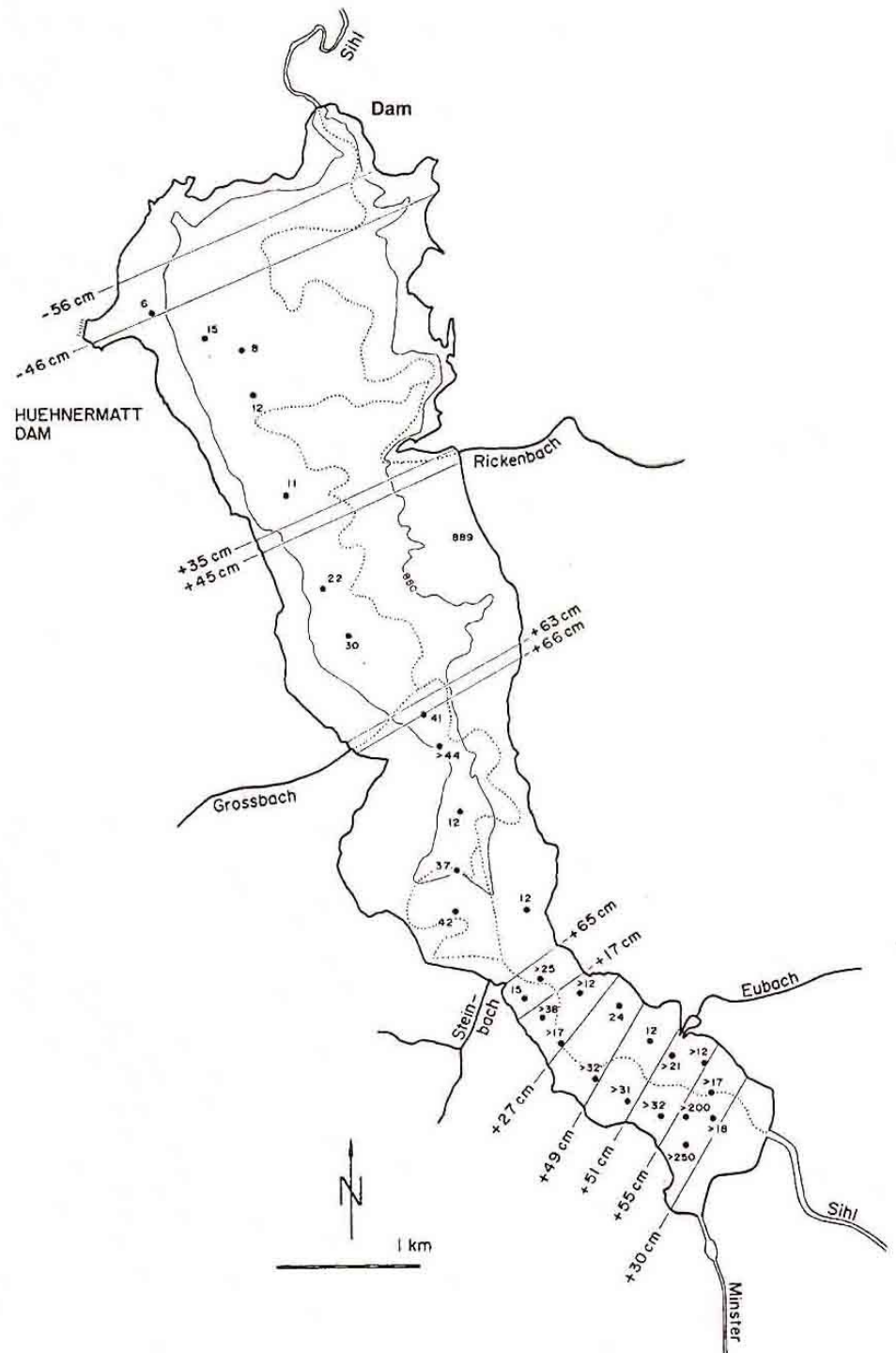


4. Reservoir sedimentation

LAKE DEPOSITS AT SIHL RESERVOIR, 1937 - 1979

Legend

- - 56 cm Erosion at cross section
- + 35 cm Accumulation at cross section
- 37 Point measurement
- >44 Point measurement, but ground not reached



PROPERTY OF LAKE DEPOSITS AT SIHL RESERVOIR

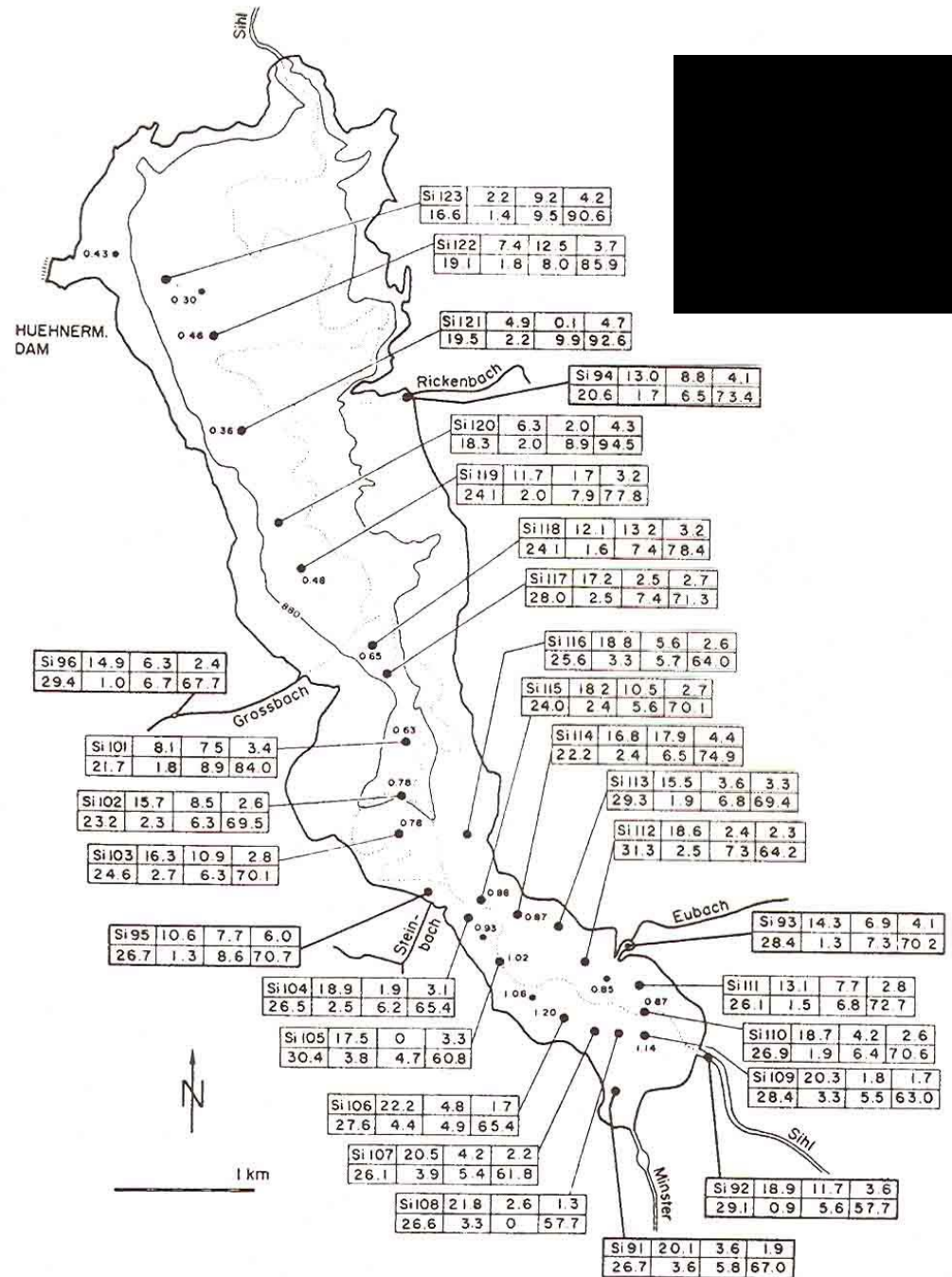
Legend

Sample	Calcite	Muscovite	Organic. mat
Quartz	Dolomite	Microlite	Ground mat.

d_{50} = ~ca. 15 micrometer

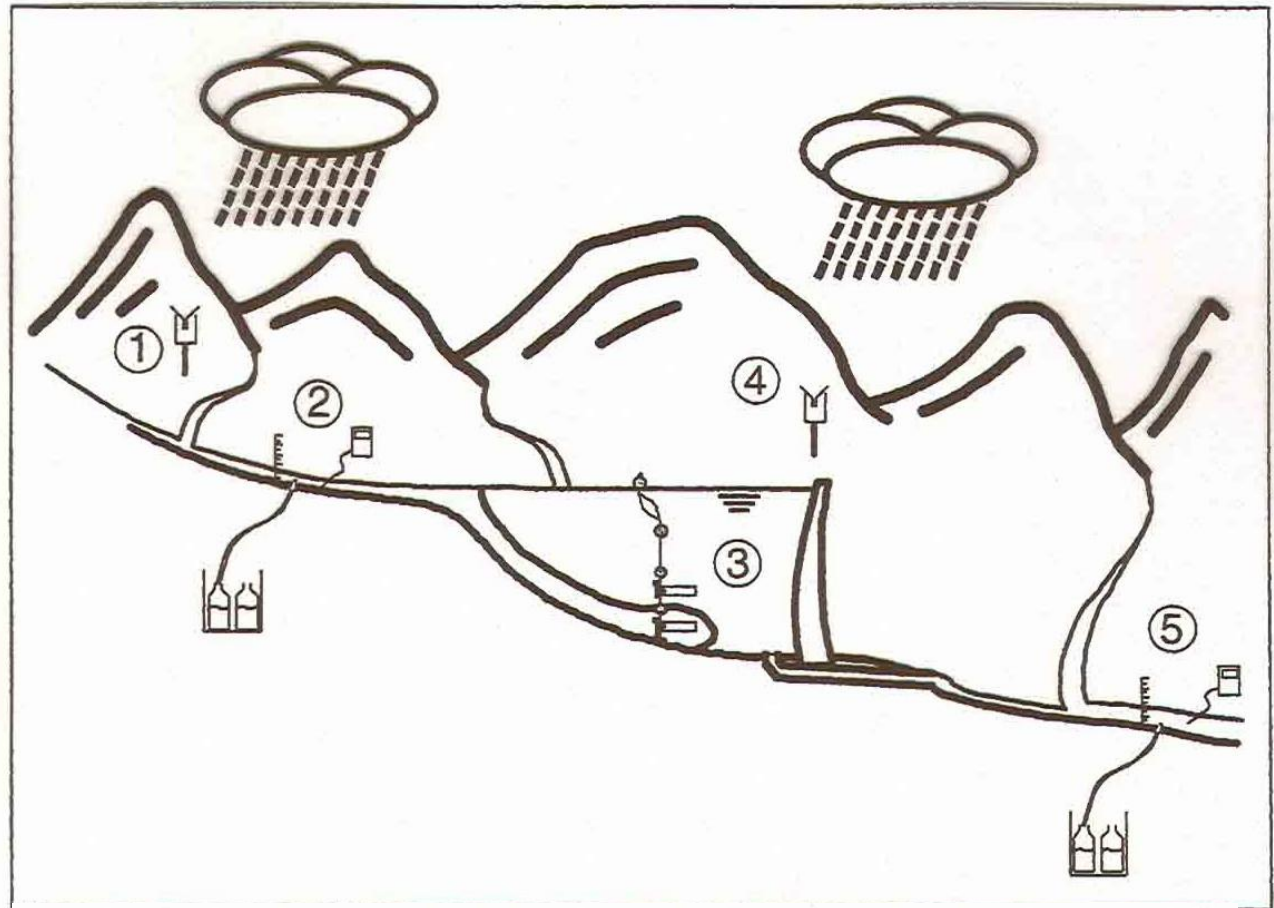
Values in % of mass, relative value for
ground material

Bulk density (g/cm³), values at point
measurements



Governing the sediment deposition process by influencing the turbidity streams

NETWORK OF SEDIMENT OBSERVATION IN THE LUZZONE BASIN



Chain of turbidity meters at the ground of the retention basin.

Points A, B und C indicate the positions of the chains in the basin.

1) Subsurface buoy

2) Reader

3) Flow direction

4) Flow velocity

5) Weight

Numerical simulation of turbidity currents

- Transport equation for sediment concentration, c_{si} of fraction i with settling velocity, v_{ssi} :

$$\frac{\partial(\rho c_{si})}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial(\rho [U_i + \delta_{i3} v_{ssi}] c_{si})}{\partial x_i} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(\Gamma_{\text{eff}} \frac{\partial c_{si}}{\partial x_i} \right) = S_E - S_D|_b$$

- Equilibrium Concentration [Van Rijn (1984)]

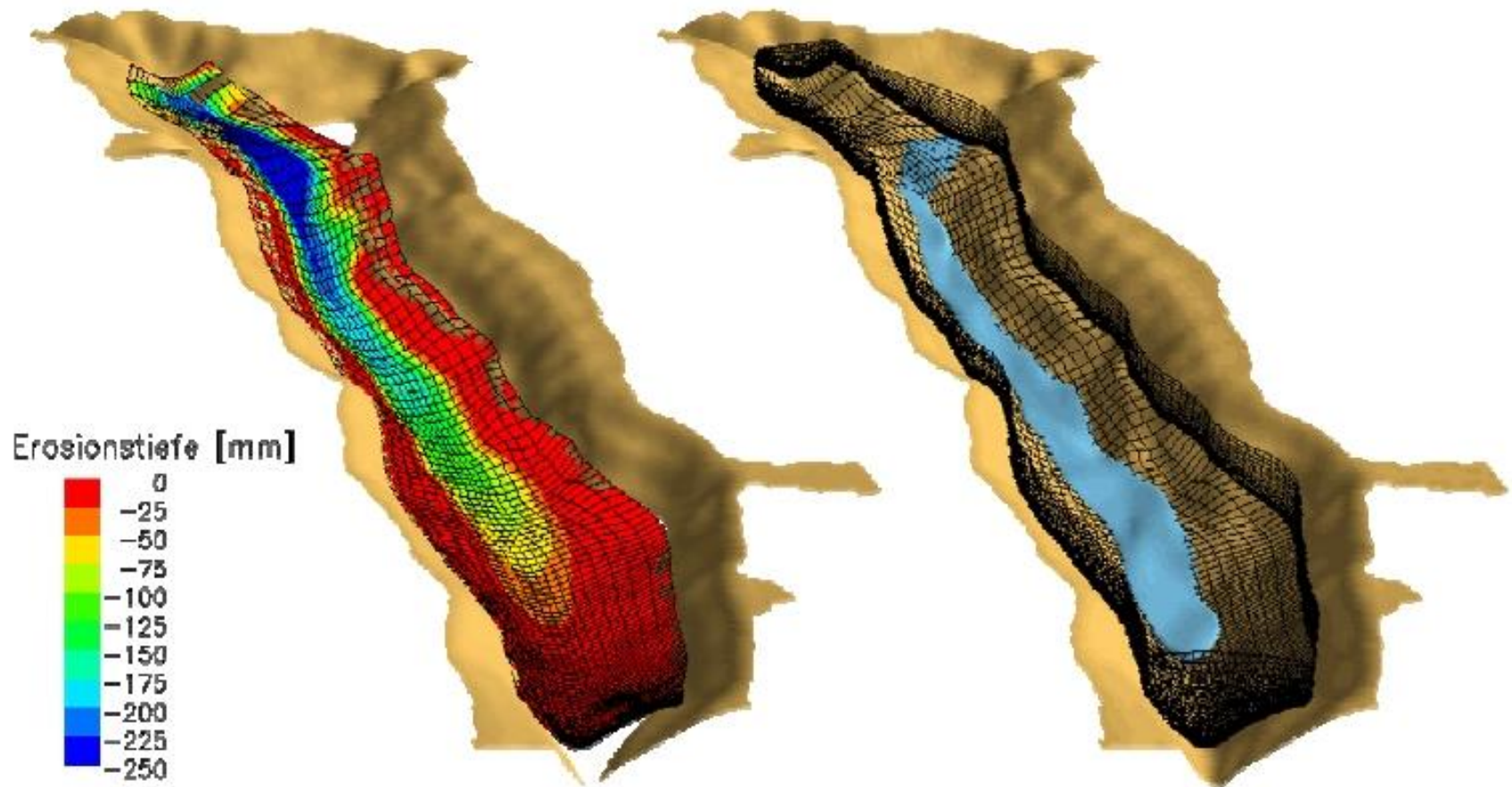
$$S_E - S_D|_b = v_{ss} (c_{sb*} - c_{sb})$$

- Pick-up and Settling Rate [Garcia and Parker (1993)]

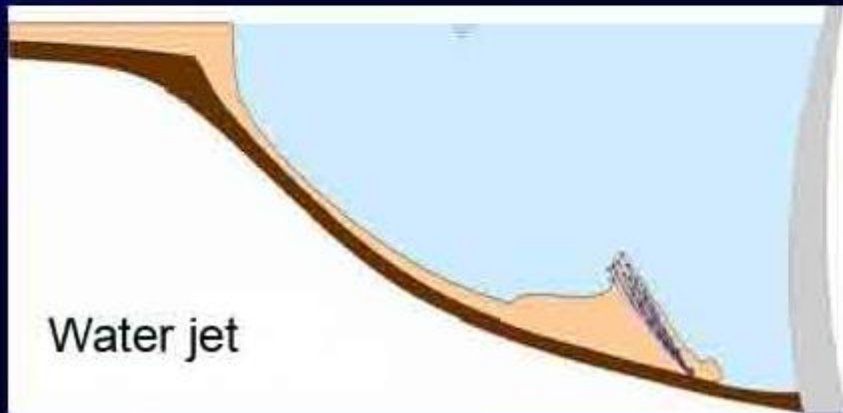
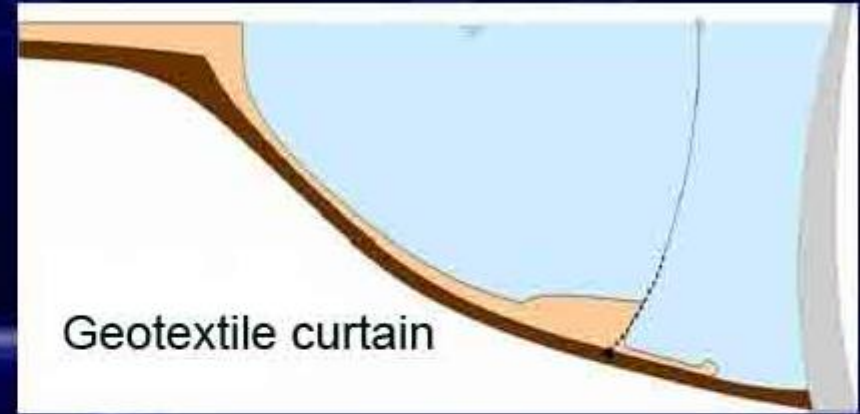
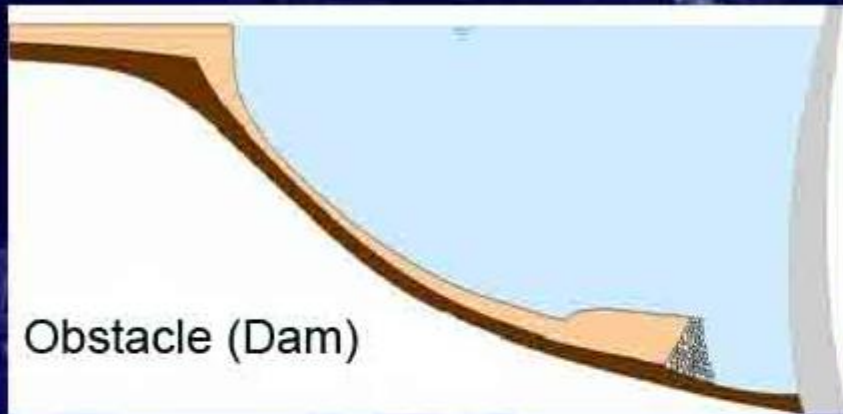
$$S_E - S_D|_b = v_{ss} (E_s - c_{sb})$$

Turbidity currents

Main factor for the sediment transport in reservoirs



Management of turbidity currents



Case study Grimsel (dam heightening)



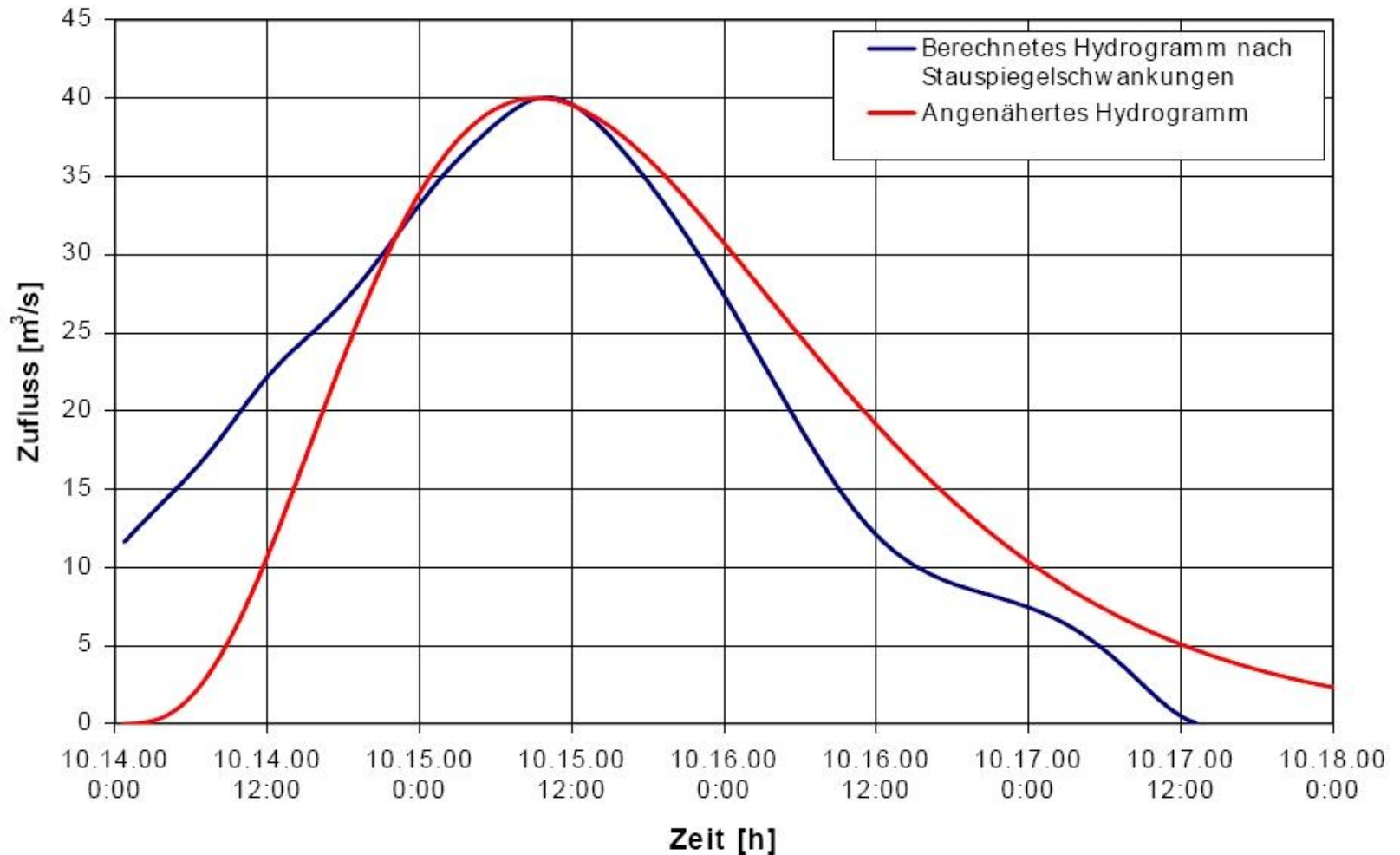
Ausbauprojekt Grimsel Plus:

3. Etappe:
Erhöhung der Stau-
mauern um 23 m

Discretization of the reservoir

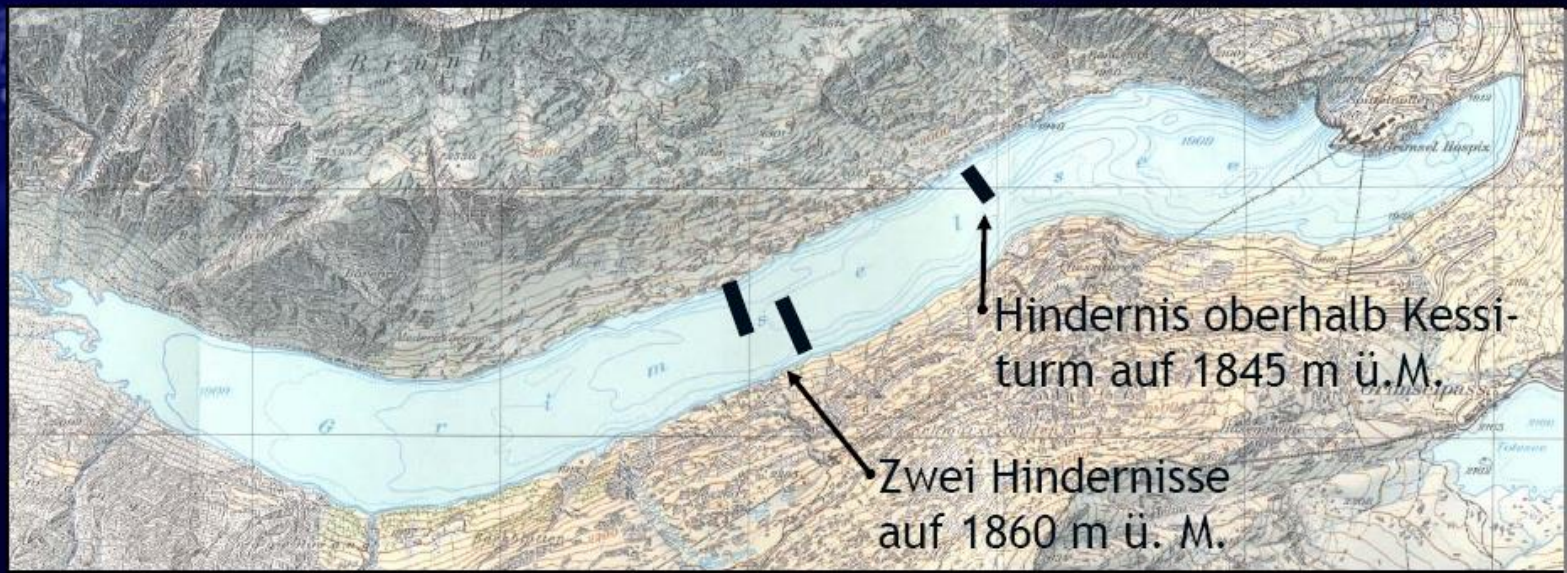


Flood hydrograph for simulation of turbidity flows

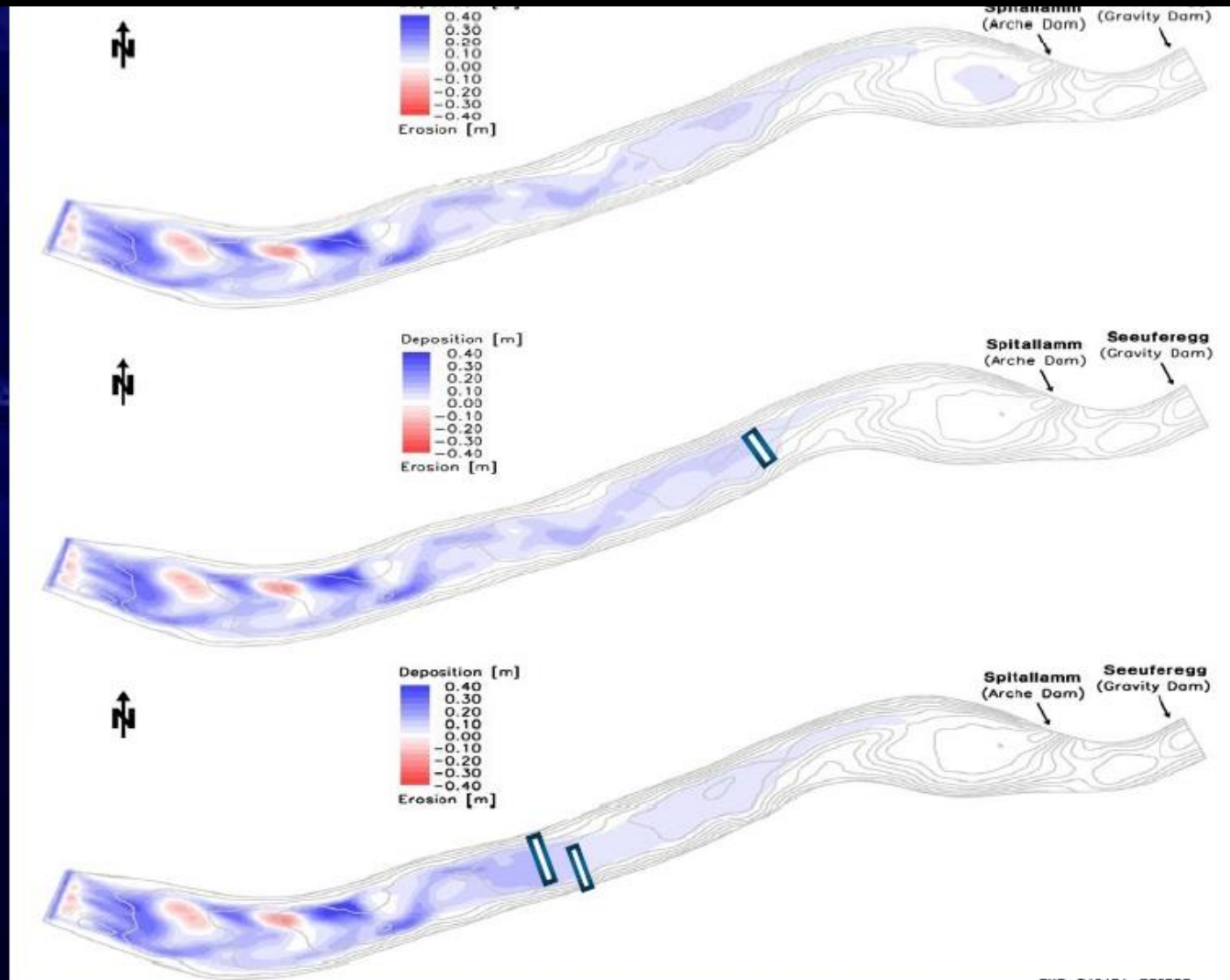


Case study Grimsel (dam heightening)

- Investigation of sites of obstacle installation for braking of turbidity flows



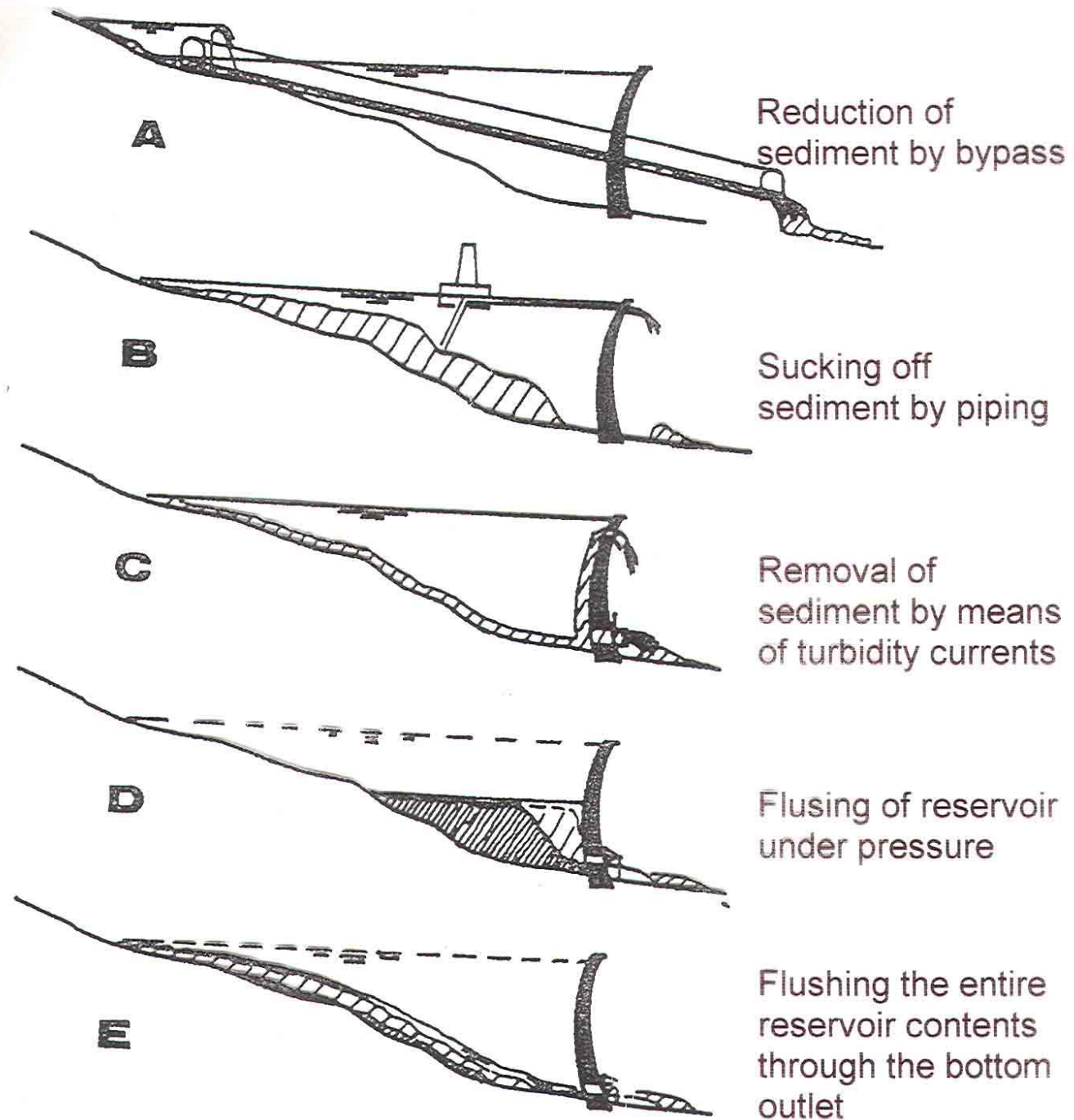
Example Grimsel lake



Ablagerungen und Erosionen eines im Grimselstausees simulierten Trübestroms (Hochwasser vom Oktober 2000)

5. Procedures for the removal of sediments from reservoirs and impacts on the ecology

Overview



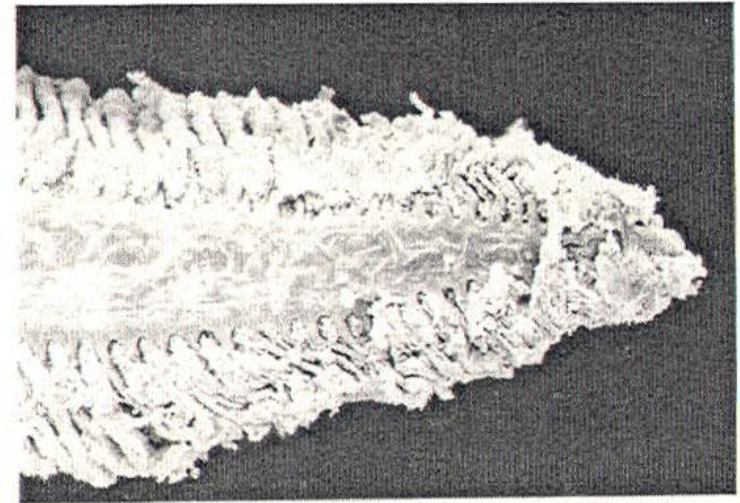
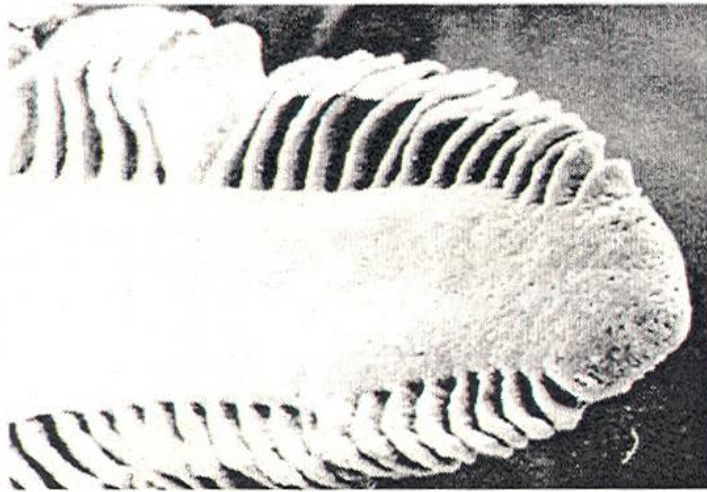
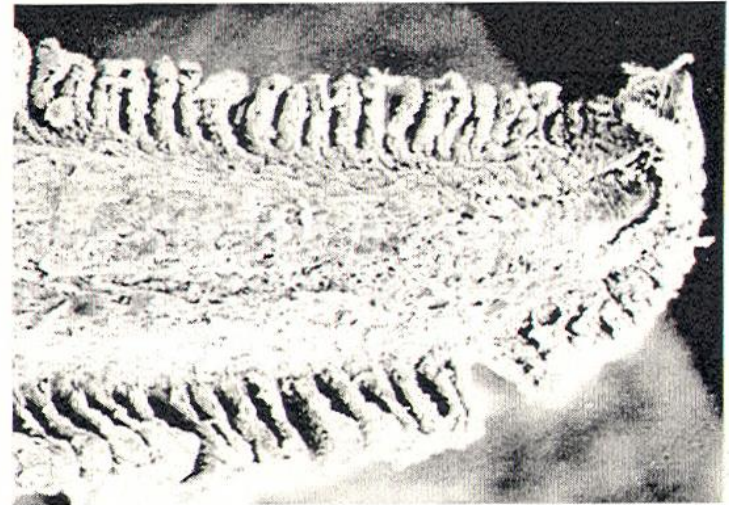
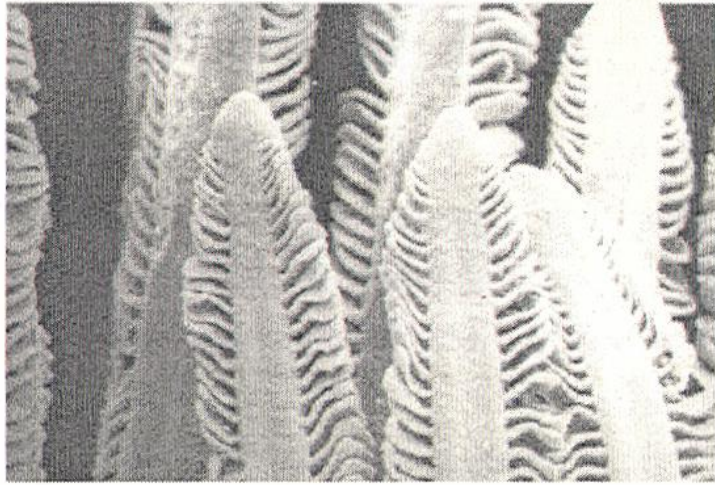
Effects of sediment flushing on fish and invertebrates in Swiss Alpine Rivers

Aquatic systems are especially sensitive to flushing

Most Swiss dams are located in alpine and prealpine regions, where, even under natural conditions, fish and macroinvertebrates are exposed to a harsh environment

Causes of oxygen depletion problems for fish

- Mechanical damage to the gills hinders oxygen transfer in the gills
- Oxygen concentration in the water is reduced because reducing substances are released from the flushed sediment
- Hydraulic stress increases the oxygen demand of the fish because of increased swimming activities



Scanning electron micrographs of rainbow trout gills (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) in a laboratory experiment (Petz-Glechner et al. 1999): control (upper left), 50g/l suspended sediment for 2 h (upper right), 5 g/l for 24 h (lower left) and 10 g/l for 24 h (lower right).

Impacts of flushing to the invertebrates

- If flushing cause an abrupt increase of water flow, invertebrates do not have enough time to move into the interstitial spaces, and their abundance may be greatly reduced.
- Residual flow changes the composition of macroinvertebrates taxa.

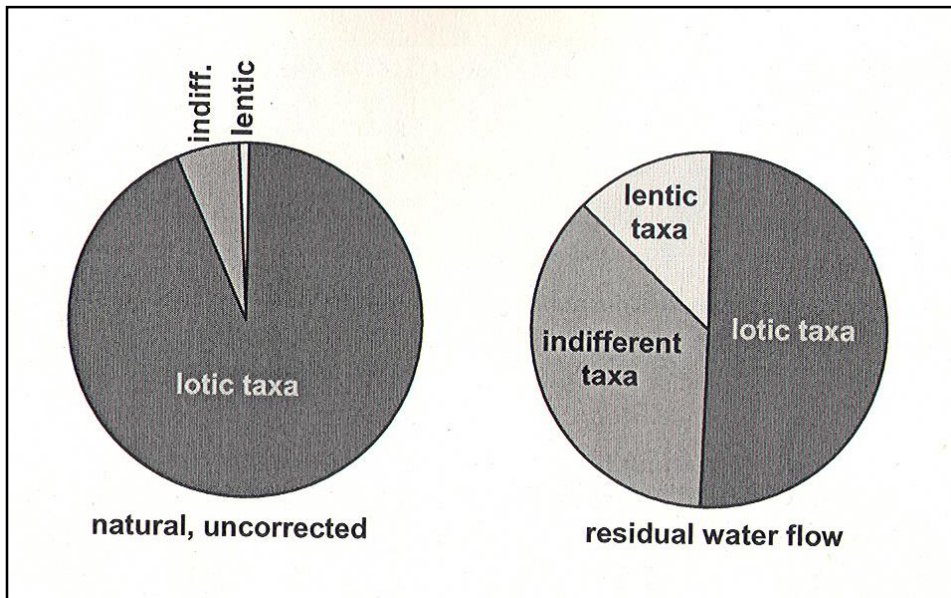


Figure 2: Percentage composition of macroinvertebrate taxa in three microhabitats (lentic, lotic, indifferent) in a prealpine brook without anthropogenic impact (left), and in a comparable brook under a regime of residual water flow (right). Data: Gerster&Rey (1994).

Recommendations

- A general threshold for harmless suspended sediment concentrations does not exist – however, 5-10 g/l is generally tolerable for fauna and flora.
- As unplanned events often occur during flushing operations and often provoke unacceptably high concentrations of suspended sediment, there must be a possibility of braking off and restart flushing.
- Frequent flushing operations with low impacts are tolerated better than rare operations with unacceptably high quantities of sediment.
- Increased post-flushing operations using clean water, and accompanying monitoring programmes are necessary.

Flushing procedure

Strategy

1. Flushing has to be executed during normal flood events
2. Boundary limits of sediment concentration may be
 - 10 ‰ as shorttime highest value
 - 5 ‰ for duration of less then 24 hrs
 - 2.5 ‰ 48 hrs
 - 1.25 ‰ of more than 48 hrs or instead of use boundary limits of sediment concentration, detailed specifications have to be done about
 - hydrobiologic conditions of the channel
 - flushing itself
 - observation program



3. The watertable of the sediment loaden reservoir has to sunk as low as possible.
4. The opening of the outlets shall be done slowly to simulate as much as possible a natural flood.
5. After flushing, rinse the channel bed with clear water to wash out the sediment surplus downstream.
6. Before and after the flushing, a comprehensive biological and sedimentological observation has to be executed.
7. The sediment concentration has to be checked before, while and after the flushing.
8. If anyhow technically possible, an addition of clear water near the dam has to be provided to reduce sediment concentration.

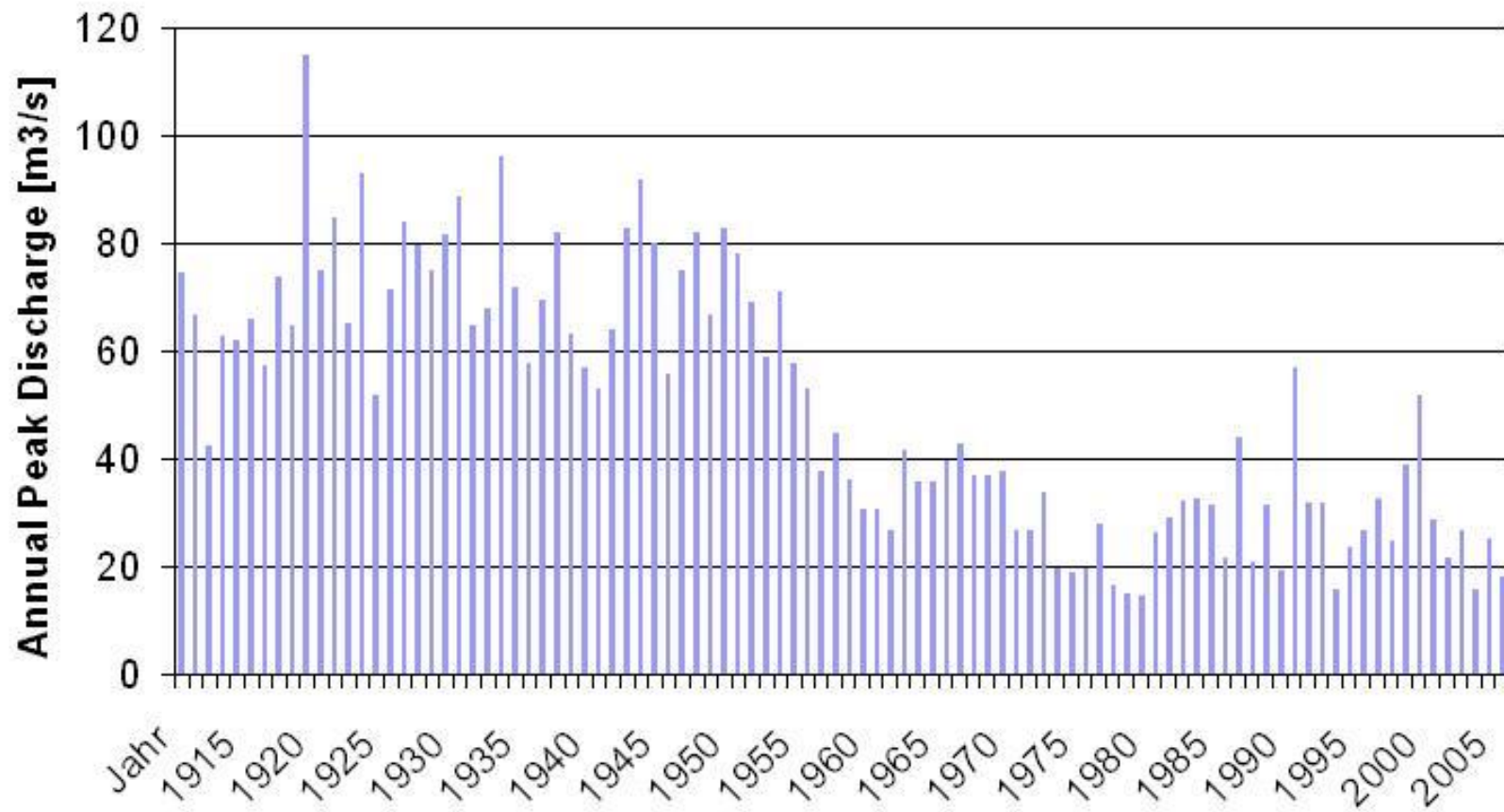
6. Modification of the hydrological regime and changes in erosion and sediment downstream of reservoirs

Modification of the hydrological regime downstream of the reservoir Mauvoisin

Reduced peak
discharge

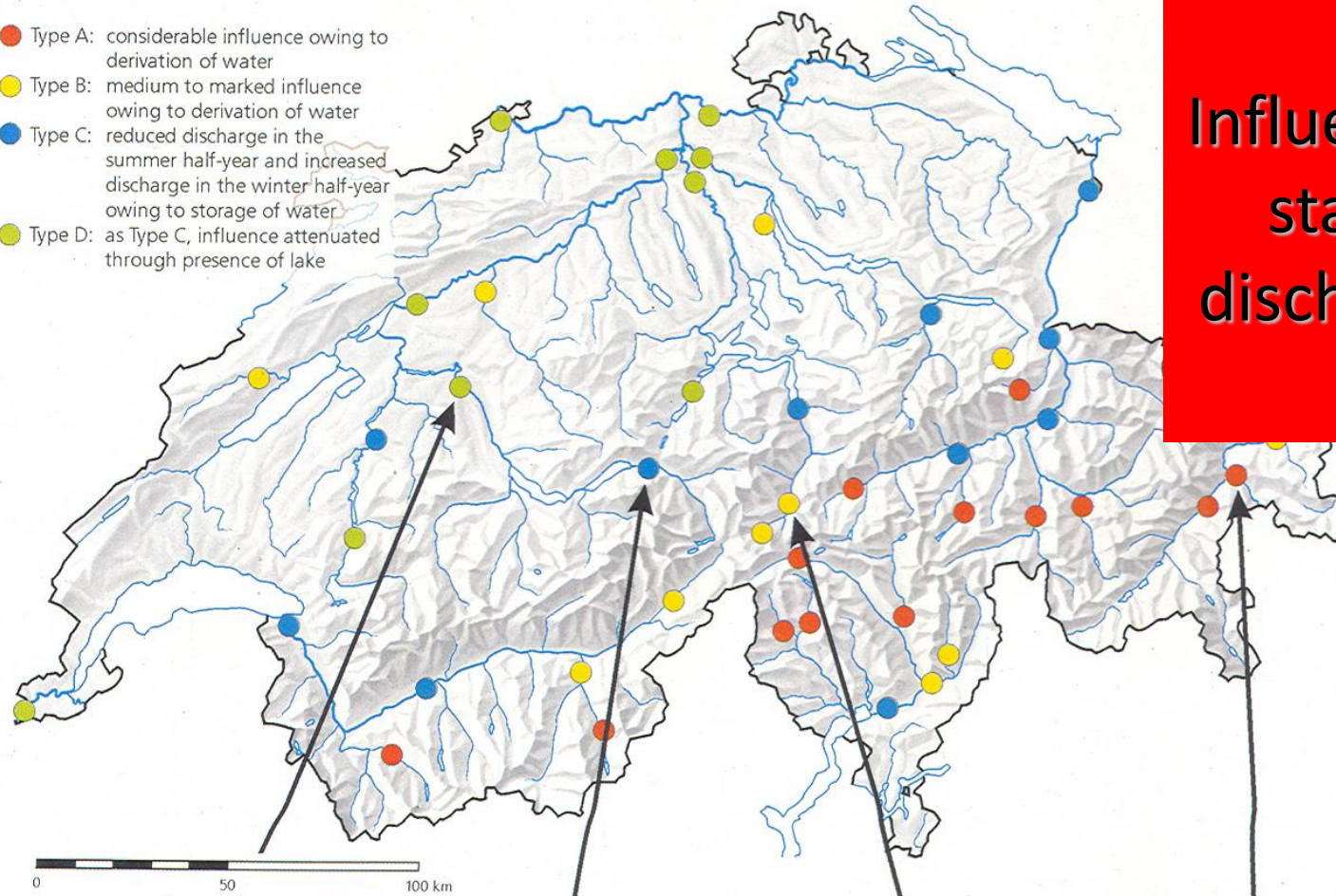
Drance de Bagnes - Le Chable
1911 - 2006

Maximum



- Type A: considerable influence owing to derivation of water
- Type B: medium to marked influence owing to derivation of water
- Type C: reduced discharge in the summer half-year and increased discharge in the winter half-year owing to storage of water
- Type D: as Type C, influence attenuated through presence of lake

Influence of power stations on river discharge patterns



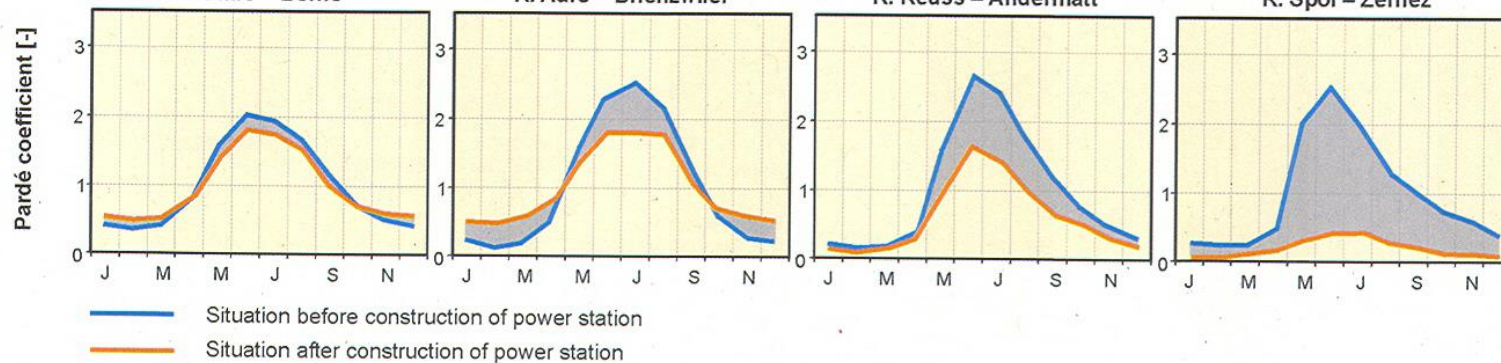
Examples:

R. Aare – Berne

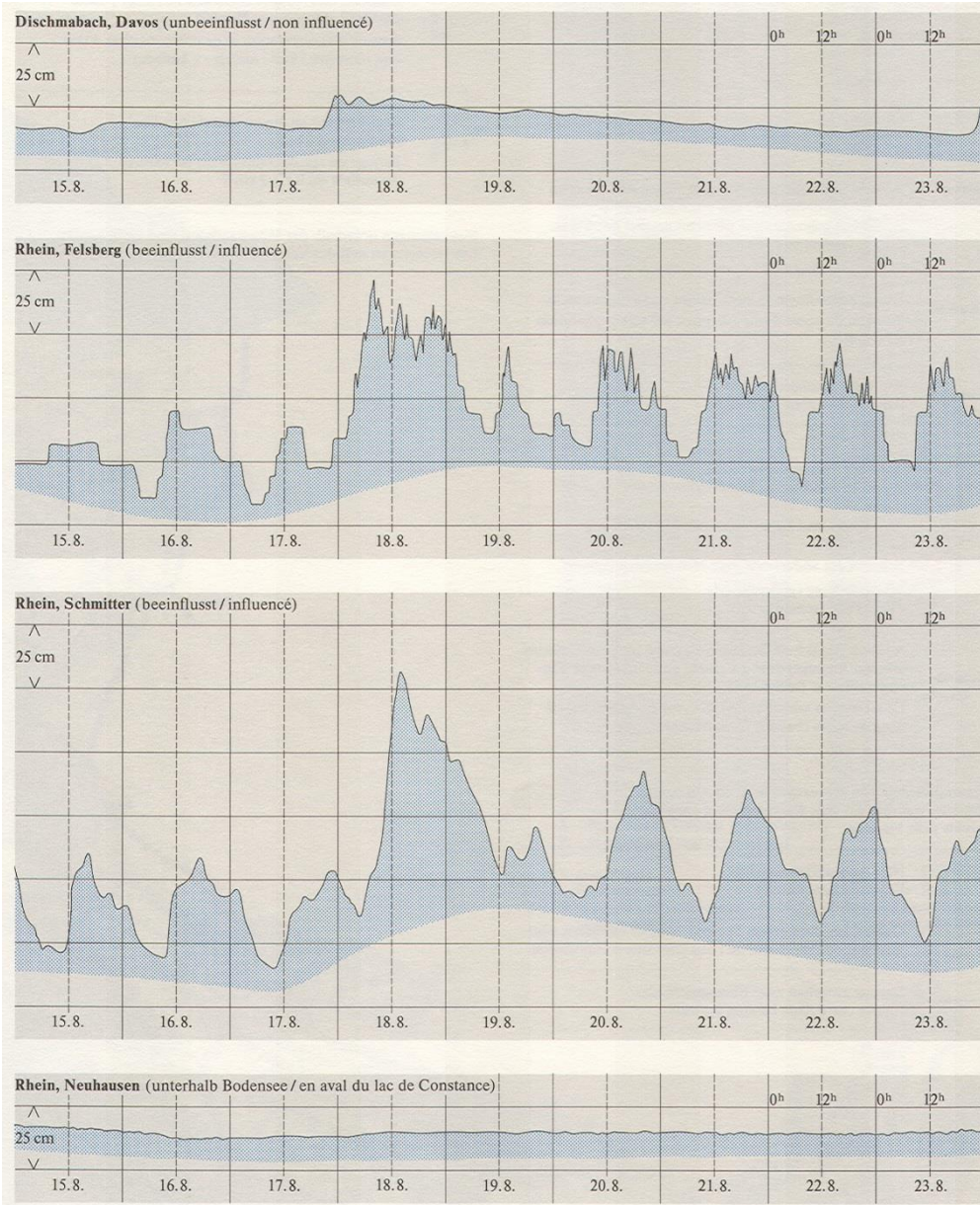
R. Aare – Brienzwiler

R. Reuss – Andermatt

R. Spöl – Zerne



Example Rhine

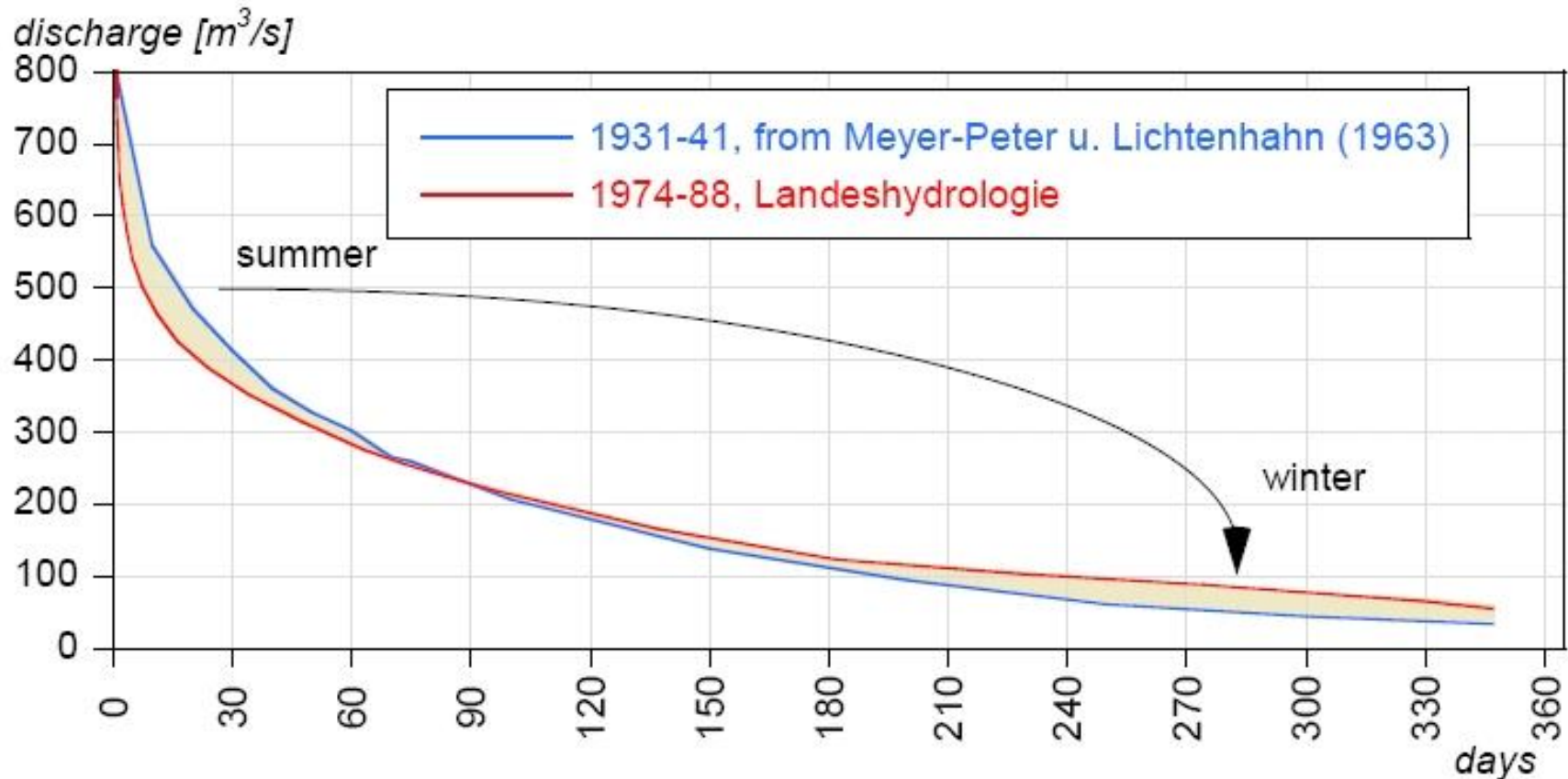


Influence of water power reservoirs and lake retention on discharge in the river Rhine

(HADES, 1999)

Discharge regime change in the Alpine Rhine

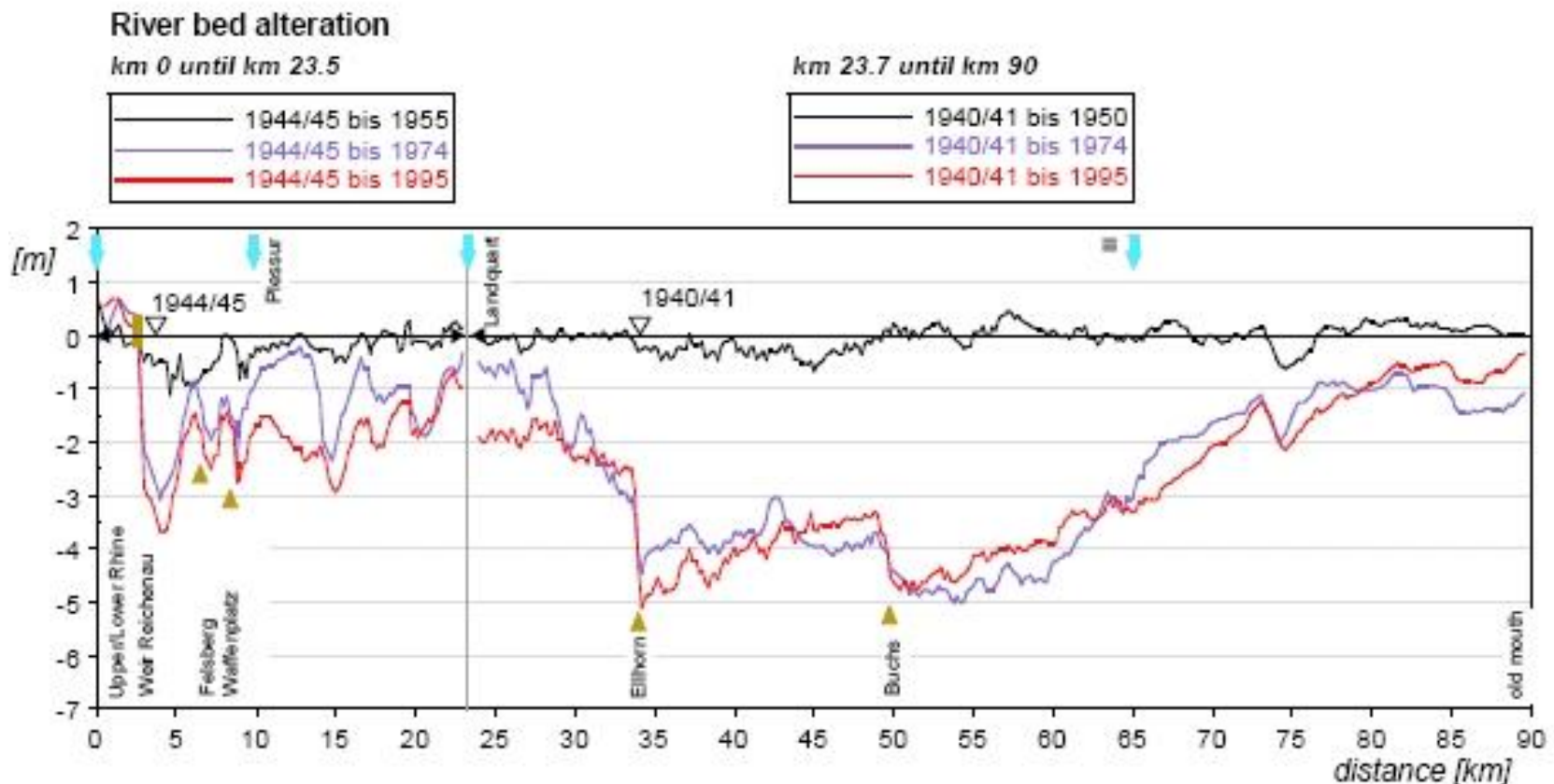
Displacement of summer runoff into winter due to water power plants
(Storage in reservoirs during summer time, energy production during winter time)



Alteration of the river bed since 1940 in the Rhine river

Deposited bed load caused reduced discharge capacity and flooding

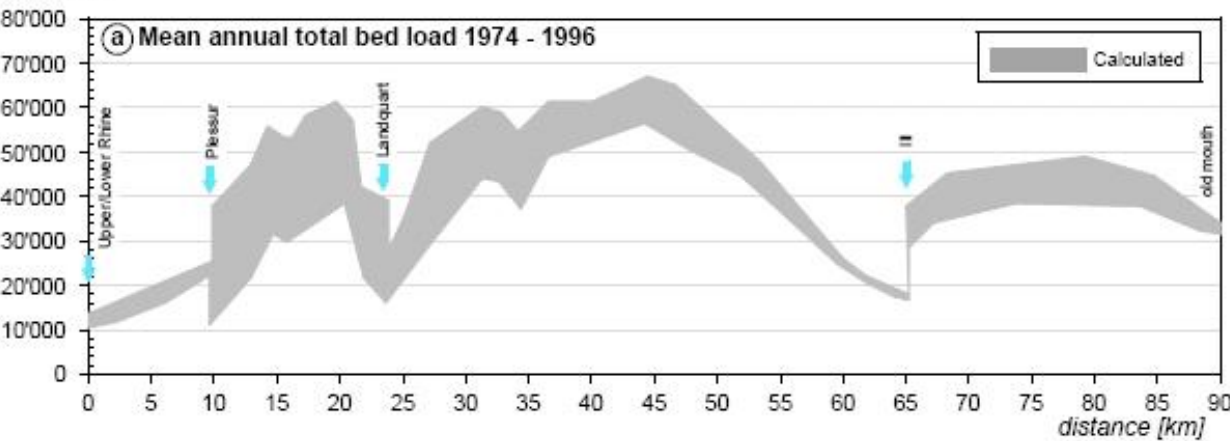
→ Bed load excavation



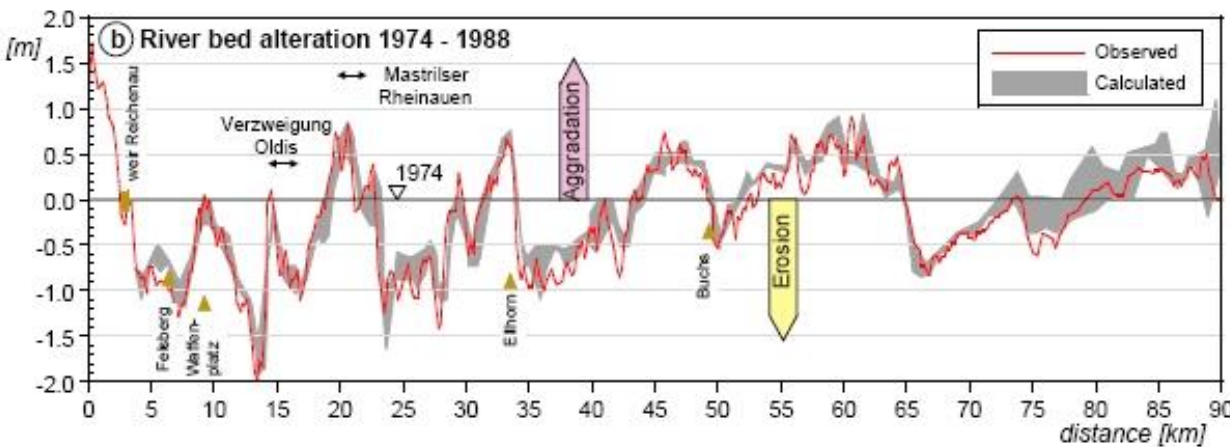
The bridge Buchs-Schaan collapsed in 1972 because of the erosion of the river bed. After the collapse numerous bed load excavation were stopped (Landesarchiv Vaduz).



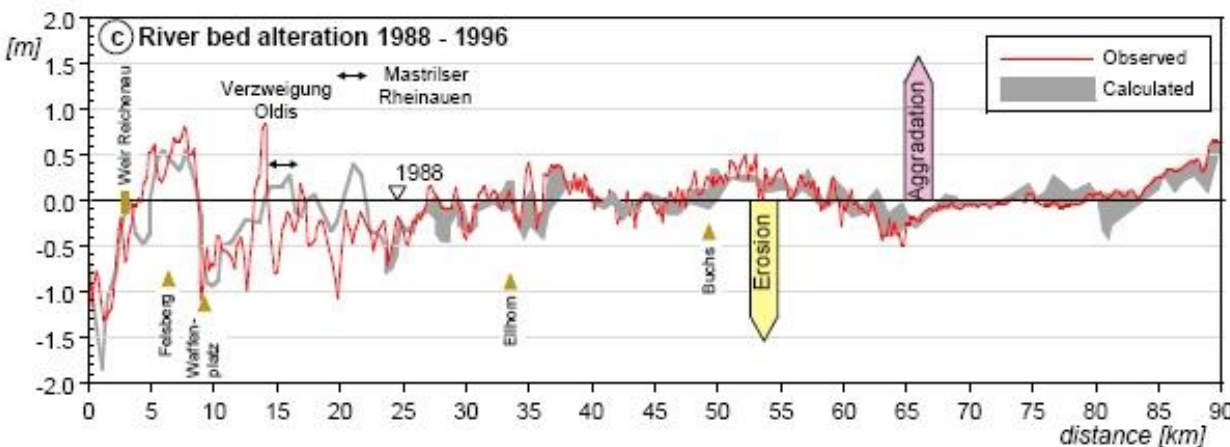
[m³/year]



Range of the mean annual total bed load which were transported in the Alpine Rhine between 1974 and 1995 (a),



and the river bed alteration in the period from 1974 to 1988 (b)



and from 1988 to 1996 (c).

7. Difficulties by the determination of the impacts of reservoirs on downstream areas Example Grimsel reservoirs

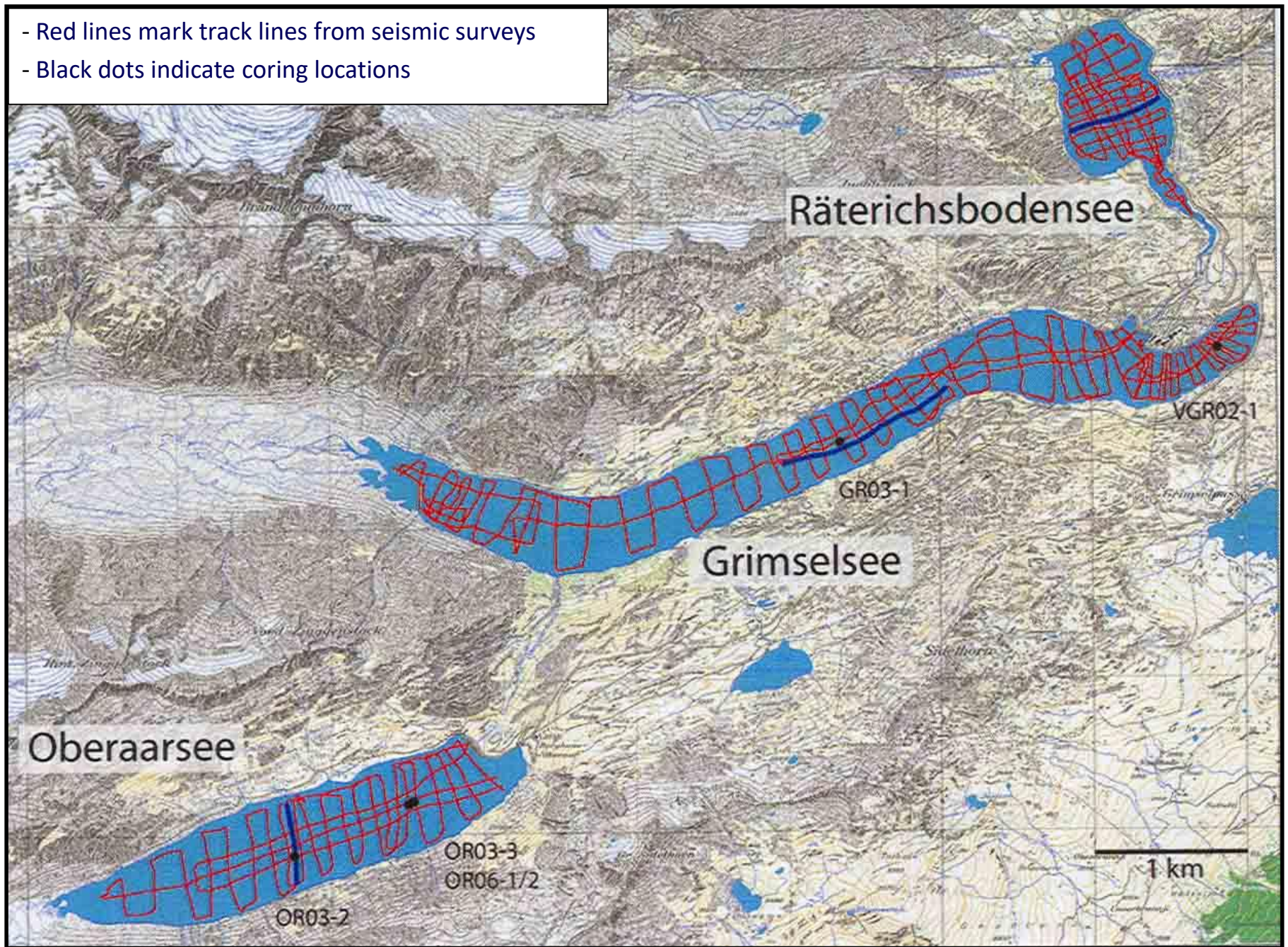
EAWAG, SWISS FEDERAL INSTITUTE
OF AQUATIC SCIENCE and
TECHNOLOGY

GEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, ETH-ZURICH

JÄCKLI AG, ZURICH

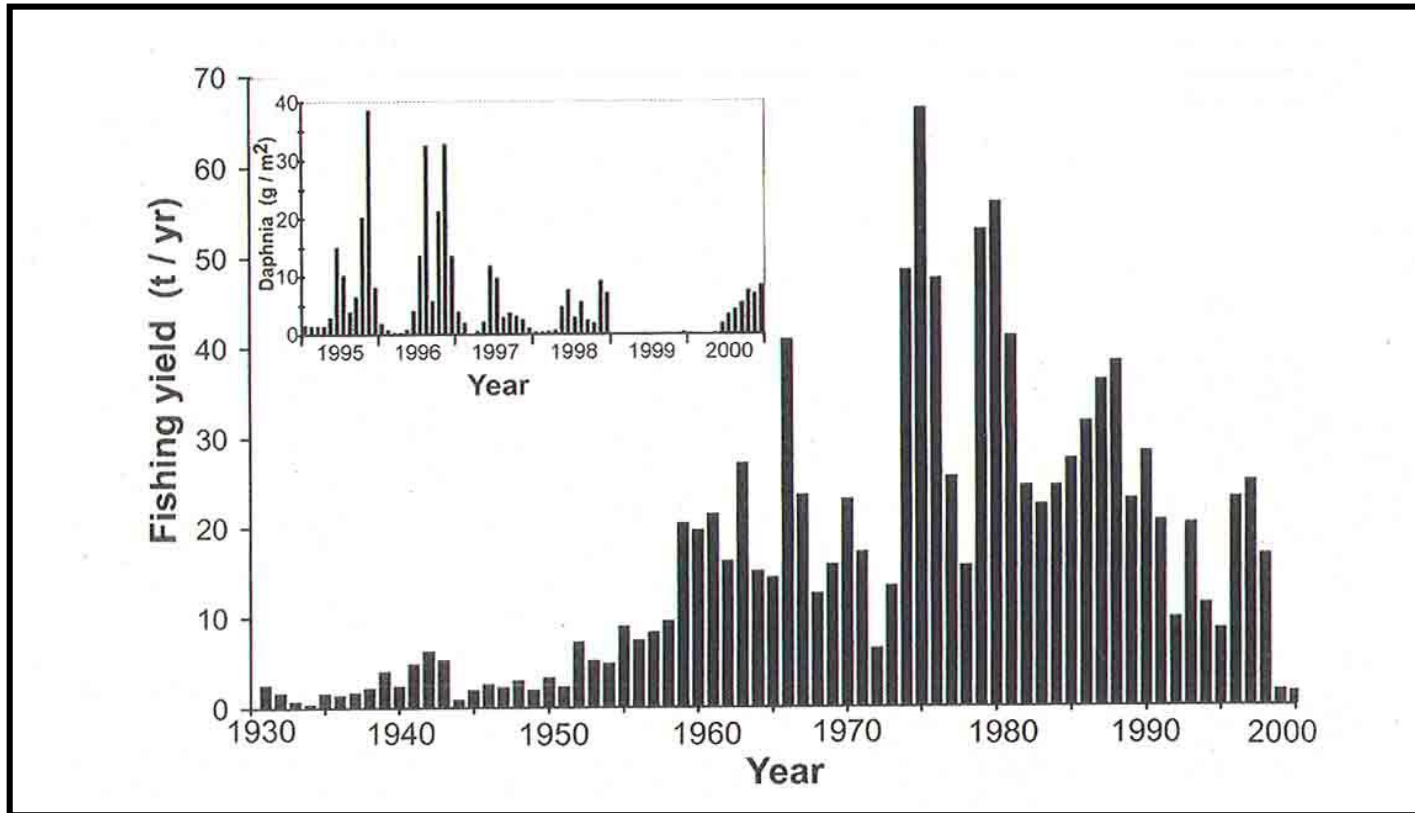
INSTITUTE OF INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY

- Red lines mark track lines from seismic surveys
- Black dots indicate coring locations

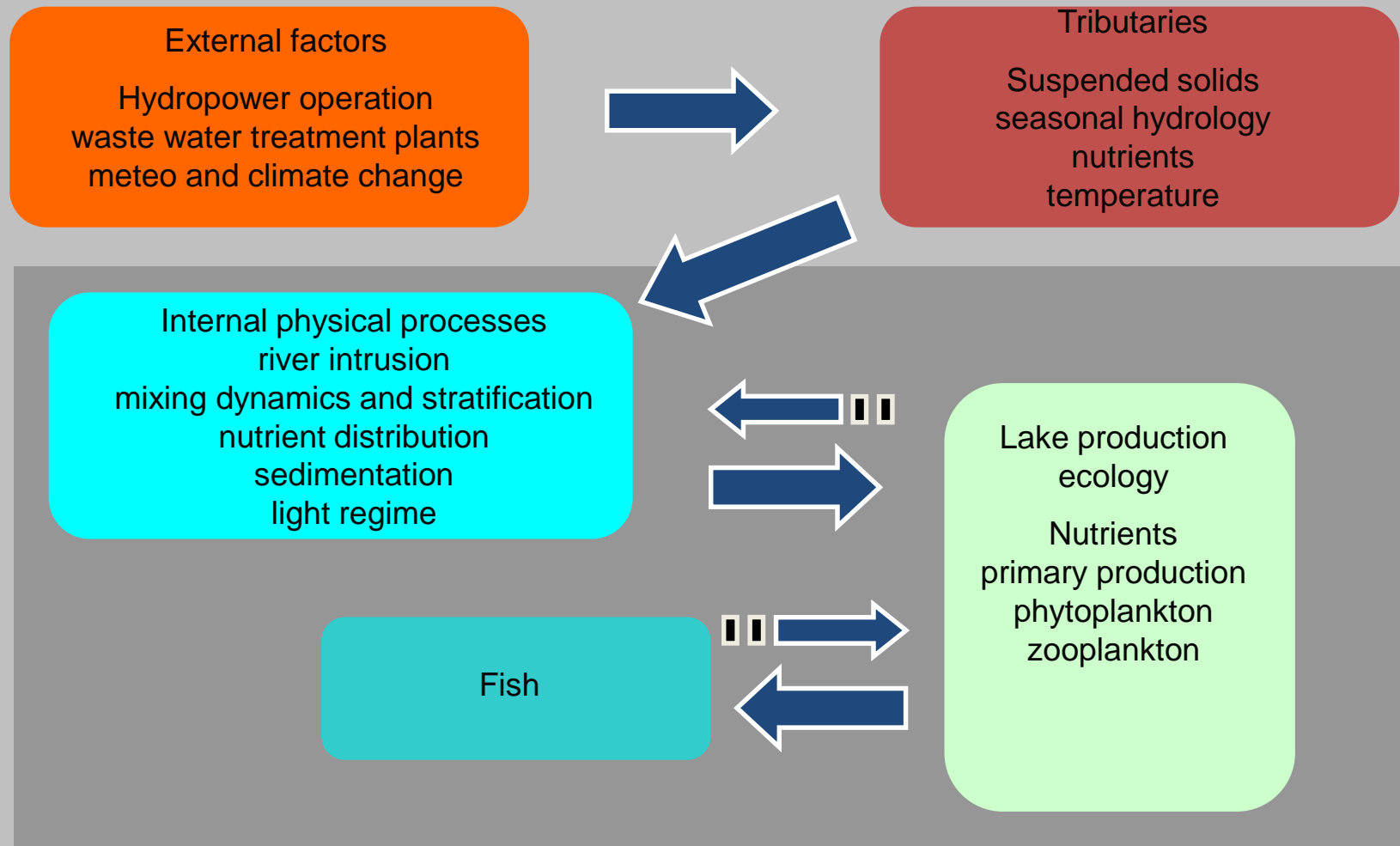


Starting point

Rapid decline of whitefish (*Coregonus* sp.)

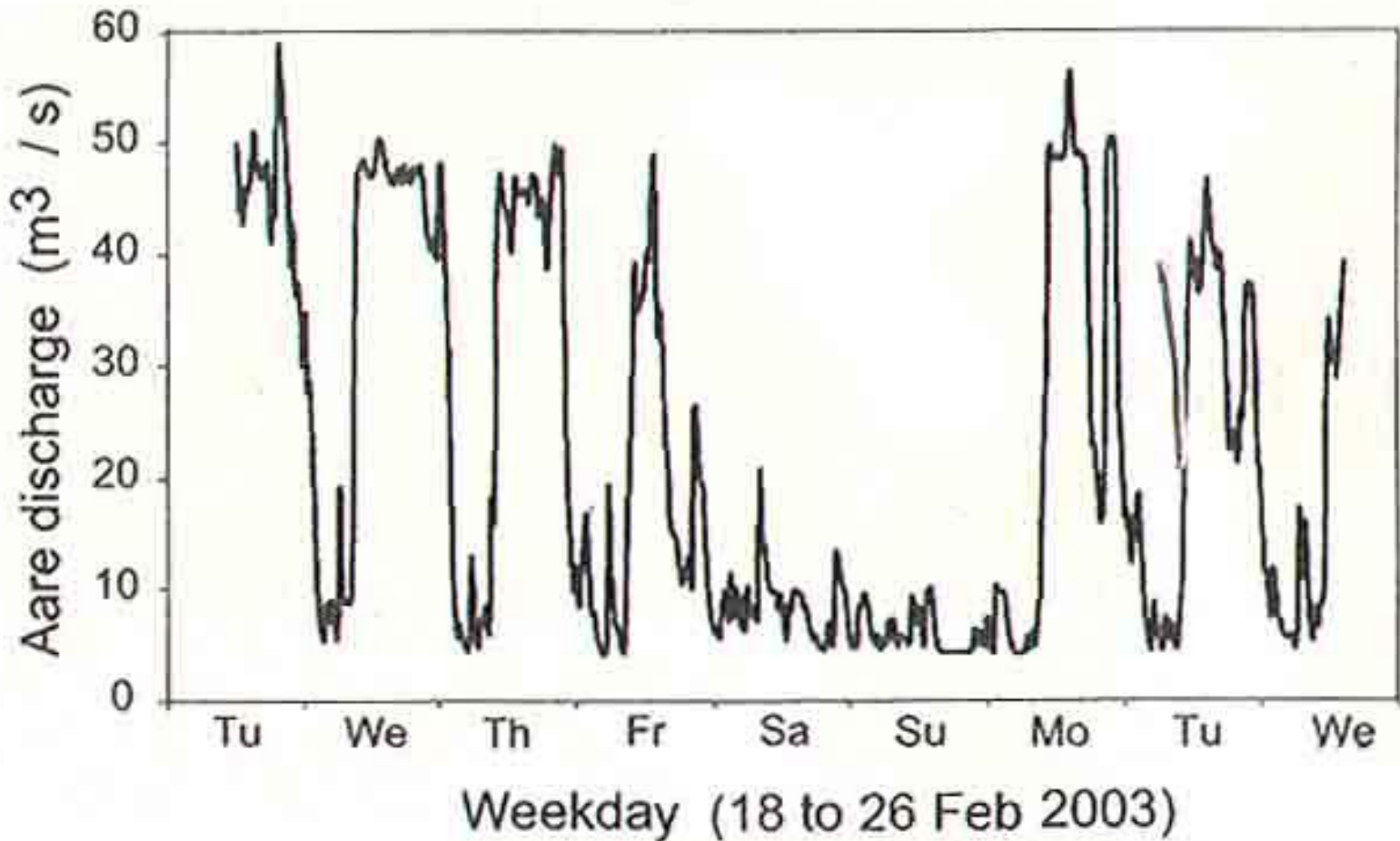


Annual whitefish (*Coregonus* sp.) catch in Lake Brienz (commercial fishery only) since 1931. The 90% drop in 1999 – was accompanied by a virtual disappearance of the *Daphnia*. Inset: Monthly wet biomass of *Daphnia* (g/m²) integrated over the top 100 m water column at the center of the lake.



Conceptual model of the factors affecting Lake Brienz's ecosystem. Arrows point in the direction of the major effects.

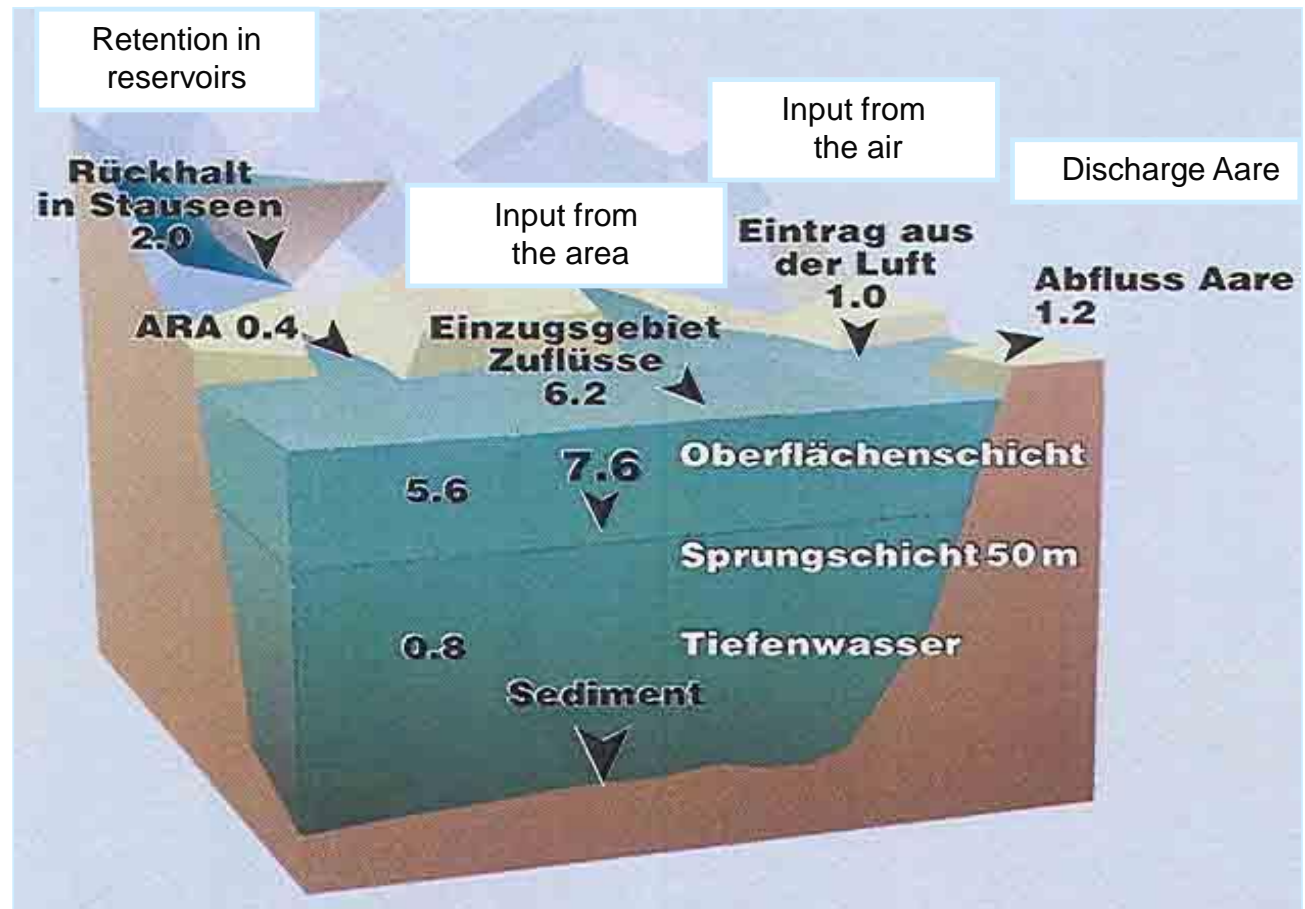
Change of daily discharge due to electricity production



99% of the waste water is treated in waste water treatment plant

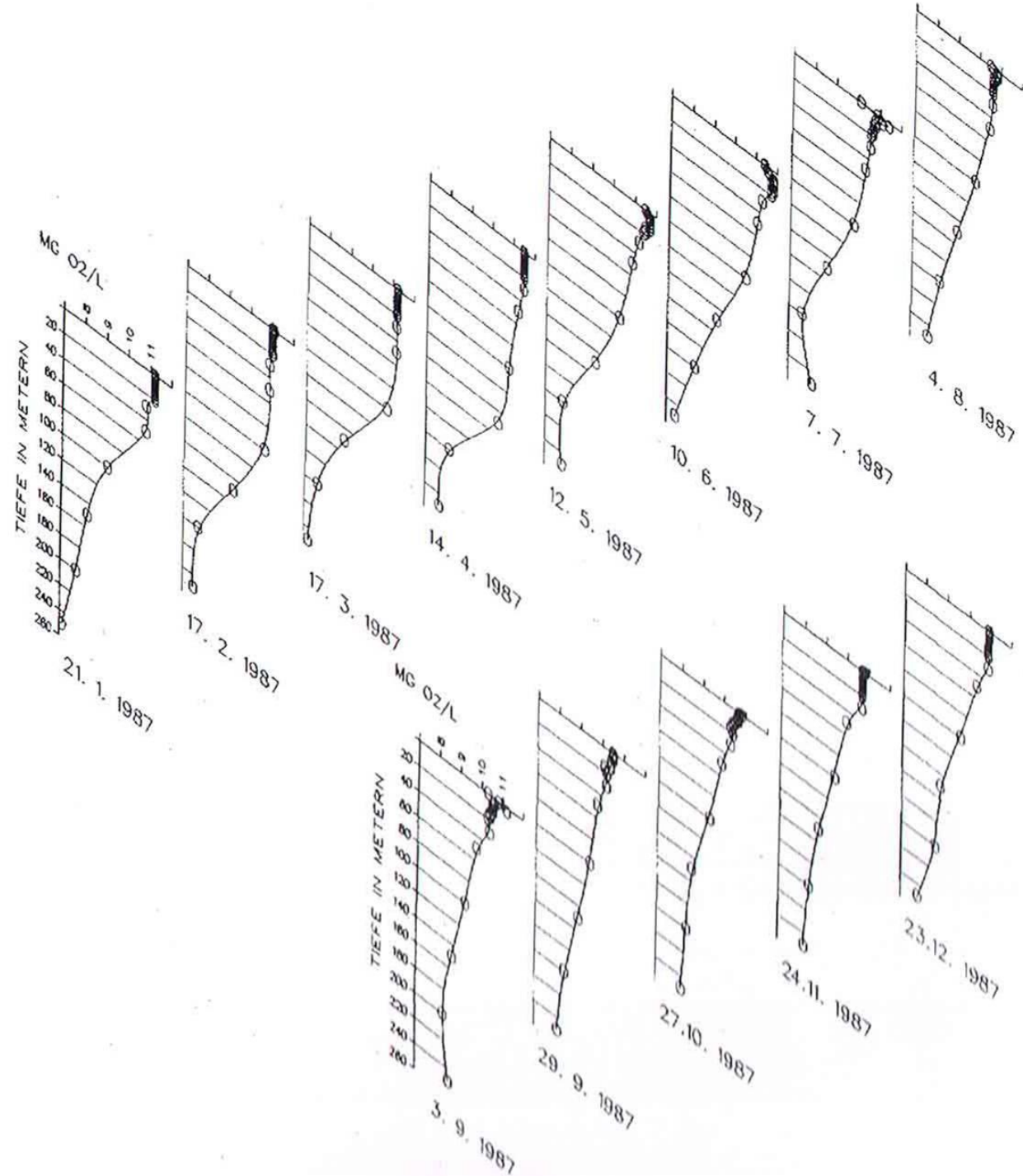


Annual balance of phosphorus input in Lake Brienz

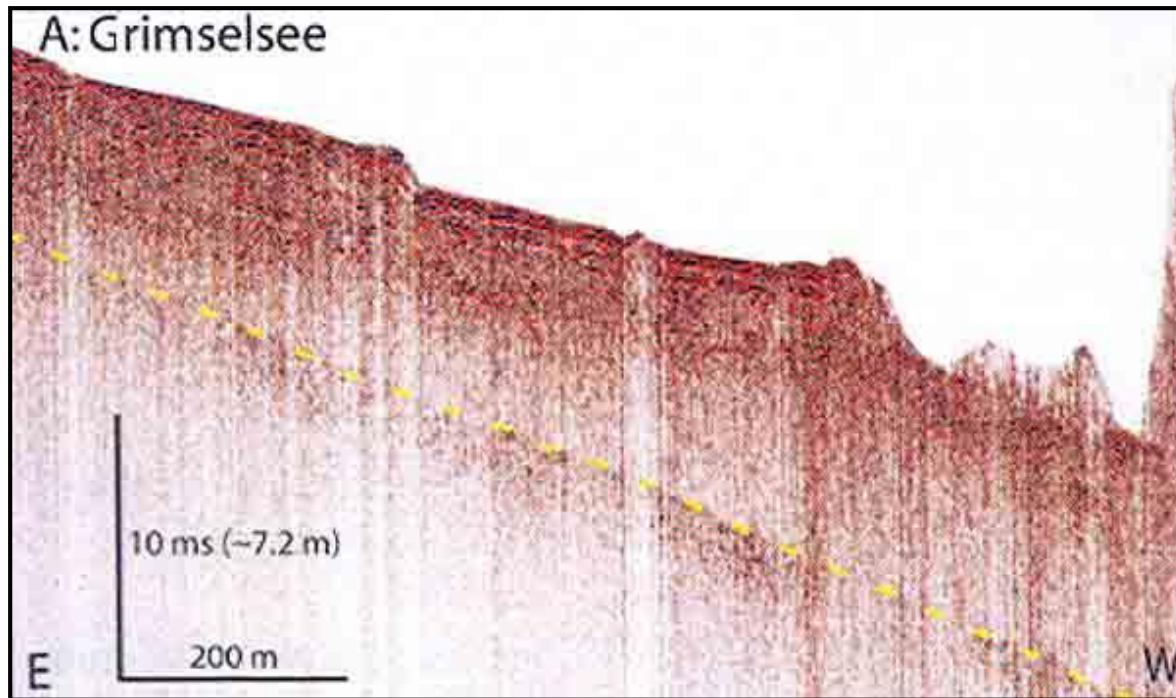


Storage of 2 tons of bio-activable phosphorus per year. 8 tons flow into the lake, deposited in the lake sediments after the death of the algae

Oxygen content of Lake Brienz



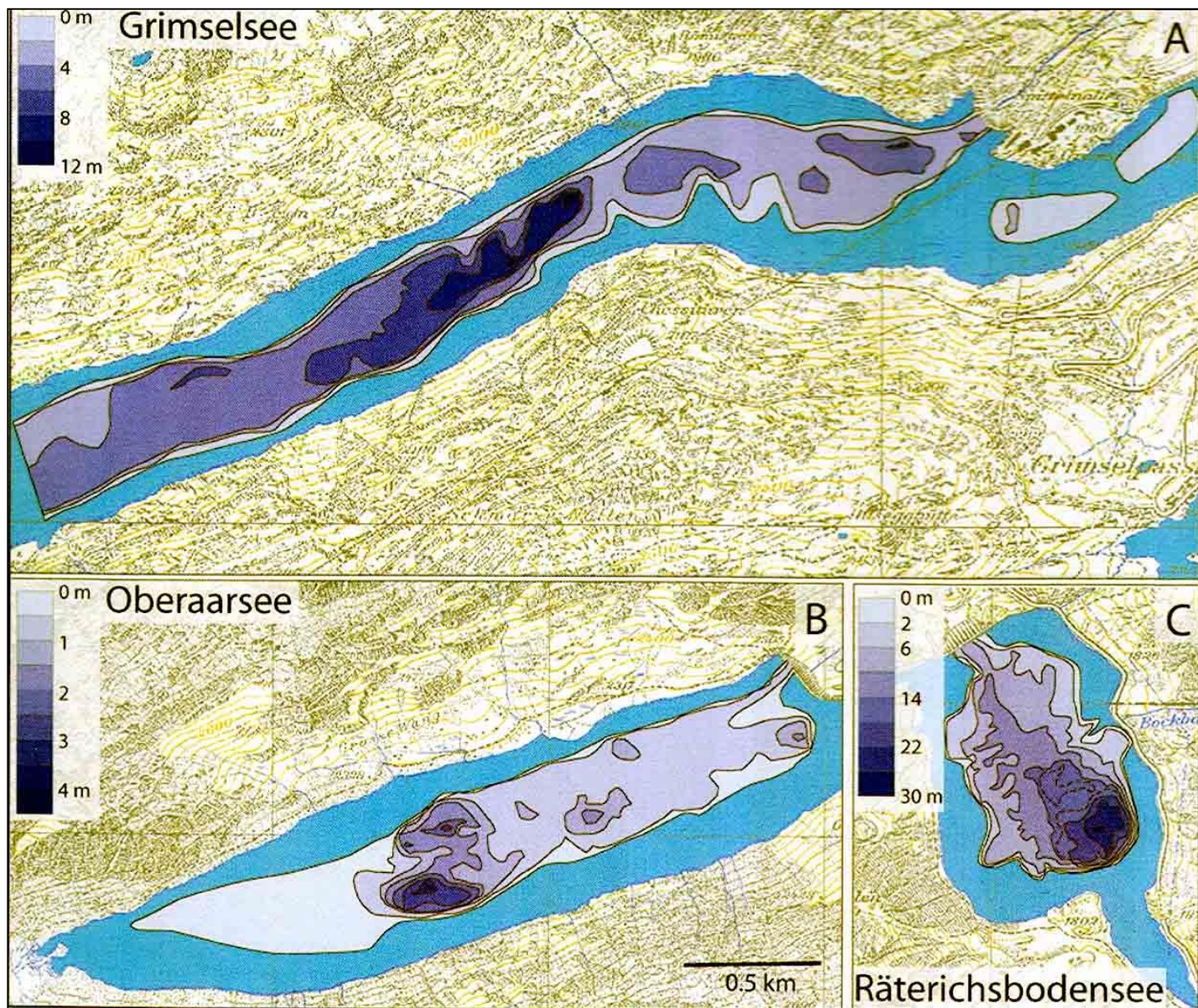
Seismic investigation in the upstream reservoirs



Erosion rate: 0.94 mm/y

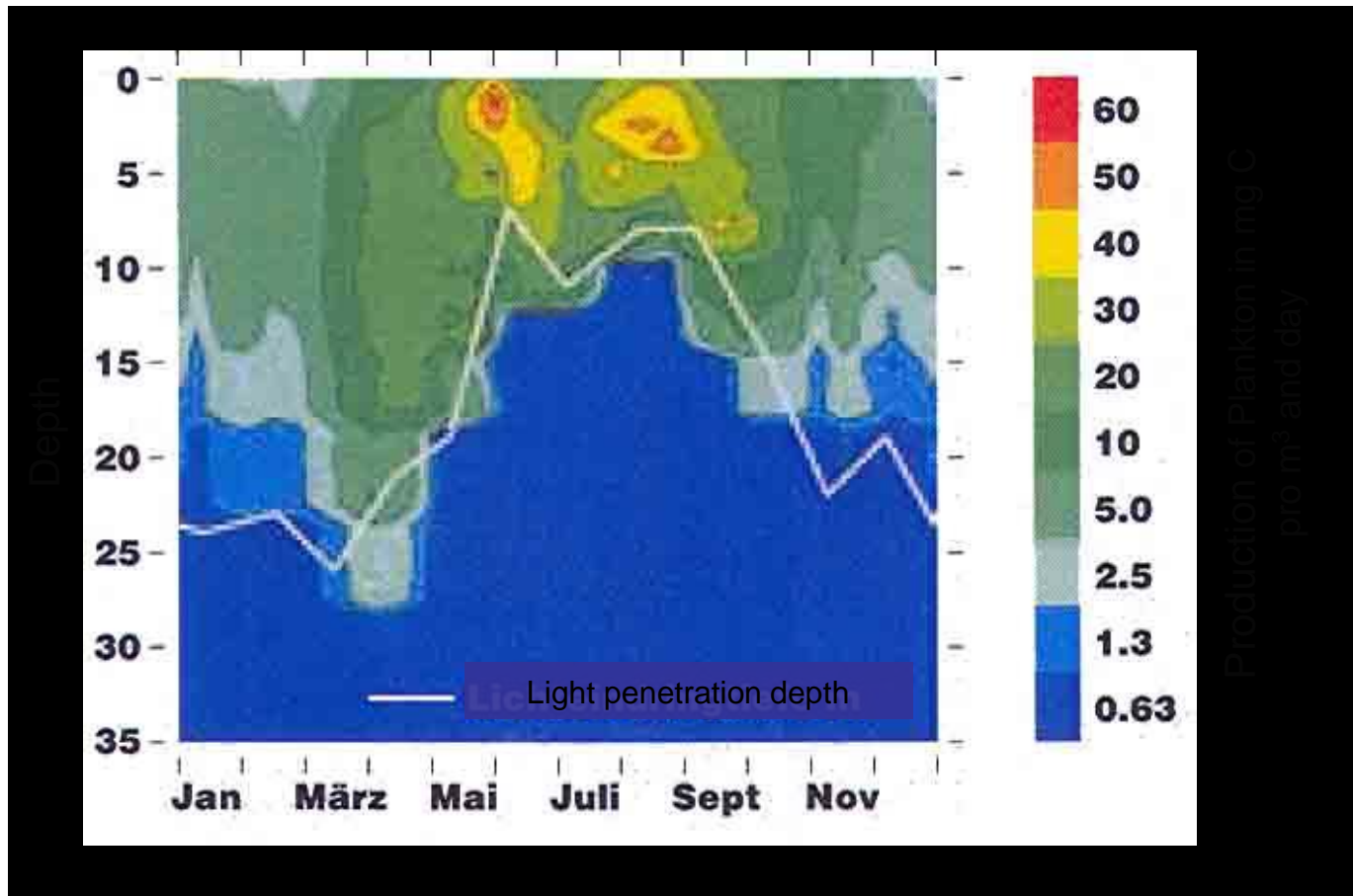
Sediment and erosion budgets of Grimsel area. Infilling times are calculated under the assumption of constant sedimentation

	Sediment volumes (10^3 m^3)	Infilling times (yr)	Eroded bedrock-volumes (10^3 m^3)	Solid particle mass (kt)
Oberaarsee (49 yr)	934	2990	607	1579
Grimsensee (71 yr)	5300	1270	3445	8957
Räterichsbodensee (50 yr)	3584	350	2294	5965
All three lakes (71 yr)	9818		6346	16,501
retained in reservoirs per year (71 yr)	138		89	232
Annual suspension in Aare			15	39
Total annual input from catchment			104	271



230 000 t/y of glacial till retained in the reservoirs. Only fine particles (<5 to 20 μ m) arrive in Lake Brienz

Dependency of plankton production to light



Summer: warm temperature and intensive sunshine result in a maximal production of algae (orange/yellow).

High discharges with a lot of suspended sediments rattle the water resulting in a limitation of plankton growth to the uppermost meters.

Conclusions

- Daphnia population size has been decreasing in the 90ties as a result of phytoplankton density
- There was a collapse of Daphnia population in 1999 resulted from a combination of
 - flood-induced higher washout rate
 - lower temperatures
- It was found that due to climate variability already around 1955 we have had a period with similar productivity as today.
- As a result of Lack of Daphnia in 1999, the whitefish apparently starved and did not grow. They were too small and too slim to be caught by the gillnets used.
- The particle concentration in the lake did not have a negative effect on the fitness of Daphnia

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E. Gertsch, Chr. Lehmann, M. Spreafico

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Several Swiss Institutions

Aquatic Sciences 69 (2007), p 179 – 198

EAWAG, Dübendorf, Switzerland