

"All In: Nutrients Exported from the Maumee River Watershed Drive Harmful Algal Blooms in Lake Erie"



Douglas D. Kane
Defiance College

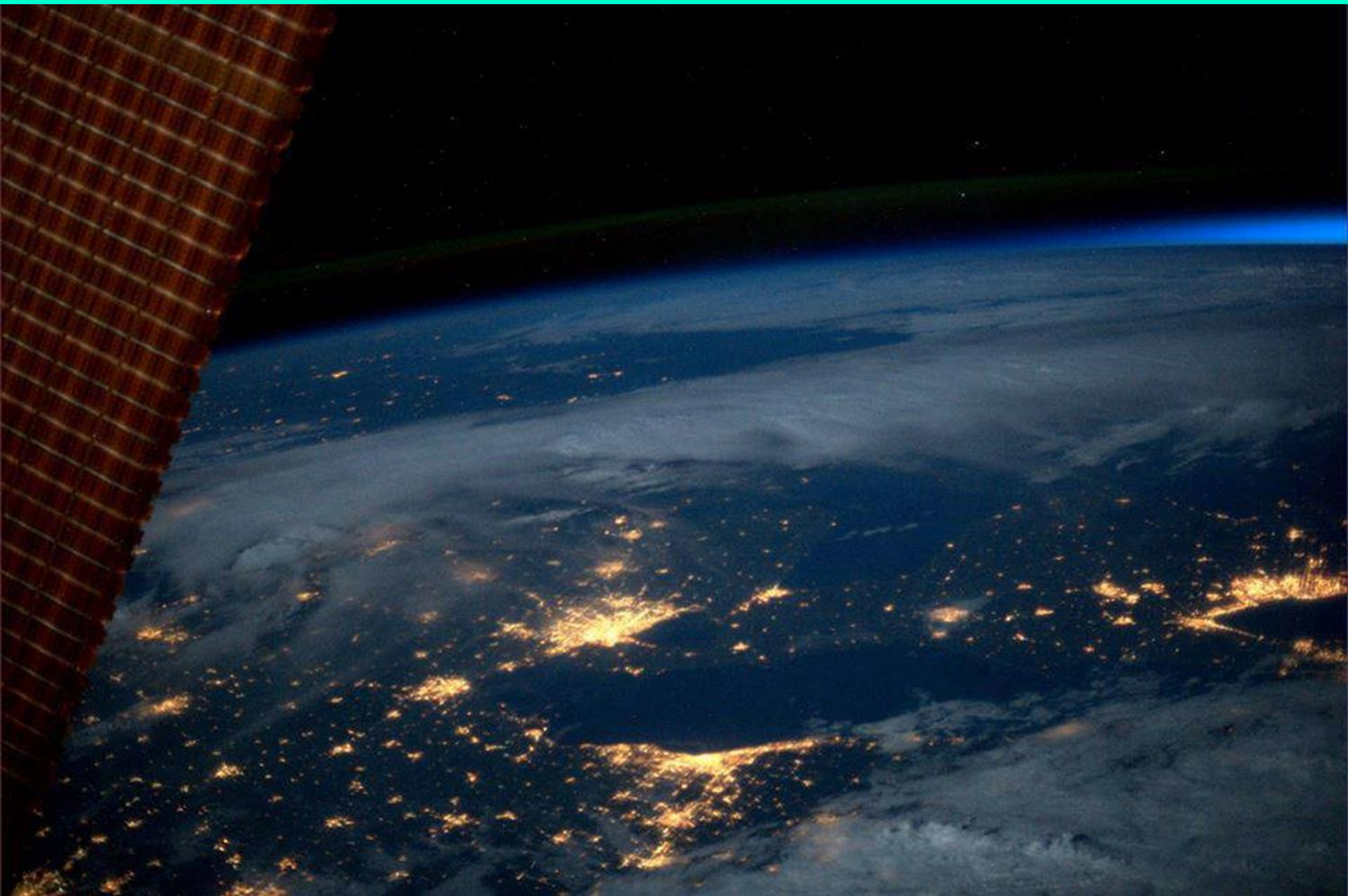


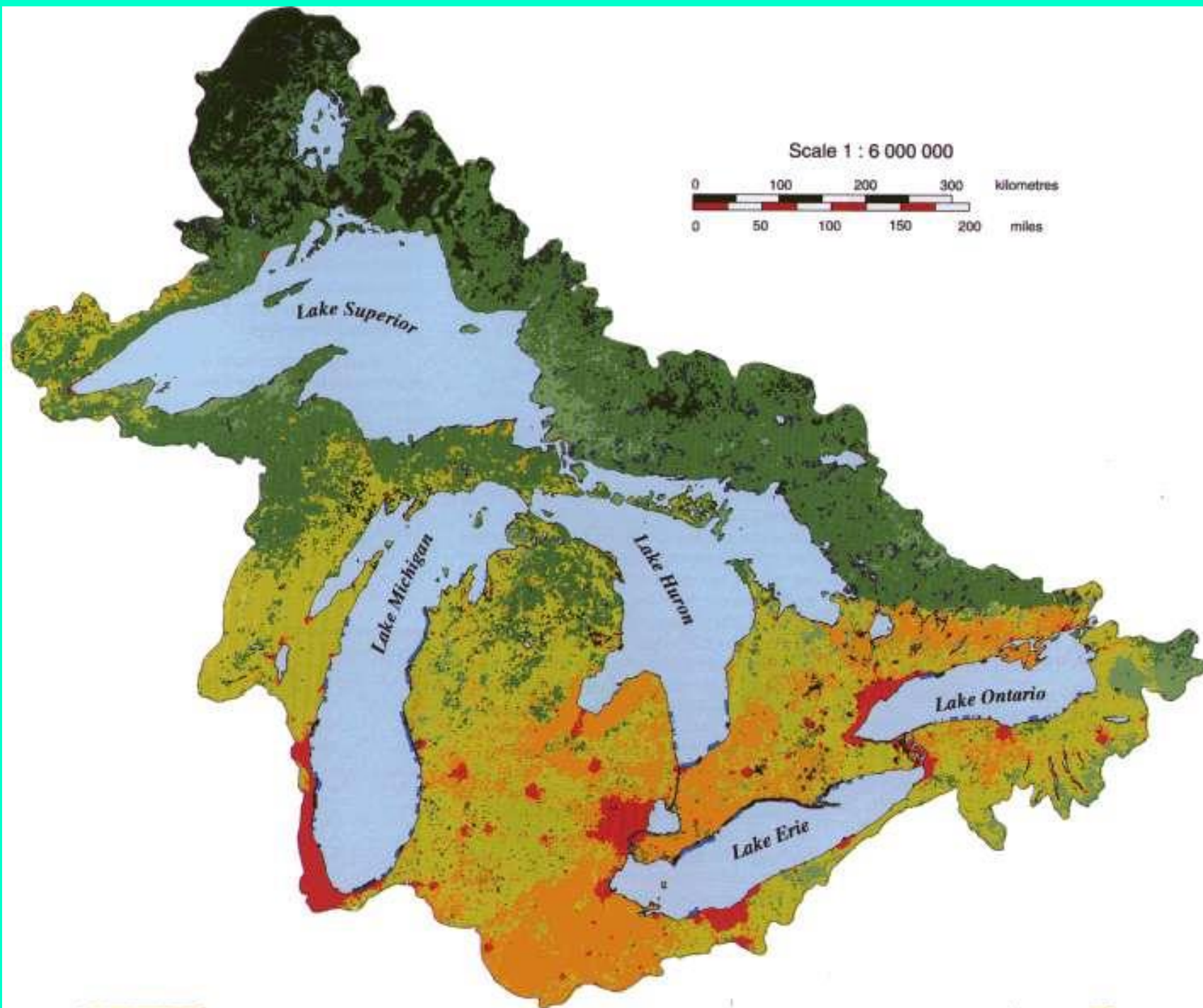
Toxic-algae warnings

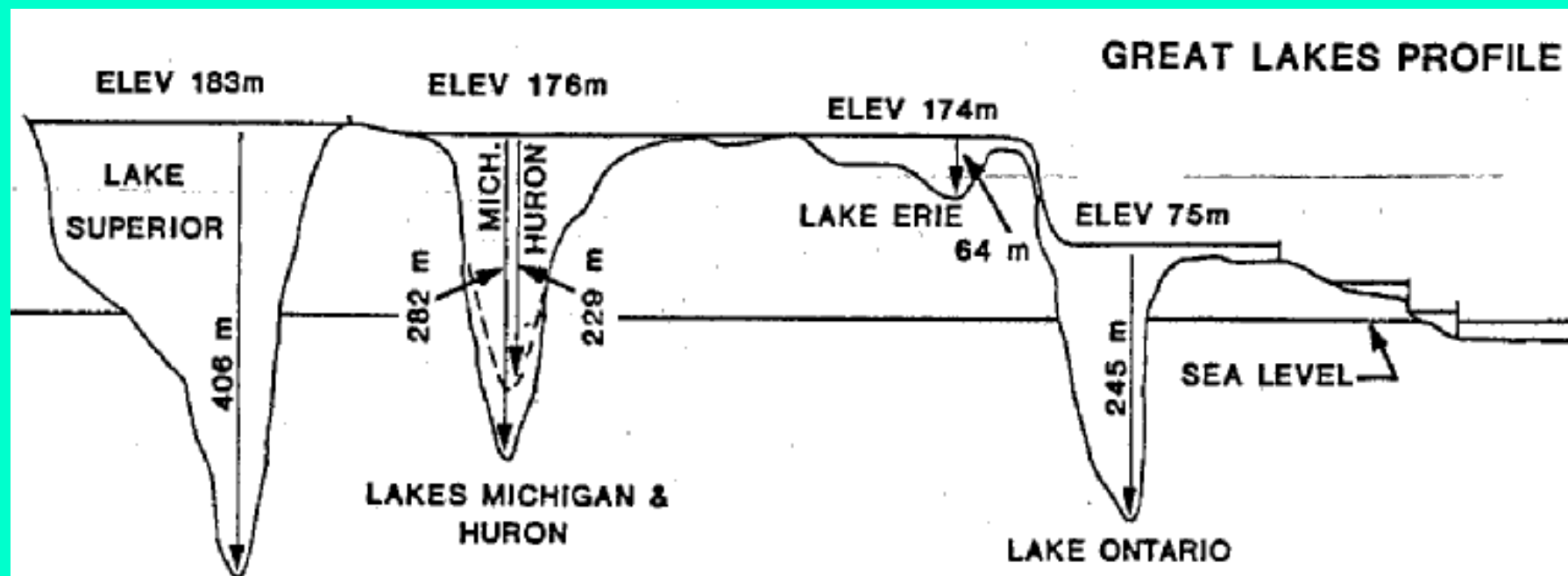


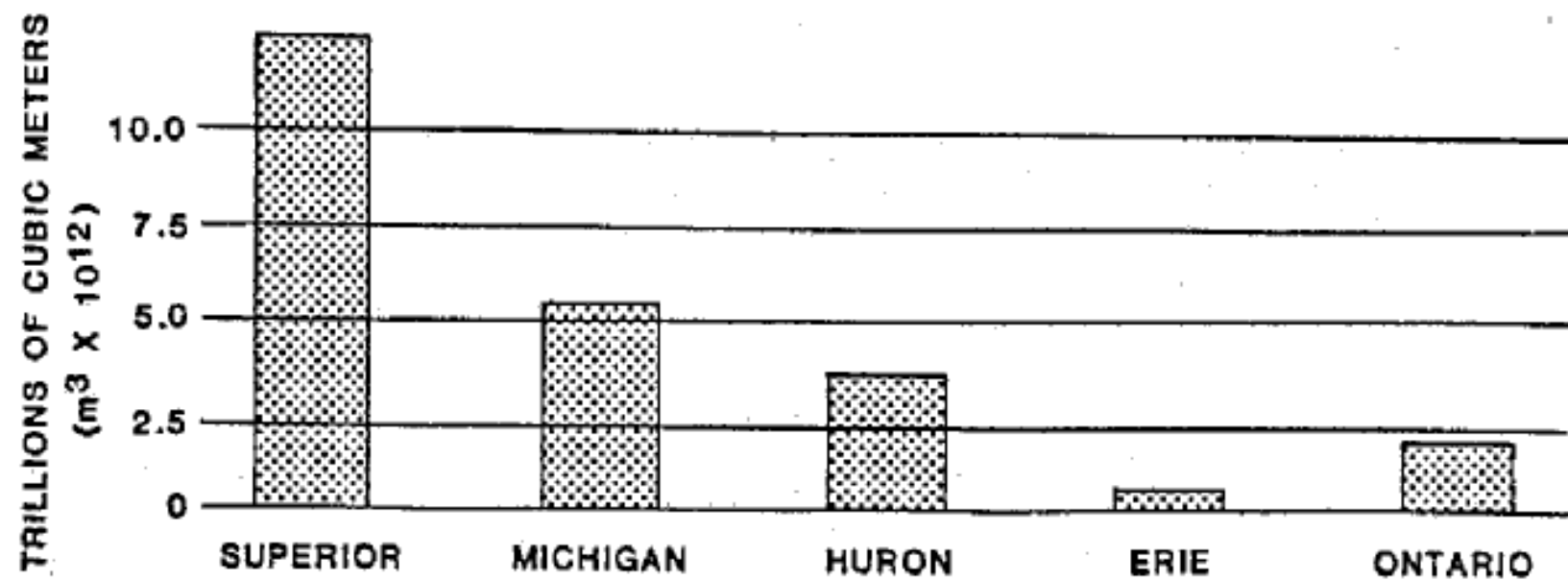
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH











GREAT LAKES STORAGE (WATER)

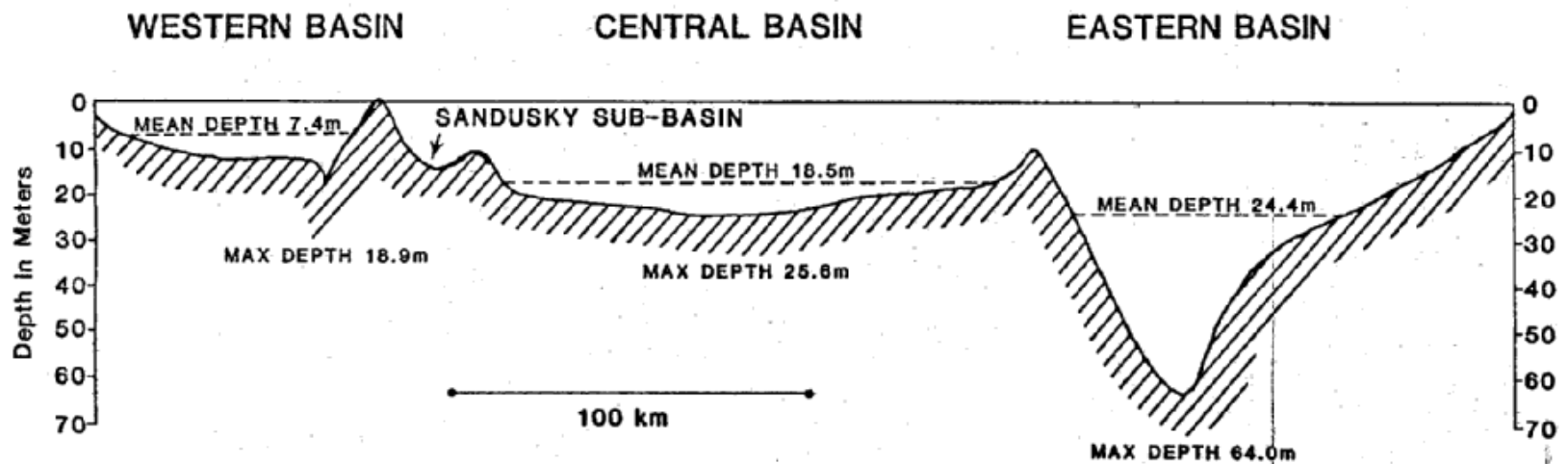
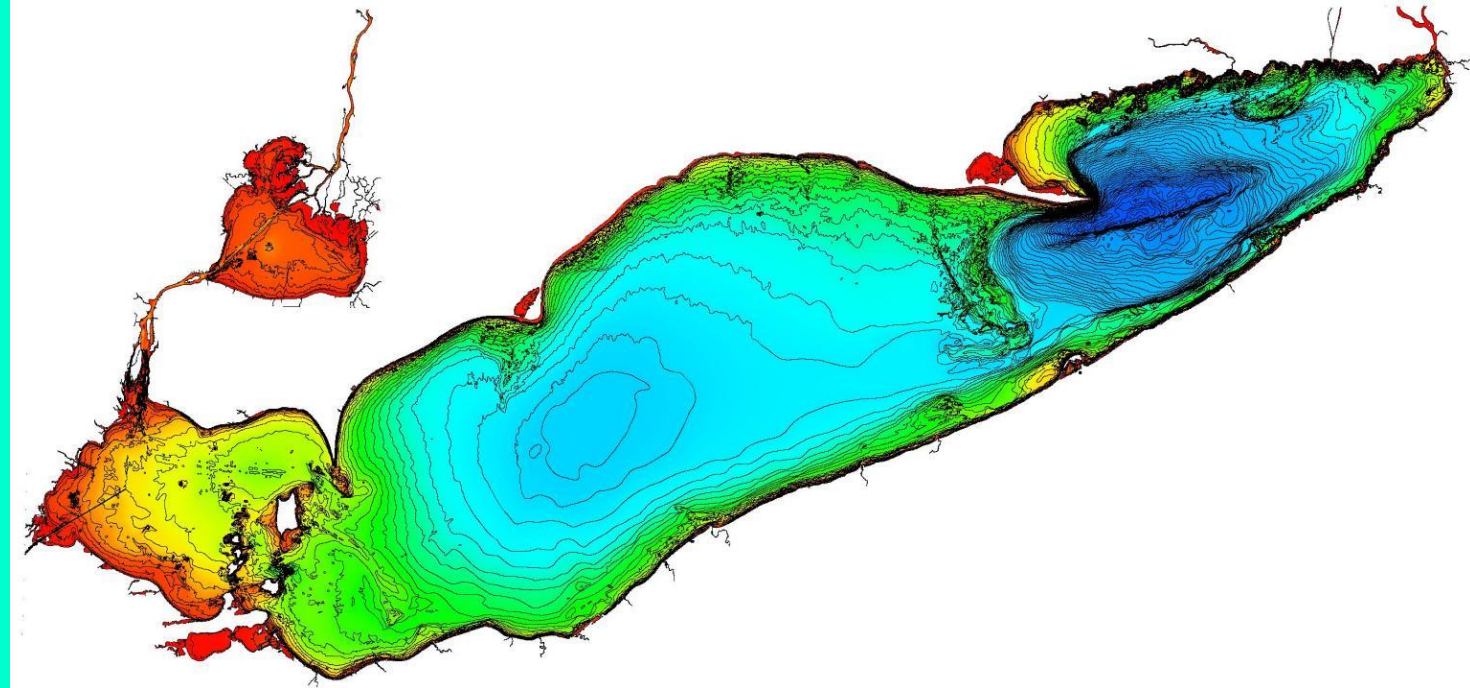


Figure 6. Bathymetric cross-section of the Lake Erie Basin.

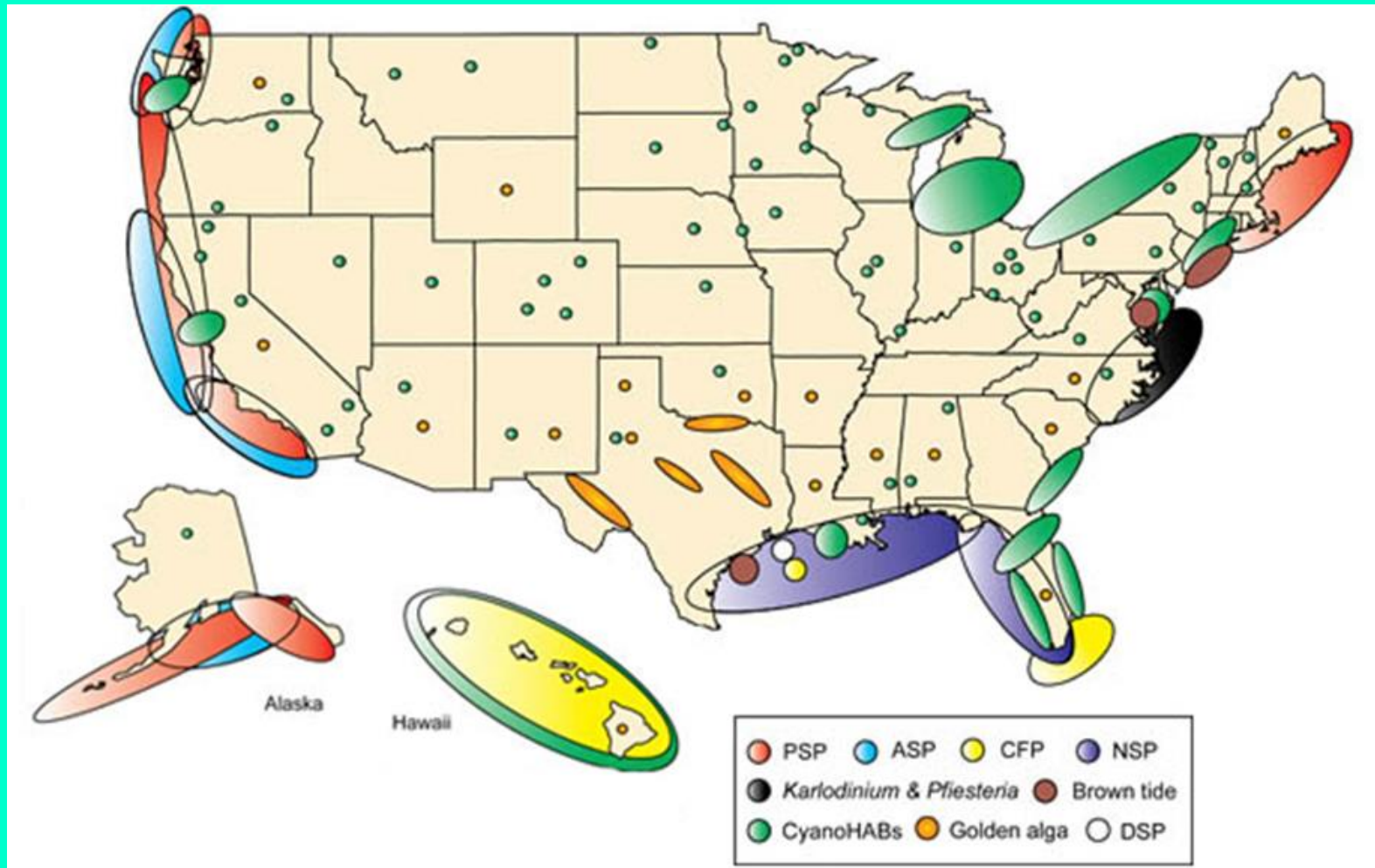
"What is the problem?"



Douglas D. Kane
Defiance College



Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in the U.S.A.



Microcystin levels

WB > 1000 ppb

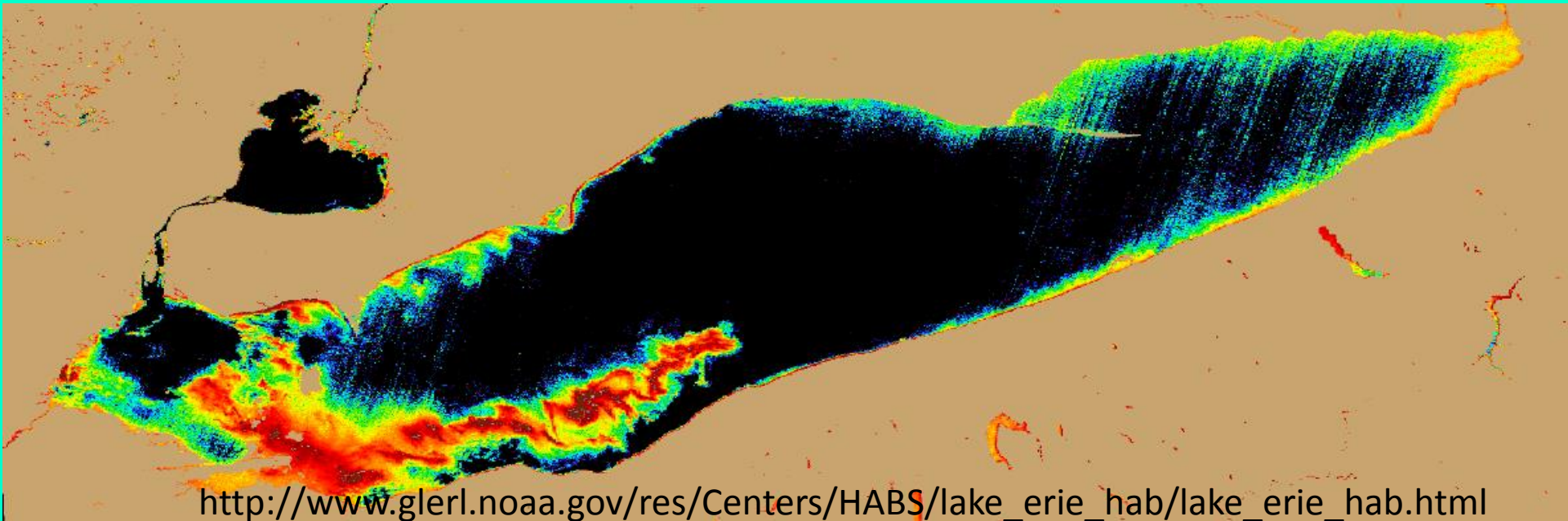
CB > 100 ppb

State of Ohio

Do Not Drink 1-20 ppb

Do Not Use >20 ppb

**Recreational Contact
Advisory Levels- 6 ppb**



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Published: 9/7/2013 - Updated: 1 day ago

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Toxins overwhelm Carroll Township water plant

Ottawa Co. treatment facility offline while remedy made

BY TOM HENRY
BLADE STAFF WRITER

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OAK HARBOR, Ohio — The chief toxin produced by western Lake Erie's 2013 algae bloom spiked at such extreme levels along the Ottawa County shoreline this week that it knocked the water-treatment plant serving 2,000 Carroll Township residents offline.

Poisonous microcystin, the toxin in Lake Erie's most prevalent harmful blue-green algae, microcystis, was found at levels of 3.56 parts per billion in samples drawn from the Carroll Township facility, Heidi Griesmer, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency spokesman, said Friday.

That's 3.5 times higher than the 1.0 parts per billion threshold for drinking water established by the World Health Organization.

The discovery was a fluke: The Ohio EPA does not require Ohio's shoreline communities to test for microcystin, even though western Lake Erie has been coated by scum almost annually for weeks at a time since 1995.

Most area water-treatment plants test for microcystin voluntarily, though, Ms. Griesmer said.

In the case of Carroll Township, one of the region's smaller treatment facilities, tests have been done only weekly.

"We don't require them to sample at all," Ms. Griesmer said. "We're happy they're sampling weekly."

But Henry Biggart, Carroll Township water-plant superintendent, said he immediately sought approval from township trustees for more frequent testing.

Related stories

- Carroll Twp. warns against drinking water
- 2011 algae mess was a wakeup call
- Animal waste control would aid Lake Erie
- Kasich to speak at bicentennial
- U.S. EPA chief is asked to visit Clyde

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Bob Vincent and Gerry Wicks- BGSU



October 2011

NASA

What is Eutrophication?

- Natural aging of lakes
- Lake becomes richer in nutrient concentrations
- Physical, chemical, and biological consequences
- **Cultural Eutrophication-** caused by human activities



"Why do we have this problem?"



Douglas D. Kane
Defiance College



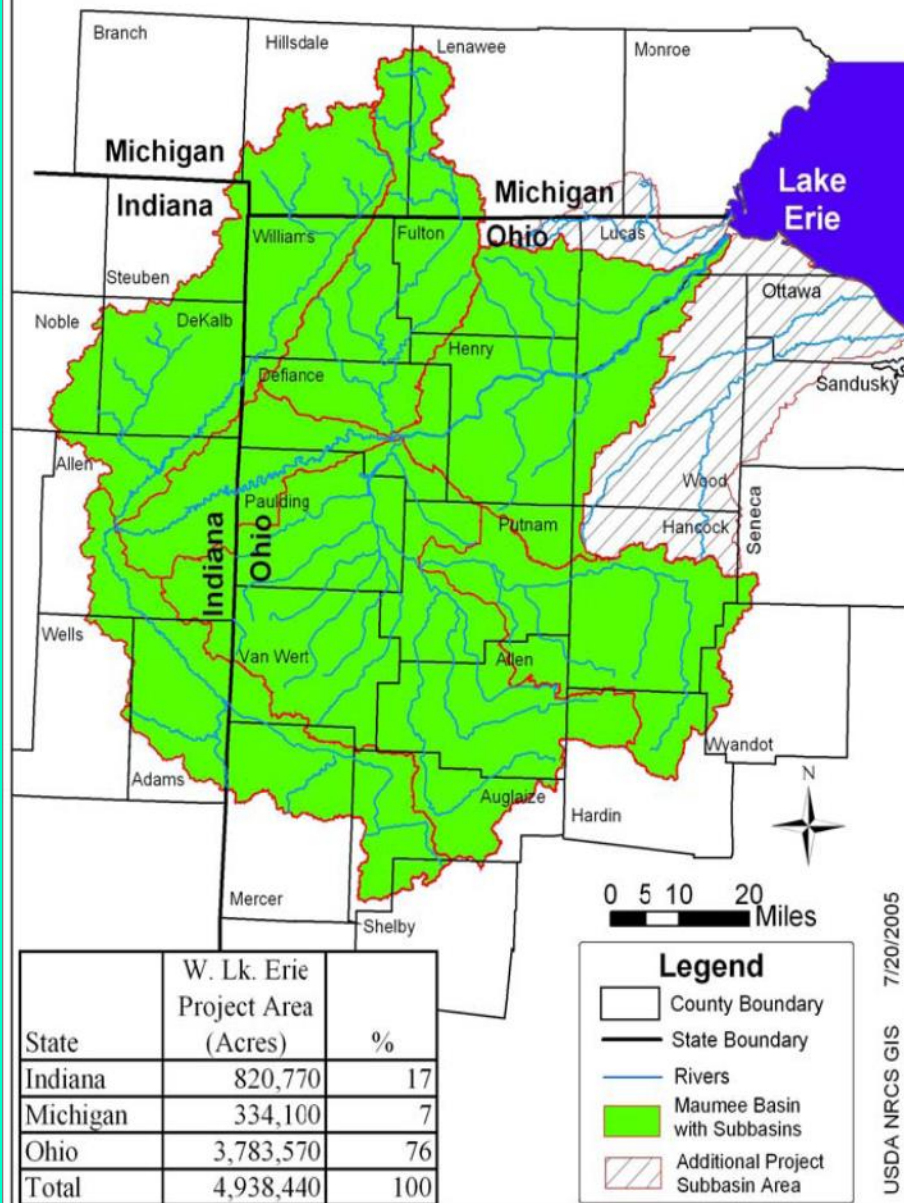
Toxic-algae warnings

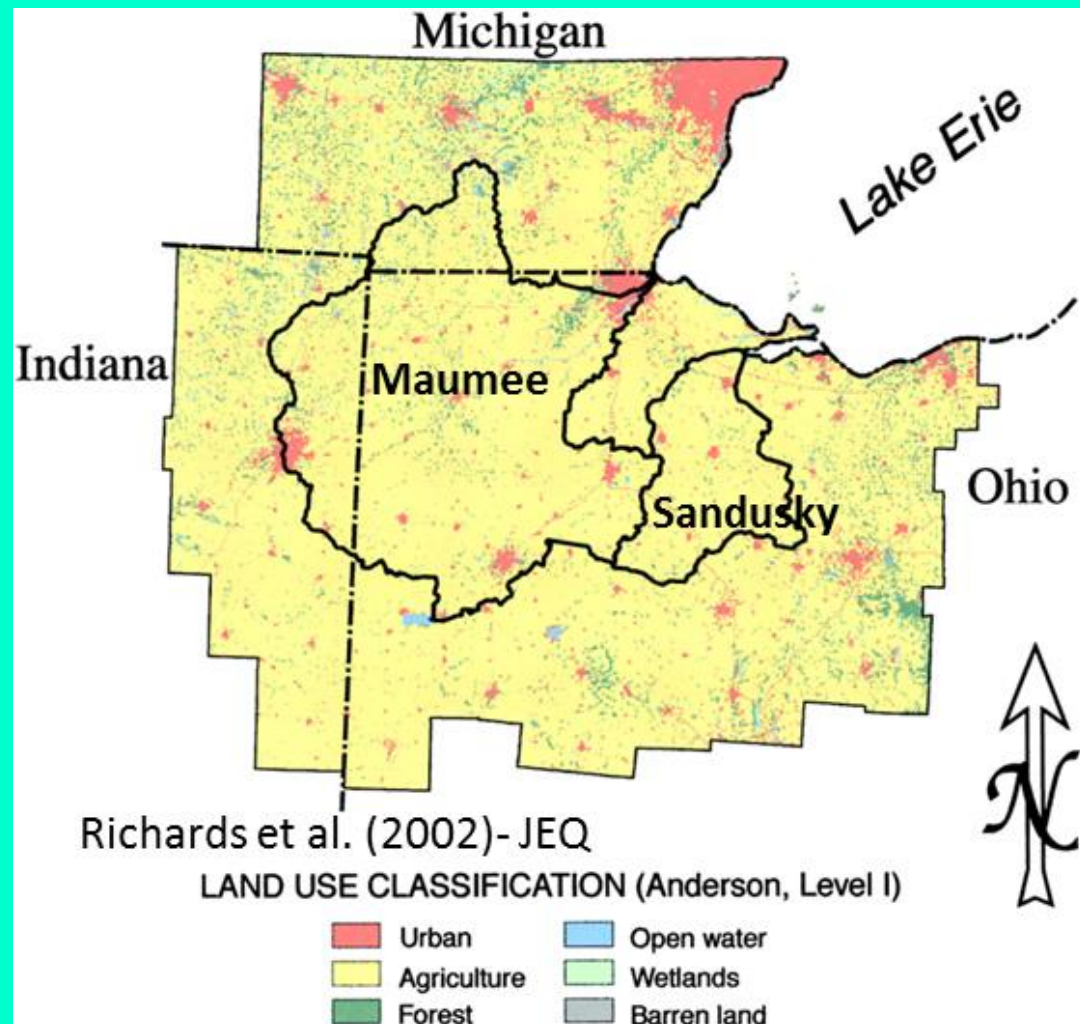


THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH



Western Lake Erie Basin Ohio, Indiana & Michigan







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Lake Erie nutrients: From watersheds to open water



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Re-eutrophication of Lake Erie: Correlations between tributary nutrient loads and phytoplankton biomass



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Phytoplankton Biomass Vs. Year

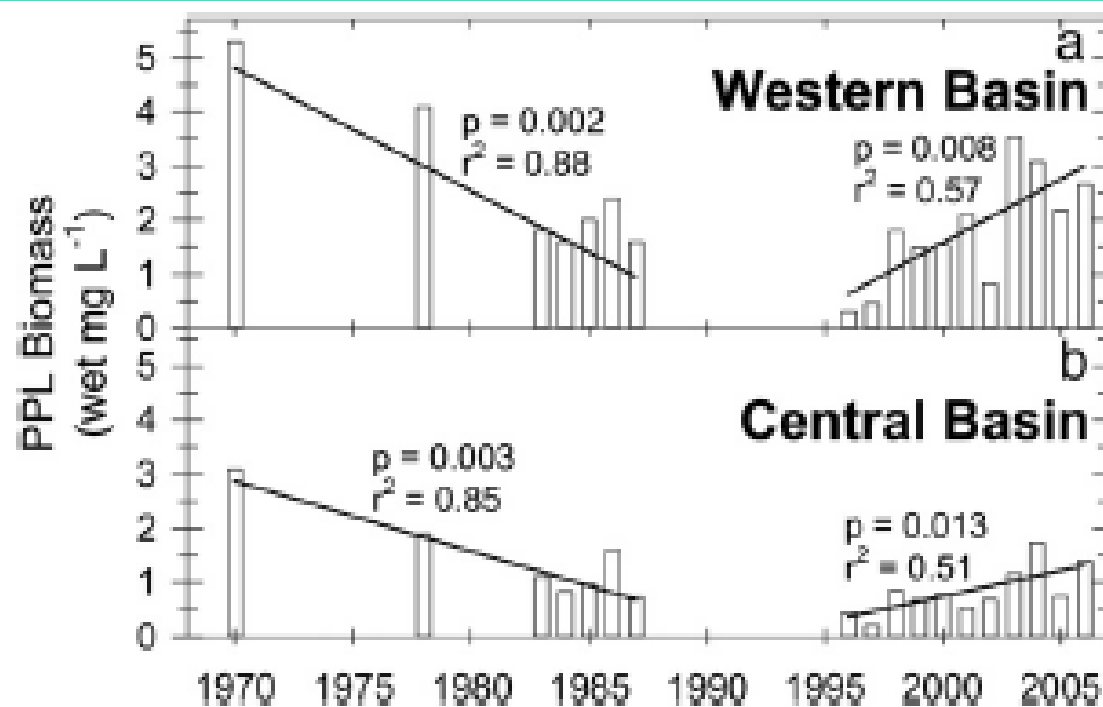
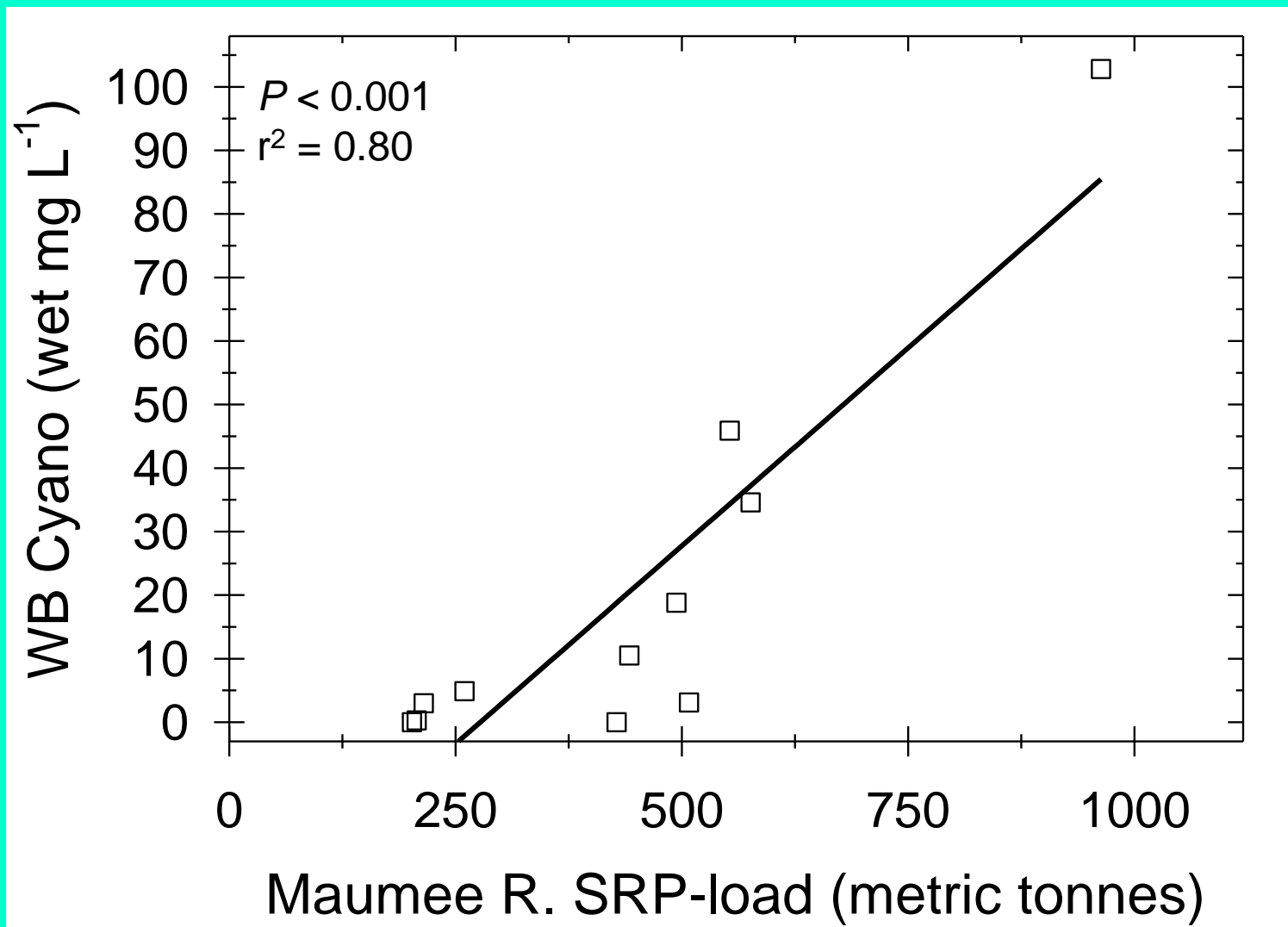


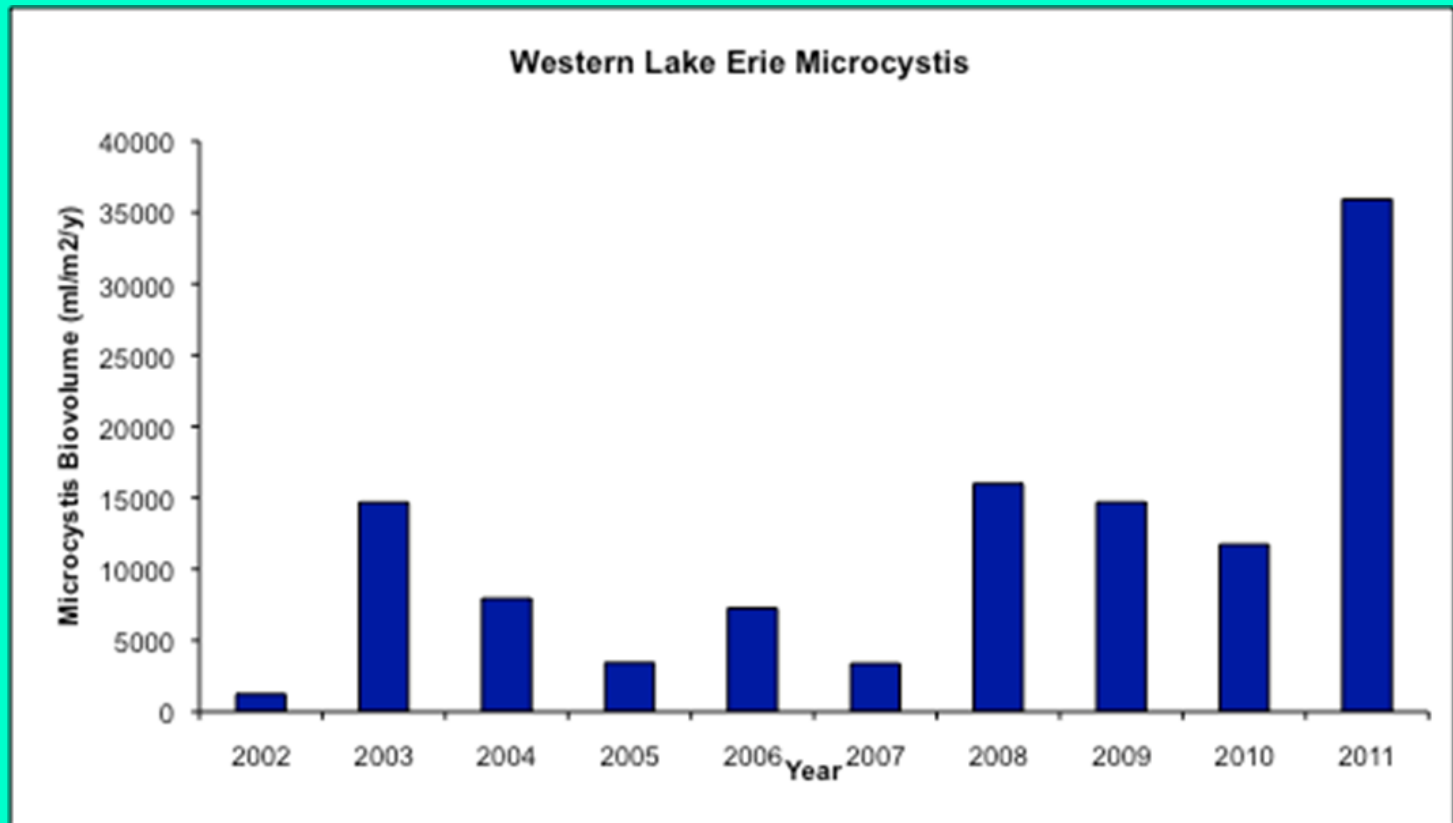
Fig. 1. Temporal changes in Lake Erie geometric mean total phytoplankton biomass (mg L^{-1}) (PPL) in the western (a) and central (b) basins during the 1970-2006 period.

Median Cyanobacterial Biomass vs. SRP Load



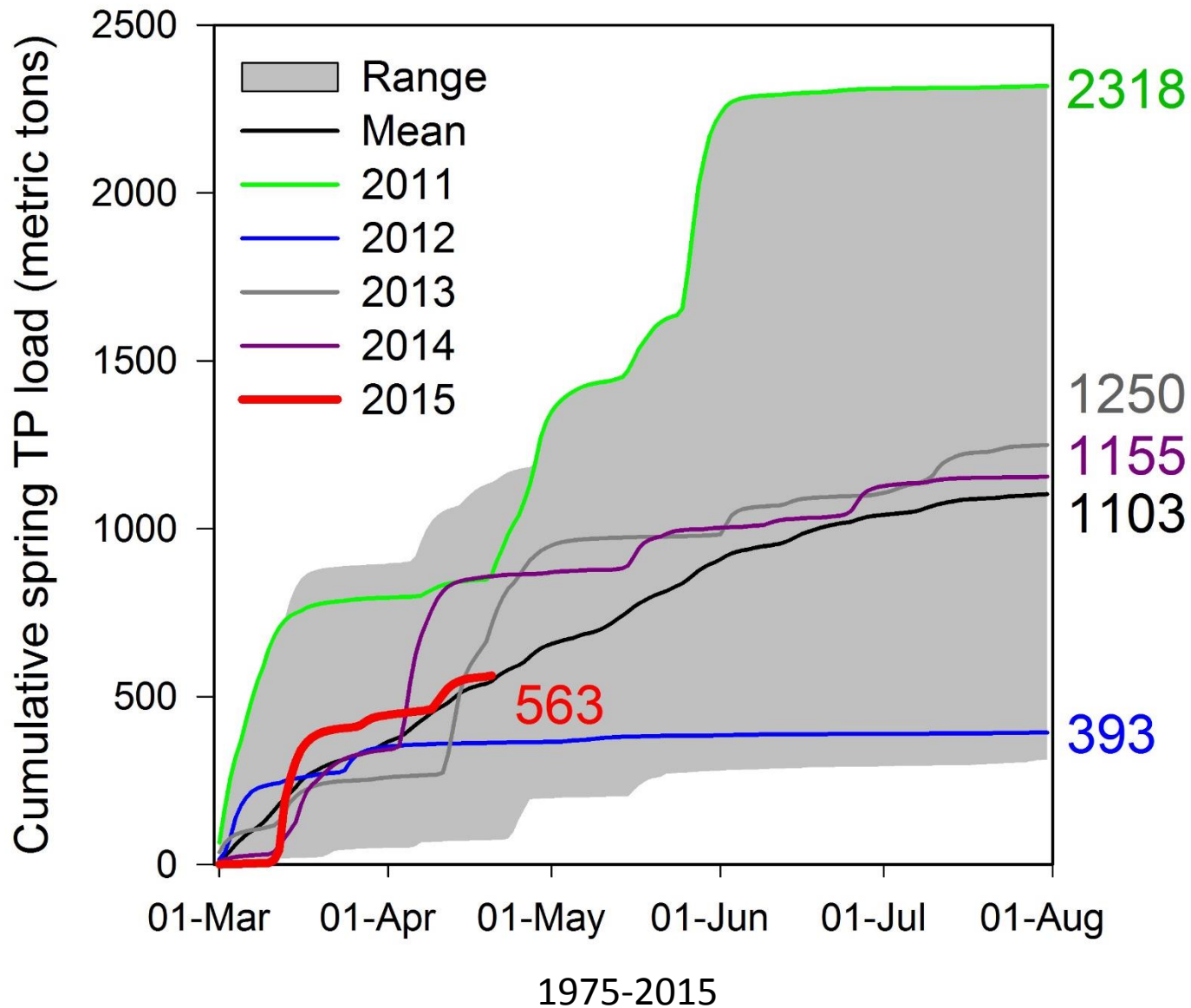
Microcystis in Lake Erie (near Maumee Bay)

- The *Microcystis* bloom of 2011 was the largest in recent years.

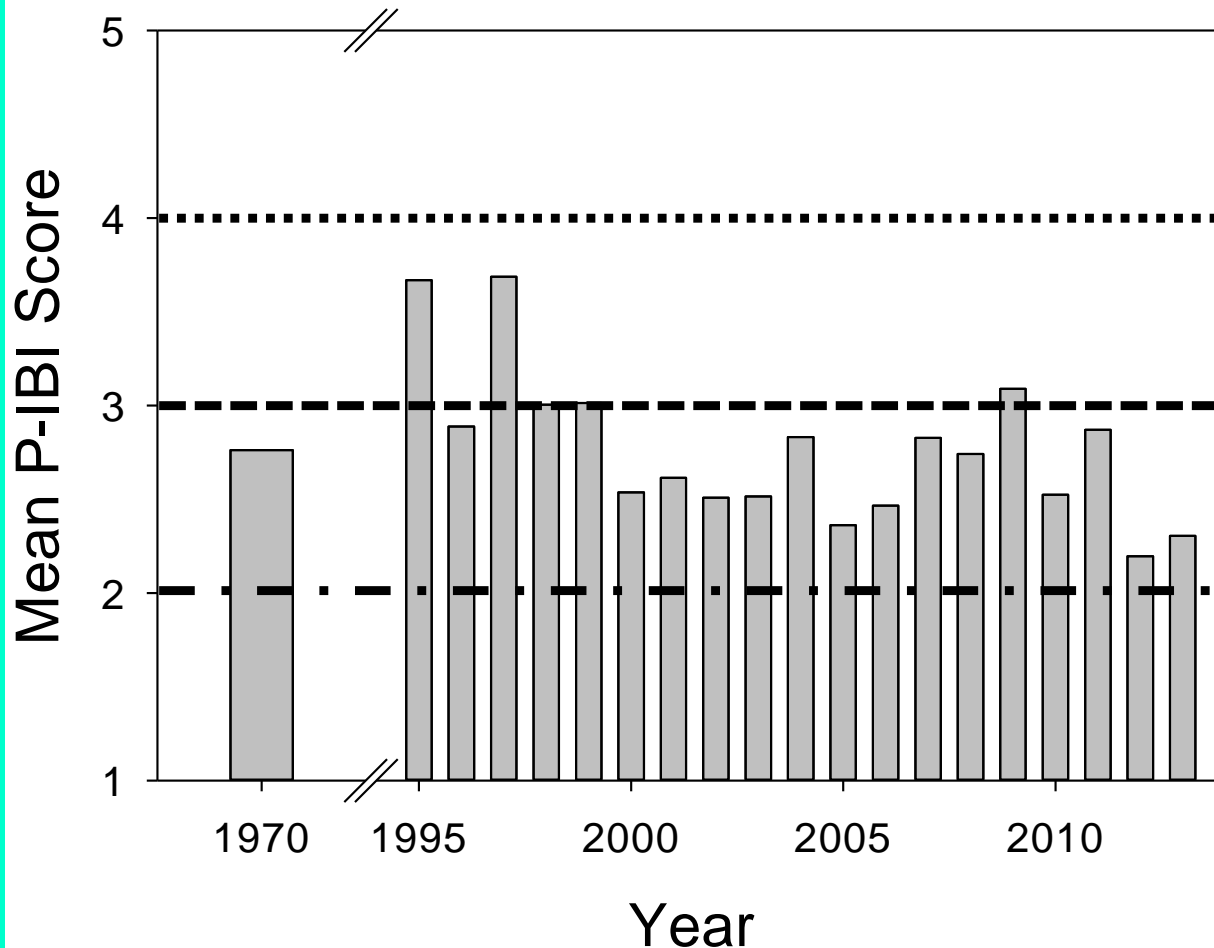


Courtesy of Dr. Tom Bridgeman- University of Toledo

Maumee River TP



WB Longterm P-IBI Scores



>4 = Excellent

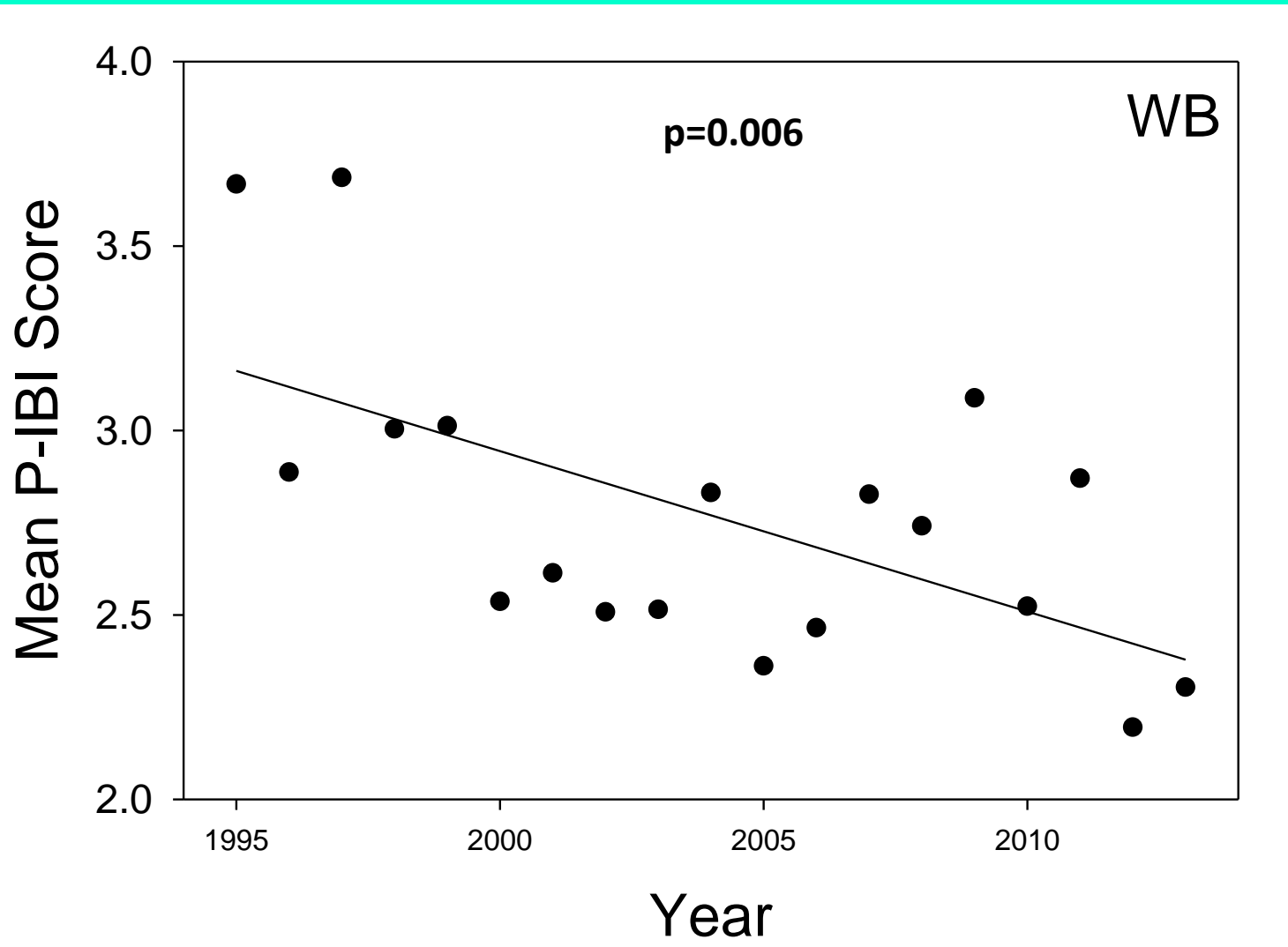
3-4 = Good

2-3 = Fair

<2 = Poor

Kane et al. In Review

WB Recent P-IBI Trends





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Lake Erie nutrients: From watersheds to open water



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Systemic, early-season *Microcystis* blooms in western Lake Erie and two of its major agricultural tributaries (Maumee and Sandusky rivers)

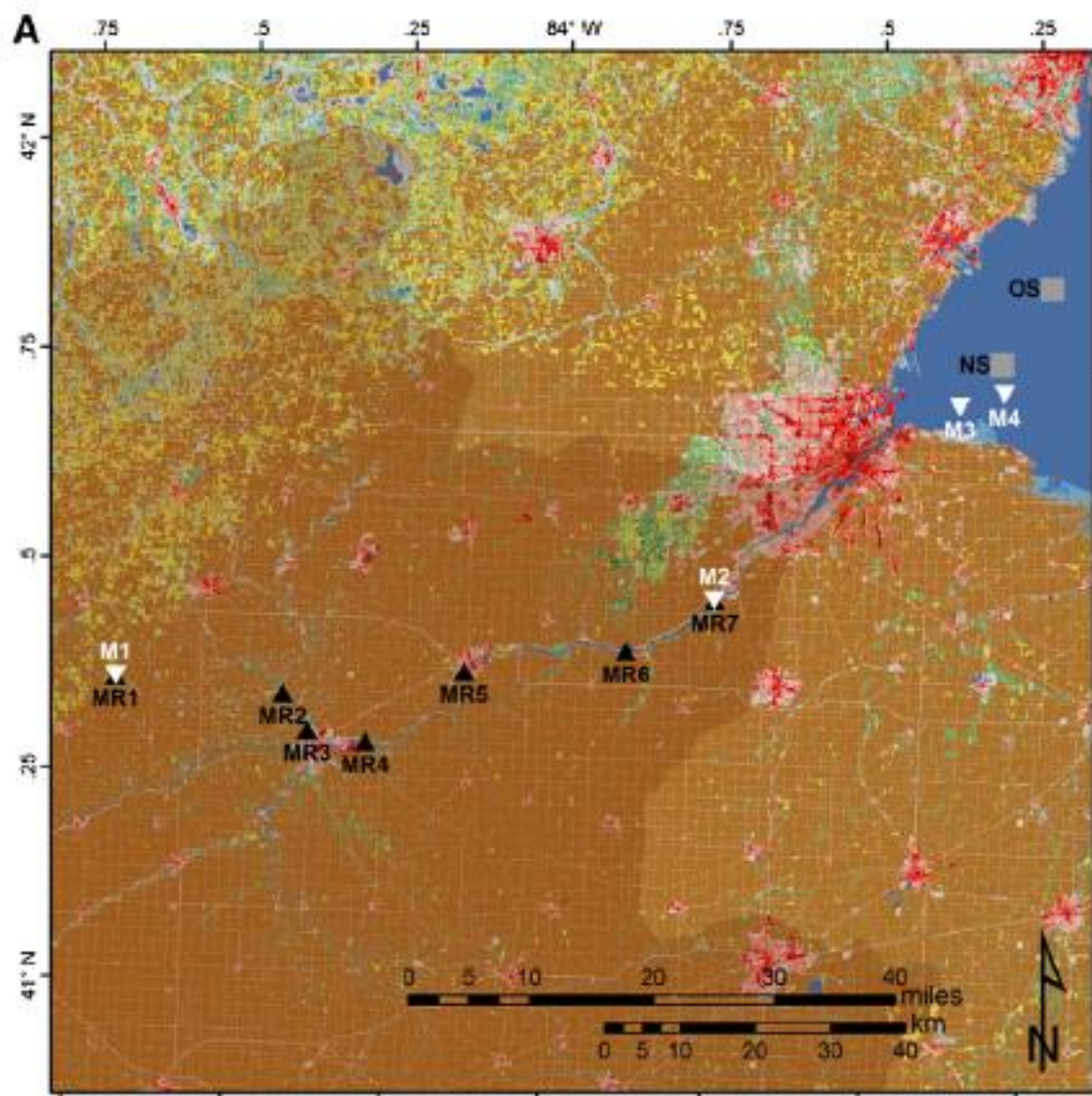


Joseph D. Conroy^{a,*}, Douglas D. Kane^b, Ruth D. Briland^a, David A. Culver^c

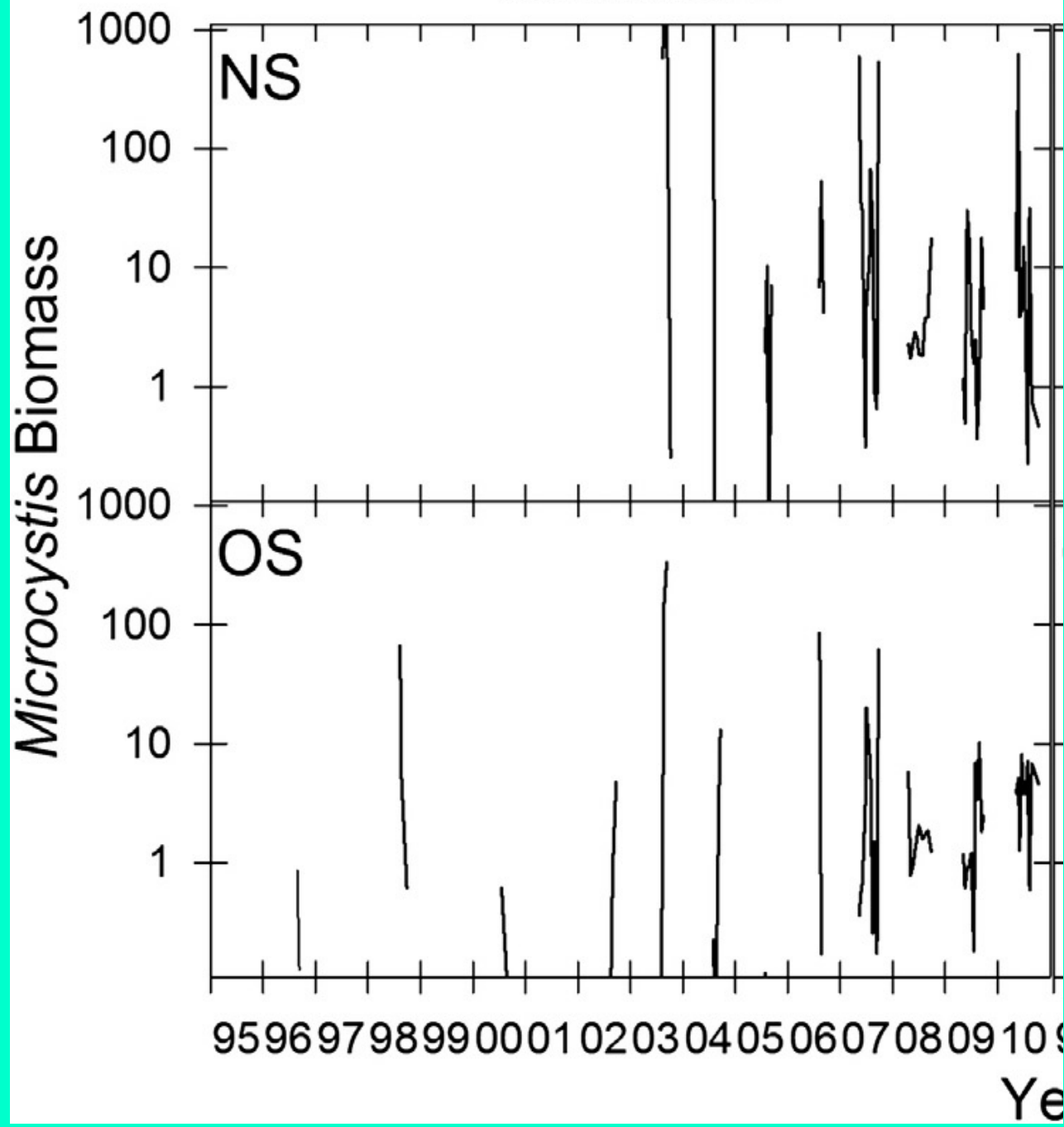
^a Aquatic Ecology Laboratory, Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210, USA

^b Natural Science, Applied Science, and Mathematics Division, Defiance College, Defiance, OH 43512, USA

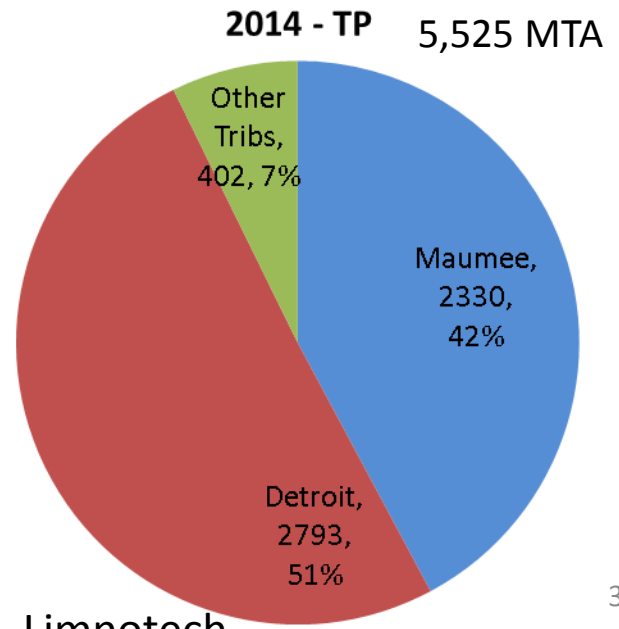
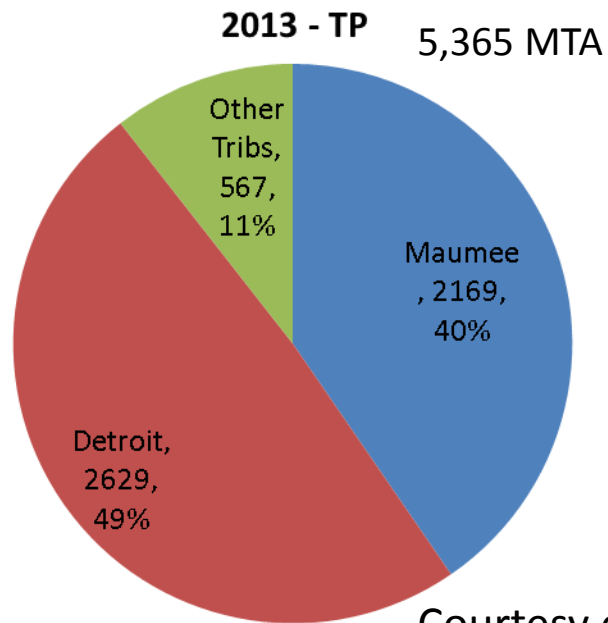
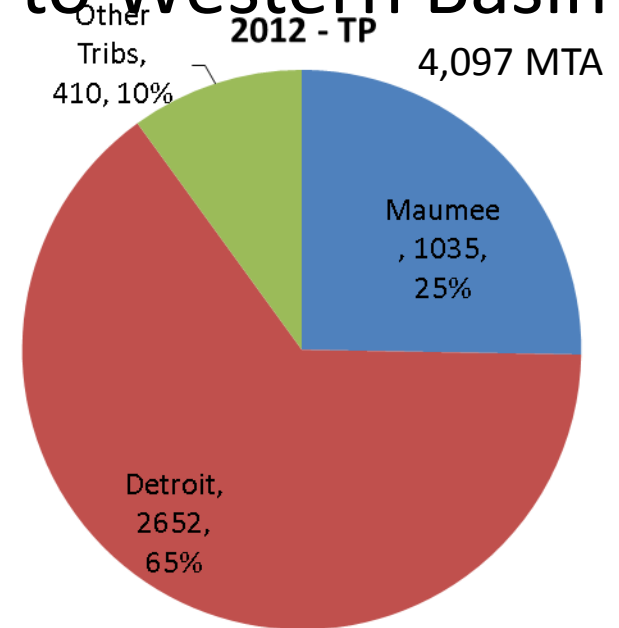
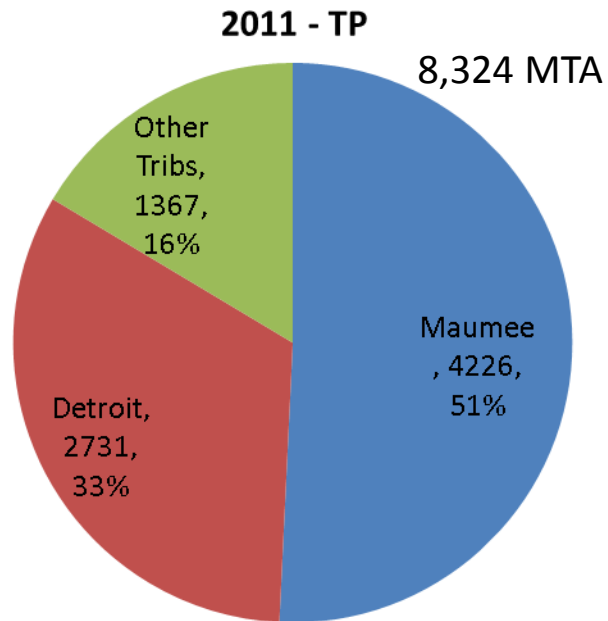
^c Limnology Laboratory, Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210, USA



Maumee

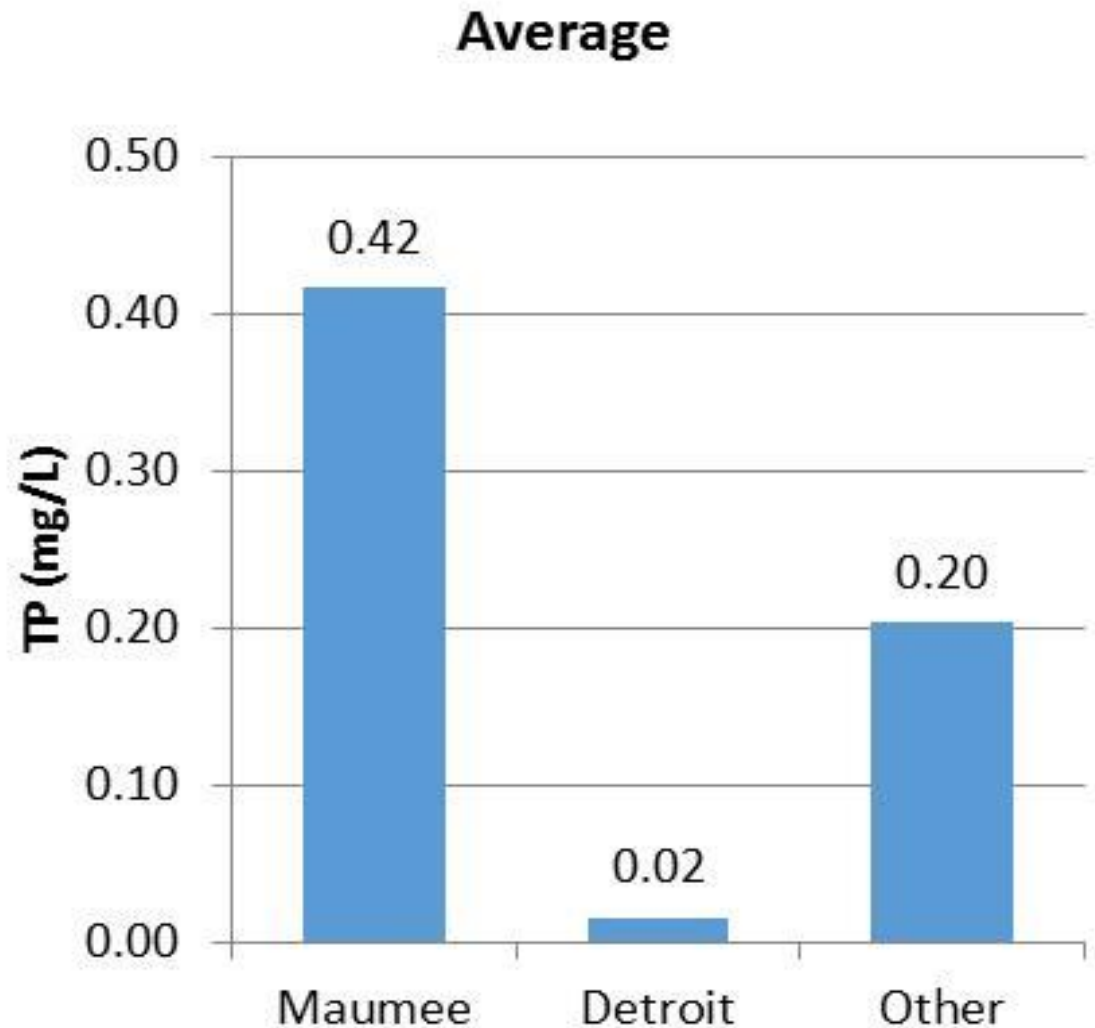
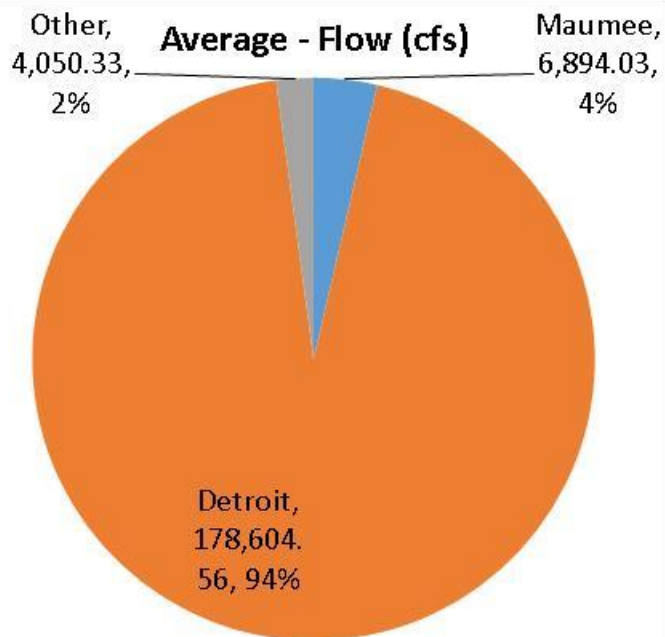


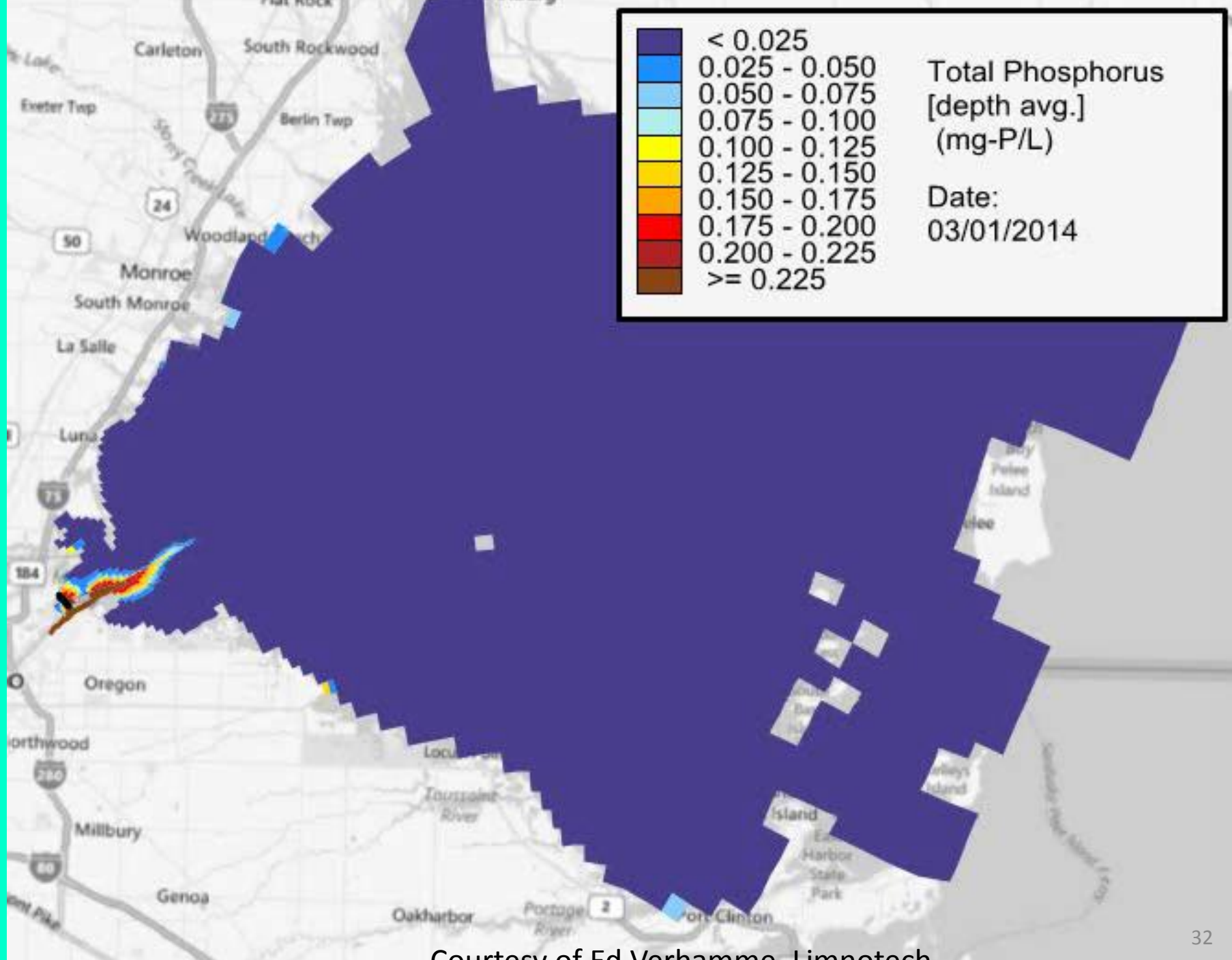
2011 – 2014 Annual TP Loads to Western Basin



Courtesy of Ed Verhamme, Limnotech

Flow Weighted Mean TP Concentration





Courtesy of Ed Verhamme, Limnotech

Upper Maumee River Watershed Management Plan

HUC 04100005



Prepared in Cooperation With:

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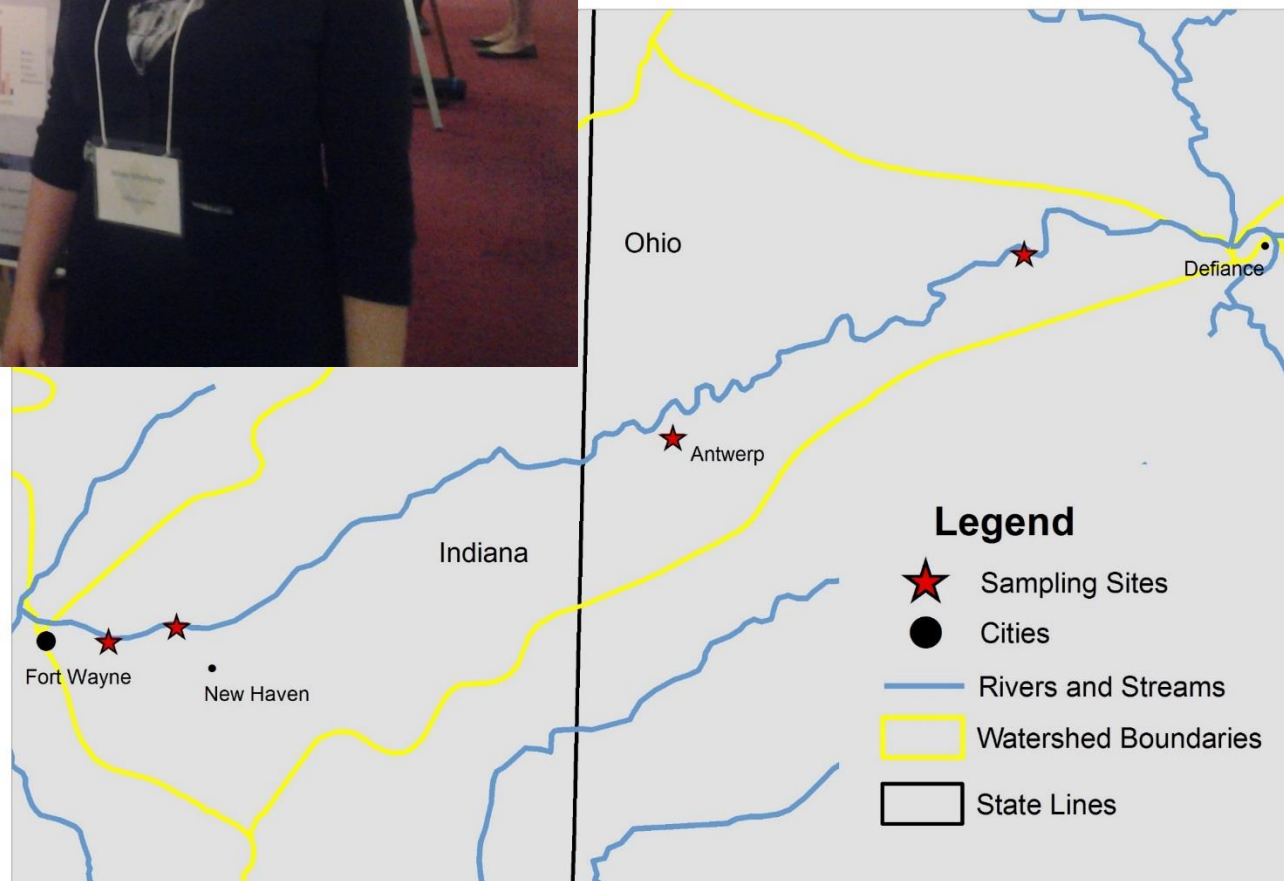
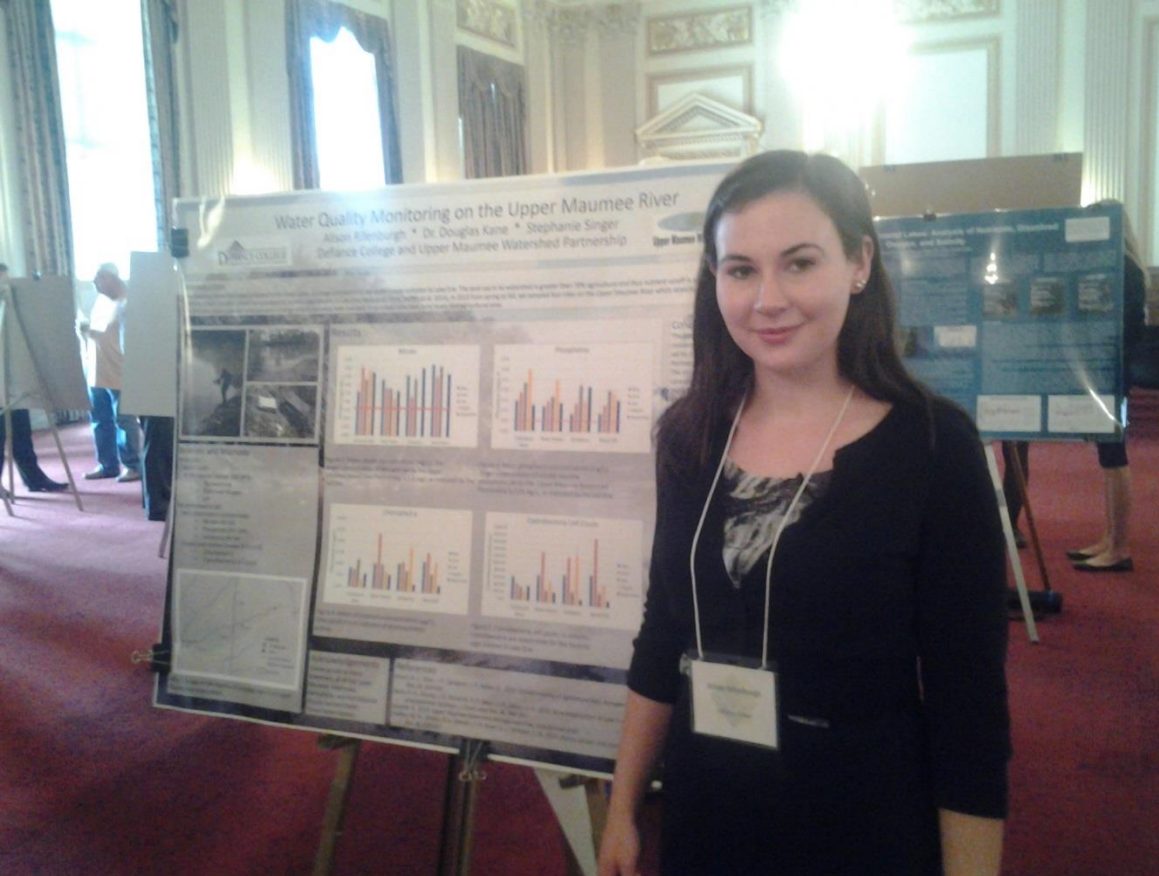


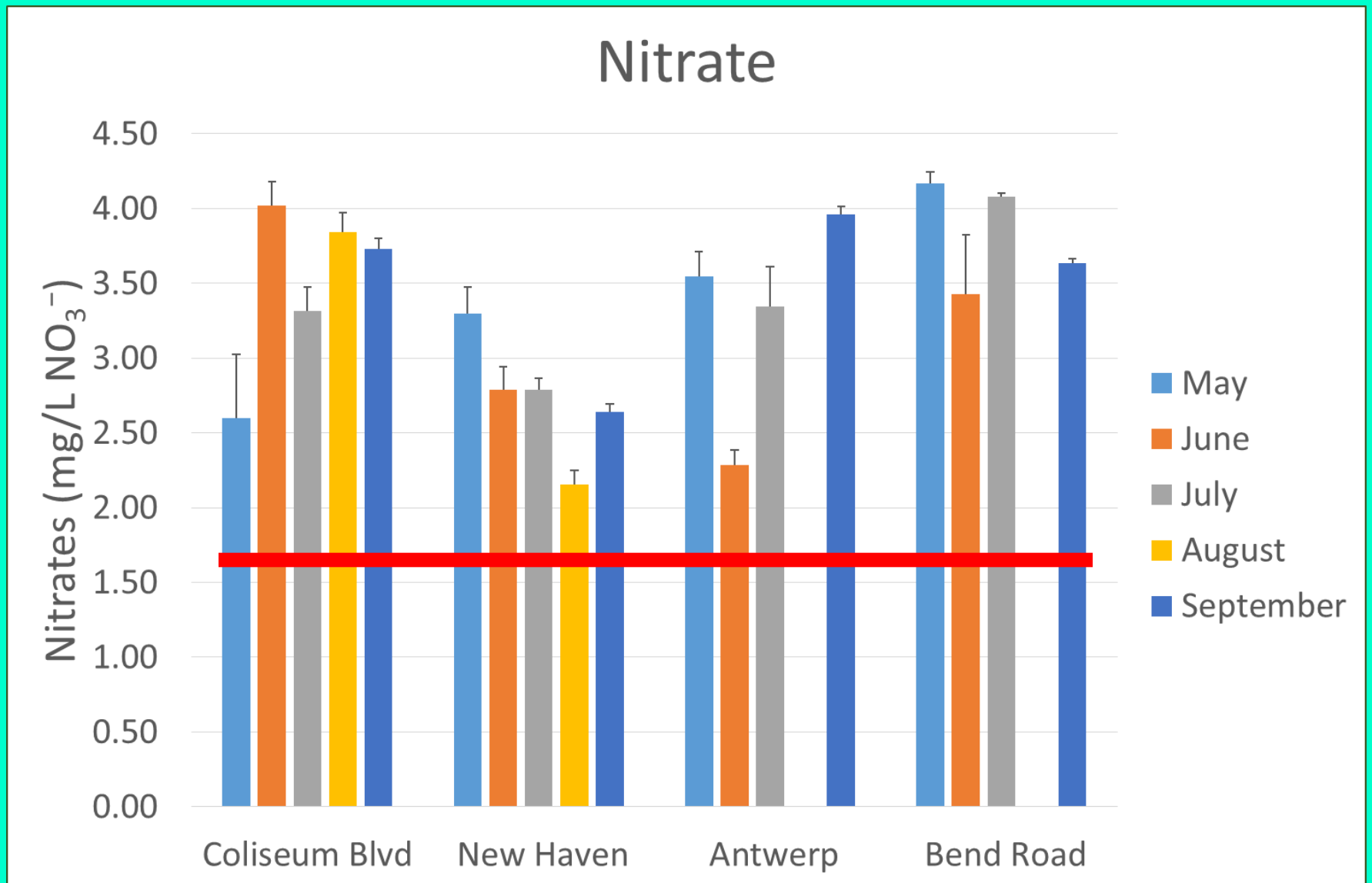
With Guidance from the Upper Maumee River Watershed Project Steering Committee

Principle Author: Kyle Quandt
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LaGrange, IN 46761

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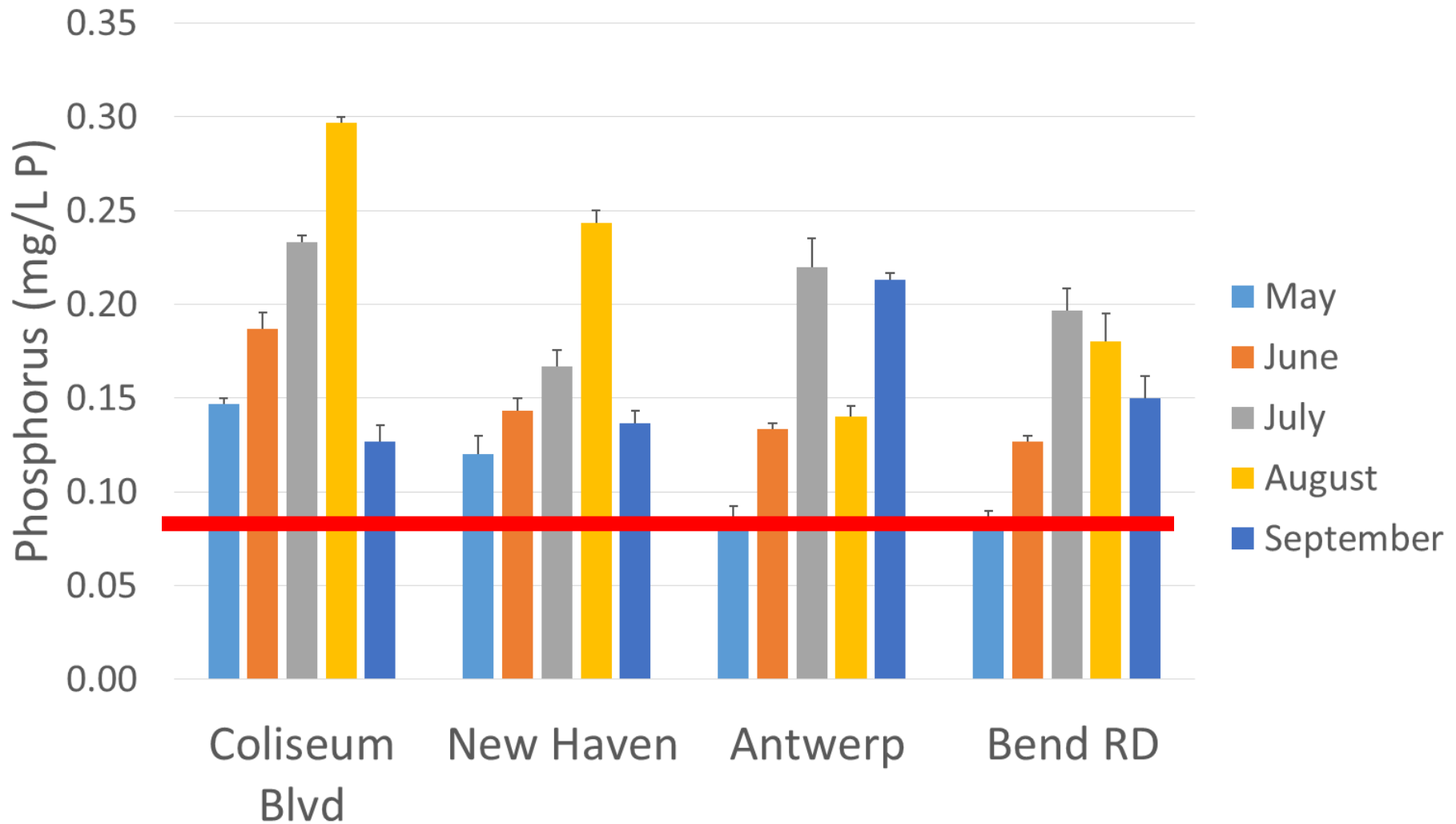
This report has been funded wholly or in part by the ODNR Division of Soil and Water Resources through the Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District under award NA12NOS4190115 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, or the Office of Coastal Management.





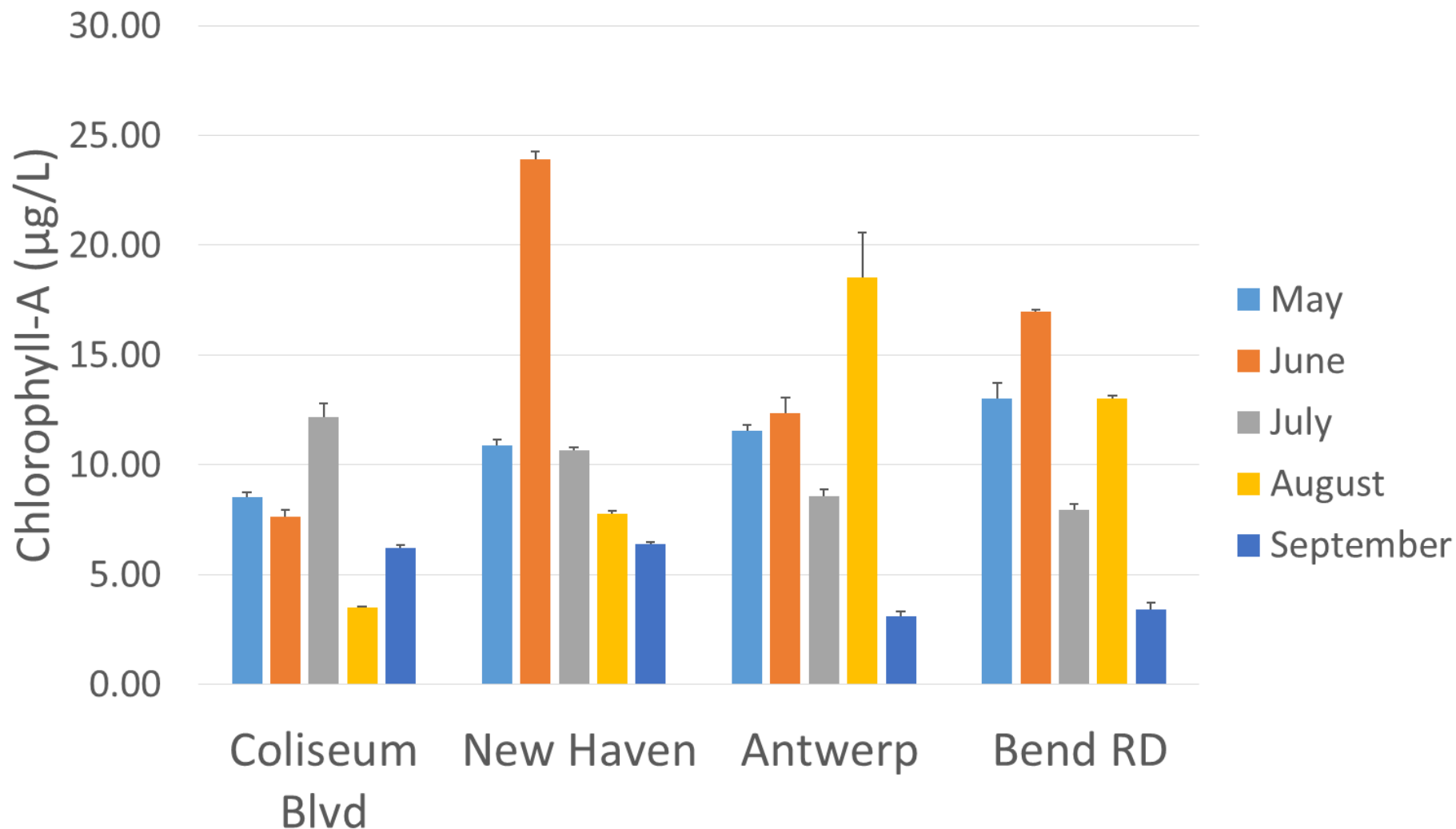
Mean nitrate concentrations
(mg/L)

Phosphorus



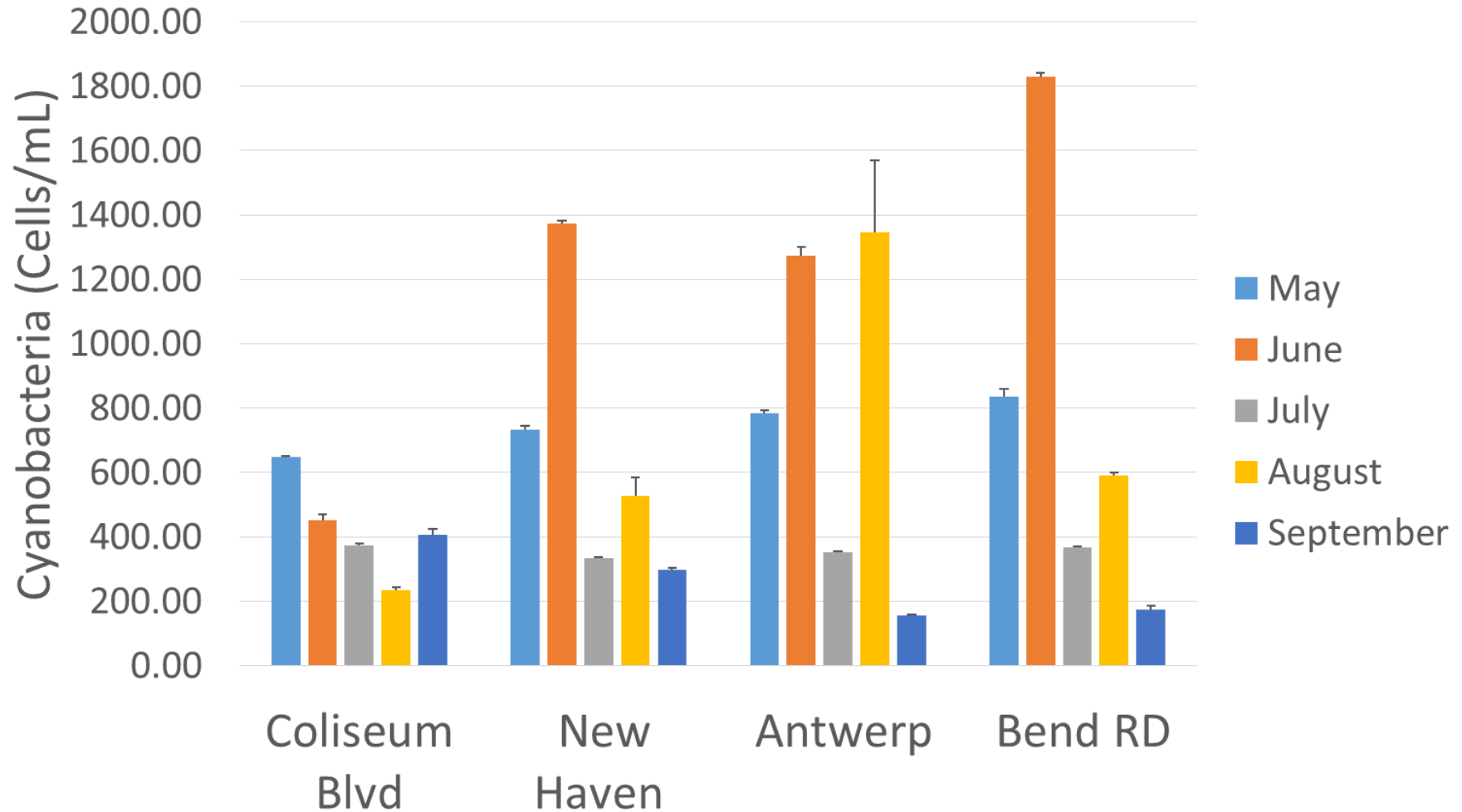
Mean phosphorus concentrations
(mg/L)

Chlorophyll *a*



Mean chlorophyll-a concentration
(µg/L)

Cyanobacteria Cell Count



Mean cyanobacteria cell count
(cells/mL)

"How can we fix this problem?"



Douglas D. Kane
Defiance College





Department of Agriculture
Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Agency
Lake Erie Commission

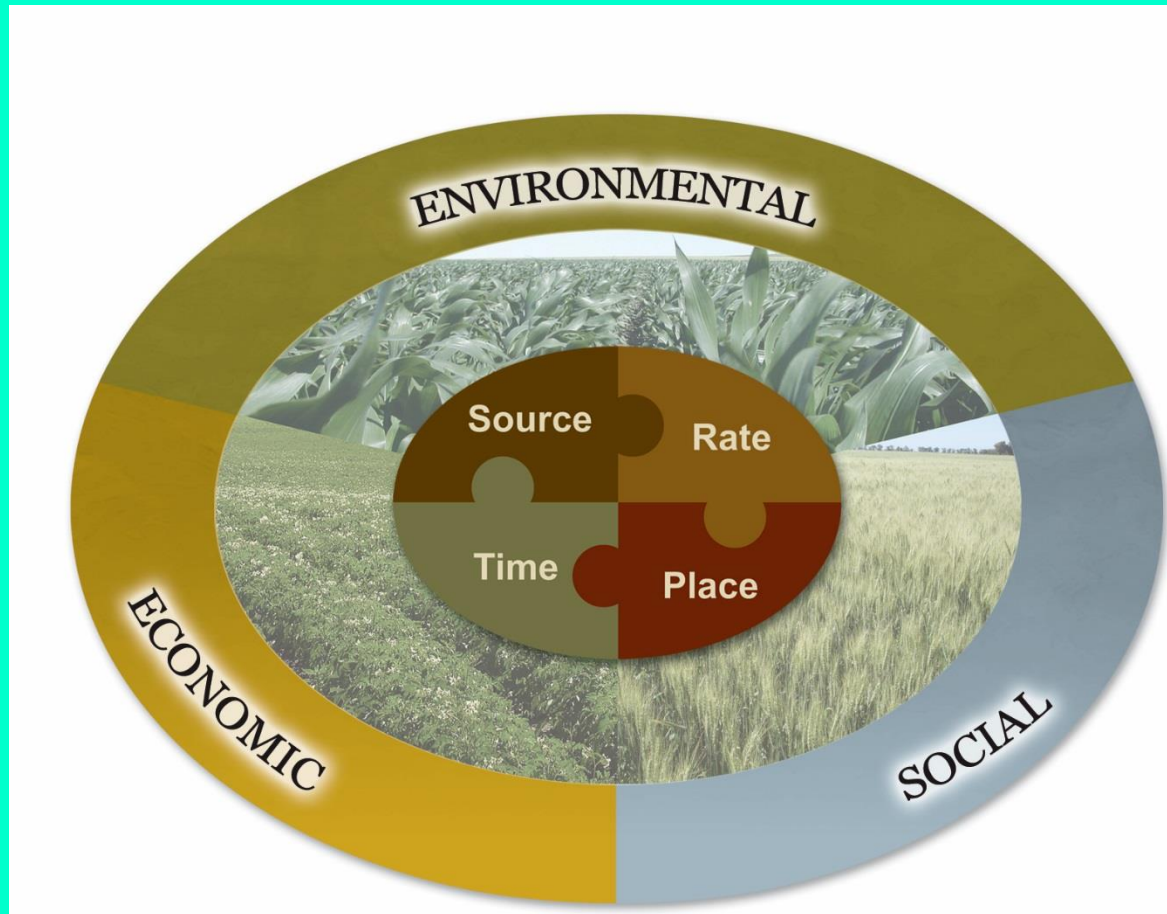
Ohio Lake Erie Phosphorus Task Force II Final Report



Final Report
November 2013

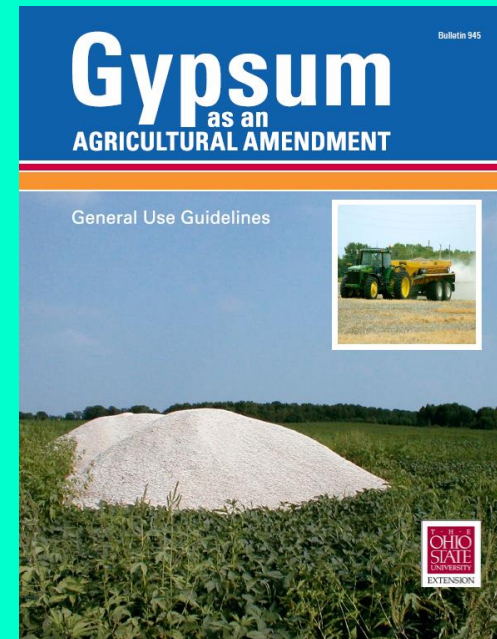
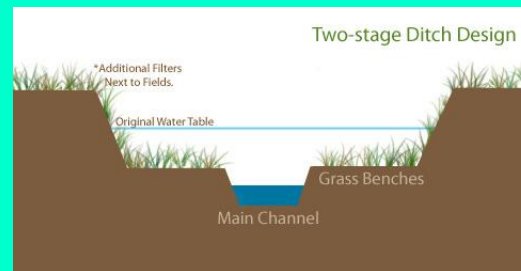
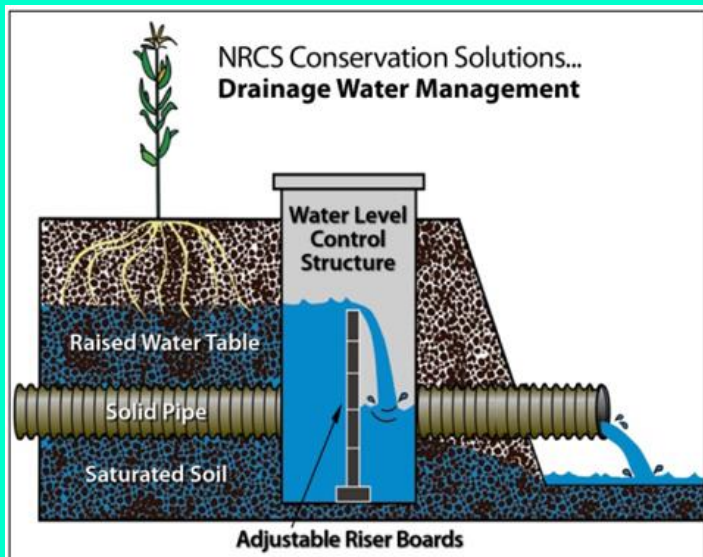
Recommendations

- Better Nutrient Stewardship(4 Rs)



Recommendations II

- Better Drainage Management
- Reduce Combined Sewer Overflows
- Improve Soil Health
- Others



The Challenge

- ***40% Reduction of SRP to lessen HABs in Lake Erie!***
- ***78% Reduction of SRP to Lessen Hypoxia in Lake Erie (Scavia et al. 2014)***



A Balanced Diet for Lake Erie

Reducing Phosphorus Loadings and Harmful Algal Blooms

A Report of the Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority
February 2014

- **WE ARE *ALL* IN THIS TOGETHER!**





Thank You!

