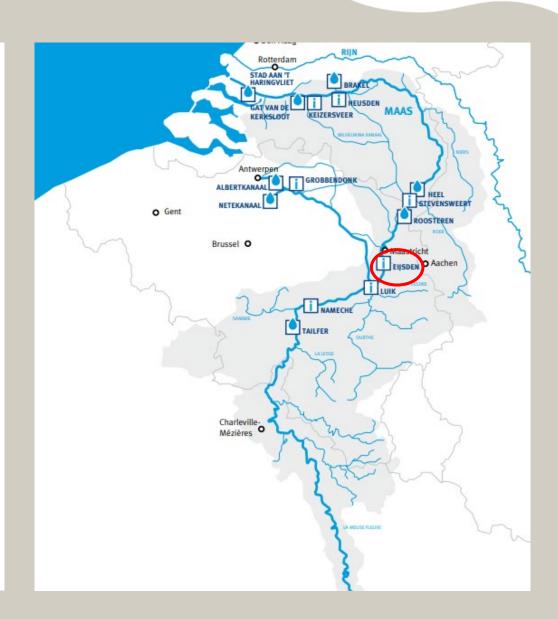




#### Contents

- Increasing concern about droughts in the Meuse
- Lessons from previous droughts (2003, 2018)
- The heat wave of July 2006
- Impact of the July 2006 heat wave on water quality of the Meuse (station Eijsden)
- Consequences for discharges of cooling water
- Conclusions



### Lessons from the summer drought of 2003



Journal of Hydrology (2008) 353, 1-17







## Impact of summer droughts on the water quality of the Meuse river

M.T.H. van Vliet a,\*, J.J.G. Zwolsman b

Received 12 August 2007; received in revised form 30 December 2007; accepted 2 January 2008

Droughts affect river water quality in two ways:

- 1. Less dilution of pollution load
- 2. Increase in water temperature leads to <u>algae blooms</u> with serious consequences on river water quality



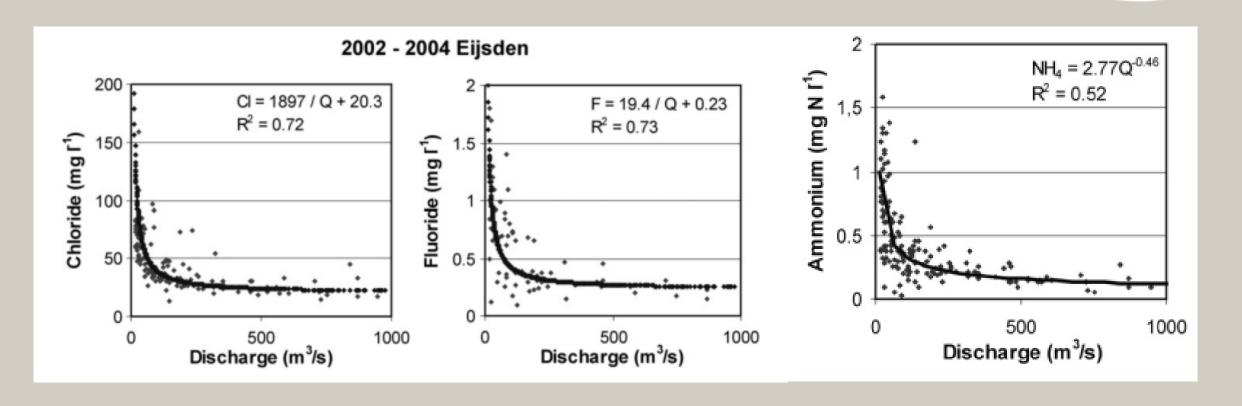
Bloom of blue-green algae, Eijsden

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## Low river flow – less dilution of pollution (1)

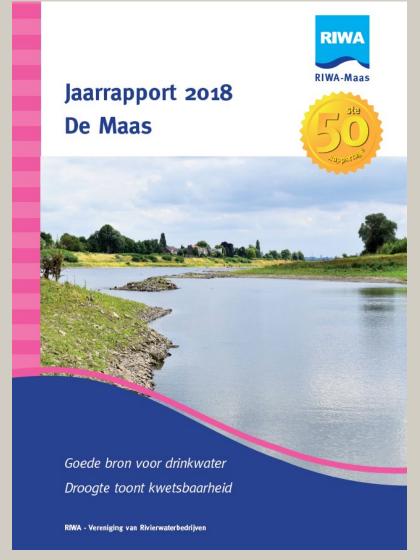




Van Vliet & Zwolsman (2008); Journal of Hydrology 353: 1-17



### Lessons from the summer drought of 2018



Annual report RIWA-Meuse (2018)

"2018 shows how vulnerable we are"

Front page article Trouw, September 11, 2019 "Will there be enough water in the future?"

https://www.riwa-maas.org/publicatie/dekwaliteit-van-het-maaswater-in-2018/

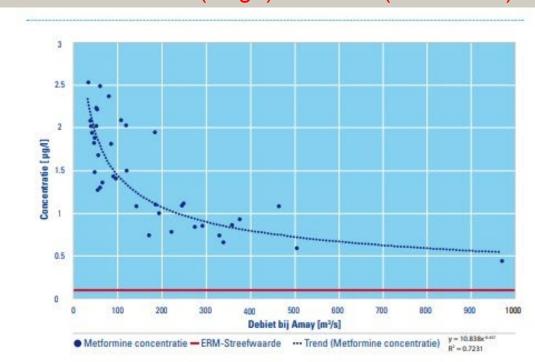
https://www.riwa-maas.org/fr/publicatie/laqualite-des-eaux-de-la-meuse-en-2018/





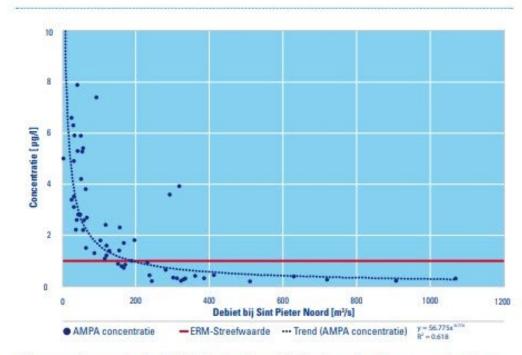
## Low river flow – less dilution of pollution (2)

#### Metformin (Liege) versus Q (2017-2019)



Figuur 2: Concentratie metformine in de Maas bij Luik en de afvoer van de Maas bij Amay 2017-2019

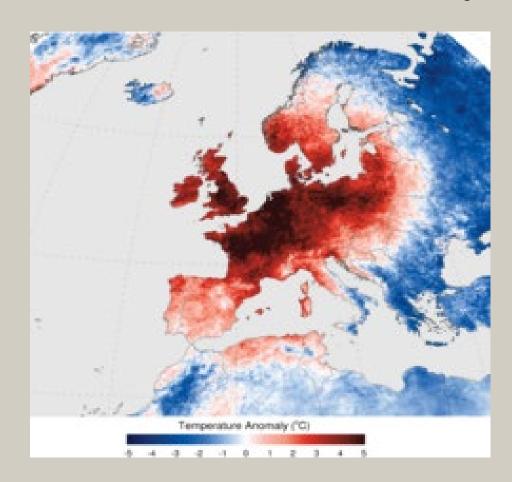
#### AMPA (Heel) versus Q (2017-2019)



Figuur 3: Concentratie AMPA in de Maas bij Heel en de afvoer van de Maas bij Sint Pieter Noord 2017-2019



## The heat wave of July 2006



Temperature anomaly within Europe in July 2006 (compared to average July temperature in 2000-2012 (Wikipedia)

According to the KNMI (Royal Dutch Met. Office), July 2006 was the hottest month ever recorded in The Netherlands.

Maximum air temperatures exceeded 30 °C for two weeks.

Highest air temperatures were measured on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Maximum air temperature was 37,1 °C.

Rainfall was virtually absent in July 2006.

# What was the impact of the July 2006 heat wave on water quality of the Meuse?



Monitoring station Eijsden (border BE-NL)

Continuous water quality monitoring (RWS)

One record per hour (24/7)

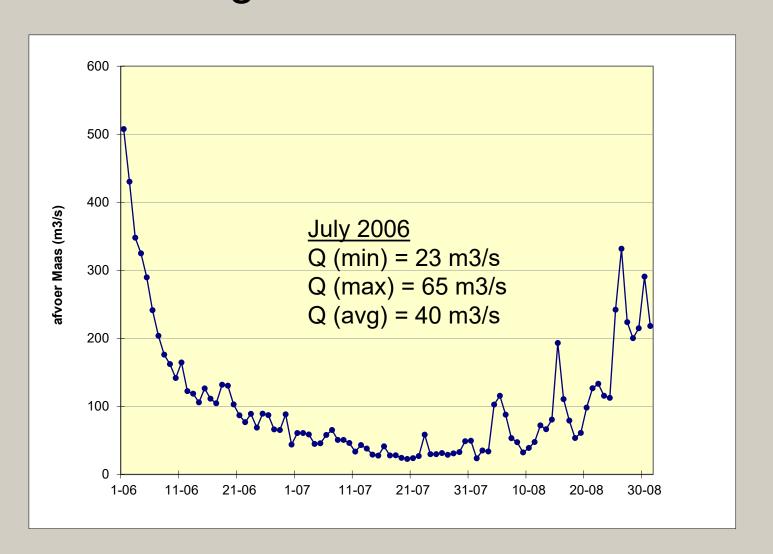
#### Parameters:

- River discharge
- Water temperature
- Dissolved oxygen
- pH
- Chloride
- Ammonium

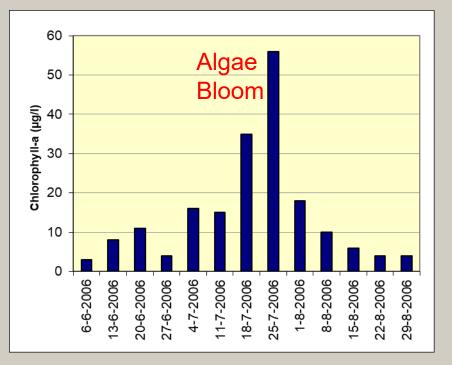


## Discharge of the Meuse River (Eijsden), June-August 2006



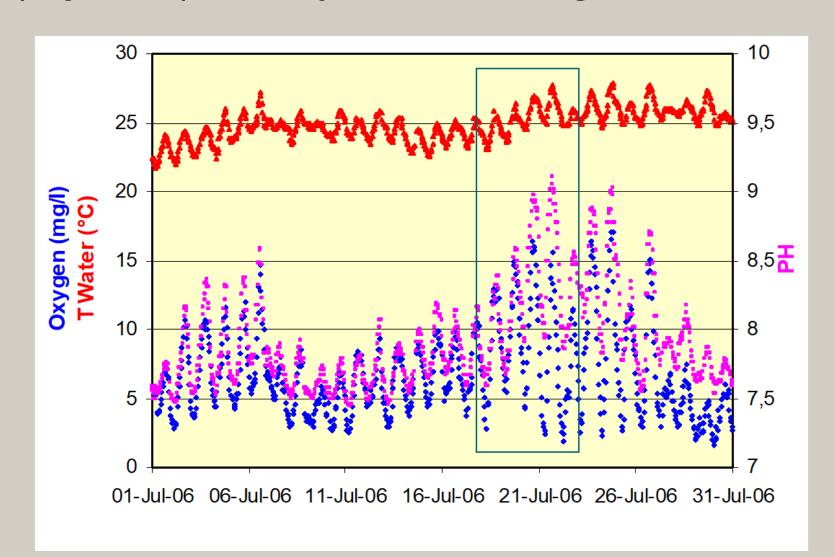


Phytoplankton in the Meuse River (Eijsden), June-August 2006



# Basic water quality of the Meuse River (Eijsden) in July 2006 – Huge fluctuations!



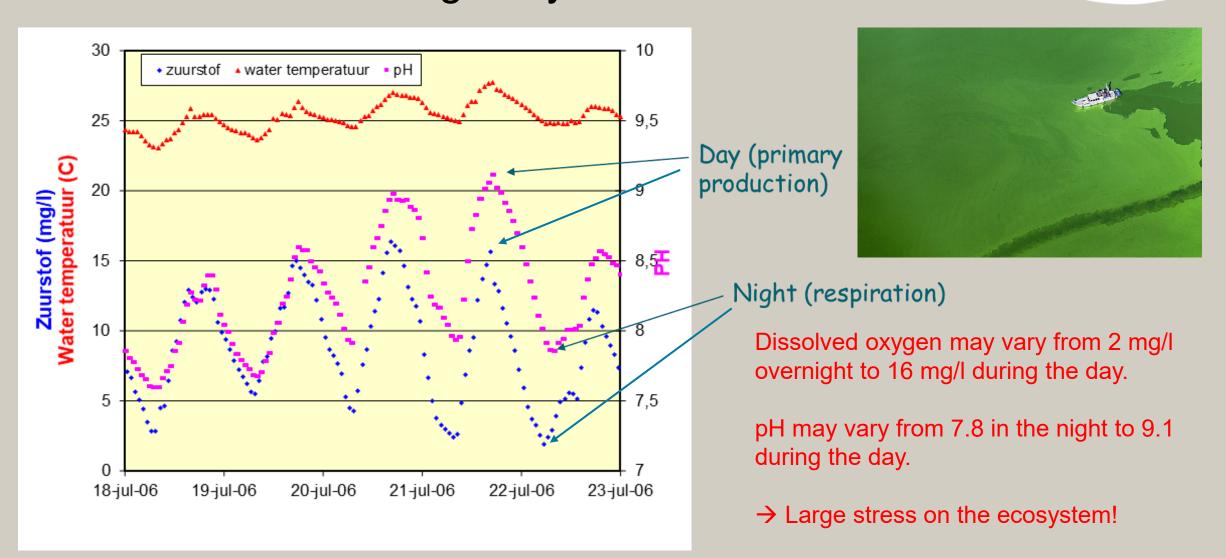


#### **Observations**

- T-water > 25 C (max 28 C)
- Strong day-night variation in water temperature, DO and pH
- Supersaturation of DO in week
  1 and 3 (max. 200%)
- pH >> carbonate equilibrium of 7.8 in week 1 and 3 (max. 9.1)
- Reason: → Algae blooms

# Day-night fluctuations in water quality of the Meuse due to algae dynamics

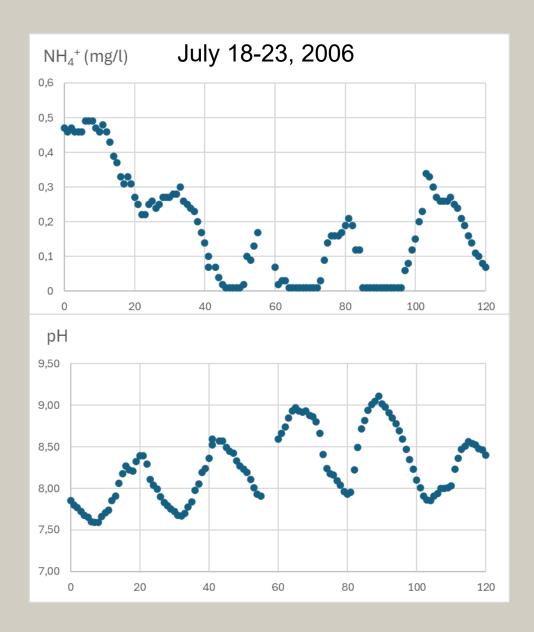




Zwolsman, J.J.G. & M.T.H. van Vliet (2007). Effect van een hittegolf op de waterkwaliteit van de Rijn en de Maas. H2O 40 (22): 41-44.

### What about ammonia toxicity in July 2006?





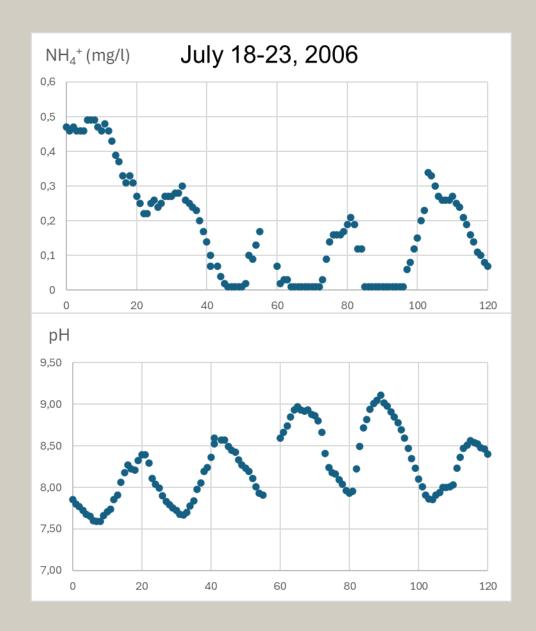
 $[NH_3] = [NH_4^+] \times 10^{(pH-9,25)}$ 

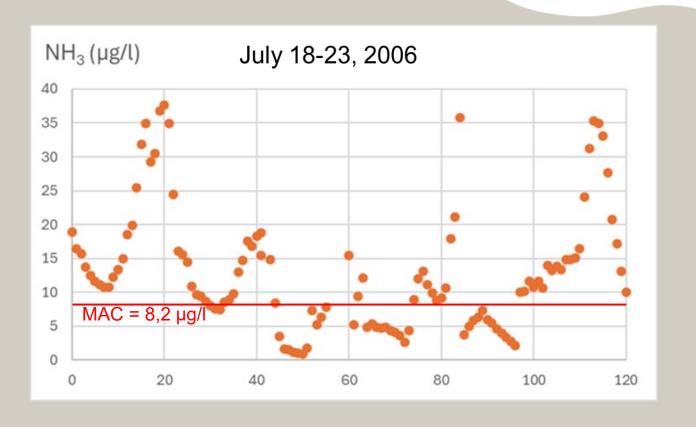


NH<sub>3</sub> highly toxic to fish

## What about ammonia toxicity in July 2006?







Maximum acceptable concentration for  $NH_3$  up to four times exceeded  $\rightarrow$  toxic impacts of fish are likely



#### Conclusions

**Droughts:** Decreased river flow results in higher concentrations of contaminants from point sources.

Heat waves: Increase in water temperature and decrease in river flow result in algae blooms with strong variation of DO and pH, and potential toxicity of ammonium → potential fish kills

CLIMATE

#### **Blooms Like It Hot**

Hans W. Paerl1 and Jef Huisman2

utrient overenrichment of waters by urban, agricultural, and industrial development has promoted the growth of cyanobacteria as harmful algal blooms (see the figure) (1, 2). These blooms increase the turbidity of aquatic ecosystems, smothering aquatic plants and thereby suppressing important invertebrate and fish habitats. Die-off of blooms may deplete oxygen, killing fish. Some cyanobacteria produce toxins, which can cause serious and occasionally fatal human liver, digestive, neurological, and skin diseases (1-4). Cyanobacterial blooms thus threaten many aquatic ecosystems, including Lake Victoria in Africa, Lake Erie in North America, Lake Taihu in China, and the Baltic Sea in Europe (3-6). Climate change is a potent catalyst for the further expansion of these blooms.

Rising temperatures favor cyanobacteria in several ways. Cyanobacteria generally grow better at higher temperatures (often above 25°C) than do other phytoplankton species such as diatoms and green algae (7, 8). This gives cyanobacteria a competitive advantage at elevated temperatures (8, 9). Warming of surface waters also strengthens the vertical stratification of lakes, reducing vertical mixing. Furthermore, global warming causes

\*Institute of Marine Sciences, University of North Carolina at Chapet Hill, Morehead City, NC 28557, USA. E-mail: hpaer@pemail.unc.edu "Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics, University of Amsterdam, 1018 WS Amsterdam, Netherlands. E-mail: jet.huisman@science. usa.nl lakes to stratify earlier in spring and destratify later in autumn, which lengthens optimal growth periods. Many cyanobacteria exploit these stratified conditions by forming intracellular gas vesicles, which make the cells buoyant. Buoyant cyanobacteria float upward when mixing is weak and accumulate in dense surface blooms (1, 2, 7) (see the figure). These surface blooms shade underlying nonbuoyant phytoplankton, thus suppressing their opponents through competition for light (8).

Cyanobacterial blooms may even locally increase water temperatures through the intense absorption of light. The temperatures of surface blooms in the Baltic Sea and in Lake IJsselmeer, Netherlands, can be at least 1.5°C above those of ambient waters (10, 11). This positive feedback provides additional competitive dominance of buoyant cyanobacteria over nonbuoyant phytoplankton.

Global warming also affects patterns of precipitation and drought. These changes in the hydrological cycle could further enhance cyanobacterial dominance. For example, more intense precipitation will increase surface and groundwater nutrient discharge into water bodies. In the short term, freshwater discharge may prevent blooms by flushing. However, as the discharge subsides and water residence time increases as a result of drought, nutrient loads will be captured, eventually promoting blooms. This scenario takes place when elevated winter-spring rainfall and flushing events are followed by protracted periods of summer drought. This sequence of

A link exists between global warming and the worldwide proliferation of harmful cyanobacterial blooms.



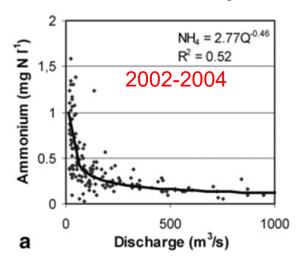


Undesired blooms. Examples of large water bodies covered by cyanobacterial blooms include the Neuse River Estuary, North Carolina, USA (top) and Lake Victoria, Africa (bottom).



#### What can we do about it?

#### Reduction of the pollution load



#### Recent ammonium concentration Eijsden

year	min	max	avg
2020	0,05	0,31	0,13
2021	0,04	0,23	0,10
2022	0,02	0,34	0,11
2023	0,03	0,20	0,09

#### **Controlling cooling water discharges**



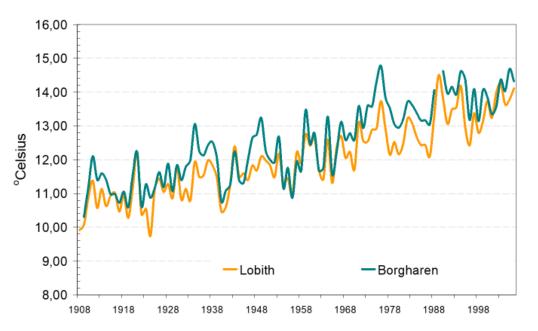
Letter | Published: 04 January 2016

## Power-generation system vulnerability and adaptation to changes in climate and water resources

Michelle T. H. van Vliet <sup>™</sup>, David Wiberg, Sylvain Leduc & Keywan Riahi

Nature Climate Change 6, 375–380 (2016) | Cite this article

# Almost 3 degrees increase in water temperature of the Rhine and the Meuse in the 20<sup>th</sup> century!





Causal factors?

Cooling water: 65%

Climate change: 35%

Mean annual temperatures	1908-1917	1997-2006
Rhine (Lobith)	10,7 °C	13,6 °C
Meuse (Borgharen)	11,2 °C	13,9 °C
Air temperature (De Bilt)	9,2 ℃	10,6 °C





Any further increase in water temperature of the Meuse due to (new) cooling water discharges should be prevented!



#### Want to know more?

#### \*thema platform





Zwolsman & van Vliet (2007); H<sub>2</sub>O 40 (22): 41-44

Gertjan Zwolsman, Kiwa Water Research / Delft Cluster Michelle van Vliet, TNO / Delft Cluster

## Effect van een hittegolf op de waterkwaliteit van de Rijn en de Maas

Juli 2006 was de warmste maand in 300 jaar. Nederland werd die maand getroffen door twee hittegolven. Deze situatie kan exemplarisch zijn voor toekomstige zomers als de klimaatverandering doorzet. Vanuit die gedachte is de waterkwaliteit onderzocht in de Rijn (Lobith) en de Maas (Eijsden) in de bewuste zomer, op basis van uurmetingen. De studie is beperkt tot de parameters chloride, watertemperatuur, zuurstof, pH en chlorophyl-a. De belangrijkste conclusie is dat de waterkwaliteit van de Rijn en de Maas aanzienlijk verslechtert tijdens een hittegolf en de lage afvoeren die daarmee gepaard gaan. Hierdoor ontstaan risico's voor de realisatie van ecologische doelstellingen en voor de gebruiksfuncties van het water (bijvoorbeeld de drinkwaterproductie). De resultaten zijn van belang voor de Wvo-vergunningverlening en de implementatie van de Kaderrichtlijn Water.



### Impact of summer droughts on the water quality of the Meuse river

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