

Deltares
Enabling Delta Life

Effect of geological uncertainties on the salinisation of surface water systems in deltaic areas

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26 april 2012

Reasons of this study


- Surface water from ditches often used for crop irrigation
- Not all crops are equally salt tolerant
 - > Strawberry 171mg/l
 - > Potato 202mg/l
 - > Broccoli 388mg/l
 - > Sugar cane 1289mg/l
- Salt load from groundwater into surface water can be significant

Quantification of salt load into surface water

IMPORTANT

Figure A1.1. Division for classifying crop tolerance to salinity

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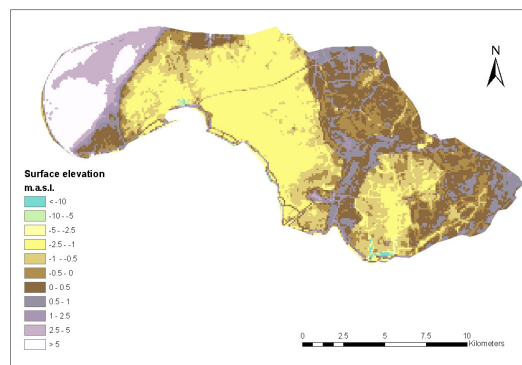
Goal and methods

- GOAL
 - > Quantify salt load from groundwater into surface water
 - > Quantify the range of salt load related to the uncertainty of the geology
- METHODS
 - > Density dependent groundwater model
 - > Use of different geologies for the area

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Location

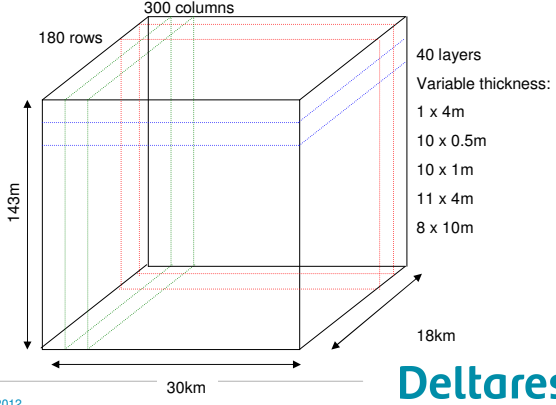


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Model

- 3D density dependent groundwater model (MOCDENS3D)
- Model cells 100*100m²
- 40 model layers
- calibration with measured head corrected to freshwater heads
- Steady state: winter and summer



143m

180 rows

300 columns

40 layers

Variable thickness:

- 1 x 4m
- 10 x 0.5m
- 10 x 1m
- 11 x 4m
- 8 x 10m

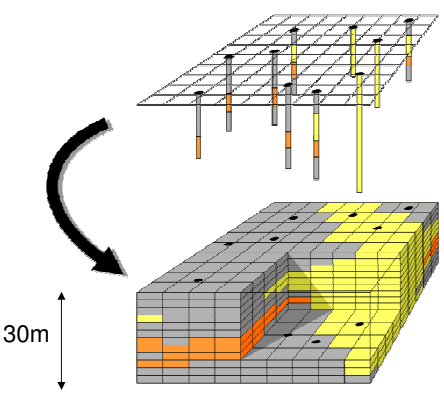
18km

30km

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GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE NETHERLANDS (TNO)

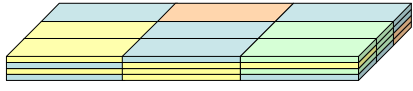


30m

GEOTOP model

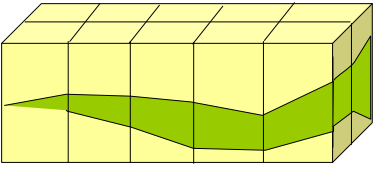
Chance to lithology and lithofacies

GeoTOP 100 x 100 x 0.5 m




+

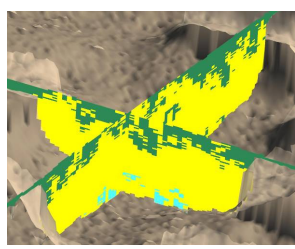
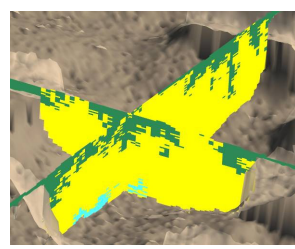
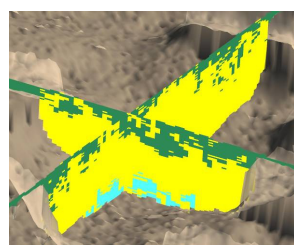
REGIS II.1 100 x 100x layer thickness

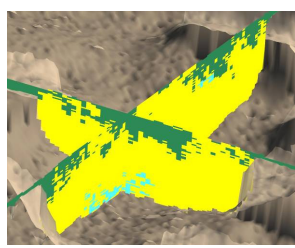
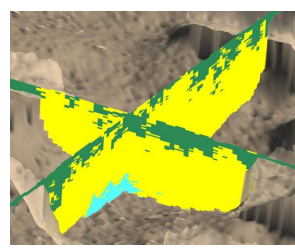


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Lithofacies modelling (3D)






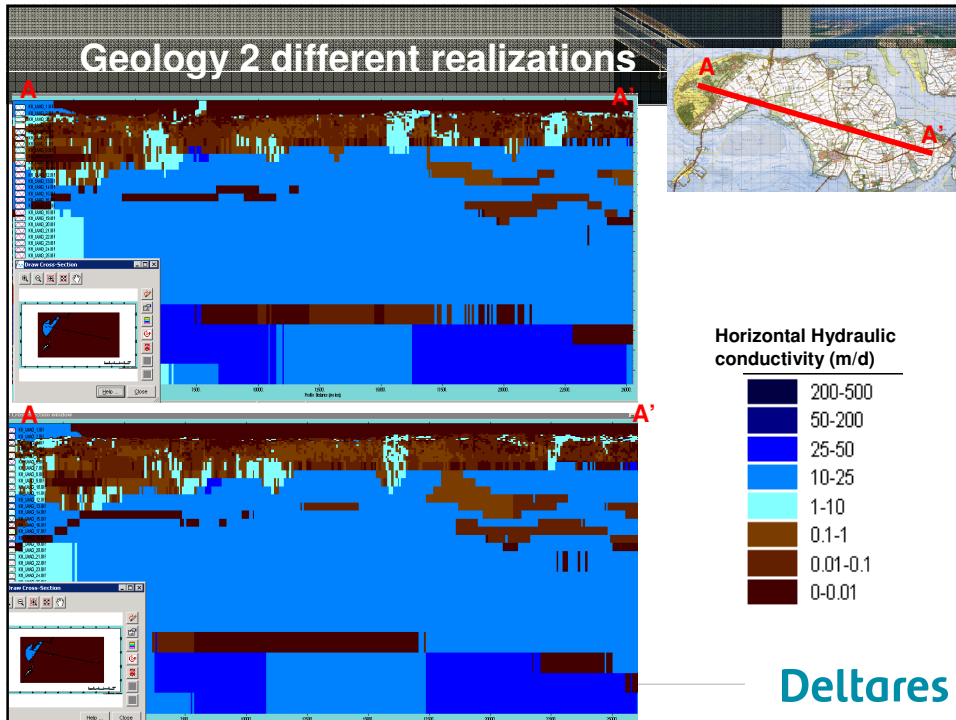
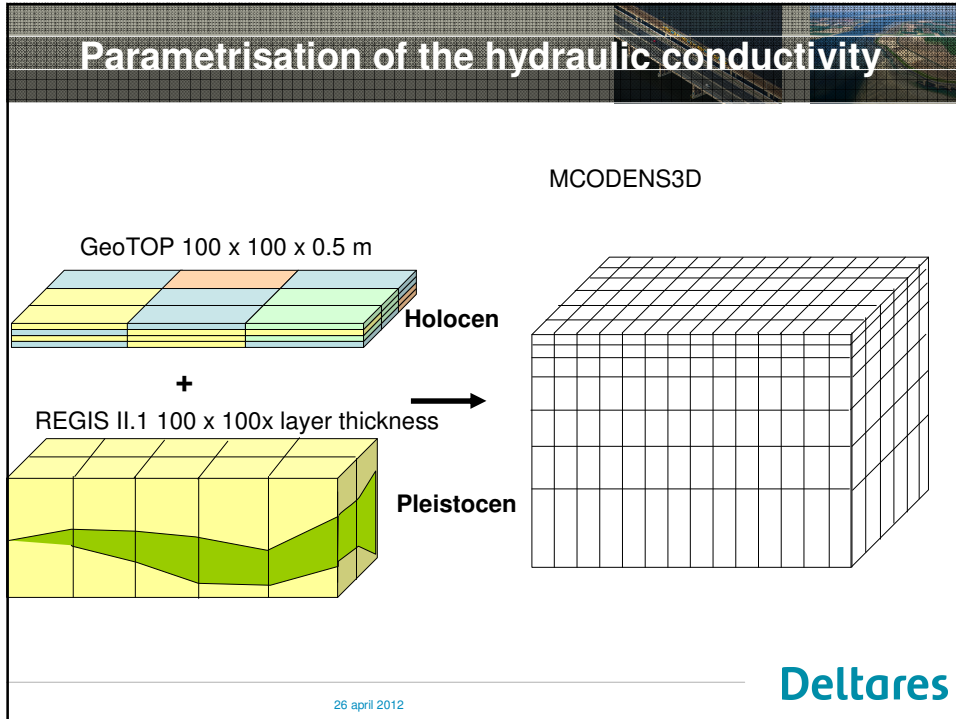



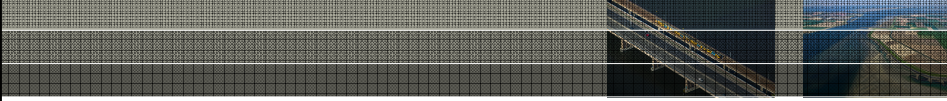
50 GEOLOGICAL SCENARIOS with equal probability

- Clay
- Sand
- Shell-rich deposits

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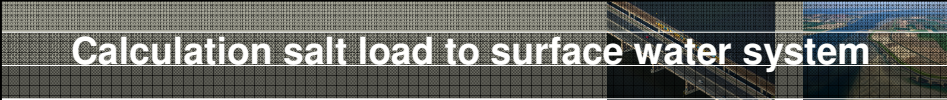
50 different geologies

↓

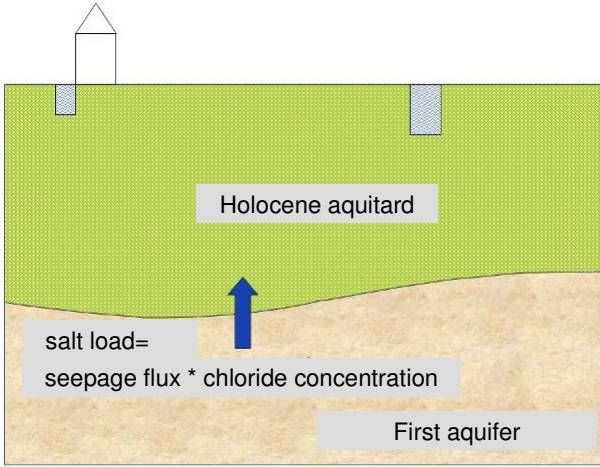
50 hydrogeological models

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Calculation salt load to surface water system



Holocene aquitard

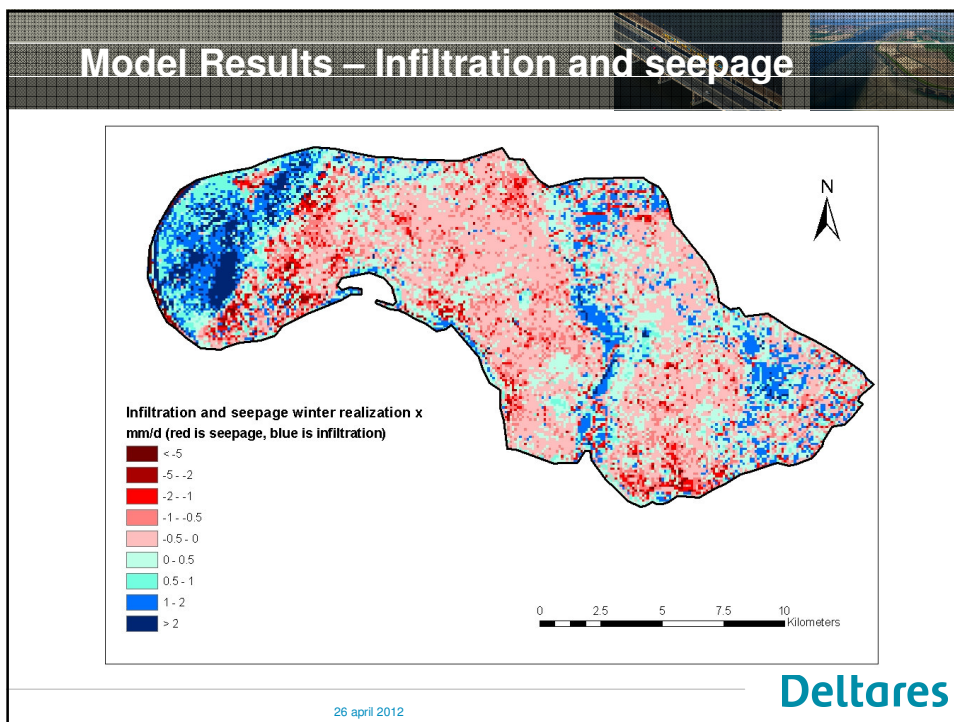
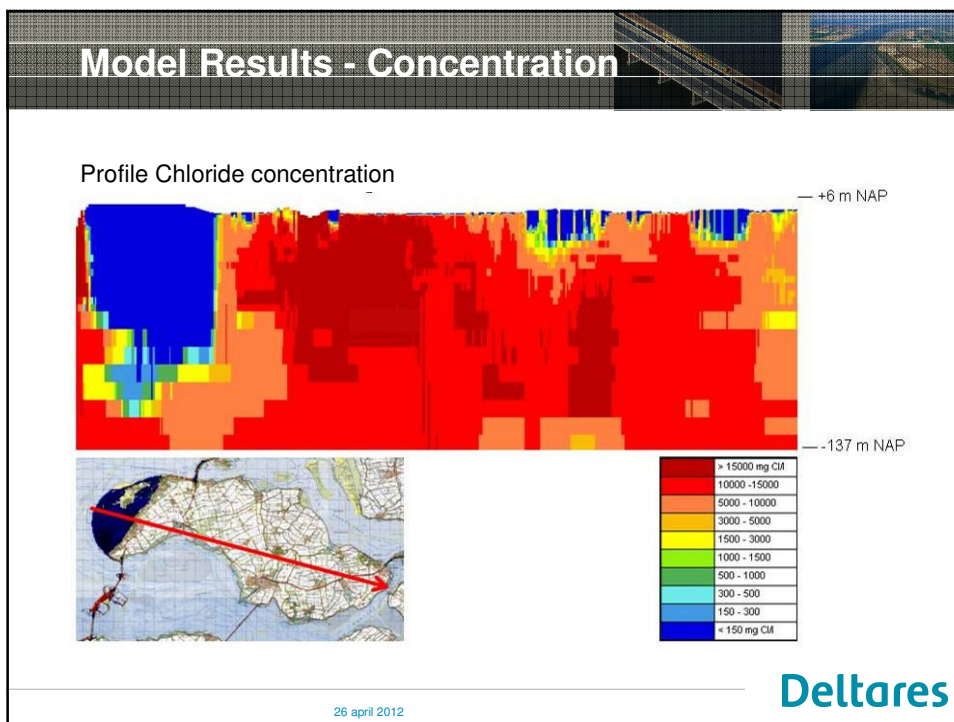
salt load =
seepage flux * chloride concentration

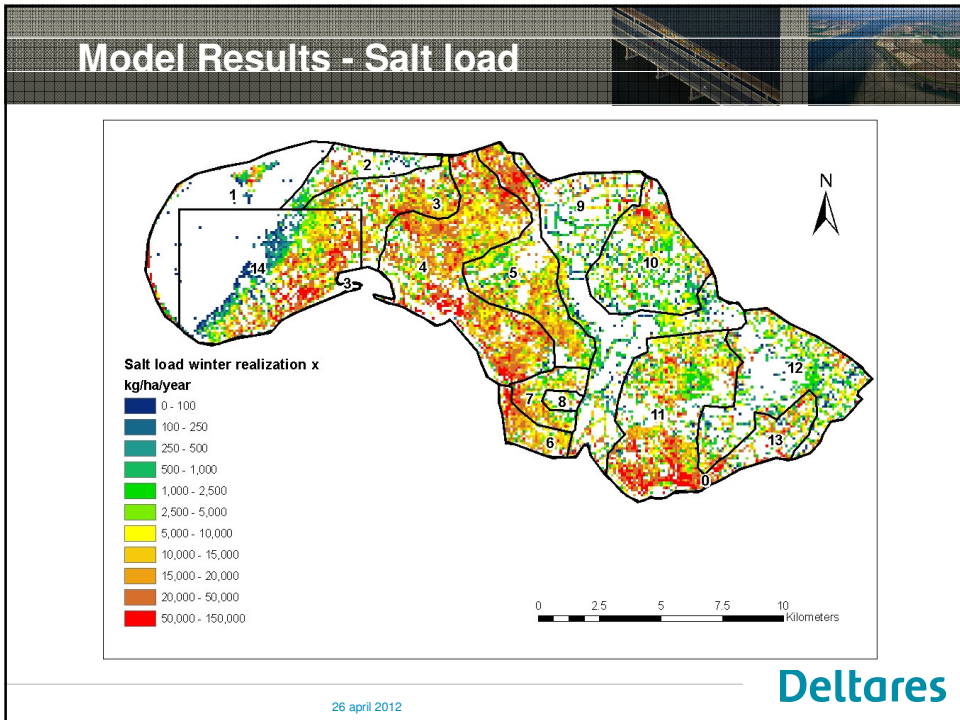
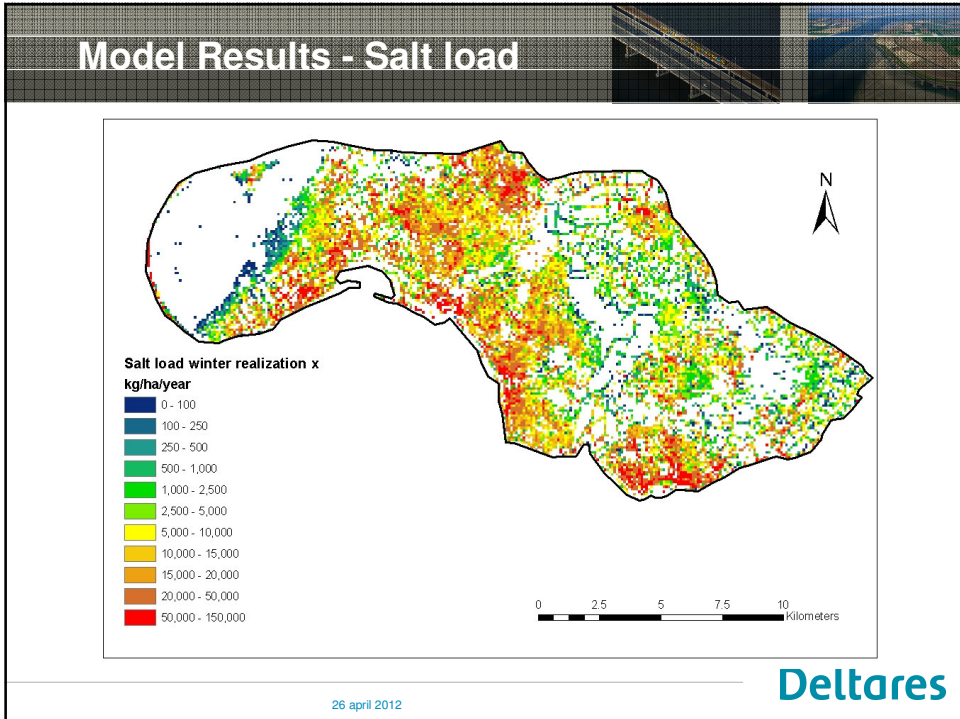
First aquifer

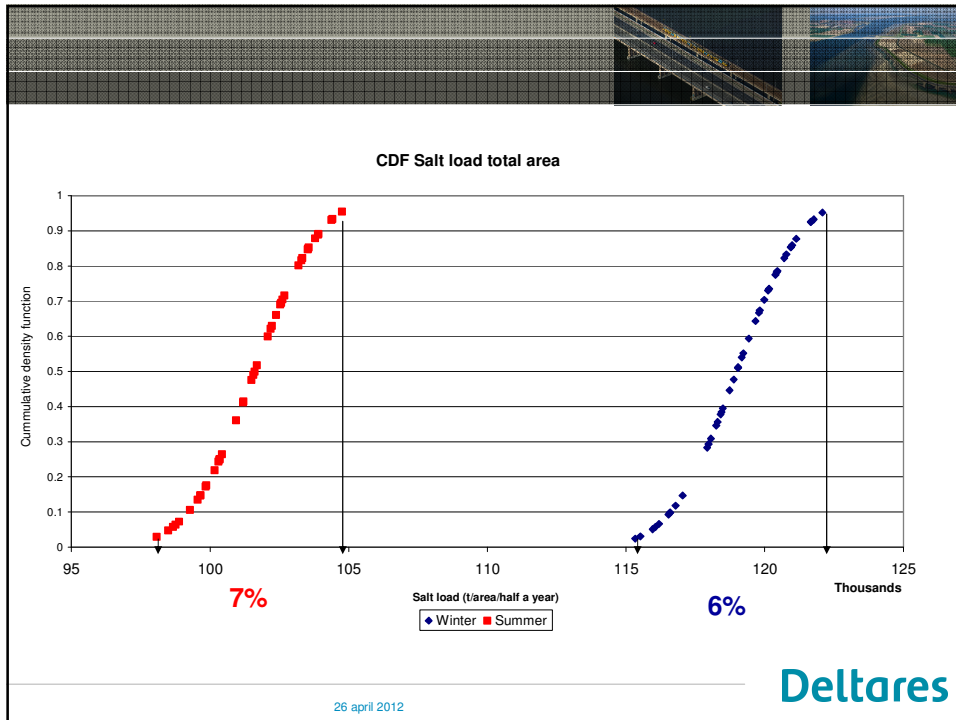
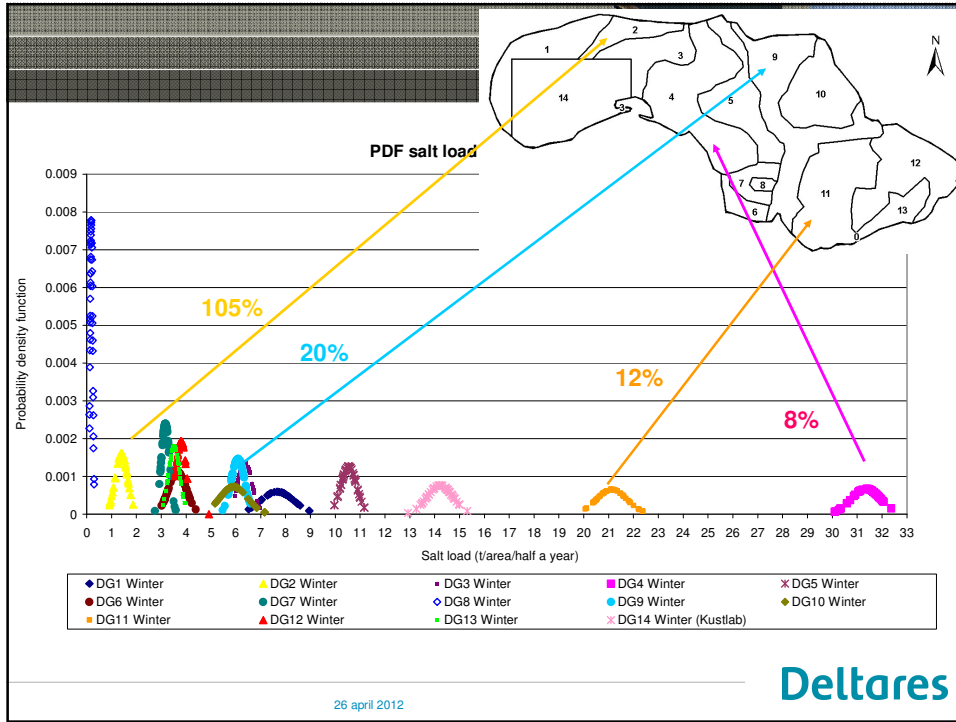
Salt load in kg/ha/year or ton Cl-/year

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Conclusions

- The uncertainties in geology are translated to the salt load model results
- Salt load variation related to geological uncertainties up to 105% but in average 20%
- The variation depends on the size and type of the study area
 - > Low amount of boreholes = high geological uncertainty and high salt load variation
 - > Transition infiltration-seepage or dunes-polers where the continuity of aquifers and aquitards is uncertain, can give a great variability in salt load results.

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