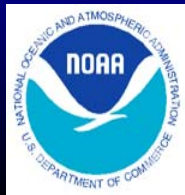


Some EU and US experiences in eutrophication assessment for transitional and coastal waters

<http://www.eutro.org>

J.G.Ferreira
S.B. Bricker

EU Joint Research Centre
Assessment of Eutrophication in
European Water Policy
September 14-15th 2004



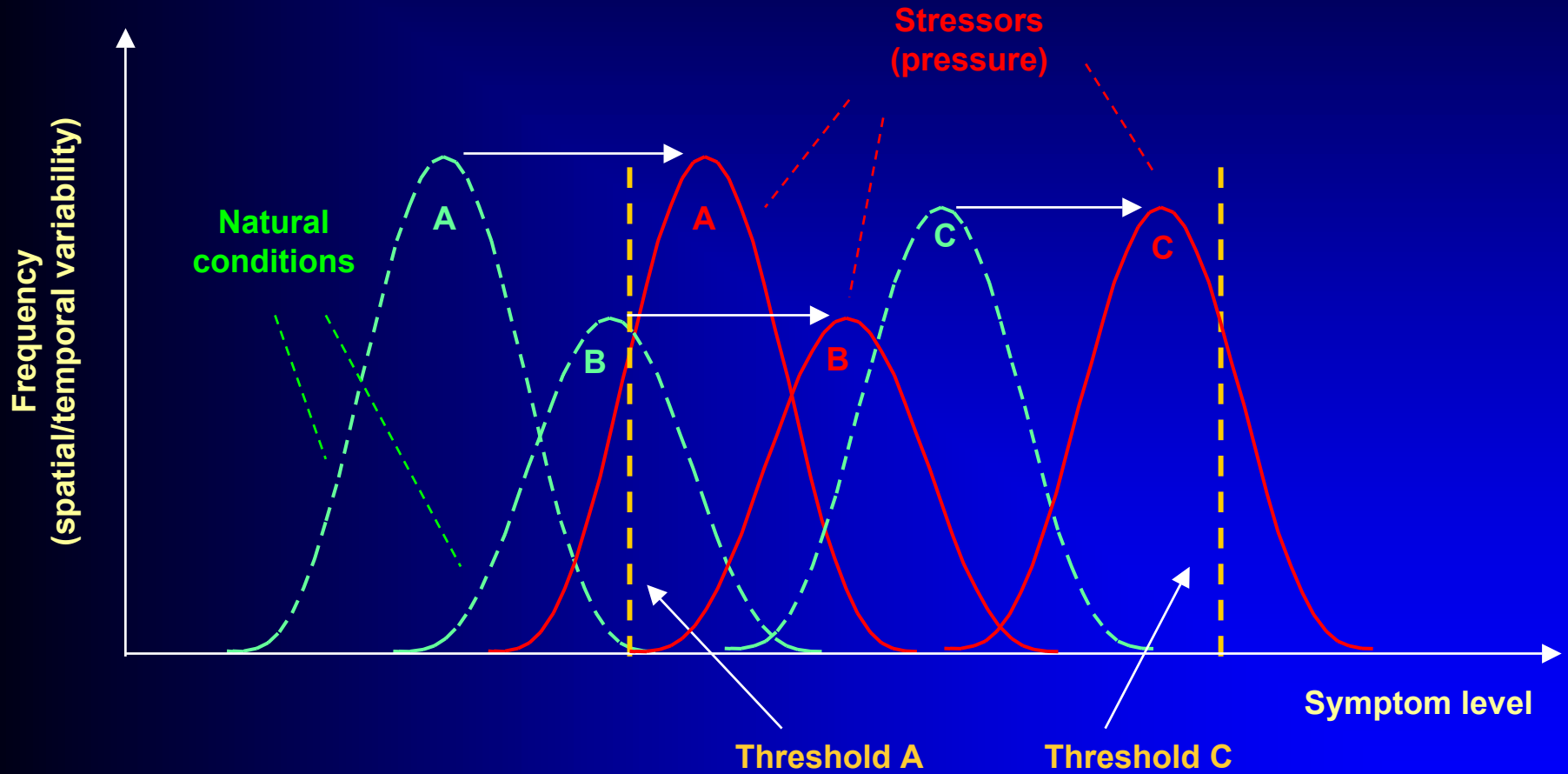
NOAA – U.S.A. <http://www.nccos.noaa.gov>
IMAR – Portugal <http://www.imar.pt>



Topics

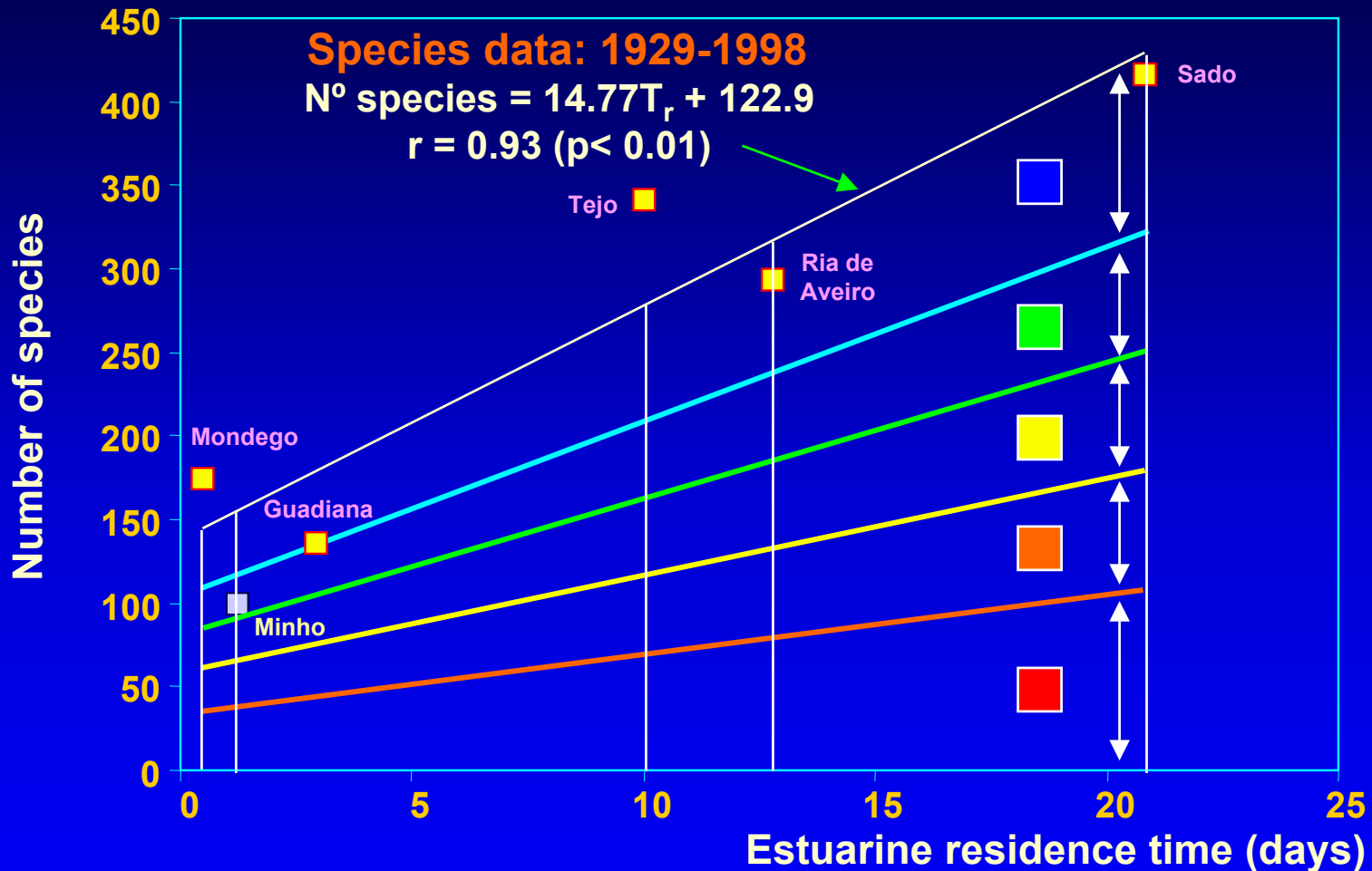
- Typology and eutrophication assessment 4
 - Intercalibration and natural pressures 2
 - Testing pressure changes due to measures 3
 - ASSETS, COMPP and ECOSTAT 3
 - Final comments 1
-
- 13+2

Typology reality check ecosystem reality



Transitional water residence time and species number

A factor in reference conditions for phytoplankton species composition



Ferreira, J.G., Wolff, W.J., Simas, T.C. & Bricker, S.B., 2004. Does biodiversity of estuarine phytoplankton depend on hydrology? Submitted.

Classification issues

NEEA

- Florida Bay: Highly sensitive system is severely impacted when chlorophyll *a* reaches $5 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$, which is considered Low by the NEEA/ASSETS category definition
- Narraguagus Bay: Naturally occurring nuisance and toxic blooms which come into the system from the ocean
- US NW coast: HAB events due to upwelling relaxation occurring offshore, transported into the coastal bays and estuaries

Others

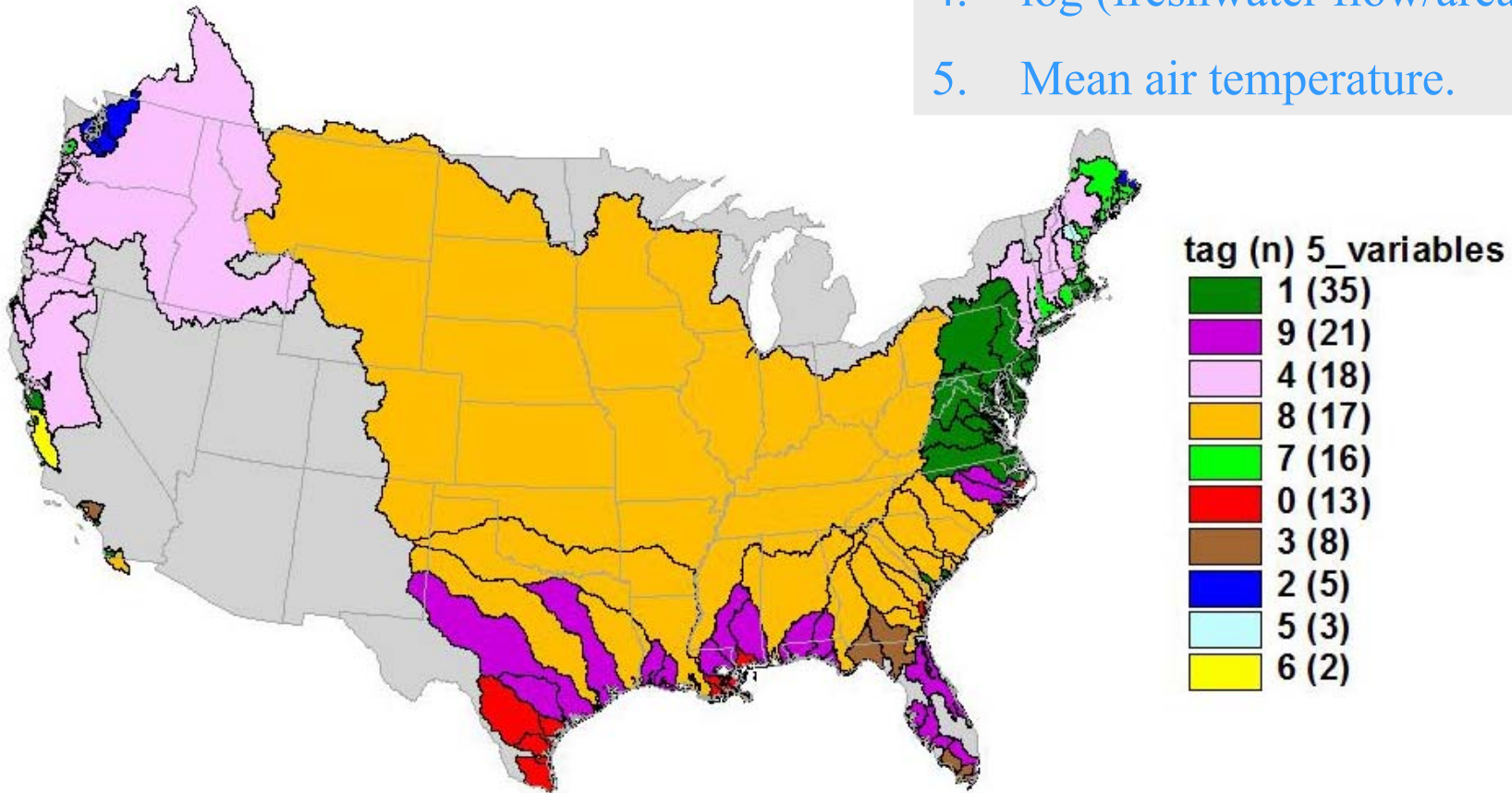
- Similar issues for HAB, e.g. in the EU Western Iberian Atlantic region or the Benguela upwelling
- D.O. thresholds set in absolute terms penalize water bodies with a naturally lower capacity to dissolve O_2 , due to higher T and S
- Short residence times or high natural turbidity favour shifts from pelagic to benthic symptoms of eutrophication
- Use of means instead of medians or a percentile based approach may misclassify systems subject to short extreme events

US typology

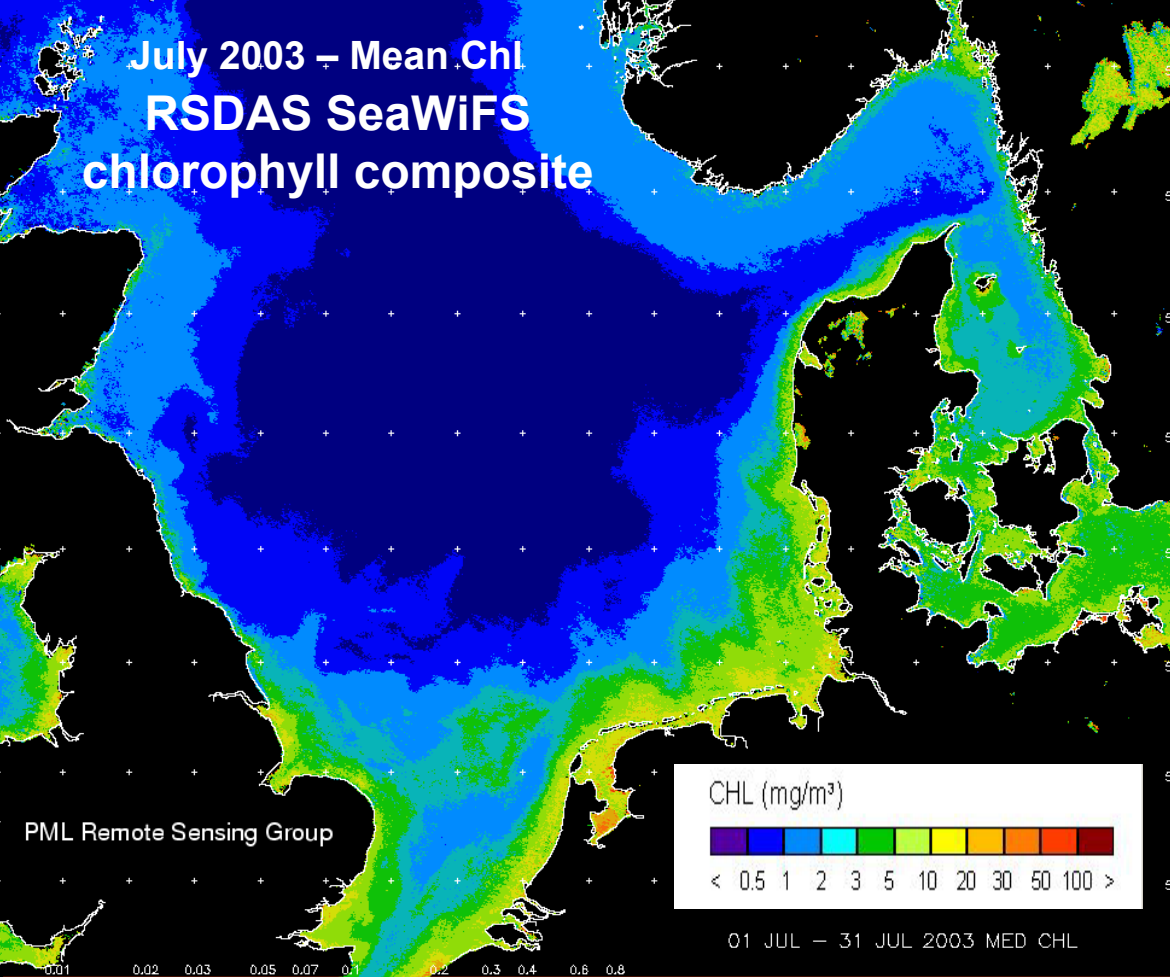
DISCO – Deluxe Integrated System for Clustering Operations (successor of LOICZView)

Example: Division into ten types

1. Mean depth;
2. Percentage open mouth;
3. Tide height;
4. \log (freshwater flow/area);
5. Mean air temperature.

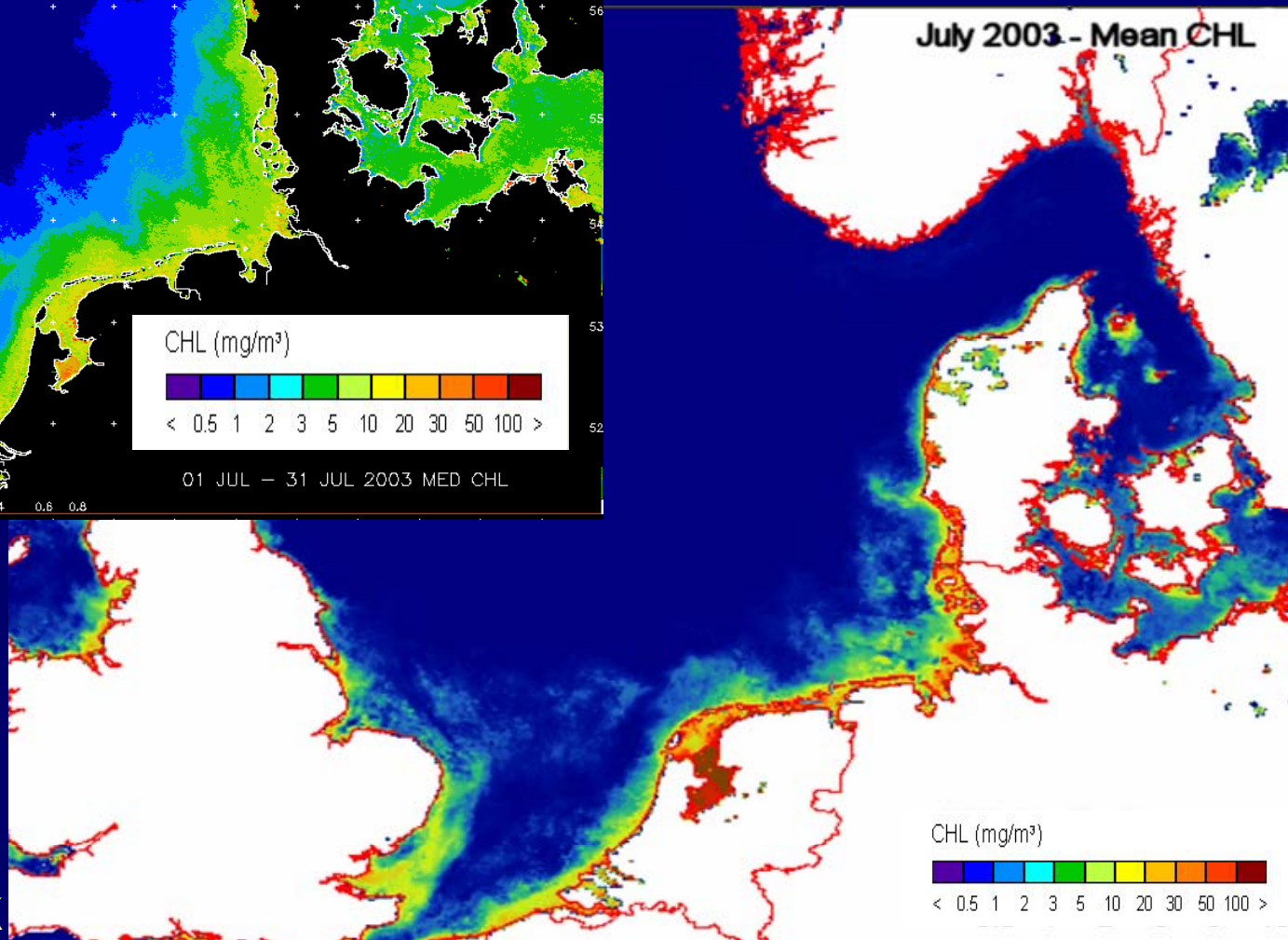


July 2003 – Mean Chl
RSDAS SeaWiFS
chlorophyll composite



Chlorophyll a in the North Sea

July 2003 - Mean CHL

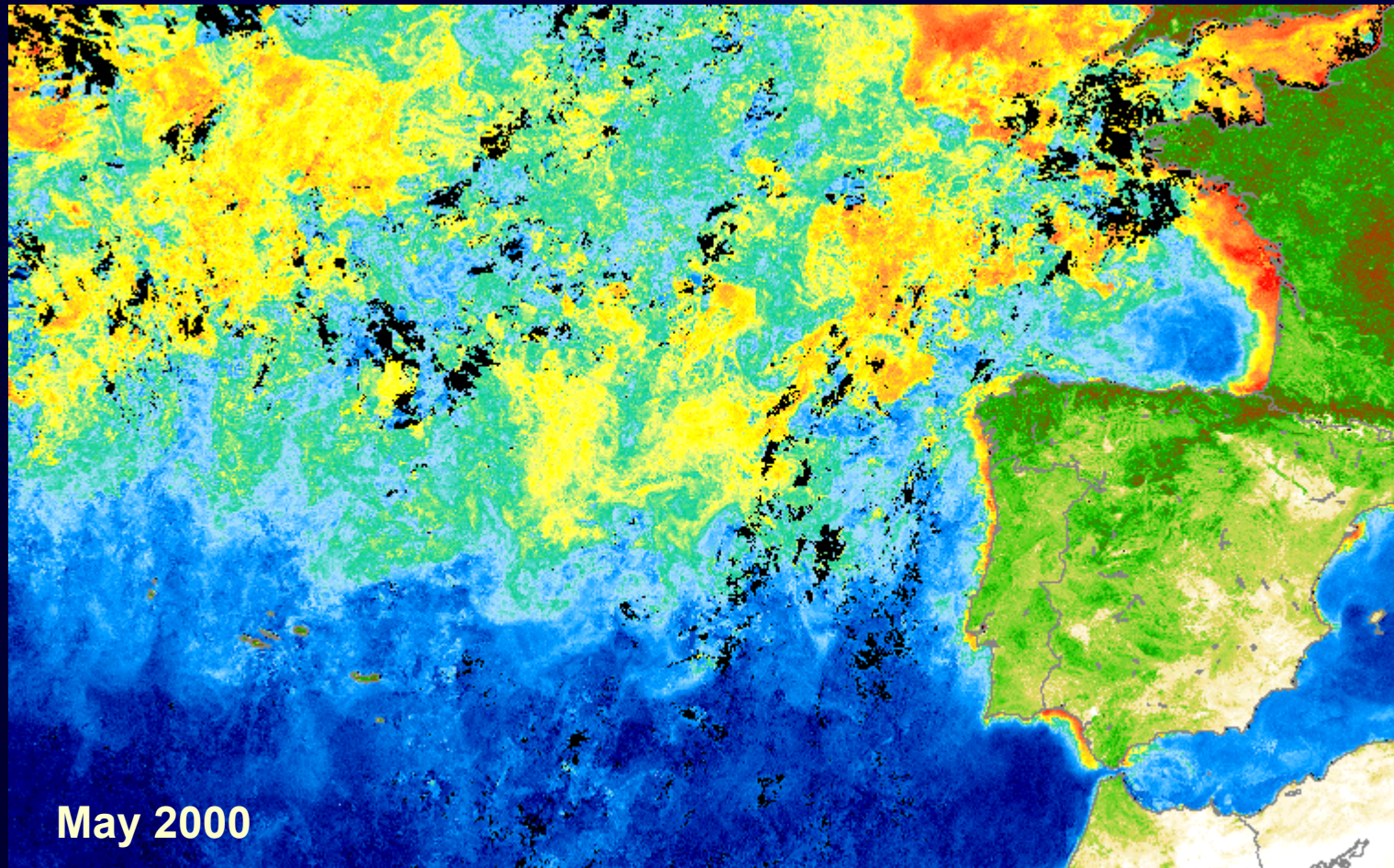


REVAMP algorithm
MERIS chlorophyll
composite

Courtesy Plymouth
Marine Laboratory, UK

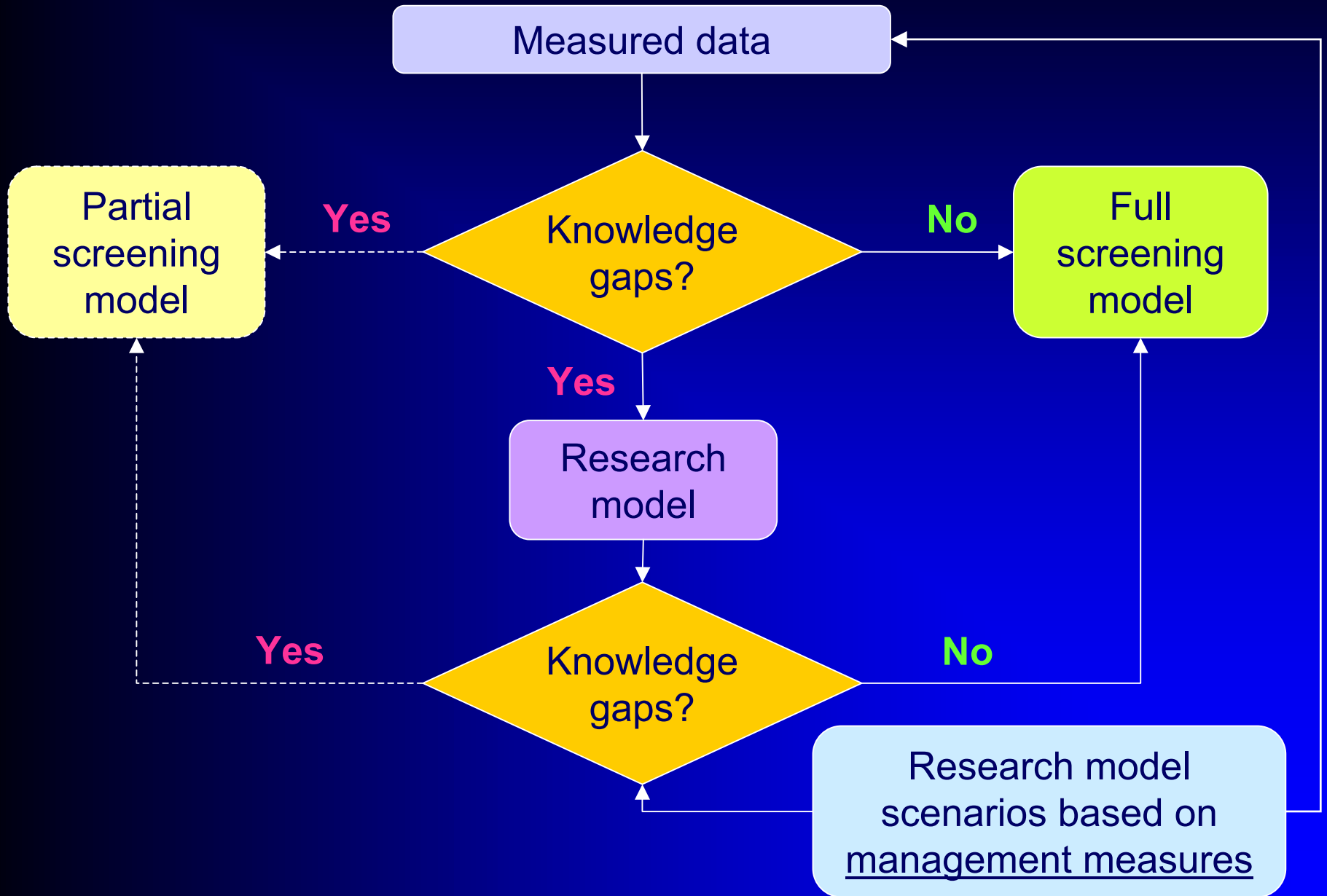
Harmful Algal Bloom(?)

Advection to the coast from offshore fronts



Courtesy Joint Research Centre, Ispra
<http://marine.jrc.cec.eu.int/>

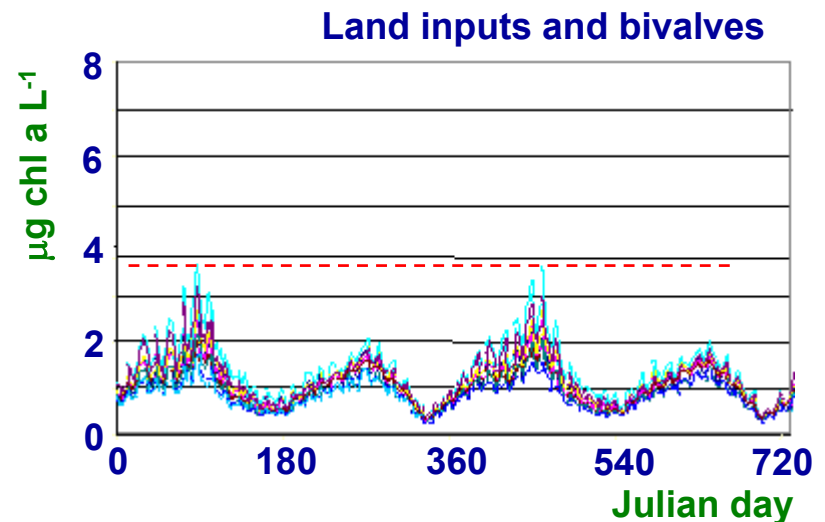
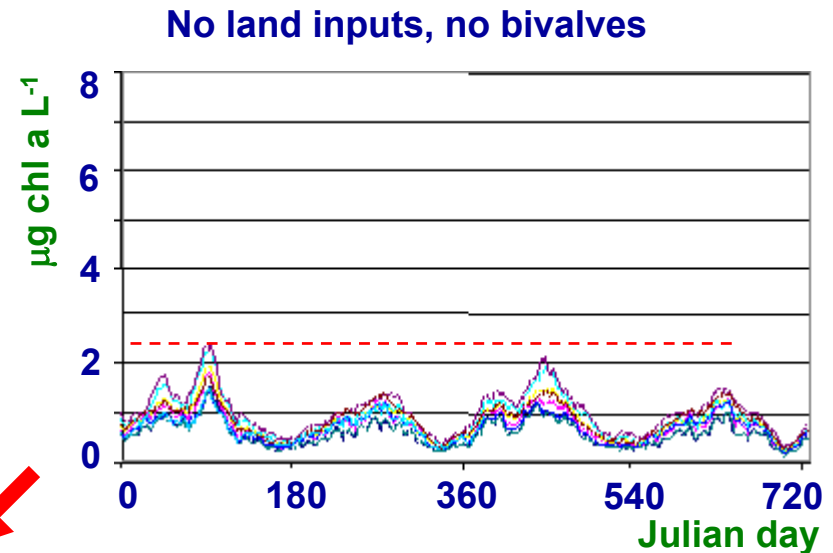
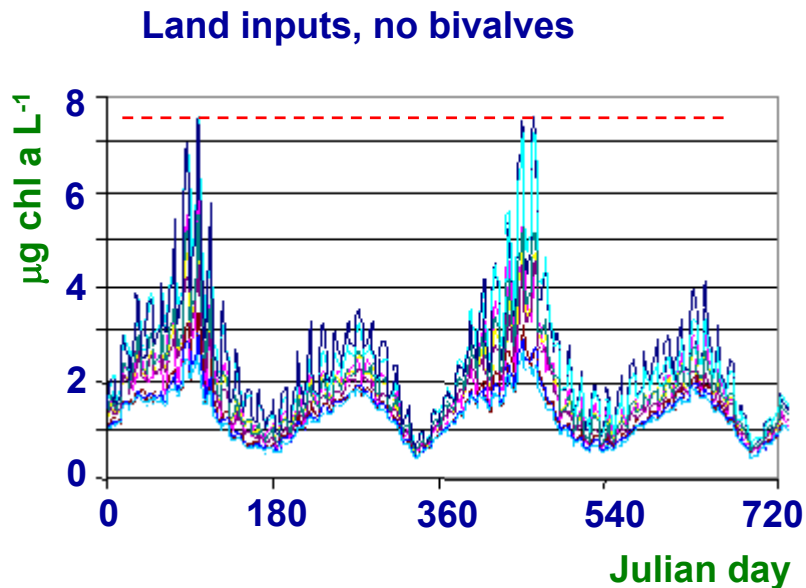
Relationship between data, research models and screening models



Different pressure scenarios

Effluent inputs and top-down control

Effects of land inputs and grazing pressure on phytoplankton in the Ria Formosa. Results from EcoWin2000, with nine boxes

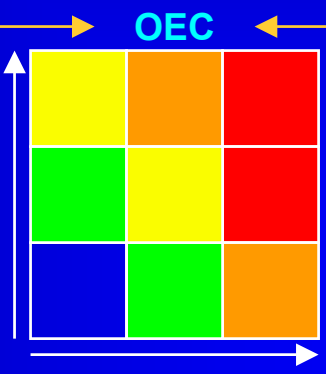
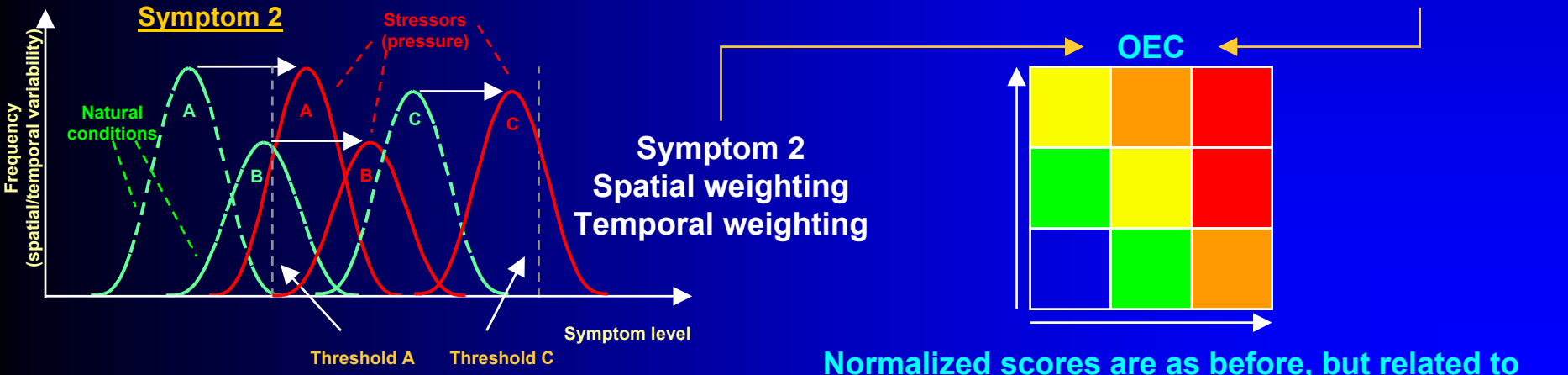
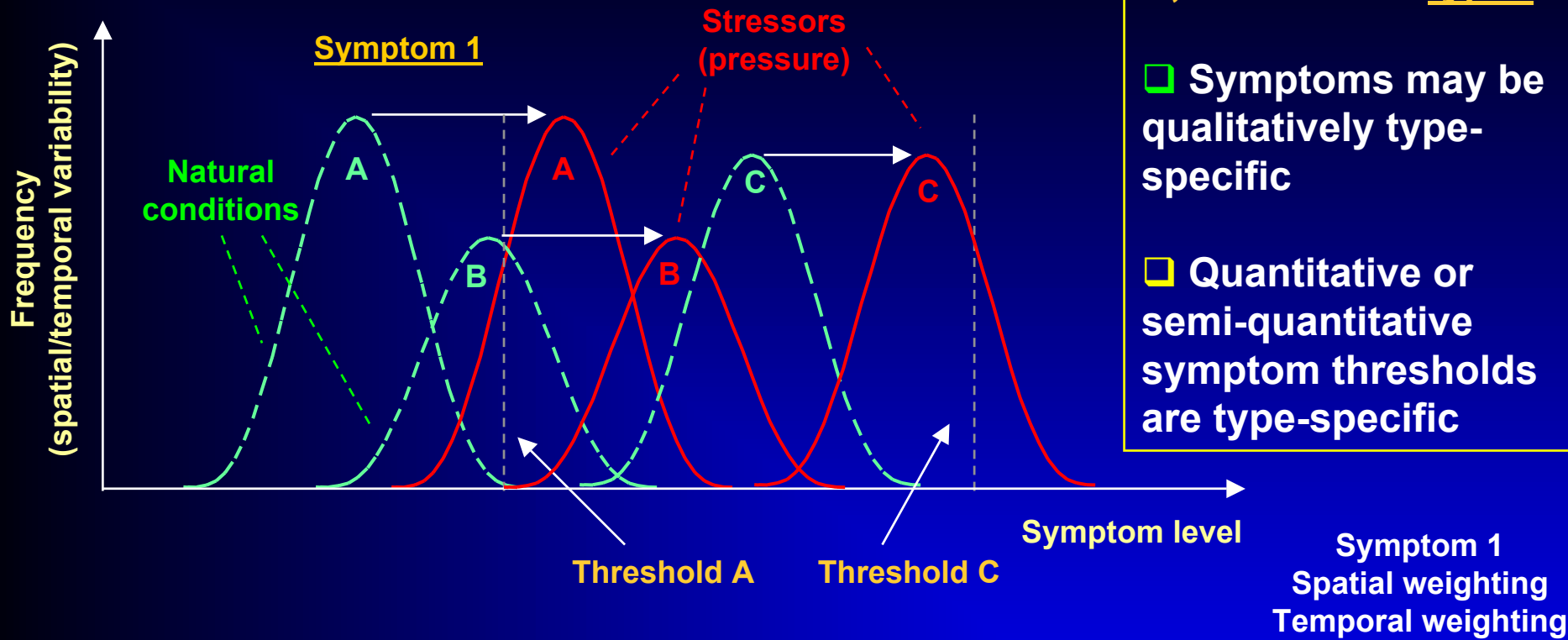


Ria Formosa -ASSETS validation & model scenarios

Index	Methods	Parameters	Value	Level of expression	Index
Overall Eutrophic Condition (OEC)	PSM	Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	0.25	0.57 Moderate	MODERATE LOW
	Field data	Epiphytes	0.50		
ASSETS OEC: 4	SSM	Macroalgae	0.96		
		Dissolved Oxygen	0		
		Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	0.25	0.25 Low	
		Nuisance and Toxic Blooms	0		
Overall Eutrophic Condition (OEC)	PSM	Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	0.25	0.58 Moderate	MODERATE LOW
	Research model	Epiphytes	0.50		
ASSETS OEC: 4	SSM	Macroalgae	1.00		
		Dissolved Oxygen	0		
		Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	0.25	0.25 Low	
		Nuisance and Toxic Blooms	0		
		28% lower			
Overall Eutrophic Condition (OEC)	PSM	Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	0.25	0.42 Moderate	MODERATE LOW
	Model green scenario	Epiphytes	0.50		
ASSETS OEC: 4(5)	SSM	Macroalgae	0.50		
		Dissolved Oxygen	0		
		Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	0.25	0.25 Low	
		Nuisance and Toxic Blooms	0		

ASSETS multitype approach for OEC

- A, B and C are types
- ☐ Symptoms may be qualitatively type-specific
- ☐ Quantitative or semi-quantitative symptom thresholds are type-specific

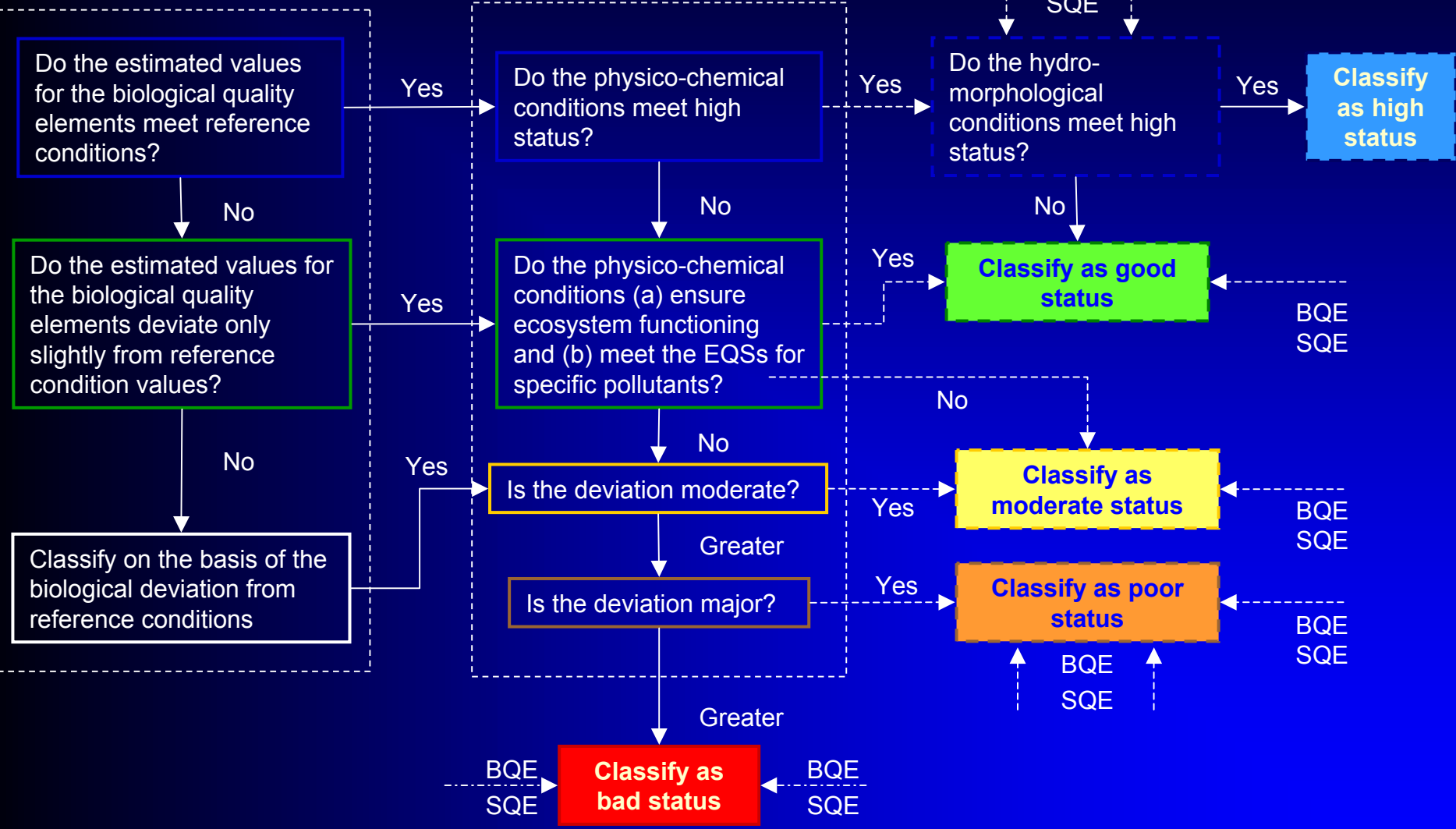


Normalized scores are as before, but related to type-specific thresholds

ECOSTAT adapted for eutrophication assessment

Direct effects/ primary symptoms

Indirect effects/ secondary symptoms

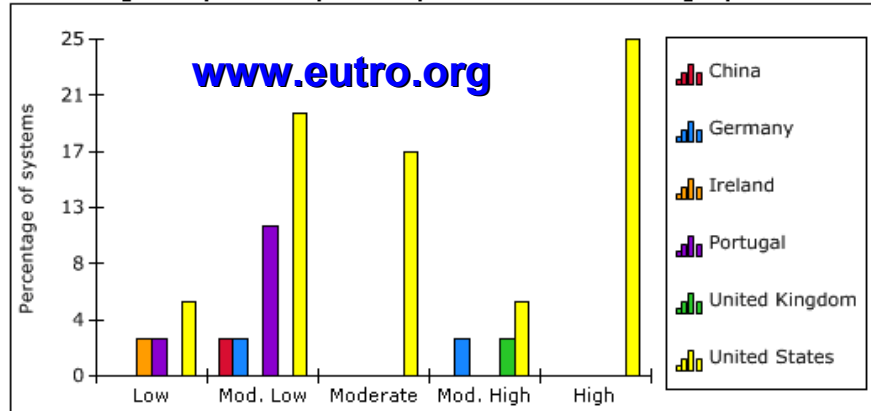


Intercalibration between ASSETS and COMPP for the Tagus Estuary, Portugal

Assessment time period		1976-2000	
Method applied		OSPAR	COMPP ASSETS
Causative factors	Discharge	+	2
	Trends		
	Nutrients (N,P, N/P)	+,+,+	1
Direct effects (primary symptoms)	Chlorophyll	+	1
	Nuisance/ toxic species	-/-	0
	Macrophytes	-	0
	SAV	-	0
Indirect effects (secondary symptoms)	Oxygen	-	0.12
	Zoobenthos	-	Not app.
	Fish kills	-	Not app.
	Toxins	-	Not app.
Integration		-,-,-	5,4,4
Overall Classification		NPA	4

U.Brockmann, D.Topcu, U.Claussen, S.B.Bricker, J.G.Ferreira, M.Dowell, T.Raabe & W.Zevenboom, 2004. COMPASS, a proposed eutrophication classification, considering the WFD, based on COMPP and ASSETS. In prep.

Percentage of systems by country in each ASSETS category



Final comments

- **Eutrophication assessment must rely on a PSR approach, therefore the distinction between natural and anthropogenic causes is critical, in order to define responses (measures);**
- **Assessment methods such as NEEA/ASSETS already accommodate natural variability, by accounting for vulnerability and susceptibility, which are indirectly related to typology (e.g. more vulnerable systems naturally have higher symptom expression);**
- **Research models may be used to explore changes in state (impacts) due to various pressure scenarios for different types, to help define meaningful thresholds;**
- **Research models and screening models may be combined to test the potential effects of management measures;**
- **The EU and US share many common features in their estuaries and coastal zones, but there are also some obvious (and useful) differences. It makes good sense to use harmonized methodologies: The COMPASS group is currently working towards that end by leveraging NEEA/ASSETS and OSPAR/COMPP;**
- **www.eutro.org is a resource for comparative assessment methods and results, and other eutrophication-related information, for Transitional and Coastal Waters.**