

Understanding controls of watershed exports to Gulf of Maine as land use and climate changes.

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Wilfred M. Wollheim
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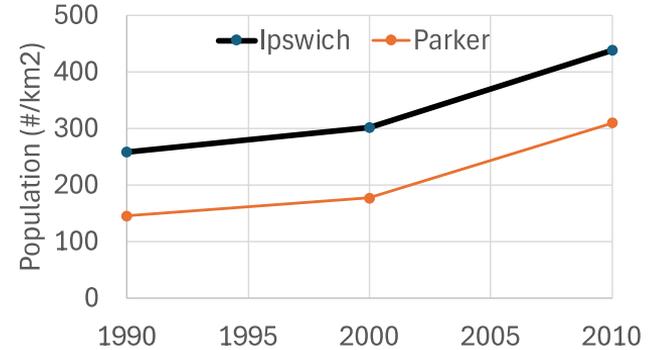


Gulf of Maine Monitoring and Research Symposium
2025-04-08



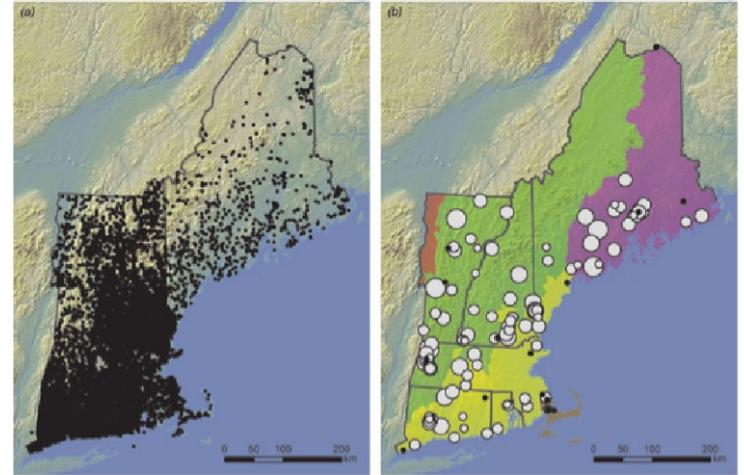
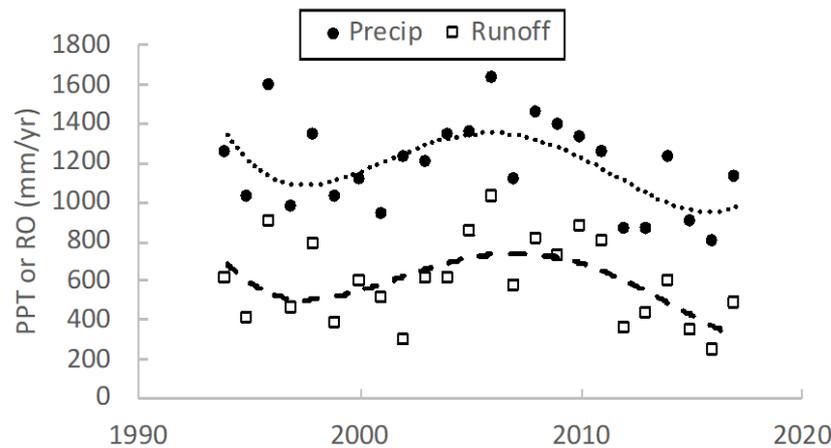
To understand how land use, population, climate, and hydrologic change are interacting to alter the location, timing, and form of material exports to the coast, and how communities view these changes.

Flow, Temperature, Chloride, Nutrients, Pathogens



Current Dams

Dams Removed



Modeling Approach



Open-source *macro-scale* hydrologic model (Grogan et al. 2022).

Rasterized, conceptual hydrology with a focus on human forcings.

Scenario based studies.

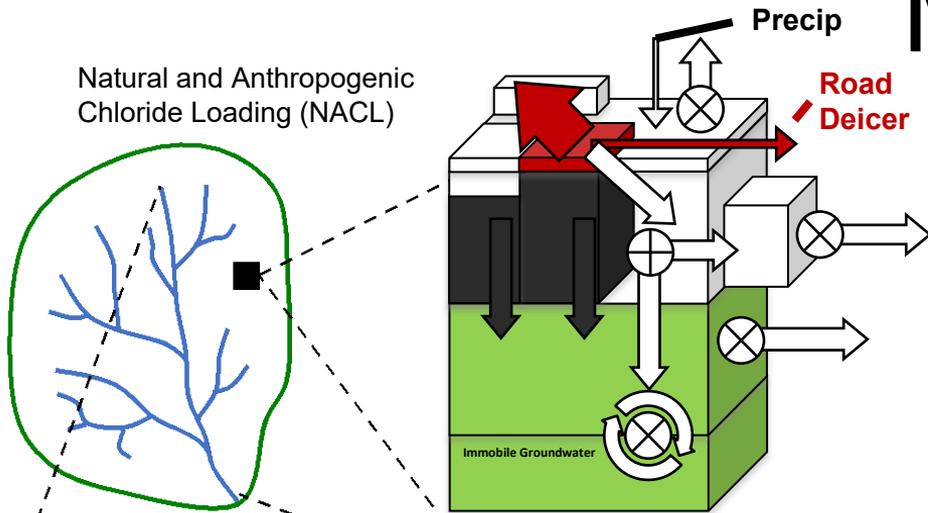
- Constrained by policy questions or by stakeholders.

Model coupling.

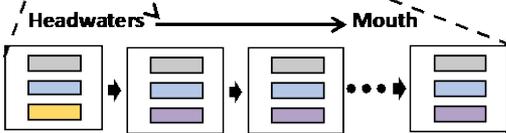
- Other biophysical models, economic models, or ML.

Empirically parameterized.

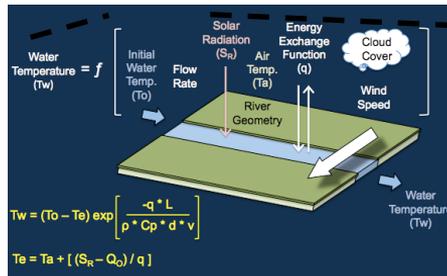
- Minimal complexity biophysical processes.



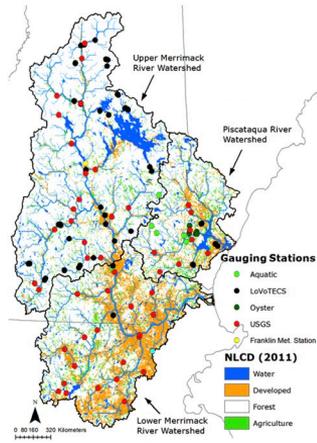
Zuidema et al. 2018



Water Temperature Module (WTM)

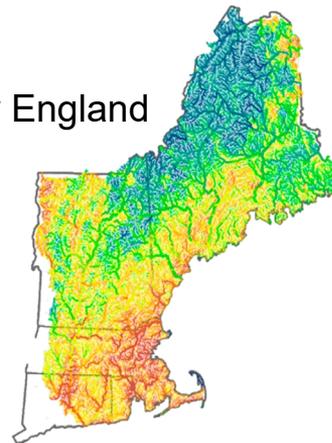


Stewart et al. 2013

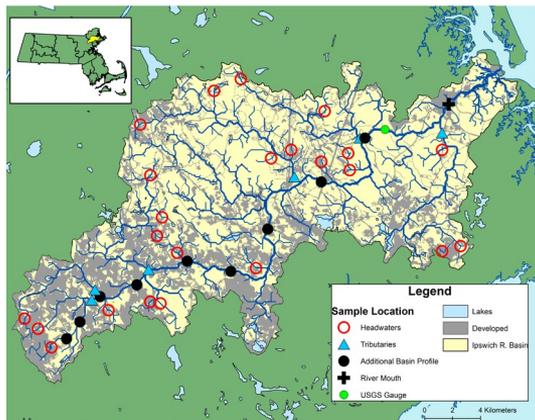


Large watershed
(Merrimack, Piscataqua)

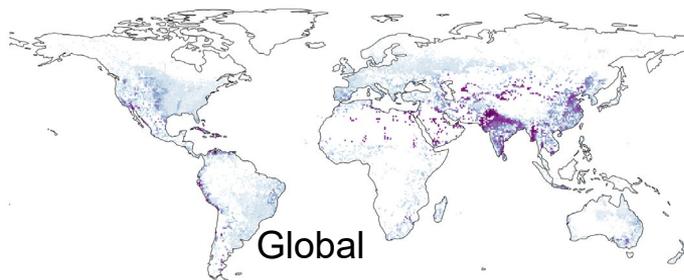
New England



Places, Scales, Networks

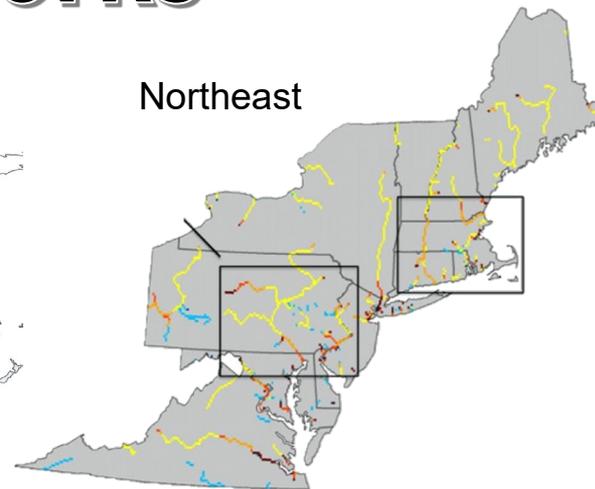


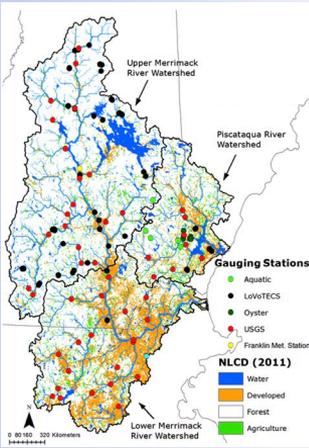
Small watershed (Ipswich, Parker)



Global

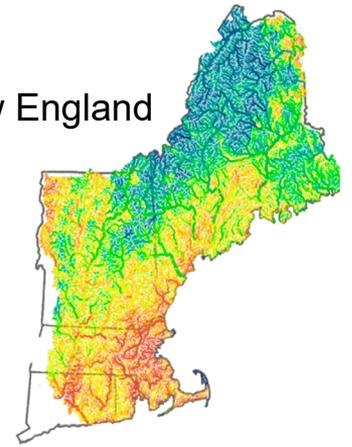
Northeast



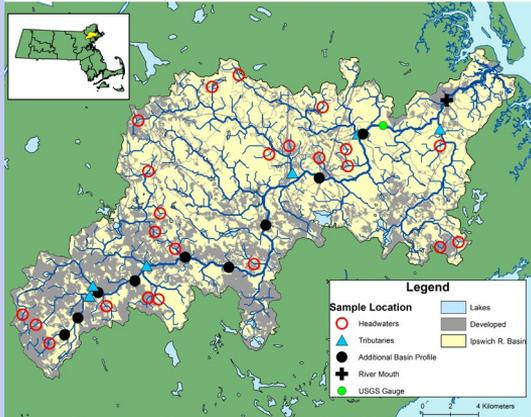


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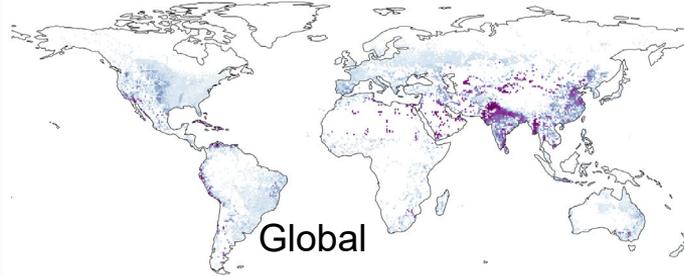
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Places, Scales, Networks

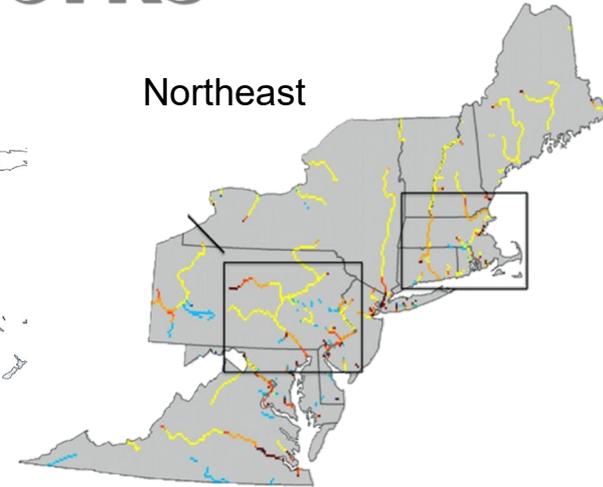


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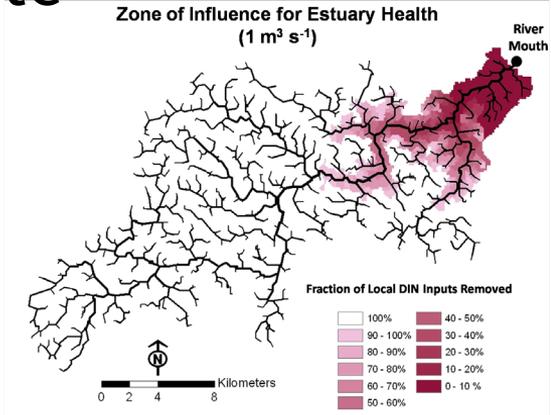


Global

Northeast

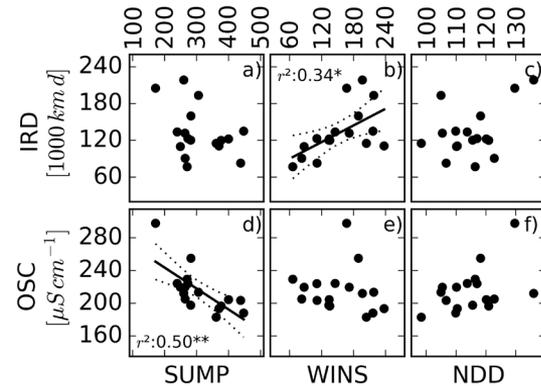


Nitrate



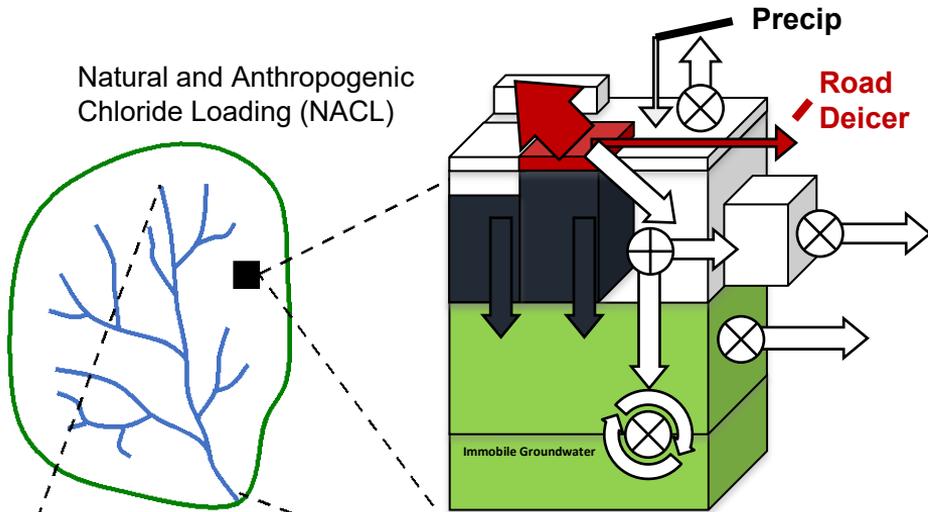
Wollheim et al., 2008a,b, 2015; Stewart et al. 2011

Chloride

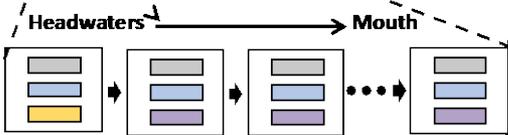


Zuidema et al. 2018

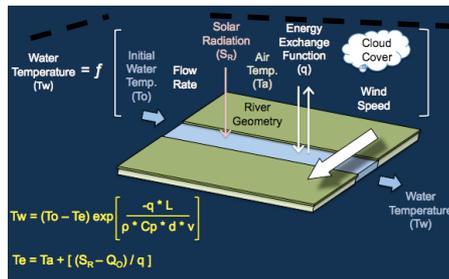
Natural and Anthropogenic Chloride Loading (NACL)



Zuidema et al. 2018



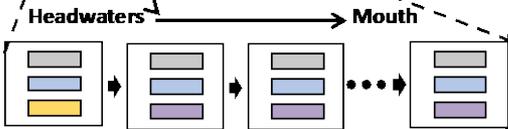
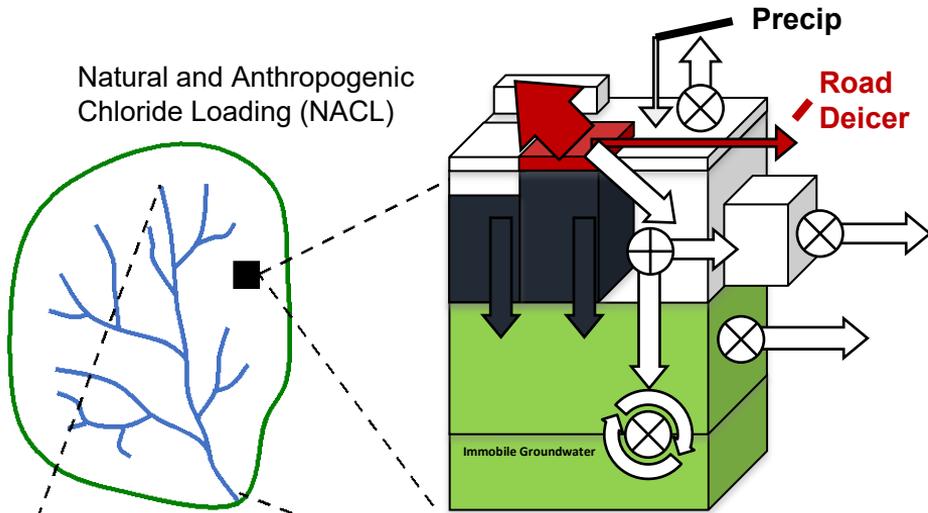
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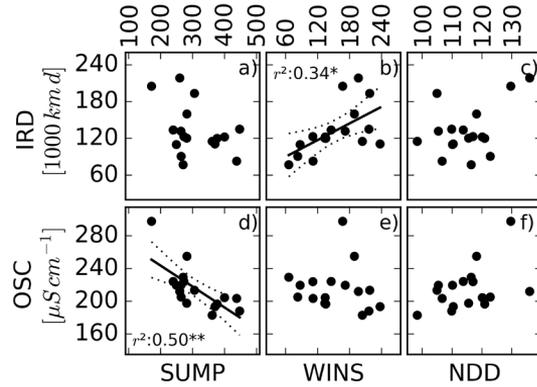
Stewart et al. 2013

Chloride

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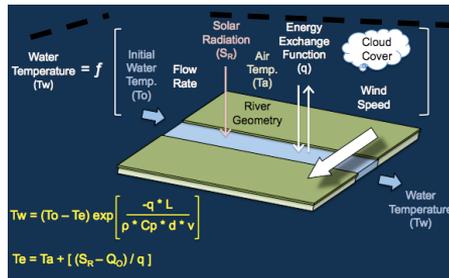
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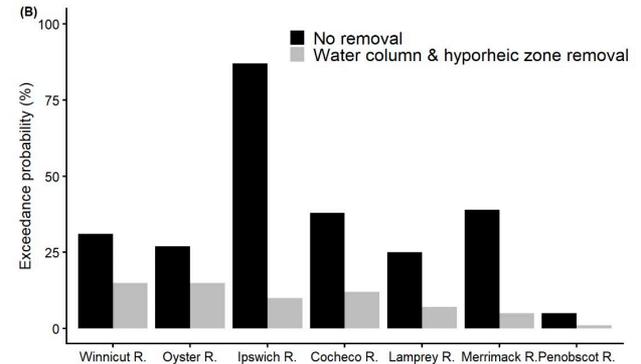
Zuidema et al. 2018

E.Coli

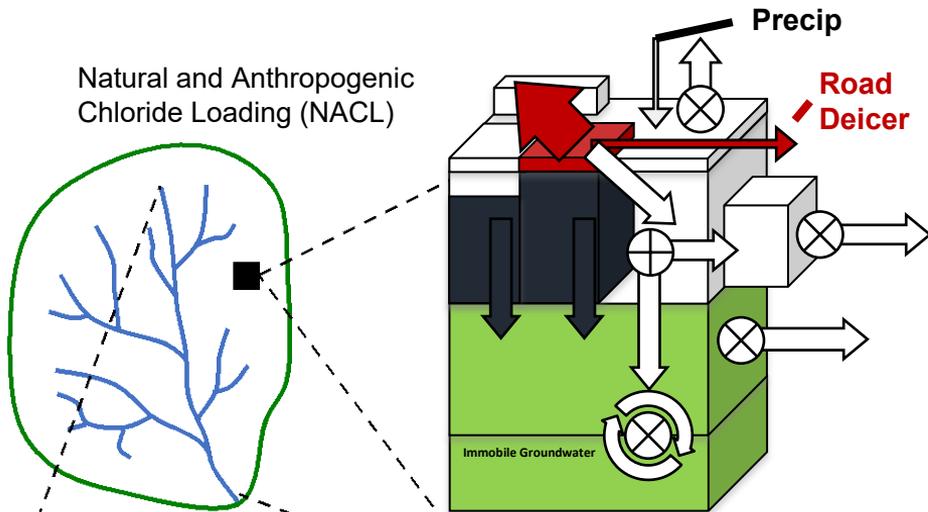
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Stewart et al. 2013

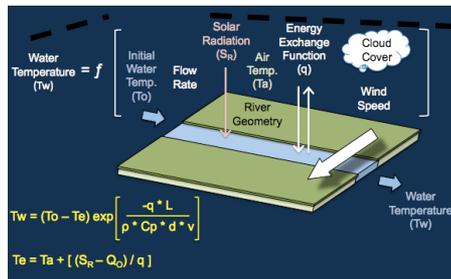


Huang et al. 2022



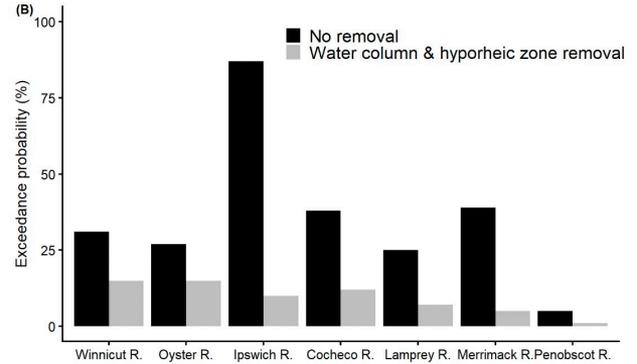
Zuidema et al. 2018

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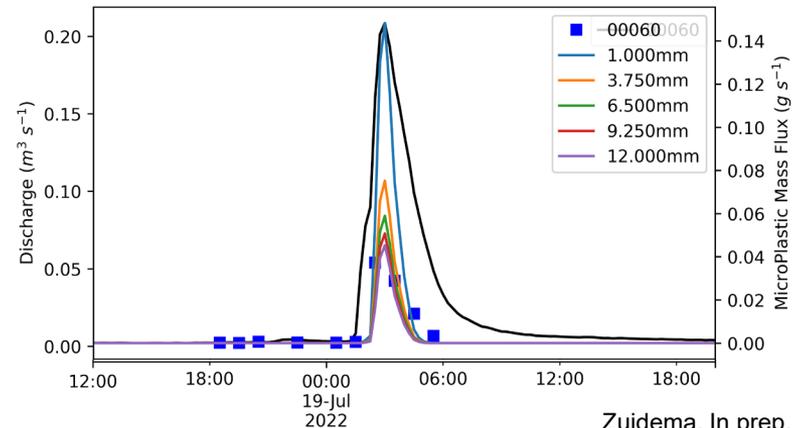
Stewart et al. 2013

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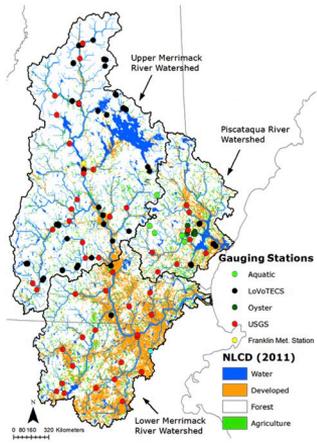


Huang et al. 2022

Microplastics

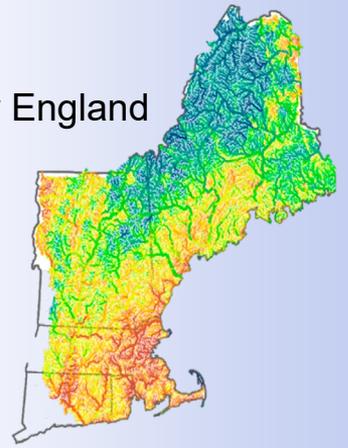


Zuidema, In prep.

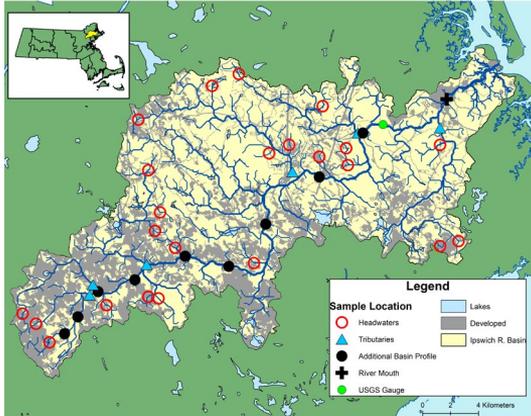


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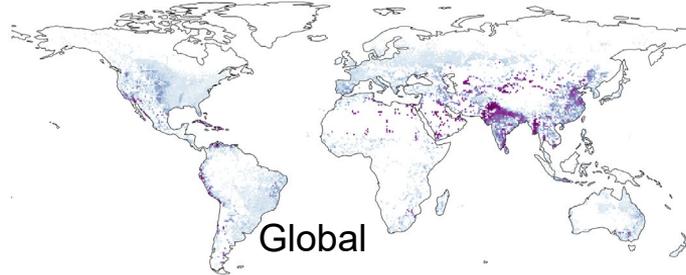
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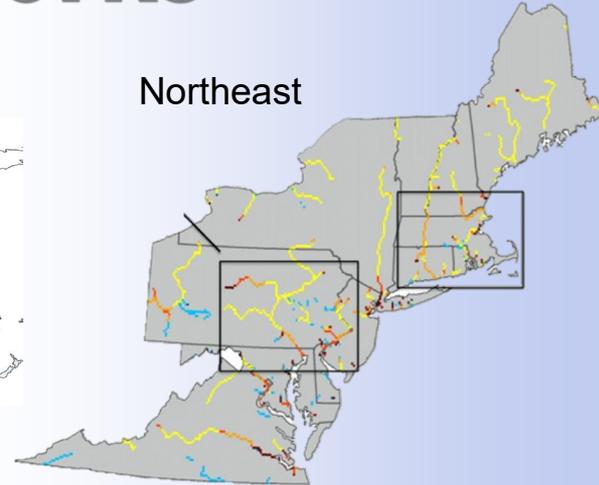


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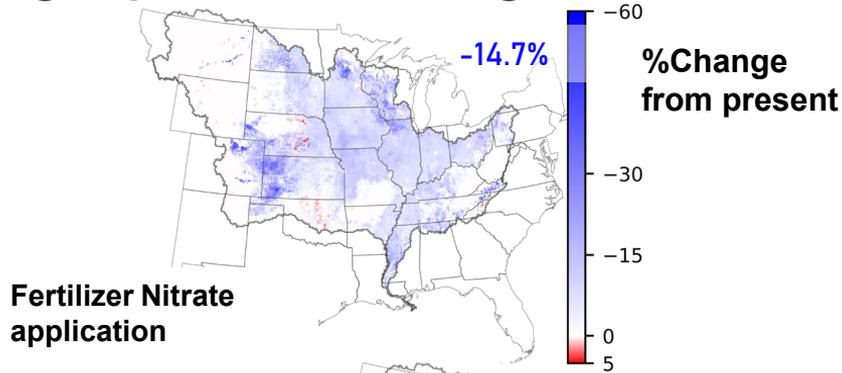
Global

Northeast



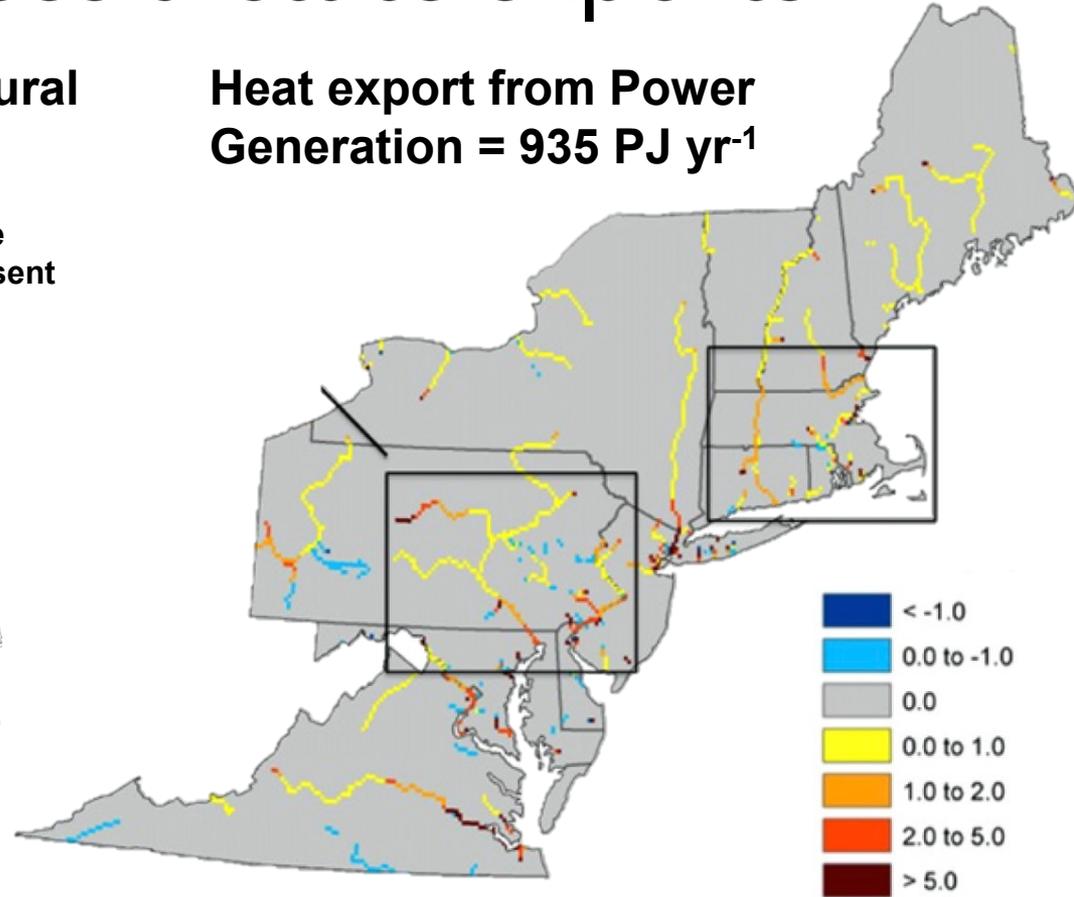
Policy and practices dictate exports

Nitrate export in response to natural gas prices increasing 50%



Zuidema et al. 2023

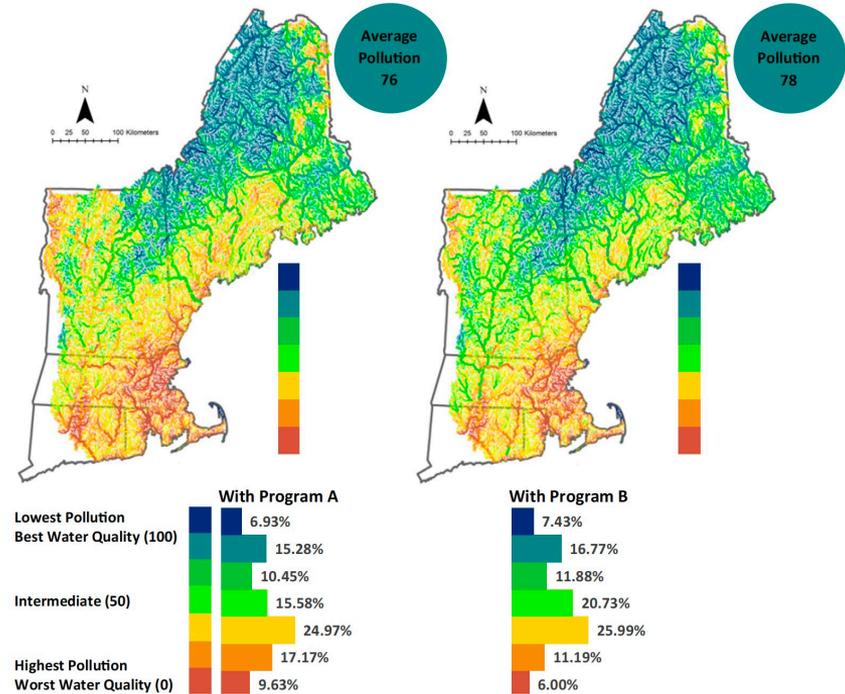
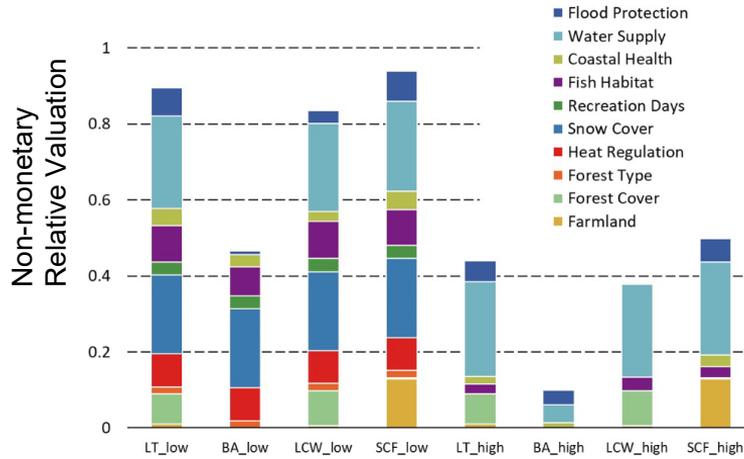
Heat export from Power Generation = 935 PJ yr⁻¹



Stewart et al. 2013

Water quality is valued and is tied to place.

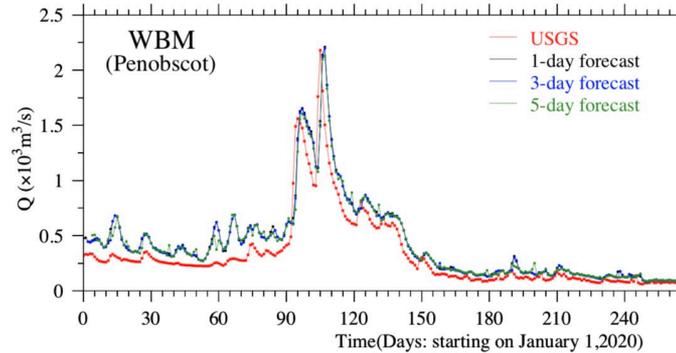
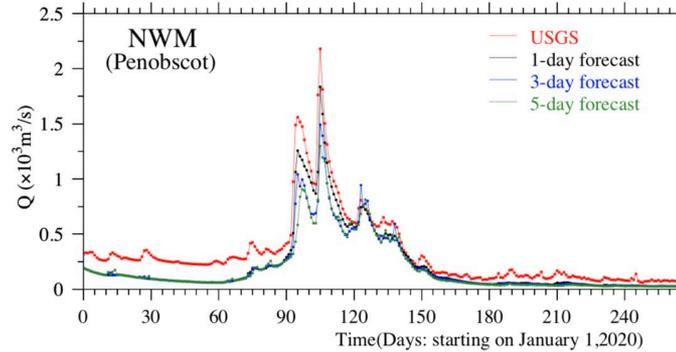
Quality **water supply** was the most valued service. Upstream residents placed less value on **health of coastal ecosystems**.



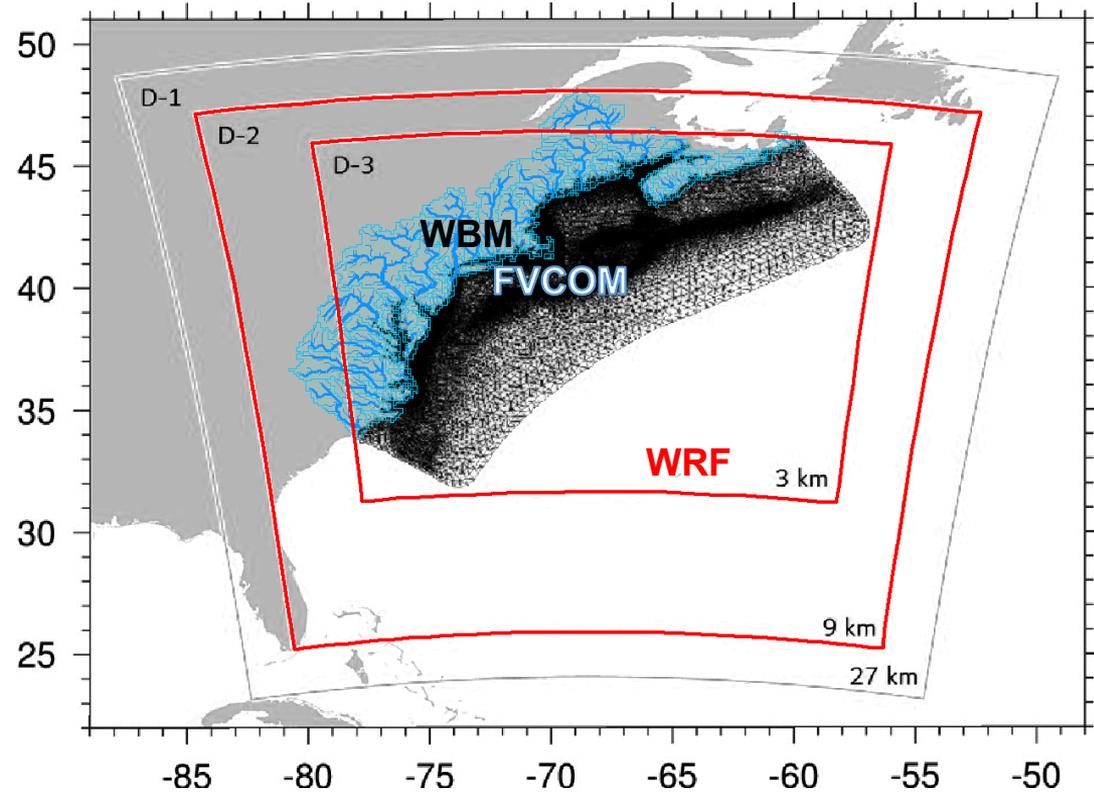
People stated a willingness to pay more for improved management

- \$21 for each 1% improvement within 10 mi of home, \$11 within 10-25 mi.
- An additional \$8 for areas of interest (away from respondent's home)

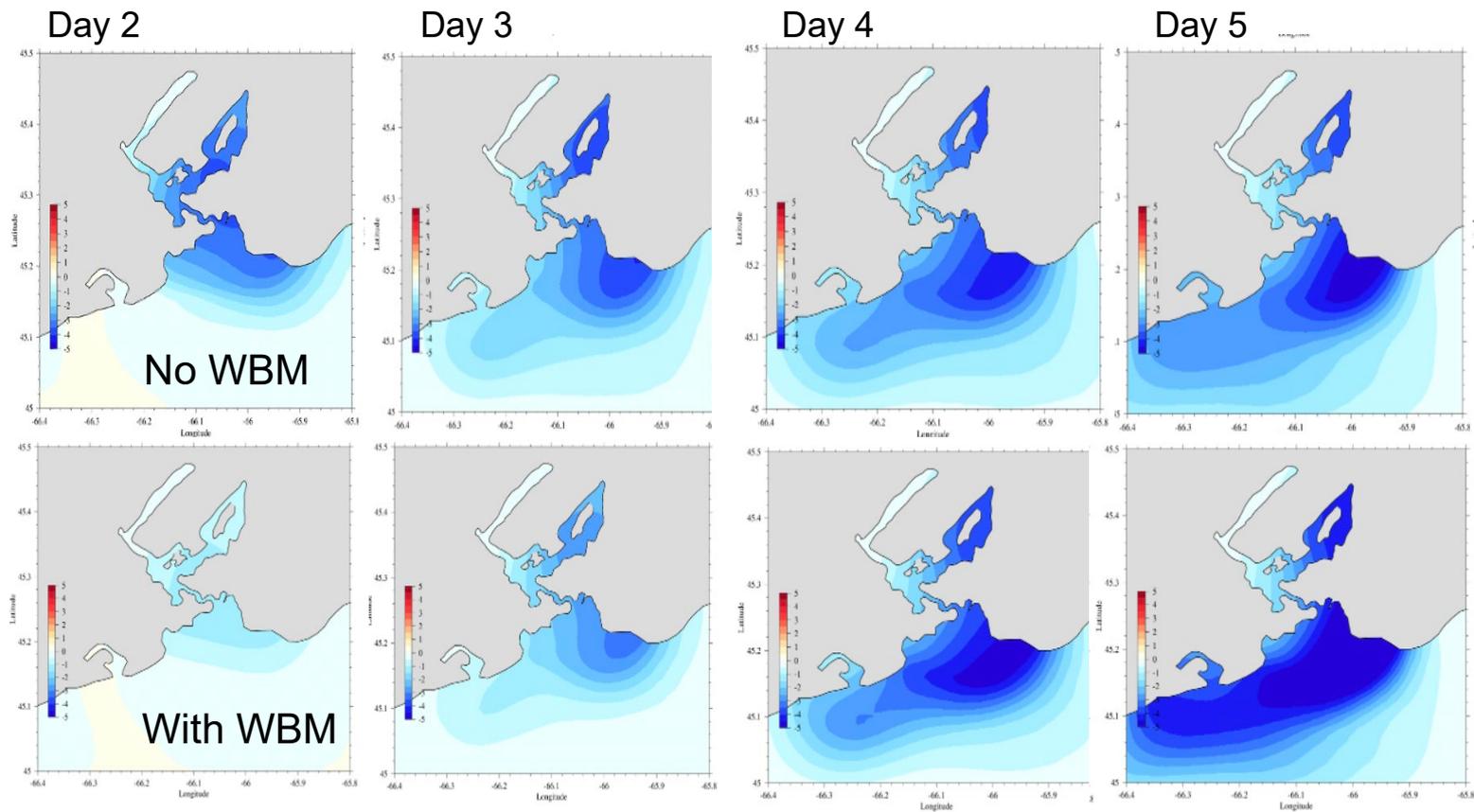
Real-time Flow and Temperature to coast



Q about $400 \text{ km}^3 \text{ y}^{-1}$ inflow to ocean
Dom + Ind use: $\sim 60 \text{ km}^3 \text{ y}^{-1}$ Irrigation: $1\text{-}3 \text{ km}^3$

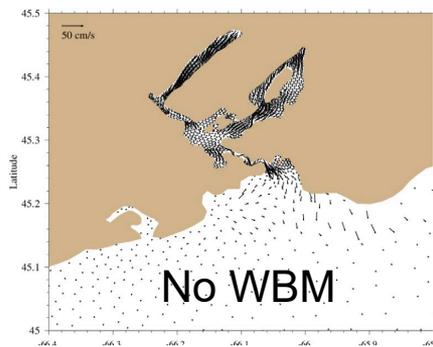


Coupling WBM→FVCOM meaningfully affects salinity forecasts

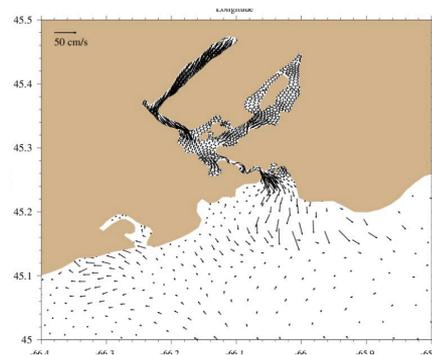


Coupling WBM→FVCOM meaningfully affects velocity forecasts

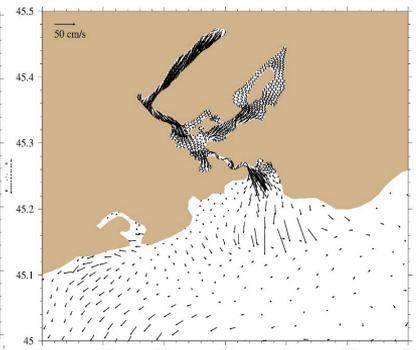
Day 2



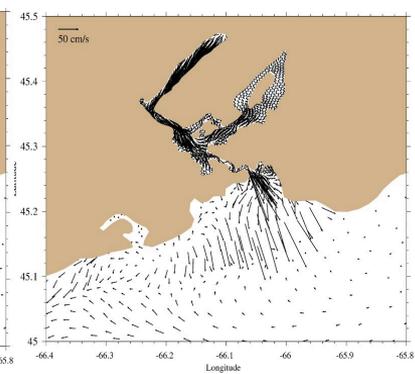
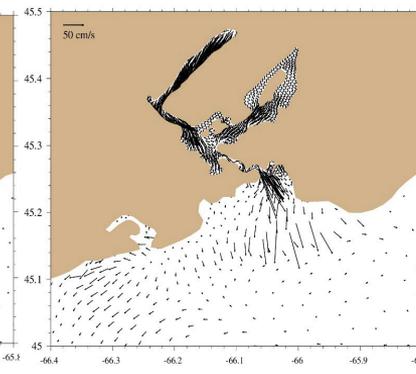
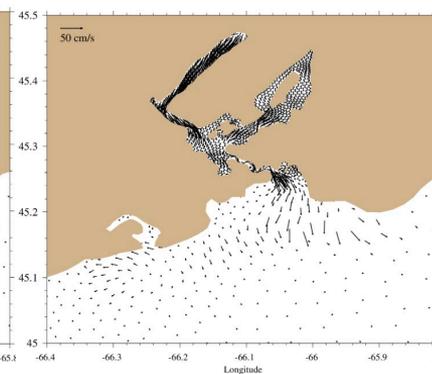
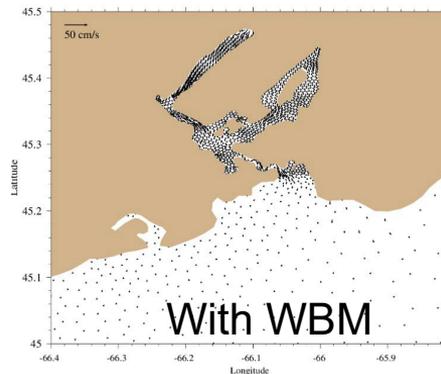
Day 3



Day 4



Day 5



Paths we are trying to pursue in the GoM and its watersheds

- 1) Opportunities to integrate additional measures of water quality into our real-time forecasts.
 - a) Richer integration of modeling frameworks
 - b) Deeper insight into monitoring needs

- 2) Co-Develop model-based utilities or experiments that put communities and stakeholders in the driver-seat for watershed management.



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WBM

The University of New Hampshire
Water Balance Model

