

**nhess-2018-381: Submitted on 13 Dec 2018**

**Comparing the efficiency of hypoxia mitigation strategies in an urban, turbid tidal river, using a coupled hydro sedimentary–biogeochemical model**

*Katixa Lajaunie-Salla, Aldo Sottolichio, Sabine Schmidt, Xavier Litrico, Guillaume Binet, and Gwenaël Abril*

**Comment and replies to the referee 2**

The manuscript was greatly improved and all raised issue on the initial submission were properly discussed and convincing. I advise this paper to be accepted for final publication as soon as a few minor corrections are implemented.

**Reply:** We thank the reviewer for the positive evaluation of our work and for the detailed and useful comments that contributed to greatly improve the manuscript.

**Comment 1 - L62:** Consider rephrasing as: “Hypoxia, defined as dissolved oxygen (DO) concentration  $< 2 \text{ mg.L}^{-1}$  or  $< 30\%$  of saturation, is a major environmental issue, as it stresses marine organisms and disturbs the function of marine ecosystem (Rabalais et al., 2010; Vaquer-Sunyer and Duarte, 2008).” To make the very first sentence a bit lighter.

**Reply 1:** We corrected as suggested L62-65.

“Hypoxia refers to low dissolved oxygen (DO) conditions when concentrations fall below  $2 \text{ mg.L}^{-1}$  (or  $< 30\%$  of saturation. This is a major environmental issue, as it stresses marine organisms and disturbs the function of marine ecosystem (Rabalais et al., 2010; Vaquer-Sunyer and Duarte, 2008).”

**Comment 2 - L77:** consider removing “problems” from the sentence

**Reply 2:** We removed as suggested.

**Comment 3 - L108:** what is mean’t by “local residual circulation”?

**Reply 3:** The “local residual circulation means the Garonne river discharge. We modified the sentence as following in L108-111:

“A second possible action could therefore be to modify **river discharges** and to reduce water flushing time to promote the dilution by well-oxygenated waters and/or the seaward dispersion of oxygen-consuming **matter** (Lajaunie-salla et al., 2018).”

**Comment 4 - L110:** consider changing “material” into “matter”

**Reply 4:** We corrected as suggested L111.

**Comment 5 - L130:** delete space in “fresh water”

**Reply 5:** We corrected as suggested L131.

**Comment 6 - L146-147:** could you actually indicate how much this increased since the mid 80s?

**Reply 6:** We modified the presentation of the changes in the Garonne river flow and provide a comparison of two periods L147-152:

“Over the last decades, a decrease of the Garonne River flow was observed due to changes in precipitation, but also by the water abstraction for hydroelectric dam and irrigation (Schmidt et al, 2017). This is associated with an increase of the number of days the river flow is below  $110 \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ : on average 26.9 days/year for the period 2008-2018 compared to 1.4 days/year for the period 1975-1985 (<http://www.hydro.eaufrance.fr/indexd.php>).”

**Comment 7 - L153:** consider changing into “... above the critical threshold of  $110 \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  for the...”

**Reply 7:** We corrected as suggested L157.

**Comment 8 – L156-157:** consider changing into “The sewage system of the metropolis drains an urban area of ... and serves a ....”

**Reply 8:** We corrected as suggested L160-161.

**Comment 9 - L159-161:** change to “The release of treated and untreated wastewater represents up to 1.5% of the fluvial Garonne discharge (Lanoux et al., 2013).”

**Reply 9:** We corrected as suggested L163-165.

**Comment 10 - L199:** please, indicate what is “the SUEZ environment”

**Reply 10:** In fact flow data are from the WWTP, whatever the company in charge. (SUEZ or another) We modified the information in L203.

**Comment 11 -L206:** change to “are presented in detail in Lajaunie-Salla et al. (2017)”

**Reply 11:** We corrected as suggested L210.

**Comment 12 - L207 and following paragraph:** the description of the reference scenario is still unclear. I think I understand that it was based on 2006 meteo observations, with constant  $40 \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  over July-Sept (instead of what in reality??), and with either the WWTP efficiency of 2006, or the efficiency of 2014. It seems, there are several options here, please make this paragraph clearer.

**Reply 12:** As suggested by the reviewer we have modified this paragraph to clarify the simulation options in L216-224

“However, the reference simulation was run with an even more severe and constant low flow of  $40 \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  from July 15 to September 30. This flow is different from the real river flow recorded in 2006 (75 vs 60 continuous days of river flow below  $110 \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ , respectively), in order to better visualize the impact of potential management solutions on oxygenation (Fig. 2a). In addition, to produce more realistic simulation of treated and untreated wastewater discharges, we used the WWTP flow of 2014, a year presenting similar volumes compared to 2006, to run the reference simulation. Indeed, the sewage network of the Bordeaux metropolis was improved in 2011, inducing a reduction of the contribution of SO to the total urban discharges from 16% in 2006 to 12% in 2014.”

**Comment 13 - L230:** consider changes as follows “(same distance from WWTP as what was done in the Thames Estuary)”

**Reply 13:** We corrected as suggested L236-237.

**Comment 14 - L271:** remove “with” in “50% with versus 13%” (?). Please revise.

**Reply 14:** We removed as suggested.

**Comment 15 - L273-274:** change to “because the wastewater transferred to WWTPs results after treatment in higher amounts of discharged ammonia than in effluents directly coming out from SOs (Lanoux, 2013).”

**Reply 15:** We corrected as suggested L280-282

“Indeed the wastewater transferred to WWTPs results, after treatment, in higher amounts of discharged ammonia than in effluents directly coming out from SOs (Lanoux, 2013).”

**Comment 16 - L304:** you may remove “when urban effluents are discharged in KP15 and KP25, respectively (Tab. 3)”

**Reply 16:** We removed as suggested.

**Comment 17 - L319:** change to “the additional flow significantly reduces”

**Reply 17:** We corrected as suggested L326.

**Comment 18 - L327:** “reduces” instead of “reduce”

**Reply 18:** We corrected as suggested L334.

**Comment 19 - L357:** “STS avoided hypoxia”. is this what really happened or what would have happened? If the latter, then change to “STS would have prevented hypoxia”.

**Reply 19:** We thank the reviewer for this comment that clarifies the sentence. We modified the sentence L363-365 as suggested.

“For example, during the heat wave of the end July 2006 (Fig. 2c), **STS would have prevented hypoxia.**”

**Comment 20 - L384:** Could you express the expected “population growth” as a percentage of the current population?

**Reply 10:** The population of Bordeaux metropolis will increase by 33%. We added this information if the revised MS L392.

**Comment 21 - L389:** consider changing into “but this solution may be seen as an academic exercise”

**Reply 21:** We corrected as suggested L395-397.

**Comment 22 - Tables 1-2-3:** consider “Outlet relocated to KP...” instead of “Release moved to KP...”

**Reply 22:** We corrected as suggested by the reviewer.

**Comment 23 - Caption, Figure 1:** “inset” instead of “insert”

**Reply 23:** We corrected as suggested by the reviewer.

**Comment 24 - Figure 1:** why not have P1, P2, and P3 included in the map?

**Reply 24:** P1, P2 and P3 indicate the locations of Bec d'Ambès, Bordeaux and Portets, respectively. We added this information in the revised MS.

**Comment 25 - Caption, Figure 2:** make sure it is “Figure 2” and not “Figure 1”. It is hard to understand in the caption that d) and e) are a close up of the summer period. Please clarify.

**Reply 25:** As mentioned by the reviewer we clarified the legend of the Figure 2 as following: “Time series of Garonne River (black) and Dordogne River (gray) flow of the reference simulation (a & d, m<sup>3</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup>), wastewater discharges (WWTP±SO) for 2006 (green) and 2014 (blue) (b & e, m<sup>3</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup>): **a & b present the whole simulation period from January to October; d & e present a zoom from May to October.** Comparison of simulated DO<sub>min</sub> evolution (over tidal cycle in %sat) in Bordeaux with urban effluents of 2014 (blue) and with a 50% reduction in SOs (red) (c). The contribution on DO consumption (%) of degradation of watershed organic matter (brown), WWTP (red), SO (green) and nitrification (blue) in Bordeaux (f). For nitrification processes, ammonium comes from watershed and wastewater.”

### **Comment and replies to the referee 3**

After the comments of reviewer1, the manuscript was greatly improved and all raised issues on the initial submission were properly discussed.

**Reply:** We thank the reviewer for the positive evaluation of our work and for acceptance for the publication of the manuscript.

**Comparing the efficiency of hypoxia mitigation strategies in an urban, turbid tidal river  
via a coupled hydro sedimentary-biogeochemical model**

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**Acknowledgments**

This study was funded by the Aquitaine Region (DIAGIR project) and LyRE (SUEZ research  
center), who cosponsored a Ph.D. grant to K. Lajaunie-Salla, and was supported by the  
Cluster of Excellence COTE at the Université de Bordeaux (ANR-10-LABX-45). The  
authors are grateful to the MAGEST network for the availability of data and to the SGAC and  
Bordeaux Metropole for providing urban effluent data and for fruitful discussions. This work  
was supported by the Avakas cluster resources of the Mésocentre de Calcul Intensif Aquitain  
(MCIA) of the University of Bordeaux.

## 23 **Highlights**

- 24 - A 3D model shows different efficiencies of management actions to limit hypoxia.
- 25 - Downstream relocation of wastewater discharge totally mitigates hypoxia
- 26 - Sewage overflow reduction improves DO levels, but only locally.
- 27 - Water replenishment improves DO in the upper estuary.

## 28 **Abbreviations**

- 29 DO: dissolved oxygen
- 30 DOC: dissolved organic carbon
- 31 LTS: long-term support
- 32 POC: particulate organic carbon
- 33 SO: sewage overflow
- 34 STS: short-term support
- 35 TGR: Tidal Garonne River
- 36 TMZ: turbidity maximum zone
- 37 WWTP: wastewater treatment plant

38   **Abstract**

39   Coastal water hypoxia is increasing globally due to global warming and urbanization, and the  
40   need to define management solutions to improve the water quality of coastal ecosystems has  
41   become important. The lower Tidal Garonne River (TGR, southwestern France),  
42   characterized by the seasonal presence of a turbidity maximum zone (TMZ) and urban water  
43   discharge, is subject to episodic hypoxia events during low river flow periods in the summer.  
44   Future climatic conditions (higher temperature, summer droughts) and increasing  
45   urbanization could enhance hypoxia risks near the city of Bordeaux in the coming decades. A  
46   3D model of dissolved oxygen (DO) that couples hydrodynamics, sediment transport and  
47   biogeochemical processes was used to assess the efficiency of different management  
48   solutions for oxygenation of the TGR during summer low-discharge periods. We ran different  
49   scenarios of reductions in urban sewage overflows, displacement of urban discharges  
50   downstream from Bordeaux, and/or temporary river flow support during the summer period.  
51   The model shows that each option mitigates hypoxia but with variable efficiency over time  
52   and space. Sewage overflow reduction improves DO levels only locally near the city of  
53   Bordeaux. Downstream relocation of wastewater discharges allows for better oxygenation  
54   levels in the lower TGR. The support of low river flow limits the upstream TMZ propagation  
55   and dilutes the TGR waters with well-oxygenated river water. Scenarios combining  
56   wastewater network management and low water replenishment indicate an improvement in  
57   water quality over the entire TGR. These modeling outcomes constitute important tools for  
58   local water authorities to develop the most appropriate strategies to limit hypoxia in the TGR

59   **Keywords:** hypoxia, management, modeling, Garonne Tidal River, wastewater, water quality

60

## 61 1 Introduction

62 Hypoxia ~~refers to low dissolved oxygen (DO) conditions when (dissolved oxygen (DO)~~  
63 ~~concentrations~~ ~~←fall below~~ 2 mg.L<sup>-1</sup> (or < 30% of saturation)~~;~~. This is a major environmental  
64 issue, as it stresses marine organisms and disturbs the function of marine ecosystem (Rabalais  
65 et al., 2010; Vaquer-Sunyer and Duarte, 2008). Coastal hypoxia is a widespread phenomenon  
66 that has increased since the middle of the 20th century due to the combined effects of climate  
67 change and local anthropic activities (land and water uses) (Breitburg et al., 2018). Good  
68 oxygenation of estuarine waters is crucial in order to maintain ecological and economical  
69 services within the whole watershed because of the strategic position of estuaries for  
70 migratory fishes (Rabalais et al., 2010). Estuarine deoxygenation is the result of a complex  
71 interaction of environmental factors. First, an increase in temperature decreases the oxygen  
72 solubility of the water, favors thermal stratification of the water column, limiting reaeration  
73 (Conley et al., 2009; Lehmann et al., 2014), and accelerates DO-consuming biogeochemical  
74 processes (Goosen et al., 1999). Second, a decrease in river flow modifies estuarine residual  
75 circulation, sediment transport, and the transit and mineralization of terrestrial organic  
76 material in estuaries (Abril et al., 1999; Howarth et al., 2000). In addition, an increase in  
77 population and human activities enriches coastal waters with nutrients and labile organic  
78 matter from urban effluents, possibly leading to eutrophication ~~problems~~ (Billen et al., 2001).  
79 Finally, in macrotidal estuaries, DO consumption by heterotrophic organisms is exacerbated  
80 by the presence of a turbidity maximum zone (TMZ), which favors the growth of particle-  
81 attached bacteria and, in contrast, limits phytoplankton primary production (Diaz, 2001;  
82 Goosen et al., 1999; Talke et al., 2009). In view of the ongoing global changes, it is now  
83 essential to find management strategies for hypoxia mitigation. To recover or maintain a good



84 ecological status for transitional waters is one of the objectives of the European Water  
85 Framework Directive (Best et al., 2007).

86 In an urban tidal river, the first obvious action to mitigate hypoxia is to improve the urban  
87 wastewater network and treatment and to reduce the input of organic matter and nutrients to  
88 the estuary. In several European estuaries suffering from urban inputs, water quality  
89 improvement was achieved by the installation and renovation of a wastewater treatment plant  
90 (WWTP) in the Thames Estuary in the 1980s (Andrews and Rickard, 1980; Tinsley, 1998)  
91 and the construction of a WWTP in the Seine River in the 1990s (Billen et al., 2001). In the  
92 Scheldt Estuary, sewage network improvement reduced N, P and Si loads by 5.4%, 1.3% and  
93 1%, respectively, and two WWTPs have been implemented for the city of Brussels since  
94 2000 (Billen et al., 2005; Soetaert et al., 2006; Vanderborght et al., 2007). Sewage network  
95 systems in Europe usually combine both urban sewage and stormwater collection. During  
96 heavy rain and storm events, the capacity of the urban wastewater network is generally  
97 insufficient to treat all effluents, inducing deoxygenation events due to untreated wastewater  
98 release from sewage overflows (SO) (Even et al., 2007). In the 2000s, the Environmental  
99 Protection Agency promoted a strategy to monitor urban drainage networks in real time to  
100 regulate flow and avoid the overflow of untreated wastewater (EPA, 2006; Gonwa, 1993).  
101 This control was developed in several cities in the USA (Gonwa, 1993), Québec (Pleau et al.,  
102 2005) and Tokyo (Maeda et al., 2002). An additional management solution was tested in the  
103 Thames Estuary: the construction of a 24-km-long sewer network under the riverbed that  
104 allows the transit of urban wastewater to the WWTP located downstream (Thames Tideway  
105 Tunnel, [www.tideway.london](http://www.tideway.london)). This type of solution is also ongoing in Stockholm  
106 ([www.stockholmvatten.se](http://www.stockholmvatten.se)) and in the Helsinki ([www.hsy.fi](http://www.hsy.fi)) metropolis.

107 In macrotidal estuaries, the lowest DO concentrations occur during the lowest river flow  
108 (Lanoux et al., 2013; Talke et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2015). A second possible action could

109 | therefore be to modify ~~the river discharges local residual circulation~~ and to reduce water  
110 | flushing time to promote the dilution by well-oxygenated waters and/or the seaward  
111 | dispersion of oxygen-consuming ~~material-matter~~ (Lajaunie-salla et al., 2018). This implies  
112 | providing water replenishment above critical levels by limiting water abstraction for  
113 | irrigation in the watershed or by modulating water release from dams when hypoxia is  
114 | present (Schmidt et al., 2017).

115 | To optimize preventive management strategy, the efficiency of the potential solutions needs  
116 | to be evaluated. Therefore, numerical modeling is an efficient tool to quantitatively assess  
117 | hypoxia mitigation by management scenarios. Moreover, models provide guidelines for  
118 | setting objectives to maintain good water quality in coastal environments (Kemp et al., 2009;  
119 | Skerratt et al., 2013).

120 | A recently developed 3D coupled hydro sedimentary-biogeochemical DO model simulated  
121 | possible scenarios for the coming decades, suggesting a future spatial and temporal extension  
122 | of summer hypoxia in the Tidal Garonne River (TGR, S-W France), an urban, turbid tidal  
123 | river (Lajaunie-salla et al., 2018). Until now in the TGR, only a few hypoxia events have  
124 | been reported, for example, during summer 2006 (Lanoux et al., 2013). Previous work  
125 | highlighted that these low DO levels are due to the combination of the presence of the TMZ,  
126 | high water temperature, drought periods and urban effluent inputs (Lajaunie-Salla et al.,  
127 | 2017; Lanoux et al., 2013; Schmidt et al., 2017). Such a perspective of permanent summer  
128 | hypoxia in the lower TGR implies the need to develop management strategies to protect the  
129 | ecosystem. The aim of the present work was to assess the efficiency of possible management  
130 | solutions to limit future hypoxia risk in the Tidal Garonne River. For this purpose, we applied  
131 | the aforementioned DO model in order to simulate scenarios based on two main management  
132 | actions: optimization of the urban wastewater network and fresh-water replenishment during  
133 | low water periods.

## 2 Materials and Methods

### 2.1 Study Area

The Garonne River, located in southwestern France, is the main tributary of the Gironde Estuary, which is formed by its confluence with the Dordogne River and flows toward the Atlantic Ocean (Fig. 1). This macrotidal fluvio-estuarine system is characterized by the presence of a TMZ, where suspended sediment concentrations in surface waters are  $> 1 \text{ g.L}^{-1}$  (Allen, 1972). The position of the TMZ varies seasonally: during low river flow, it is present in the Tidal Garonne River from KP25 to KP70, i.e., upstream of Pauillac (Fig. 1). The rest of the year, the TMZ is located near Pauillac (Fig. 1), in the Gironde Estuary (Jalón-Rojas et al., 2015).

The annual mean Garonne River flow is  $680 \text{ m}^3.\text{s}^{-1}$  for the period 1913-2018, with the highest flows in winter (mean of  $720 \text{ m}^3.\text{s}^{-1}$ ) and the lowest flows in summer and early autumn (mean of  $190 \text{ m}^3.\text{s}^{-1}$ ) (<http://www.hydro.eaufrance.fr/indexd.php>). The threshold of  $110 \text{ m}^3.\text{s}^{-1}$  is the present-day low water target flow for the lower Garonne, below which there is water replenishment for the period from June 1 to October 31. ~~Since-Over~~ the last decades, a decrease of the Garonne River flow was observed due to changes in precipitation, but also by the water abstraction for hydroelectric dam and irrigation (Schmidt et al, 2017). This is associated with mid-1980s, there has been an increase ~~in-of~~ the number of days ~~with-athe~~ river flow is below  $110 \text{ m}^3.\text{s}^{-1}$ ; on average 26.9 days/year for the period 2008-2018 compared to 1.4 days/year for the period 1975-1985 -(<http://www.hydro.eaufrance.fr/indexd.php>). ~~A~~ Such a decrease in the Garonne flow limits the reoxygenation of the TGR waters with well-oxygenated freshwater and favors upstream advection and the concentration of the TMZ (Lajaunie-salla et al., 2018). Six water reservoirs that can store a maximum water volume of  $58 \text{ hm}^3$  are located in the upper Garonne River, corresponding to an equivalent river flow of

158 95 m<sup>3</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup> during a single week. This water storage is used to maintain the Garonne discharge  
159 above the critical threshold of ~~↔~~ 110 m<sup>3</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup> ~~↔~~ for the ecosystem during the summer.

160 The large city of Bordeaux is located at the border of the Tidal Garonne River, 25 km  
161 upstream of the confluence (Bec d'Ambès, Fig. 1). The sewage system~~s~~ of the metropolis  
162 drain~~s~~ an urban area of 578 km<sup>2</sup> and serve~~s~~ a population estimated at 749 595 inhabitants in  
163 2015. Part of the sewage system is composed of a combined sewer network: two wastewater  
164 treatment plants, Clos de Hilde and Louis Fargue, and nine sewage overflows. The release~~s~~ of  
165 treated and untreated wastewater~~s~~ represent~~s~~ up to 1.5% of the fluvial Garonne discharge  
166 (Lanoux et al., 2013).

Comentario [SS1]: À mon avis il faut  
laisser le s

167 The Bordeaux metropolis has already taken several actions to improve the urban wastewater  
168 network. In 2011, the WWTP Louis Fargue was resized and upgraded to the treatment  
169 effectiveness of the WWTP Clos de Hilde. In addition, since 2013, real-time control of the  
170 urban drainage network was developed to reduce urban effluents during rainy weather  
171 (Andréa et al., 2013). This system decreased the volume of untreated wastewater released by  
172 30% in 2013 and by 40% in 2014 and 2015 (Robitaille et al., 2016), improving the overall net  
173 purification efficiency to > 95% for particulate organic carbon (POC), >75% for dissolved  
174 organic carbon (DOC) and >30% for ammonia (Lanoux, 2013).

## 175 2.2 Model description

176 The SiAM-3D model, which couples hydrodynamics, suspended sediment transport and  
177 biogeochemical processes (Lajaunie-Salla et al., 2017), was used to test the efficiency of  
178 possible management solutions. The model was implemented for the Gironde Estuary from  
179 the 200 m isobath on the continental shelf to the upstream limits of the tidal propagation on  
180 both rivers (Sottolichio et al., 2000). The mesh of the model is an irregular grid, with finer  
181 resolution in the estuary (200 m x 1 km) and coarser resolution on the shelf. The tidal rivers

are represented by one cell in width. The vertical grid uses real depth coordinates and is split into 12 layers. The model uses a finite difference numerical scheme with a transport time step of 35 s.

The transport model solves the advection/dispersion equations for dissolved and particulate variables, i.e., suspended sediment, salinity and biogeochemical variables. The biogeochemical model extensively resolves the processes that produce and consume oxygen in the water column, taking into account different types of dissolved and particulate organic matter: degradation of organic matter (mineralization of organic carbon and ammonification using the C/N ratio); nitrification; photosynthesis, respiration and mortality of phytoplankton; and DO gas exchange with the atmosphere. The model includes 11 state variables: dissolved oxygen (DO), ammonia ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ , input from rivers and mainly from urban effluents), nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ ), POC and DOC from the watershed (POC from litter; DOC from rivers), WWTPs, SOs, phytoplankton and detritus. At the open boundaries, the hydrodynamic model is forced by astronomical tides at the shelf and by daily river flow of the Garonne and Dordogne Rivers at the upstream limit (data from [www.hydro.eaufrance.fr](http://www.hydro.eaufrance.fr)). The biogeochemical model uses measured water temperature from Bordeaux station (MAGEST network; Etcheber et al. (2011), <http://magest.oas.u-bordeaux.fr/>) and wind and incident light intensity from Pauillac station (Météo France). The boundary conditions of biogeochemical variables were detailed by Lajaunie-Salla et al. (2017), and the data of organic matter and nutrients were retrieved from the works of Etcheber et al. (2007), Lemaire (2002), Lemaire et al. (2002) and Veyssy (1998). Urban wastewater discharges are included in the model with biodegradable POC and DOC and  $\text{NH}_4$  loads representative of water flowing from WWTP and from SO (every 5 minutes; concentration data are from Lanoux (2013), and ~~the~~ flow data are from the WWTP SUEZ-environnement; (Fig. 1).

The model was compared with data available for the TGR and tested on the basis of three criteria: (i) the ability to reproduce the observed DO variability at a seasonal scale, (ii) the ability to reproduce the spring-neap tidal cycle, and (iii) a statistical evaluation based on the Willmott skill score (WSS, Willmott (1982)). In brief, the model performed well ( $WSS > 0.7$ ) in the lower TGR around Bordeaux and is less accurate in the upper section ( $WSS < 0.5$ ); the model and its validation ~~were~~are presented in detail by Lajaunie-Salla et al. (2017).

In this work, we want to demonstrate the advantage and/or effectiveness of urban water networks and treatment processes for limiting hypoxia events during critical conditions. The reference simulation is based on the real conditions of 2006, which was a critical year from the point of view of river discharge, temperature and hypoxia. A 21-day heat wave occurred, and the summer water temperature reached a maximum of  $29.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ , with an average of  $24.6^{\circ}\text{C}$ . ~~However, the reference simulation was run with an even more~~ severe and constant low flow of  $40 \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  from July 15 to September 30; ~~This flow~~ is different from the real river flow recorded ~~in 2006~~ (75 vs 60 continuous days of river flow below  $110 \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ , respectively), ~~but helps in order to better~~ visualize the impact of potential management solutions on oxygenation (Fig. 2a). ~~In addition, to produce more realistic simulation of treated and untreated wastewater discharges, we used the WWTP flow of 2014, a year presenting similar volumes compared to 2006, to run the reference simulation. Indeed, The the sewage network of the Bordeaux metropolis was improved in 2011, inducing a reduction of , after which we used a time series of 2014 to run the reference simulation to reach our objectives to find management solutions to mitigate hypoxia events. The contribution of SO discharges constituted to the total urban discharges from~~ 16% in 2006 ~~to and~~ 12% in 2014.

### 2.3 The scenarios

229 Several scenarios have been designed to assess the efficiency of the retained management  
230 strategies to improve the DO levels of the Tidal Garonne River (Tab. 1): optimization of the  
231 urban wastewater network and water replenishment during low water periods.

232 Two main actions of wastewater management were simulated (Tab. 2):

233 - the increase in wastewater storage during storms. For this, fractions of 10, 20, 30, 40  
234 and 50% of untreated wastewater SO was transferred to WWTP discharges (taking  
235 into account the organic matter and nutrient loads of WWTP). In comparison with the  
236 reference simulation, an improvement of 50% in WW treatment corresponds to a  
237 reduction of 26% of POC, 3% of DOC and an increase of 6% of  $\text{NH}_4$  loads.

238 - the implementation of an outfall that releases urban effluents downstream. Two  
239 wastewater discharge points were tested: (1) at 21 km (same distance [from WWTP as](#)  
240 [what was done as](#) in the Thames Estuary) corresponding to position KP25 (Fig. 1),  
241 where the currents are relatively high and could disperse urban effluents relatively  
242 quickly, and (2) at 11 km, corresponding to KP15 as an alternative and less expensive  
243 solution (Fig. 1). Although this solution seems difficult to implement due to technical  
244 and financial constraints, it is interesting to investigate its potential environmental  
245 benefits.

246 For the support of low river flow during the driest season, two actions were tested according  
247 to the maximum stored water volume in the dams ( $58 \text{ hm}^3$ ) of the upper Garonne River (Tab.  
248 2):

249 - low-intensity and long-term support (LTS) from 15<sup>th</sup> July by 10, 20 and  $30 \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$   
250 during 67, 33 and 22 days, respectively.

- intense and short-term support (STS) as an emergency solution by 100, 200 and 400  $\text{m}^3.\text{s}^{-1}$  at spring tide from July 27 to 29 (3 days), corresponding to water volumes of 16, 41 and 93  $\text{hm}^3$ , respectively.

Finally, two scenarios that coupled wastewater management actions and the support of low river flow were simulated (Tab. 2):

- a LTS of  $10 \text{ m}^3.\text{s}^{-1}$  over 67 days was combined with the reduction of 50% of untreated wastewater SO, which is transferred to WWTP discharges;
- a LTS of  $10 \text{ m}^3.\text{s}^{-1}$  over 67 days was combined with the reduction of 50% of untreated wastewater SO, which is transferred to WWTP discharges and to the relocation of wastewater discharges 11 km (KP15) downstream of Bordeaux (Fig. 1).

The 16 scenarios were run over 10 months, from January 1 to October 31. To evaluate the improvement of DO level, three indicators were used: (i) the minimum DO value ( $\text{DO}_{\min}$ ); (ii) the number of hypoxia days, i.e.,  $\text{DO} < 2 \text{ mg.L}^{-1}$ ; and (iii) the summer-averaged rates of biogeochemical processes consuming DO in the Bordeaux and Portets areas (6.6 and 1.2  $\text{km}^2$ , respectively). The grid cells in front of Bordeaux and Portets were chosen because Bordeaux is directly under the impact of urban effluents and because Portets represents the presence of TMZ in the upper TGR.

### 3 Results

#### 3.1 Action 1: Wastewater management

- **Action 1.1: Reduction in sewage overflows**

The simulations of sewage overflow reduction do not show an increase in  $\text{DO}_{\min}$  at Bordeaux and Portets (Tab. 2). However, some short but significant differences in the modeled DO time



series in Bordeaux are noticeable during the largest sewage overflow events (Fig. 2c). In fact, wastewater overflows represent, on average, 12% of the urban effluents but could represent up to 98% during storm events. For the scenario SO-50%, there is a slight increase in DO level by 6 and 2% sat in late June and mid-August, respectively (Fig. 2c). The total DO consumption by biogeochemical processes decreases up to 6% at Bordeaux (Tab. 3). The rate of mineralization of urban organic matter decreases considerably, by 31% and 33%, with a reduction of 50% of SO flow at Bordeaux and Portets, respectively (Tab. 3). In fact, at Bordeaux, the material brought by the SO contributes 7% of the total DO consumption, with a reduction of 50% ~~with~~ versus 13% without reduction (Fig. 2d). In contrast, the nitrification process and degradation of treated urban effluents were slightly increased by the reduction in SO flow (Fig. 2d & Tab. 3). ~~Indeed because the wastewater transferred to WWTPs results, after treatment, in higher amounts of discharged ammonia than in effluents directly coming out from SOs removed from SOs is transferred to WWTPs, which include ammonia at the difference of SOs~~ (Lanoux, 2013).

In these simulations, sudden wastewater release events from SO (late June) did not occur simultaneously with the maximum temperature (i.e., late July). In such a case, a more critical hypoxia event would have occurred. However, the modeling results show that the improvement of SO management contributes to improving the DO level only locally and temporarily in the vicinity of the city of Bordeaux.

#### ● **Action 1.2: Downstream relocation of wastewater discharges**

In the case of a relocation of urban effluent discharge at KP15, only 4 days of hypoxia were simulated with a minimum of 1.8 mg.L<sup>-1</sup> (Tab. 2), which represents a reduction of 9 days in comparison with the reference simulation. In the case of the relocation of urban effluents discharge farther downstream at KP25, the model simulated no hypoxia and a minimum DO value of 2.1 mg.L<sup>-1</sup> (Tab. 2). The oxygen level in the vicinity of Bordeaux was improved.

298 According to the model, figure 3 highlights that the displacement of the urban wastewater  
299 discharge point downstream significantly improves the oxygen levels in the TGR around  
300 Bordeaux and appears to be an efficient action to mitigate hypoxia near Bordeaux (Fig. 3).  
301 Moreover, the DO concentration does not change downstream of Bordeaux, maintaining a  
302 value of over 50% saturation. Under these relocation scenarios, the amount of urban organic  
303 matter and ammonia are relatively low at Bordeaux. Urban effluents are diluted by  
304 downstream estuarine waters and exported toward the Gironde. In fact, urban effluents reach  
305 the city of Pauillac, approximately 50 km downstream of Bordeaux (Fig. 1) after 1 and 1.5  
306 days when effluents are released at KP25 and KP15, respectively, versus 2.5 days when they  
307 are discharged near Bordeaux. With the downstream relocation of urban discharge, DO levels  
308 are strongly improved in the TGR, without significantly altering the oxygenation condition  
309 downstream of Bordeaux. This phenomenon is due to shorter residence times of effluents and  
310 larger dilutions with oxygenated estuarine waters downstream.

311 A downstream relocation (KP15 or KP25) significantly decreases total DO consumption in  
312 the lower TGR by 33% and 47%, respectively: the mineralization of urban matter is reduced  
313 by 65% and 95%, and the nitrification is reduced by 47% and 69%, respectively (Tab.3). At  
314 Portets, even if the total DO consumption decreases only by 8%, the degradation of urban  
315 matter decreases strongly by 76% and 94% and the nitrification is reduced by 17% (KP15)  
316 and 20% (KP25) ~~when urban effluents are discharged in KP15 and KP25, respectively~~ (Tab.  
317 3). In fact, the mineralization of urban matter occurs downstream of TGR, with less impact  
318 on the DO in this area, thanks to the dilution effect with estuarine waters. Finally, at  
319 Bordeaux, the contribution of urban effluents to the DO consumption decreases from 27% to  
320 2%, and nitrification decreases from 20% to 10% (Fig. 3d).

321 The discharge of the wastewater downstream from the city center considerably improves the  
322 water quality in the vicinity of Bordeaux. However, hypoxia persists in Portets (30 hypoxic

days, Tab. 2 & Fig. 3) because in the upper TGR, hypoxia is mainly due to temperature, very high turbidity and low water renewal.

### 3.2 Action 2: Support of summer river discharge

#### • Action 2.1: Low-intensity and long-term support of summer river discharge

The simulations of low-intensity and long-term support of water flow show an increase in the  $DO_{min}$  not only at Portets but also at Bordeaux (Tab. 2). At Bordeaux, the  $DO_{min}$  increases by only  $0.3 \text{ mg.L}^{-1}$ , and the number of simulated hypoxia days decreases by only 2 days for a discharge increase of  $30 \text{ m}^3.\text{s}^{-1}$ . However, in Portets, oxygen levels are much more improved: the additional flows significantly reduce the number of hypoxic days, reducing them from 52 days (reference simulation) to 29, 39 days or 40 days with supports of 10, 20 or  $30 \text{ m}^3.\text{s}^{-1}$ , respectively (Tab. 2).

Significant effects of maintaining summer river discharge in the area of Bordeaux are reflected by the decrease in nitrification processes and the increase in mineralization of matter coming from the watershed (Tab. 3). At Portets, nitrification and mineralization of organic matter are decreased due to the diluted input of urban water upstream (Tab. 3).

These simulations show that a low-intensity and long-term support of river flow considerably reduces hypoxia events in the upper TGR but not sufficiently to significantly influence Bordeaux waters. The average time to renew half of the water volume in Bordeaux is 22 and 67 days in the cases of river flows increased by 10 and  $30 \text{ m}^3.\text{s}^{-1}$ , respectively. By comparison, at Portets, the renewal times are only 3 and 11 days, respectively. The option of low-intensity support needs to be sufficiently long to maintain a good oxygen level all summer in the upper TGR. An additional river flow  $> 10 \text{ m}^3.\text{s}^{-1}$  for two months would be a feasible solution to avoid hypoxia events upstream of Bordeaux, and freshwater storage should be optimized to reach these objectives.

● **Action 2.2: Intense and short-term support of low water discharge**

An intense and short-term support of freshwater allows low-oxygenated water to be pushed downstream and induces a strong dilution of estuarine water with well-oxygenated fluvial waters due to the large amount of water supply (100, 200 and 400 m<sup>3</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup>) (Fig. 4 & Fig. 5). Figure 4 highlights this phenomenon and the improvement of oxygen level along the TGR, reaching saturation level around Portets and higher than 50% of saturation around Bordeaux (Fig. 4). The model results show decreases in the number of hypoxia days in Bordeaux and Portets (Tab. 2). The water half-renewal times are less than 1 day at Portets and decrease from 6.6 to 1.6 days at Bordeaux with increasing discharge support from 100 to 400 m<sup>3</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup>. During short term support, the DO concentrations increase faster at Portets than at Bordeaux (Fig. 4 & Fig. 5). During a semidiurnal tidal cycle, the DO rises by 9%sat at Bordeaux and by 56%sat at Portets with an input of 400 m<sup>3</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup>. The higher the river flow support, the faster the waters of the TGR are reoxygenated.

The total oxygen consumption decreases with STS only at Portets (Tab. 3). At Bordeaux, the decrease in nitrification is counterbalanced by an increase in river organic matter mineralization (Tab. 3). The intense short-term support moves the TMZ downstream to Portets, reducing organic matter mineralization in the area of Portets (Tab. 3 & Fig. 4).

Intense short-term support of freshwater (400 m<sup>3</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup>) is not able to maintain a good oxygen level all summer in Portets. After the massive water input, the DO level stayed above the hypoxia threshold for 17 days but then decreased again (Fig. 5i). This type of management is very powerful as an urgent remediation during severe hypoxia to quickly improve the oxygenation levels of TGR waters, particularly in the upper section of the tidal river. For example, during the heat wave of the end July 2006 (Fig. 2c), STS would have prevented ~~avoided~~ hypoxia. In the case of late hypoxia occurring at the end of the summer, STS may be efficient if the stored water volume is sufficient. Other scenarios of short term supports were

made during neap tides (not shown) but were not very relevant because hypoxia events occur during spring tides (Etcheber et al. 2011, Lanoux et al. 2013, Lajaunie-Salla et al. 2017).

### 3.3 Synthesis of management actions efficiency

These different simulated scenarios allow us to quantitatively estimate the efficiency of different management options to reduce hypoxia in the TGR. The two management solutions have locally different impacts on DO (Tab. 4): optimization of the urban wastewater network reduces hypoxia in the lower TGR, whereas water replenishment during low water periods enhances DO levels in the upper TGR. The improvement of the wastewater network by a reduction in labile organic matter input reduces oxygen consumption in Bordeaux waters. The alternative, consisting of discharging urban effluents downstream of the lower TGR, has the advantage of diluting wastewater with the Gironde water and favoring their dispersion downstream in the wider sections of the estuary. In addition, taking into account the increasing gradient of temperature landward (Schmidt, personal data), wastewater effluents would be discharged in cooler waters (approximately 1-2°C) than those at Bordeaux. The water replenishment during low water periods is also a powerful solution, which favors the dilution of upper TGR waters with well-oxygenated freshwater and limits the upstream TMZ displacement. Combining these two management solutions can improve the oxygen level both in the upper TGR and around Bordeaux. Figure 6 reveals a reduction in hypoxia event frequency from 6 to 2 events in the TGR. Moreover, the extension of hypoxia is significantly reduced between KP0 and KP20. The scenario combining a discharge support of  $+10 \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ , a reduction of 50% of SO release and discharge of urban effluents at KP15 suggests an improvement of water quality over the entire TGR (Fig. 6): only 2 days below the hypoxia threshold (Tab. 2) and the oxygen consumption by urban organic matter degradation is totally reduced (by 100%, Tab. 3).

Regarding the projected population growth of the city of Bordeaux (one million inhabitants will be reached in 2030, [i.e. +33%](http://www.bordeaux-metropole.fr), <http://www.bordeaux-metropole.fr>) and the objectives of the European Water Framework Directive to maintain good water quality, the reduction in the impact of urban wastewater networks in urban areas appears to be a major challenge for the coming years. The construction of an outfall under the river could be an efficient solution to totally mitigate hypoxia at Bordeaux, but this solution ~~may be seen asis, for instance,~~ an academic ~~scenario-exercise~~ considering its cost and technical constraints. Moreover, the environmental impact on the ecosystem of such construction can hinder this solution. The support of summer river flow could certainly be optimized by reducing water use for agricultural purposes in the watershed during summer and by improving the release of stored water as a function of meteorological conditions. In the case of unfavorable conditions (heat wave, drought) in early summer, LTS could be implemented. However, if these conditions occur late in summer, intense STS could be considered. An alternative solution could be intermittent support, with water release of  $100 \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  during spring tide and all summer (July and August, i.e., 4 spring tides). By the continuation of the improvement in the urban wastewater network and by the simultaneously maintenance of good river flow levels, both management options may improve the oxygen level on the TGR.

#### 4 Conclusion

A 3D biogeochemical model for the Tidal Garonne River coupling hydrodynamics and sediment transport was applied to assess the efficiency of different management solutions to improve the DO level in waters. This study tested different scenarios of management solutions that can be implemented by local water authorities. Whereas a reduction in SO flows contributes only to improving DO levels locally and temporarily, the downstream relocation of WWTP outfalls totally mitigates hypoxia in the TGR and seems to be the most

efficient management solution, despite being difficult to implement in practice. The support of low river flow limits the propagation of the TMZ upstream of the TGR and dilutes the estuarine waters with fresh oxygenated waters. A low-intensity support over the summer maintains a good oxygen level of waters during the entire drought period and prevents hypoxia in the upper TGR. In contrast, an intense support of low water flow for 3 days improves the oxygen levels along the entire TGR quickly and considerably, but only for a few weeks. The improvement in the urban effluent network and the support of low-river flow periods from dams or irrigation reduction are complementary. They contribute to reoxygenating the river water near the city of Bordeaux and upstream of the Tidal Garonne River, respectively. The biogeochemical numerical model helps guide the management policy of urban effluents and watersheds to limit and mitigate hypoxia events.

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**Table 1: Forcing of the different scenarios simulated with the model.** (Qref: river flow of 2006; Q<sub>G/D</sub>: river flow of Garonne and Dordogne Q<sub>WW</sub>: wastewater flow; SO: sewage overflow)

| Scenarios                           |  | River flow   | Wastewater flow                     |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Reference                           |  | Qref = Q <sub>G/D</sub> 2006 + Q <sub>G</sub> = 40 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup> from 15/07 to 30/09                       | Q <sub>WW</sub> 2006                |
| Management of wastewater discharges | WW of 2014 (WWTP rehabilitated)          | Qref   | Q <sub>WW</sub> 2014                |
|                                     | SO -10%                                  | Qref   | Q <sub>WW</sub> 2014 – 10% SO       |
|                                     | SO -20%                                  | Qref   | Q <sub>WW</sub> 2014 – 20% SO       |
|                                     | SO -30%                                  | Qref   | Q <sub>WW</sub> 2014 – 30% SO       |
|                                     | SO -40%                                  | Qref   | Q <sub>WW</sub> 2014 – 40% SO       |
|                                     | SO -50%                                  | Qref   | Q <sub>WW</sub> 2014 – 50% SO       |
|                                     | Outlet relocated Release moved to KP15   | Qref   | Q <sub>WW</sub> 2014 at Parempuyre  |
|                                     | Outlet relocated Release moved to KP25   | Qref   | Q <sub>WW</sub> 2014 at Bec d'Ambès |
| Support of low river flow           | +10 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup>      | Qref ; Q <sub>G</sub> < 50 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup> : Q <sub>G</sub> +10 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup> over 67 days | Q <sub>WW</sub> 2006                |
|                                     | +20 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup>      | Qref ; Q <sub>G</sub> < 50 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup> : Q <sub>G</sub> +20 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup> over 33 days | Q <sub>WW</sub> 2006                |
|                                     | +30 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup>      | Qref ; Q <sub>G</sub> < 50 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup> : Q <sub>G</sub> +30 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup> over 22 days | Q <sub>WW</sub> 2006                |
|                                     | +100 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup>     | Qref ; Q <sub>G</sub> +100 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup> over 3 days   | Q <sub>WW</sub> 2006                |
|                                     | +200 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup>     | Qref ; Q <sub>G</sub> +200 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup> over 3 days   | Q <sub>WW</sub> 2006                |
|                                     | +400 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup>     | Qref ; Q <sub>G</sub> +400 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup> over 3 days   | Q <sub>WW</sub> 2006                |
| Combined options                    | -50% +10 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup> | Qref ; Q <sub>G</sub> < 50 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup> : Q <sub>G</sub> +10 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup> over 67 days | Q <sub>WW</sub> 2014 – 50% SO       |

Con formato: Texto independiente, Justificado

**-50% + KP15 +10 m<sup>3</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup>**

Q<sub>ref</sub> ; Q<sub>G</sub> < 50 m<sup>3</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup> : Q<sub>G</sub> +10 m<sup>3</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup> over 67 days

Q<sub>ww</sub> 2014 – 50% SO  
at Parempuyre

**Table 2:** Minimum simulated DO (in % of saturation and in mg.L<sup>-1</sup>), the corresponding temperature and the number of hypoxia days in Bordeaux and Portets for each scenario. (WW: wastewater)

| Scenarios                           |  | Bordeaux |                       |   |                 | Portets |                       |   |                 |
|-------------------------------------|--|----------|-----------------------|---|-----------------|---------|-----------------------|---|-----------------|
|                                     |  | T (°C)   | DO <sub>min</sub> (%) | DO <sub>min</sub> (mg.L <sup>-1</sup> ) | Days of hypoxia | T (°C)  | DO <sub>min</sub> (%) | DO <sub>min</sub> (mg.L <sup>-1</sup> ) | Days of hypoxia |
| Management of wastewater discharges | Reference                              | 27.4     | 13.5                  | 1.0                                     | 13              | 24.4    | 8                     | 0.7                                     | 52              |
|                                     | WW of 2014                             | 27.3     | 16.4                  | 1.3                                     | 17              | 24.4    | 8.5                   | 0.7                                     | 39              |
|                                     | -10%                                   | 27.3     | 16.5                  | 1.3                                     | 16              | 24.4    | 8.6                   | 0.7                                     | 38              |
|                                     | -20%                                   | 27.3     | 16.5                  | 1.3                                     | 16              | 24.4    | 8.6                   | 0.7                                     | 38              |
|                                     | -30%                                   | 27.3     | 16.5                  | 1.3                                     | 16              | 24.4    | 8.6                   | 0.7                                     | 38              |
|                                     | -40%                                   | 27.3     | 16.6                  | 1.3                                     | 14              | 24.4    | 8.6                   | 0.7                                     | 37              |
|                                     | -50%                                   | 27.3     | 16.6                  | 1.3                                     | 13              | 24.4    | 8.6                   | 0.7                                     | 37              |
|                                     | Outlet relocated Release moved to KP15 | 26.9     | 23.5                  | 1.8                                     | 4               | 24.4    | 9.7                   | 0.8                                     | 33              |
|                                     | Outlet relocated Release moved to KP25 | 26.9     | 26.9                  | 2.1                                     | 0               | 24.4    | 10                    | 0.8                                     | 32              |
| Support of low river flow           | +10 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup>    | 26.9     | 13.8                  | 1.1                                     | 13              | 24.4    | 12.7                  | 1.0                                     | 29              |
|                                     | +20 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup>    | 26.8     | 15.3                  | 1.2                                     | 11              | 24.4    | 8.3                   | 0.7                                     | 39              |
|                                     | +30 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup>    | 26.8     | 17                    | 1.3                                     | 11              | 24.4    | 8.3                   | 0.7                                     | 40              |
|                                     | +100 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup>   | 26.9     | 12.3                  | 1.0                                     | 12              | 24.4    | 8.4                   | 0.7                                     | 48              |
|                                     | +200 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup>   | 27.4     | 14.5                  | 1.1                                     | 10              | 24.4    | 8.3                   | 0.7                                     | 44              |
|                                     | +400 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup>   | 27.7     | 16.7                  | 1.3                                     | 5               | 24.4    | 9.1                   | 0.7                                     | 37              |

|                  |   |      |      |   |    |      |      |     |    |
|------------------|---|------|------|---|----|------|------|-----|----|
| Combined options | -50% +10 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup>        | 26.9 | 14.5 | 2 | 14 | 24.4 | 12.5 | 1   | 26 |
|                  | -50% + KP15 +10 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup> | 26.9 | 24.9 | 2 | 2  | 26.9 | 14.1 | 1.1 | 22 |

| Scenarios                                 |  | Bordeaux |               |                                     |                                     | Portets |               |                                     |                                     |
|---|--|----------|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|   |  | total    | nitrification | mineralization<br>TOC <sub>WS</sub> | mineralization<br>TOC <sub>WW</sub> | total   | nitrification | mineralization<br>TOC <sub>WS</sub> | mineralization<br>TOC <sub>WW</sub> |
| Management<br>of wastewater<br>discharges | WW of 2014   | -1%      | +11%          | 0                                   | -13%                                | -1%     | +4%           | 0                                   | -16%                                |
|   | -10%   | -2%      | +12%          | 0                                   | -16%                                | -1%     | +4%           | 0                                   | -16%                                |
|   | -20%   | -3%      | +13%          | 0                                   | -20%                                | -1%     | +6%           | 0                                   | -23%                                |
|   | -30%   | -4%      | +13%          | +1%                                 | -24%                                | -1%     | +6%           | +1%                                 | -26%                                |
|   | -40%   | -5%      | +14%          | +1%                                 | -28%                                | -1%     | +6%           | +1%                                 | -29%                                |
|   | -50%   | -6%      | +14%          | +1%                                 | -31%                                | -1%     | +6%           | +1%                                 | -33%                                |
|   | <a href="#">Outlet relocated Release moved to KP15</a> | -33%     | -47%          | +2%                                 | -65%                                | -8%     | -17%          | -3%                                 | -76%                                |
|   | <a href="#">Outlet relocated Release moved to KP25</a> | -47%     | -66%          | +3%                                 | -95%                                | -8%     | -20%          | -2%                                 | -94%                                |
| Support of low<br>river flow              | +10 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup>                    | 1%       | -6%           | +6%                                 | 0                                   | -2%     | -20%          | -1%                                 | -4%                                 |
|   | +20 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup>                    | 0%       | -6%           | +5%                                 | 0                                   | +1%     | -14%          | +2%                                 | -2%                                 |
|   | +30 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup>                    | 0%       | -6%           | +4%                                 | 0                                   | -2%     | -13%          | -2%                                 | -3%                                 |
|   | +100 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup>                   | 0%       | -2%           | +2%                                 | 0                                   | -5%     | -4%           | -5%                                 | -3%                                 |
|   | +200 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup>                   | 0%       | -5%           | +4%                                 | -1%                                 | -9%     | -10%          | -9%                                 | -6%                                 |
|   | +400 m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup>                   | 0%       | -11%          | +9%                                 | -1%                                 | -13%    | -14%          | -13%                                | -8%                                 |

|                 |   |      |      |      |       |     |      |     |       |
|-----------------|---|------|------|------|-------|-----|------|-----|-------|
| <b>Combined</b> | <b>-50% +10 m<sup>3</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup></b>        | -2%  | +10% | +11% | -30%  | +2% | -9%  | +5% | -36%  |
| <b>options</b>  | <b>-50% + KP15 +10 m<sup>3</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup></b> | -46% | -70% | +14% | -100% | -2% | -31% | +6% | -100% |

**Table 3:** Differences (in %) of biogeochemical process rates impacting DO between the scenarios and reference simulations during summer in Bordeaux and Portets (WW: wastewater; WS: watershed)

**Table 4:** Summary of management solution efficiency and recommendations (WW: wastewater; WS: watershed)

| Management solutions  | Efficiency to mitigate hypoxia |           | Recommendation   |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------|--|
|   | Lower TGR                      | Upper TGR |  |
| <b>SO reduction: -50%</b>                                   | ++                             | +         | Implementation of SOs  |
| <b>WW discharges at KP15</b>                                | +++                            | +         | WWTP outfall relocation  |
| <b>WW discharges at KP25</b>                                | +++                            | +         | WWTP outfall relocation  |
| <b>LTS</b>  | +                              | ++        | Preventive measures against hypoxia: reduction in freshwater subtraction during summer               |
| <b>STS</b>  | ++                             | +++       | Curative measures at spring tide during severe drought   |
| <b>LTS - SO reduction -50%</b>                              | +                              | ++        | Reduction in freshwater subtraction during summer and implementation of SOs                          |
| <b>LTS - SO reduction: -50%<br/>- WW discharges at KP15</b> | +++                            | ++        | Reduction in freshwater subtraction during summer, implementation of SOs and WWTP outfall relocation |



**Figure 1:** The Gironde-Garonne-Dordogne estuary, including the Tidal Garonne River in southwestern France (Inset B). “KP” denotes the distances in km from the city center of Bordeaux; the control grid cell at Bordeaux is at KP4 and Portets is at KP20. Inset A precises position of the sewage overflows (purple triangles) and of the two wastewater treatment plants (green squares). The area in orange represents the area of Bordeaux for which the biogeochemical fluxes were calculated.

**Figure 1:** Time series of Garonne River (black) and Dordogne River (gray) flow of the reference simulation (a & d,  $\text{m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ), wastewater discharges (WWTP+SO) for 2006 (green) and 2014 (blue) (b & e,  $\text{m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ); a & b present the whole simulation period, from January to October; d & e present a zoom from May to October. Comparison of simulated DO<sub>min</sub> evolution (over tidal cycle in %sat) in Bordeaux with urban effluents of 2014 (blue) and with a 50% reduction in SOs (red) (c). The contribution on DO consumption (%) of degradation of watershed organic matter (brown), WWTP (red), SO (green) and nitrification (blue) in Bordeaux (f). For nitrification processes, ammonium comes from watershed and wastewater.

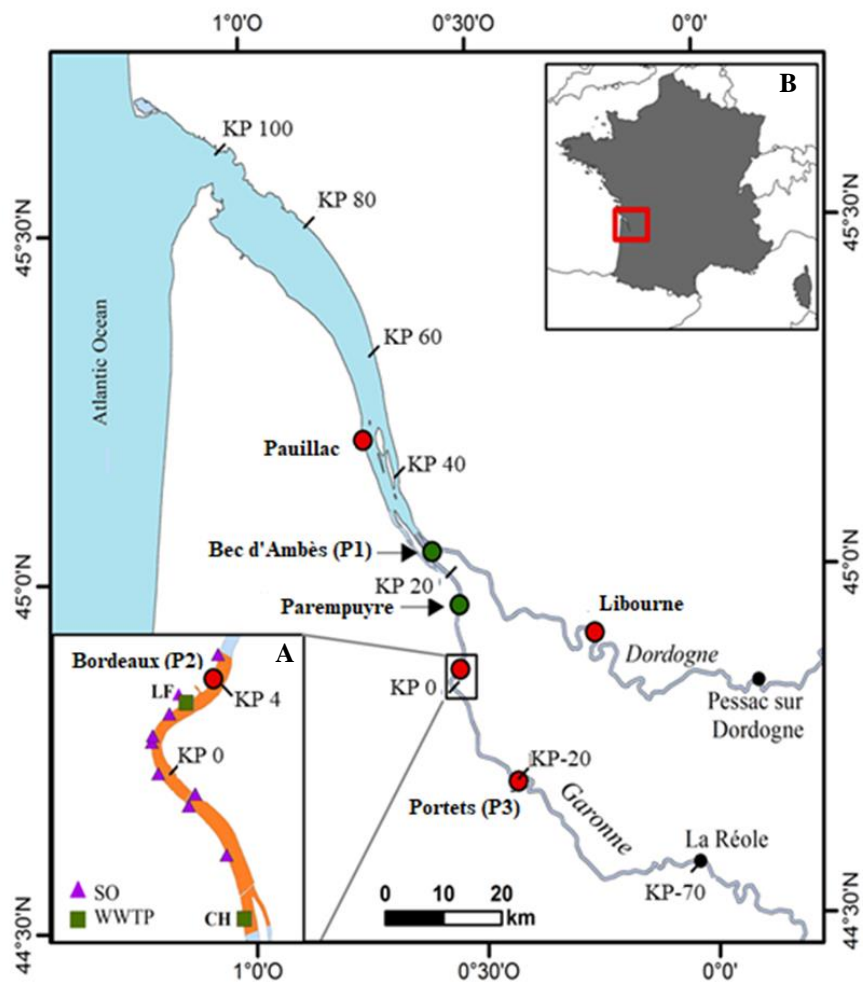
**Figure 3:** Snapshot of the vertical transect of simulated DO saturation along the Garonne tidal river for the scenarios with urban effluent discharge points in Bordeaux (a), KP15 (b) and KP25 (c). P1, P2 and P3 indicate the locations of Bec d’Ambès, Bordeaux and Portets, respectively. The contribution on DO consumption (%) of degradation of watershed (brown), WWTP (red), SO (green) and nitrification (blue) processes at Bordeaux (d). For nitrification processes, ammonium comes from watershed and wastewater.

**Figure 4:** Snapshot of the vertical transect of simulated DO concentration in %sat along the Garonne tidal river for the scenarios of reference (a), short river flow increases by  $100 \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  (b),  $200 \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  (c) and  $400 \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  (d). P1, P2 and P3 indicate the locations of Bec d’Ambès, Bordeaux and Portets, respectively.

**Figure 5:** Time series of river flow (top,  $\text{m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ), DO<sub>min</sub> (over tidal cycle) at Bordeaux (middle, %sat) and DO at Portets (bottom, %sat) for the scenarios of short river flow increases by  $100 \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  (a, d and g),  $200 \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  (b, e and h) and  $400 \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  (c, f and i). The blue line represents the simulation of reference.

**Figure 6:** Spatiotemporal evolution of daily average surface DO (saturation in %) along the Tidal Garonne River section for the scenarios of reference (a) combining  $+10 \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  of river flow and reduction of 50% of SO releases (b), and  $+10 \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  of river flow, a reduction of 50% of SO releases and urban effluent discharges at KP15 (c). The y-axis represents the kilometric points, and the white lines represent Bordeaux and Portets.

Figure 1



**Figure 2**

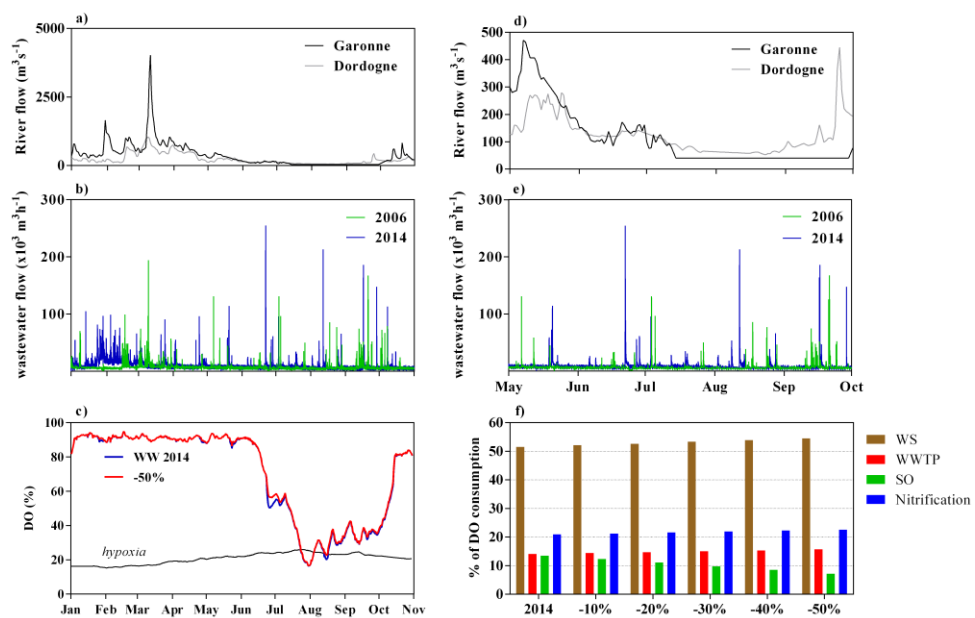


Figure 3

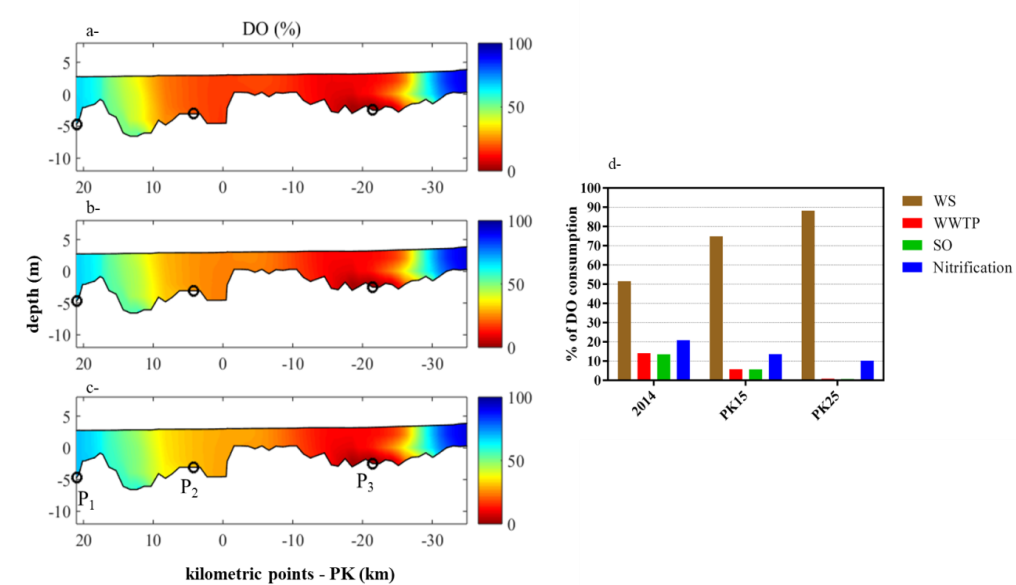
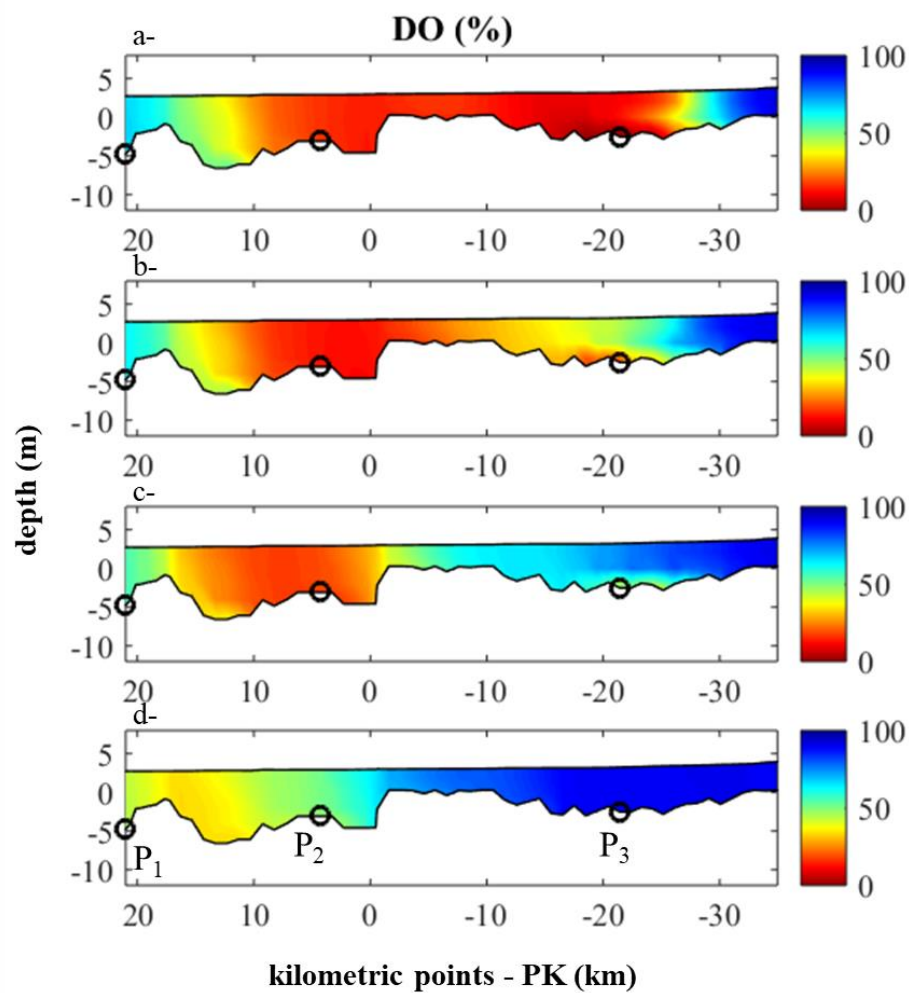


Figure 4



**Figure 5**

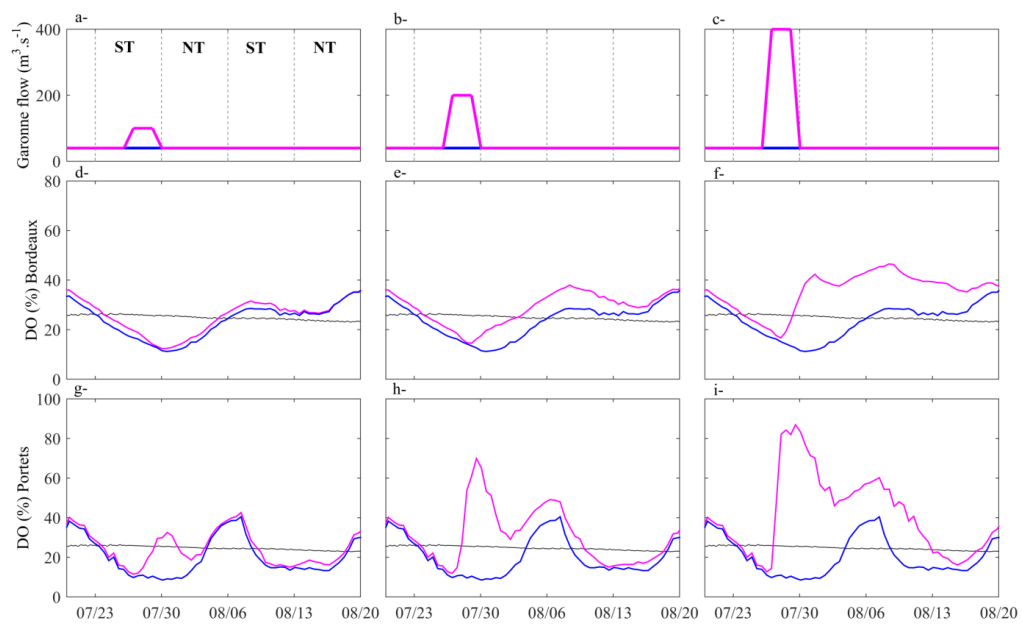


Figure 6

