## Experiências de restauração de lagos da Holanda: o que funciona e o que não funciona

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# Eutrophication = no.1 water quality issue in the Netherlands

#### Cyanobacterial bloom in the river Meuse



Pictures made by Rijkswaterstaat Zuid-Nederland – August 2018

#### Cyanobacterial blooms in many surface waters







## No.1 water quality issue in the Netherlands









## Somethings need to be done, but what?

#### Measures:

- Public oriented
  - Information, awareness, warnings
- Effect oriented

   Reduce nuisance, fighting symptoms
- Source oriented
  - $\circ$  Reducing nutrient inputs
  - Tackling internal loading







#### Source oriented: reduce the external load



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#### Source oriented measures in Netherlands

Point source pollution is being tackled:

- Drastic reduction P load from industry
- Strong reduction P load from WWTP







## The Netherlands has world leading WWT

#### Point source nutrient pollution has been tackled



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## Legacies and diffuse loads remain an issue









#### More action needed: in-lake interventions







#### Effect oriented measures (in-lake actions)

Numerous measures proposed and applied:

- Physical: Aeration/water movement, ultrasound, jets, bubble screen, dam, floating screen...
- ♦ Chemical: Algaecides, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, coagulants, P-fixatives...
- Biological: Barley straw, Dreissena, EM "effective micro-organisms", Golden algae, plant extracts, filter-feeding fish...

Some are promising, others come with dubious claims and without proper scientific testing





## Physical methods







A) Bubble screen

#### Not so effective

- B/C) Surface aeration/mixing
  - Not effective, stimulation!
- D) Floating oil screen Not so effective
- E) Fountain/mixing
  - Not effective, aerosols !
- F) Excavation
  - Effective, shallow, costs
- G) Dredging

**Mixed results, costs** 

### Physical methods – low energy ultrasound

- High energy ultrasound will kill everything at high energy costs, but low water penetration depth
- Low frequency, low energy ultrasound heavily promoted
- No proof of control in laboratory
  - WATER RESEARCH 66 (2014) 361-373
- No proof in field trials





Kardinaal et al., 2008: Ultrasound could NOT prevent cyanoblooms and surface scums













#### Physical methods – low energy ultrasound

Ultrasound is promoted with lots of "**anecdotal evidence**", but experiments and independent monitoring show it, physics explains it: Low energy, low frequencies ultrasound **cannot** eliminate cyanobacteria









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Resonance frequency can

 $\left(\frac{3\gamma}{R_0^2\rho}\left(p_0 + \frac{2\sigma}{R_0} + \frac{2\chi}{R_0}\right) - \left(\frac{2\sigma + 6\chi}{R_0^3\rho}\right)\right)$ 

be calculated:

### Chemical methods

# Algaecides, coagulants and P-fixatives are most common Intended effect: decimating/removing cyano-biomass









### Chemical methods – hydrogen peroxide

Cyanobacteria are more sensitive than eukaryotes to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>
 Intensively used in The Netherlands

Efficacy is variable (none, few weeks, whole season)



### Chemical methods - Coagulants

Inorganic – alum, polyaluminium chloride, ferric chloride
 Organic – chitosan, polyacrylamides, *Moringa* extract...

Combined with ballast (soil, modified clay)



17

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## Chemical methods - Phosphate-fixatives

#### Testing numerous compounds









#### Field experiments in the Netherlands



Pond Eindhoven	0.7	Compartments	9/2009 – 9/2011
Pond Eindhoven	0.7	Enclosures	Aug – Sep 2010
Pond Heesch	0.16	Enclosures	Jul – Sep 2009
Kleine Melanen	4	Enclosures	Mar – Jun 2010
Kleine Melanen	4	Field	Aug – Oct 2010
Grootte Melanen	4.8	Field	19/20 Apr 2016 20 Apr 2016

1.3 kg/m2
0.3 kg/m2
0.3 kg/m2
16.6 ton Phoslock <sup>®</sup>
13.7 ton Phoslock <sup>®</sup>
4 ton PAC

1.13 kg/m2















#### Lake Rauwbraken

# Water: No inflow, no outflow, precipitation, evaporation, groundwater

## **P**: P in precipitation, P in groundwater, P from leaf litter, P from birds, P from bathers, P from sediment...



## Combined coagulant + P-fixative addition

# Immediate removal of cyanobacteria and reduction internal P release









### Lake Rauwbraken – Total Phosphorus









#### Lake Rauwbraken









### Lake Rauwbraken

■ Repeated interventions are inevitable = maintenance Application costed € 50.000,-, i.e. ~ € 4.500,- per season



Lake Rauwbraken is not unique for NL, diffuse pollution is everywhere

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## **Biological methods**

#### Biomanipulation:

#### Many attempts failed (Gulati et al 2008)









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### Biological methods - Zebra mussels

#### Filtering could reduce phytoplankton biomass

Experiment with 1600 crates of dreissenids placed in 1.1 ha urban pond (Linievijver Breda) failed, because mussels didn't reproduce and died in three years time.













## 1000-faces of "Effective Micro-organisms"

# They come in many formulations, but are they as `effective' as claimed?











## "Effective microbes" are not effective

■ Do not remove or permanently fix P
 ■ Are on menu grazers → Green soups remain









Lakes & Reservoirs: Research and Management 2009 14: 353-363

Mitigating cyanobacterial blooms: how effective are 'effective microorganisms'?

Miquel Lurling,<sup>1</sup>\* Yora Tolman<sup>1,2</sup> and Marieke Euwe<sup>1,3</sup>

Hydrobiologia (2010) 646:133–143 DOI 10.1007/s10750-010-0173-3

SHALLOW LAKES

Cyanobacteria blooms cannot be controlled by Effective Microorganisms (EM<sup>®</sup>) from mud- or Bokashi-balls

Miquel Lurling · Yora Tolman · Frank van Oosterhout





#### Field experiment – RWA De Dommel

30-01-2015: 500 EM mudd balls in pond
No effect on water quality variables: blooms persisted









### Biological methods - Barley straw









### Biological methods - Barley straw extract

No growth reduction in nutrient rich medium, even growth stimulation in less enriched conditions

Nutrients in extract !



32

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#### Road to hell is paved with good intentions: Better not put your money on these

- Ultrasound
- Surface aerators, oil screens, bubble screens...
- Effective- micro-organisms', mud balls...
- Barley straw
- Plant/tree extracts
- Things that can be toxic
- Anything copy-pasted without a proper diagnosis of your identified problem









There is NO silver bullet: each lake is unique Mitigation should always start with a system analysis

- Water- and nutrient fluxes
- Biological make-up
- Functions (C/B-analysis)

#### - = diagnosis → measureS



N, P, Temp, ... , species, abundance, CHL-a, ... , cyanotoxins









#### Lake Groote Melanen – The Netherlands

Dr Guido Waajen – Water Authority Brabantse Delta

Example of diagnosis driven lake restoration:

- External P-load > critical P-load (inflow from 2 streams is main P source)
- High internal load from sediment (0.7 m mud on organic rich peat and sand)
- Fish 268 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> dominated by carp (78%)

Measures:

- Fish removal
- Diversion stream
- Dredging, capping sediment
- Flock & Lock









#### Unpublished data from Dr Guido Waajen – Water Authority Brabantse Delta









#### Lake restoration research in Netherlands



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## Lake restoration: system analysis is crucial

In-lake measures are inevitable (legacies, diffuse pollution)

- Repeated interventions are often unavoidable
- Many doubtful "magic solutions":
  - ultrasound
  - "effective microbes"



• plant extracts, barley, oil screens, surface mixers...

Targeting cyanobacteria directly:

- algaecides, peroxide
- coagulants (harvest or sink)

Targeting phosphate = removing fuel for blooms

• La-bentonite is a very powerful P-fixative







### Thank you!

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