



## Optimal flushing of a polder using Model Predictive Control

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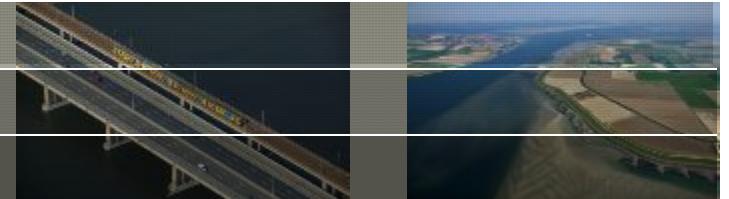


Meer informatie:  
[freshsalt.deltares.nl](http://freshsalt.deltares.nl)  
[zoetzout.deltares.nl](http://zoetzout.deltares.nl)

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# Introduction - Motivation



More than **35%** world's population live within 100 km of coast

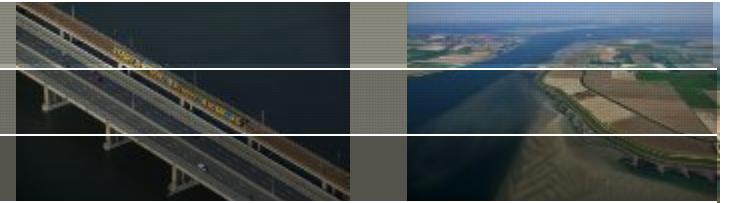
Groundwater resources in these areas are an important **source** for

- domestic
- industrial
- agricultural use

Deltaic areas are under stress due to

- climate change
- sea-level rise
- decrease in fresh water availability

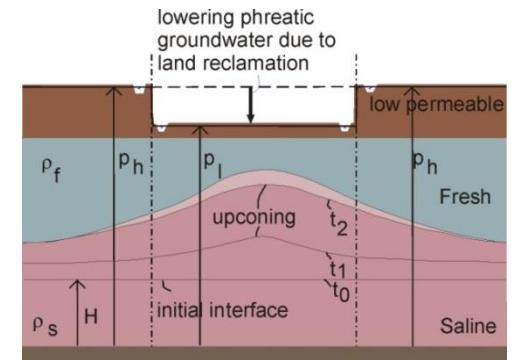
# Introduction - Motivation



In low-lying deltaic areas, saline groundwater **moves towards** ground surface and **exfiltrate** to surface water

Saline surface water affects:

- agricultural and industrial use
- drinking water production



**Flushing:** using freshwater diverted from rivers to remove saline surface water

Current **saline-fresh water management strategies** have to be **reviewed**, and new **sustainable strategies** should be **developed**

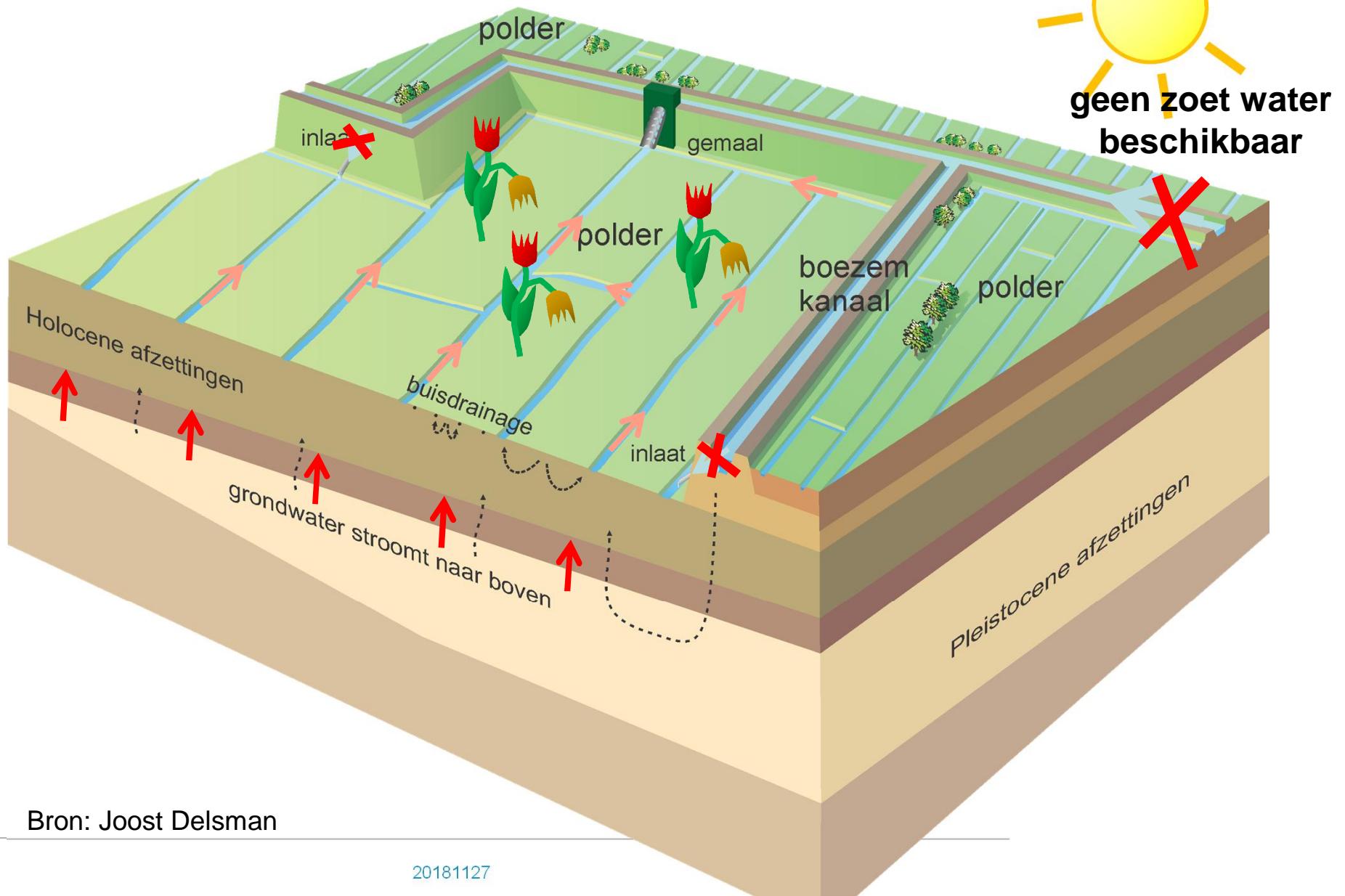
- decreasing fresh water availability
- increasing surface water salinization



# Water management in a Dutch polder



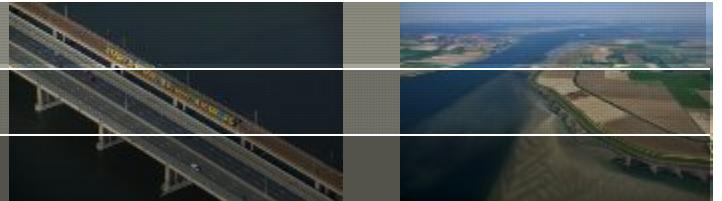
geen zoet water  
beschikbaar



Bron: Joost Delsman

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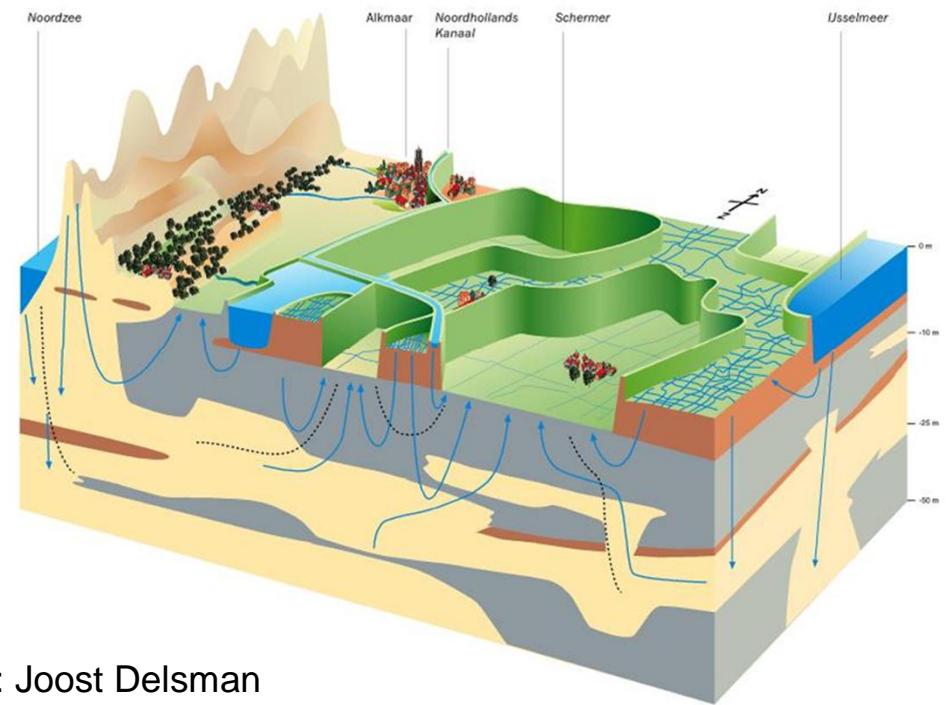
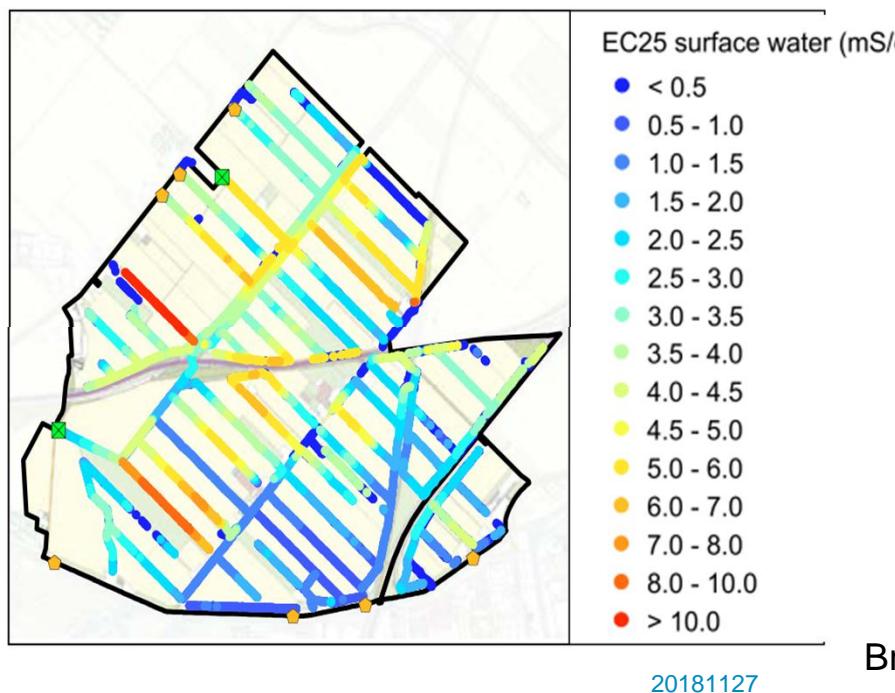
# Polders



During dry periods: extra fresh water to polders

During wet periods: provide space for extra water from polders

Water levels in polders are maintained within a given margin so that the groundwater levels in the polders are kept close to a target level



Bron: Joost Delsman

# Doorspoelen in de Haarlemmermeer

hoofdinlaat bij  
gemaal Leeghwater  
(~ 25%)

74 kleine  
inlaatpunten  
(~ 75%)



# With pressing Climate Change and SLR Scenarios

## Salinization

- expected to increase due to (extreme) sea-level rise

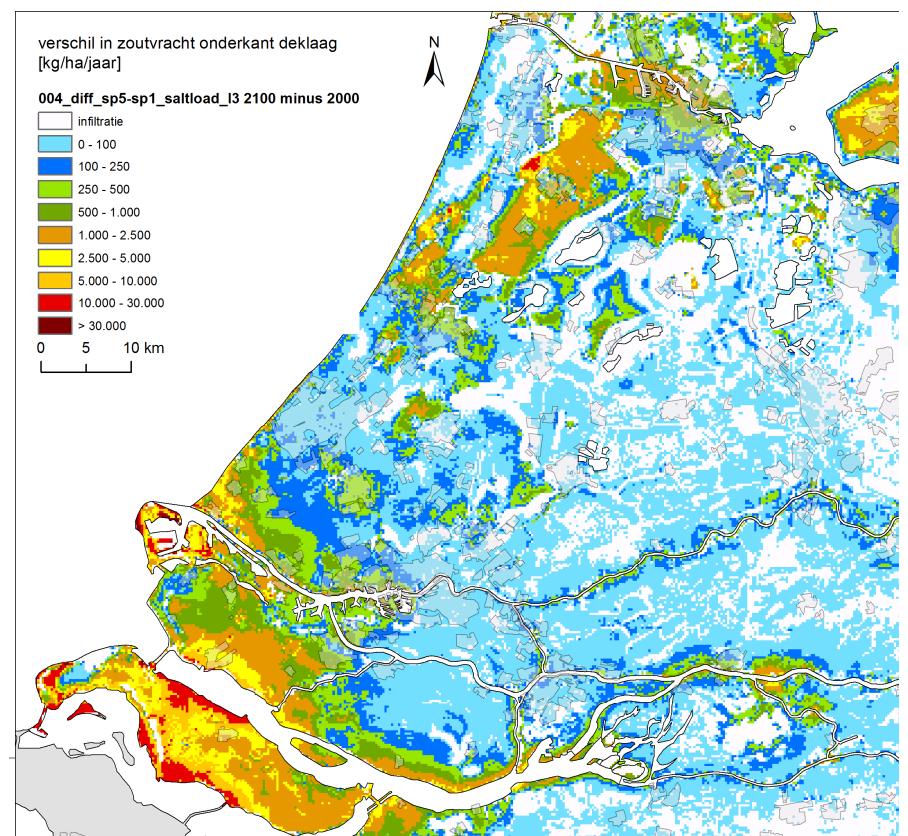
## Freshwater Availability

- expected to decrease due to decreasing precipitation and increased consumption of upstream users

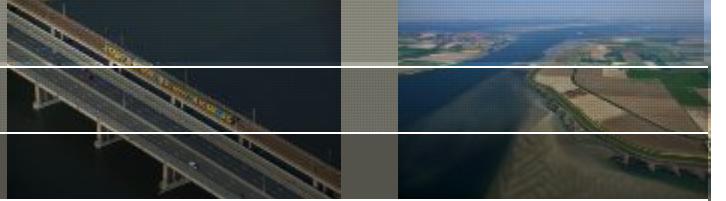
**Problem becomes more severe.  
Act efficiently when necessary.**



Increase  
salt load  
under SLR  
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# Objectives of the control



## Water Level

- Always

## Water Quality

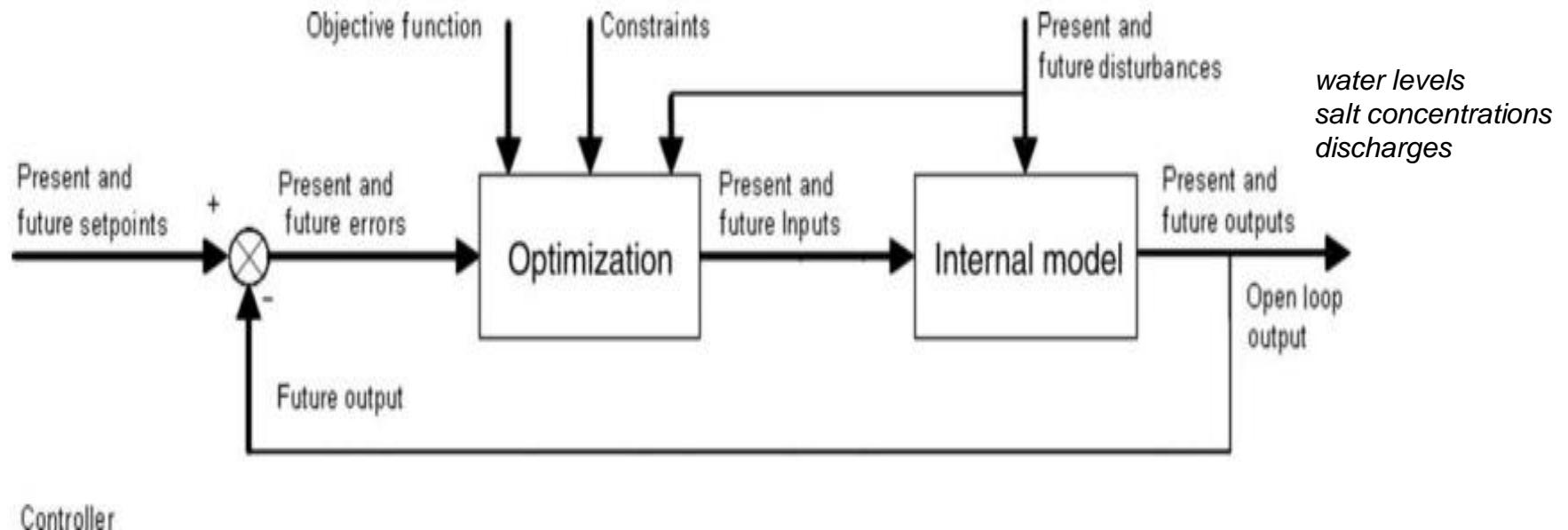
> When necessary

## Use minimum freshwater

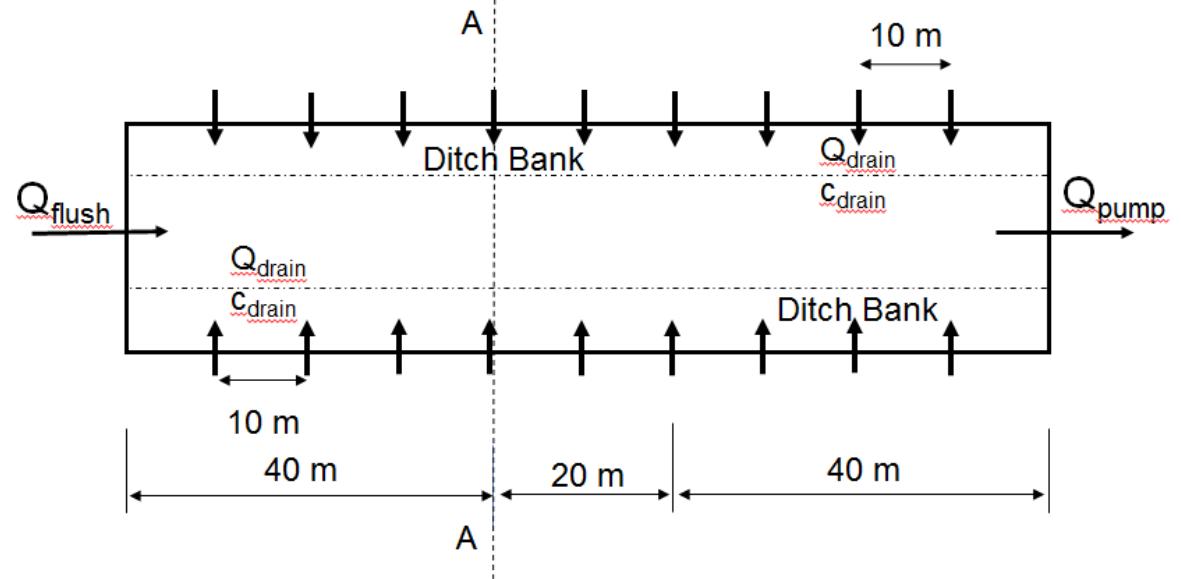
- Water is a scarce source / less pumping

# Model Predictive Control=optimization based control strategy

- Prediction of future process outputs
- Constraints of the system
- Optimization
- Keep the water level at target level
- Minimum effort and cost



# Understanding the problem - Test Case



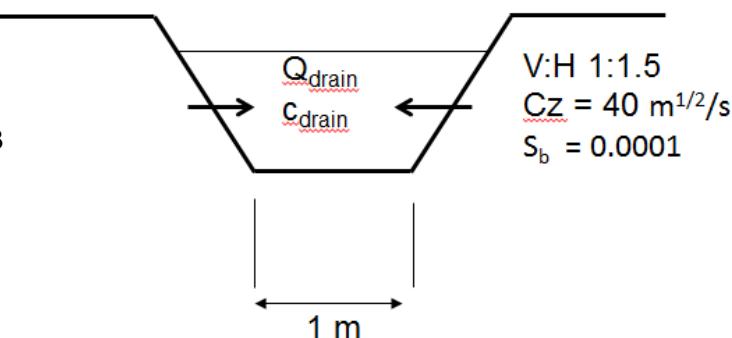
## Objective:

Downstream water level  
Downstream concentration  
Minimize the flushing discharge

$$h_{out} = -0.41 \text{ m}$$

$$C_{out} < 550 \text{ g/m}^3$$

$$Q_{flush}$$



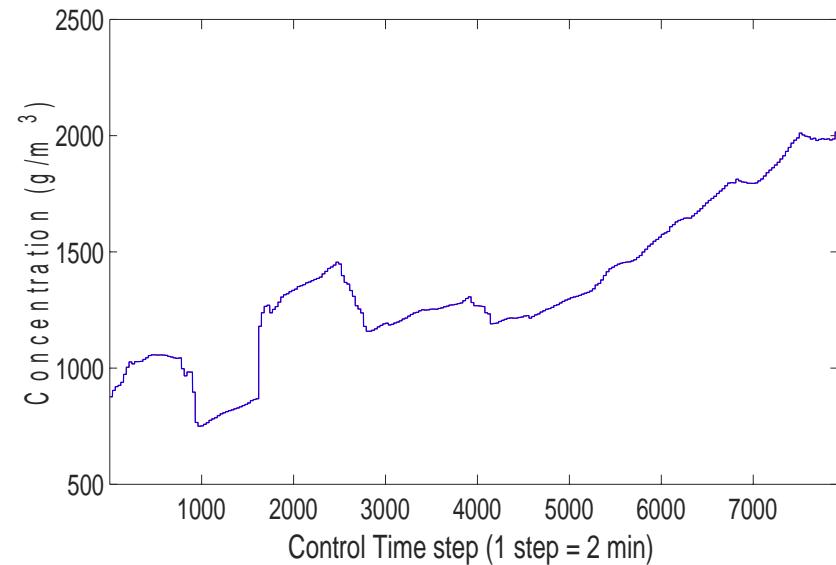
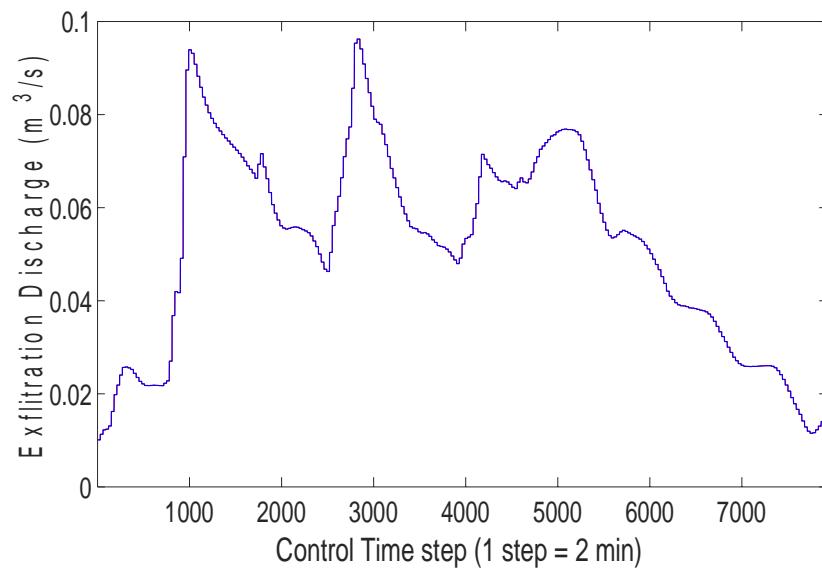
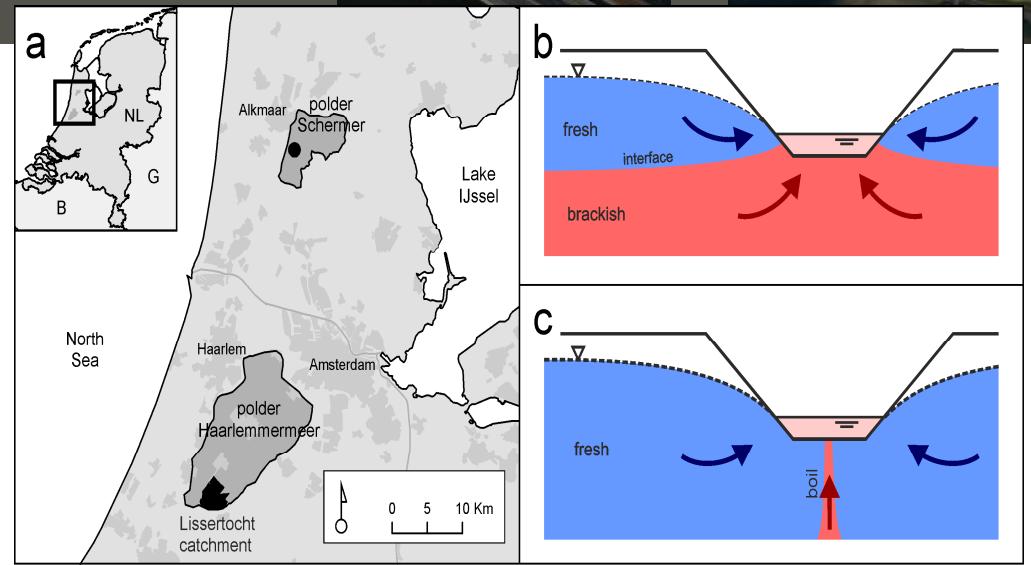
## Disturbance:

Saline Groundwater Exfiltration modelled

## Control:

Manipulating the change of :  $Q_{pump}$  &  $Q_{flush}$

# Real data from Schermer Polder

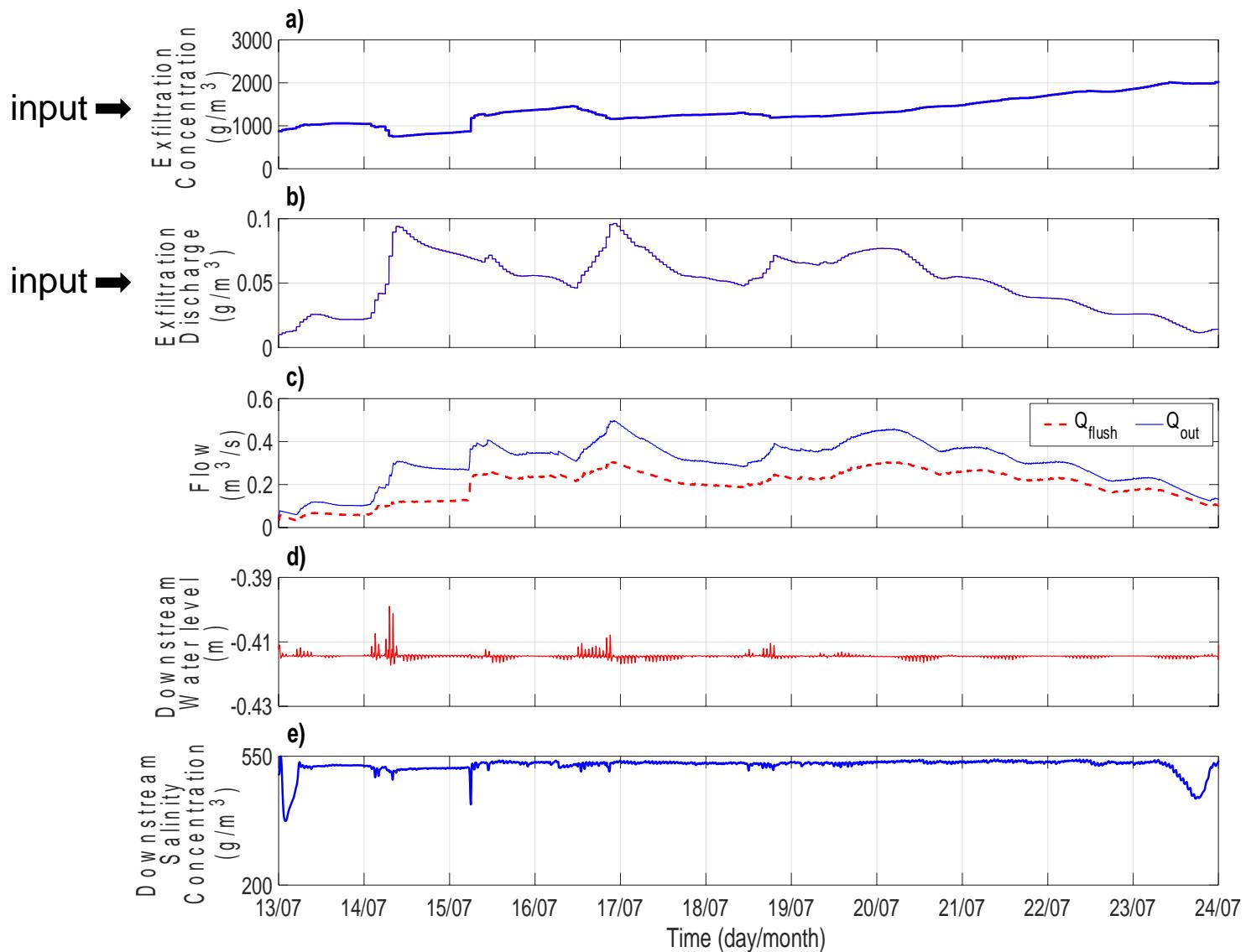


# Results

## Objective:

Downstream water level  
Downstream concentration  
Minimize the flushing discharge

$$\begin{aligned} h_{\text{out}} &= -0.41 \text{ m} \\ C_{\text{out}} &< 550 \text{ g/m}^3 \\ Q_{\text{flush}} \end{aligned}$$



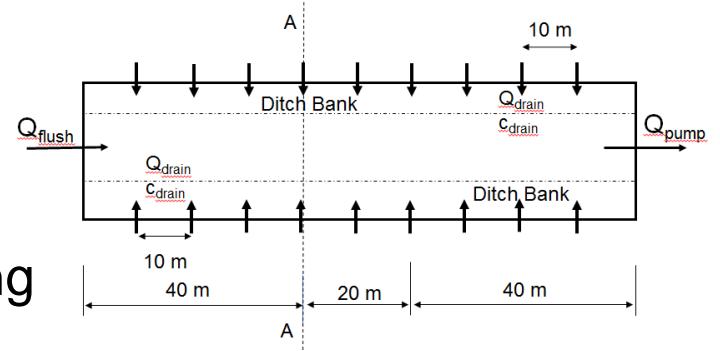
# Comparison MPC vs Fixed Flushing

| $C_{ref}$<br>(g/m <sup>3</sup> ) | $C_{av}$ (g/m <sup>3</sup> ) |       | $Q_{max}$<br>(m <sup>3</sup> /s) | $\Sigma Q_{flush}$<br>(10 <sup>3</sup> m <sup>3</sup> ) |       | $\Sigma Q_{pump}$<br>(10 <sup>3</sup> m <sup>3</sup> ) |       | % Saved     |            |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------|------------|
|                                  | MPC                          | Fixed |                                  | MPC                                                     | Fixed | MPC                                                    | Fixed | $Q_{flush}$ | $Q_{pump}$ |
| 550                              | 512.8                        | 374.2 | 0.384                            | 198.1                                                   | 365.2 | 296.8                                                  | 463.9 | 45.7        | 36.0       |
| 750                              | 684.9                        | 555.2 | 0.172                            | 105.6                                                   | 163.4 | 204.3                                                  | 262.0 | 35.3        | 22.0       |
| 900                              | 810.8                        | 664.8 | 0.115                            | 67.7                                                    | 109.2 | 166.4                                                  | 207.9 | 38.0        | 19.9       |
| 1000                             | 893.7                        | 714.7 | 0.096                            | 49.2                                                    | 91.6  | 147.9                                                  | 190.2 | 46.2        | 22.2       |

## Conclusion:

MPC is effective tool for flushing operation

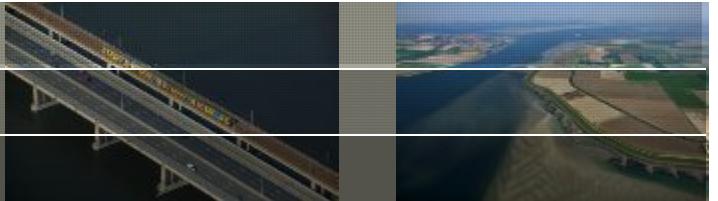
Up to 36% savings in freshwater use % pumping



(Next step: from this ditch to a network of a part of a polder)

(Other nutrients can also be controlled with the MPC scheme)

**Questions?**



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*Aydin, B.E., Tian, X., Delsman, J., Oude Essink, G.H.P., Rutten, M., Abraham, E., 2018. Optimal Salinity and Water Level Control of Polder Ditches using Model Predictive Control. Environ. Model. Softw. doi:10.1016/j.envsoft.2018.11.010*



**WATER NEXUS**

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