

# INFLUENCE OF INTERNAL *VERSUS* DIFFUSE SOURCES ON NUTRIENTS AND TRACE ELEMENTS IN WATER: THE CASE OF A EUTROPHIC COASTAL LAGOON

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# Coastal lagoons

## Eutrophication

- . Excess of nutrients
- . Low availability of O<sub>2</sub>

## Contamination (e.g. metals)

Water column

Sediment

Biota

internal sources

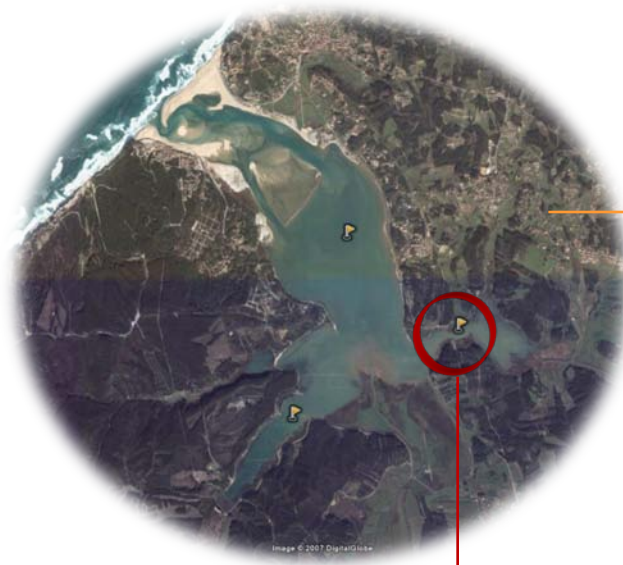
Metals and nutrients  
release from sediment to  
water column

- ▶ Additionally, rivers, tributaries and localized **diffuse sources** also supply nutrients and trace elements to coastal lagoons.



# WHY THE ÓBIDOS LAGOON?

- . Area: 7 km<sup>2</sup>
- . Depth: 1-2 m



Problematic area: **Barrosa branch**

- ▶ Input of municipal wastewater discharges (until 2005) and drainage of agriculture fields
- ▶ Discharge of a small tributary (Cal river) (winter discharge of 0.1 m<sup>3</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>)
- ▶ Low water renewal → High residence time (> 20 days)
- ▶ "Blooms" of *Ulva* sp. and *Enteromorpha* sp.

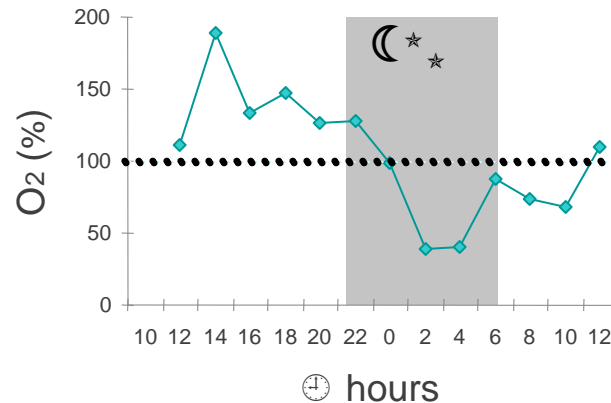
# WHY THE ÓBIDOS LAGOON?



- ↑ Ammonium and phosphate in Barrosa branch

- Barrosa branch was classified as polytrophic based on DIN according with Wasmund et al. (2001)

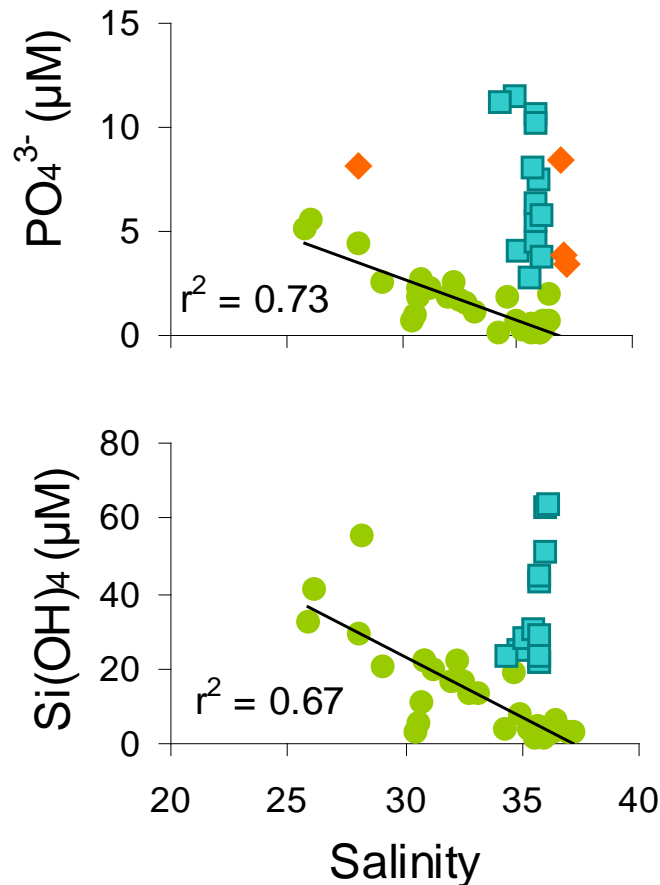
▶ O<sub>2</sub> decreases in water column during the night



Under these oxic-anoxic conditions, trace elements and nutrients are release from sediments (Pereira et al., 2009)

# WHY THE ÓBIDOS LAGOON?

- A previous work pointed out the relevance of sediment as an **internal source** of nutrients and trace elements for the water column (particularly in summer) (Pereira et al., 2009).



Out of the relationships:

- . Day-night cycle data
- . Summer data

Similar to Cu

- 26-h survey data
- ◆ Summer data
- Seasonal data





## AIMS OF THE WORK

- ▶ To assess daylight-night changes on water quality in two seasons: **summer** eutrophic conditions that promotes **internal sources** *versus* **winter** conditions with high freshwater discharges (**diffuse sources**).
- ▶ To describe the magnitude and extension of **internal sources** (sediments) on nutrients and trace elements availability during the night under eutrophic conditions.

# SAMPLING AND PARAMETERS



Summer 2007 and Winter 2008

## Óbidos lagoon



### Day-night scale

Water column

*In situ* measurements  
each 2 - 4 hours



- FQ parameters  
(temperature, salinity, pH, O<sub>2</sub>)

24-hour cycle

Surface water collection  
each 2 - 4 hours



- Trace elements in suspended  
particulate matter  
(Al, Fe, Mn, Pb)

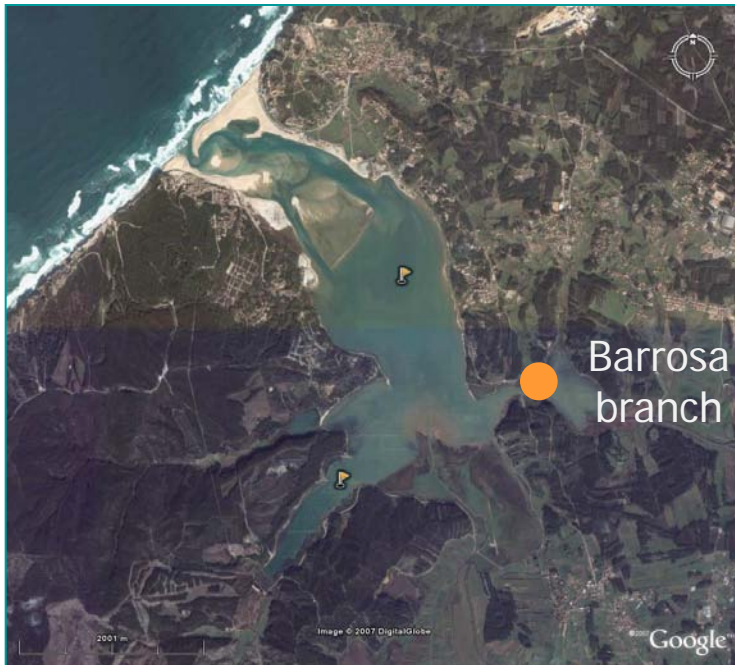
- Nutrients and trace elements  
in dissolved fraction  
(NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, Si(OH)<sub>4</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>,  
Mn, Fe, Pb, Cu)

# SAMPLING AND ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS



Summer 2007 and Winter 2008

## Óbidos lagoon



	Summer	Winter
	20/07/07	3/12/08



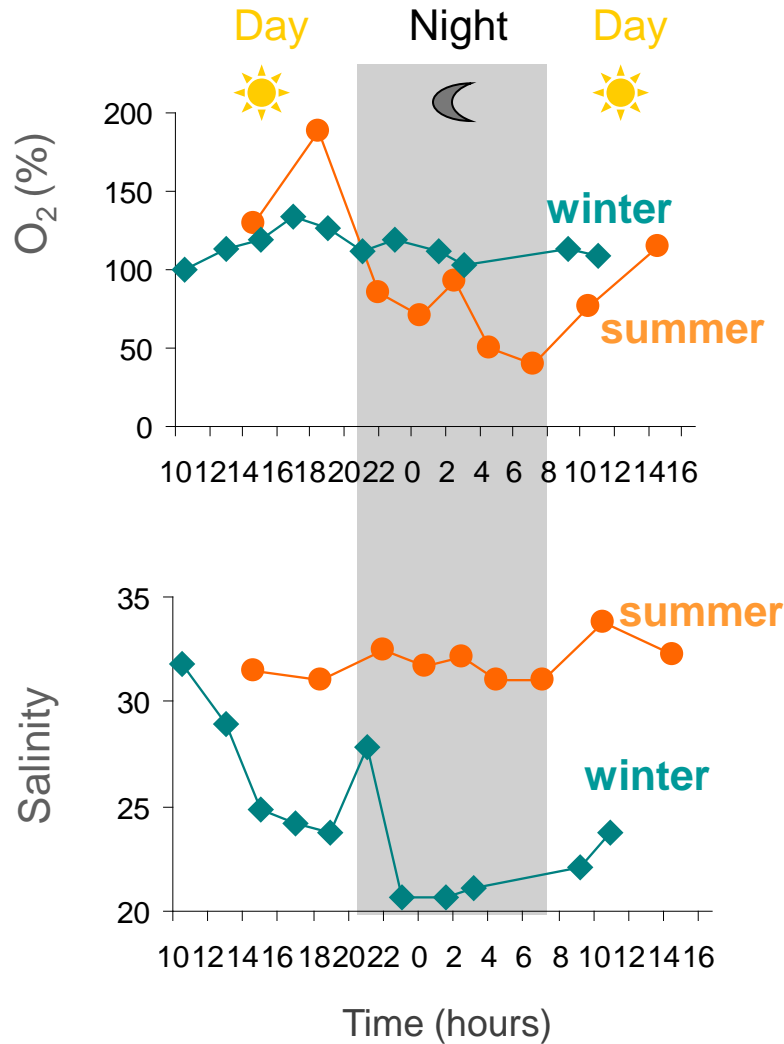
Temperature (°C)	21	13
Precipitation (mm/3h)	0	3
Clouds (%)	0	100
Wind direction	NW	W
Wind intensity (m/s)	6	9





## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

# DAY-NIGHT CYCLES - Physico-chemical parameters



▶ Large day-night fluctuation in **summer**

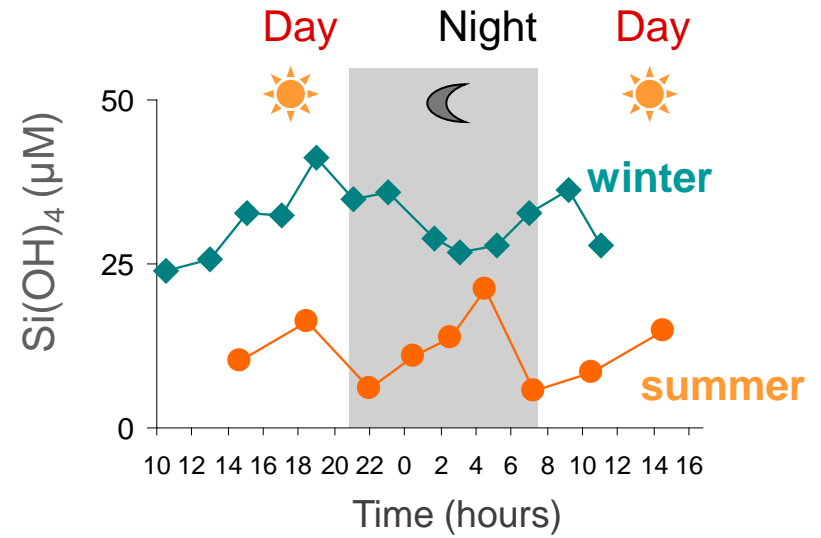
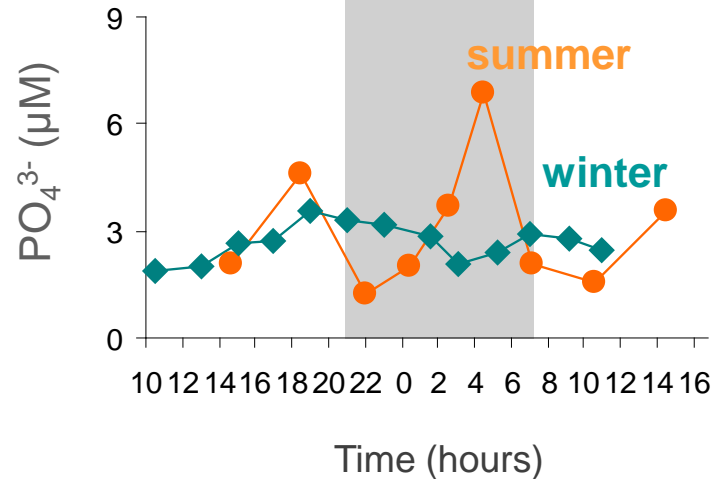
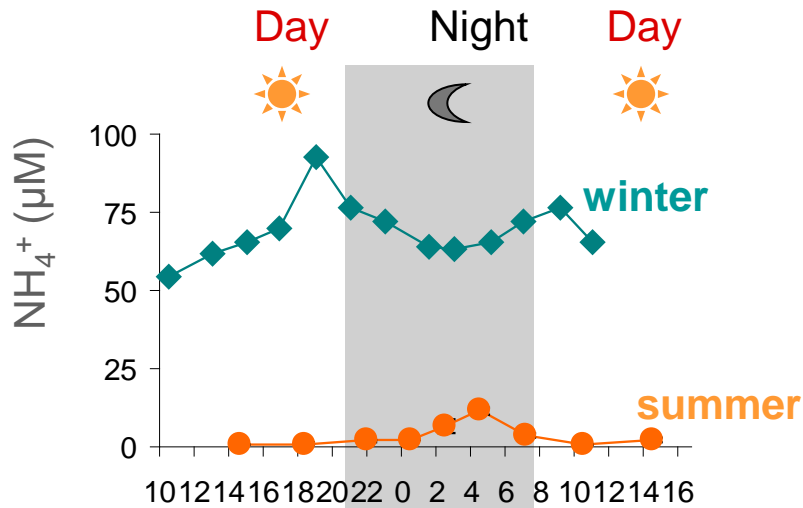
- Night: ↓ O<sub>2</sub> reaching 40%

▶ More constant values in **winter**

▶ Lower salinity in **winter**

- Higher influence of freshwater discharges

# DAY-NIGHT CYCLES – Nutrient availability



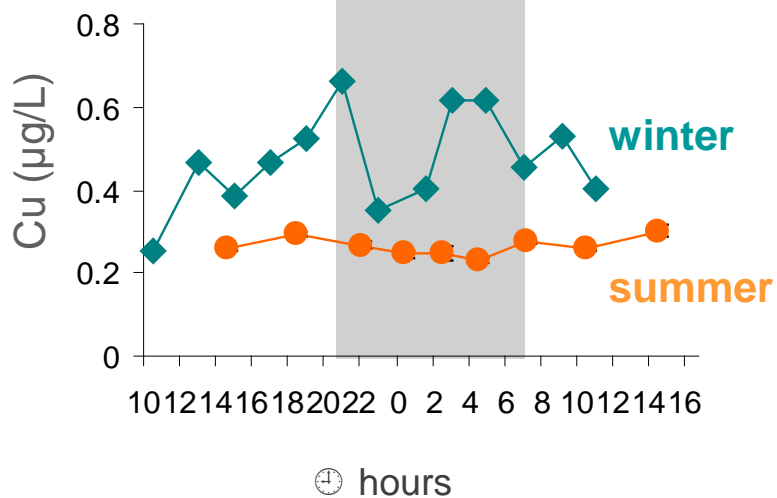
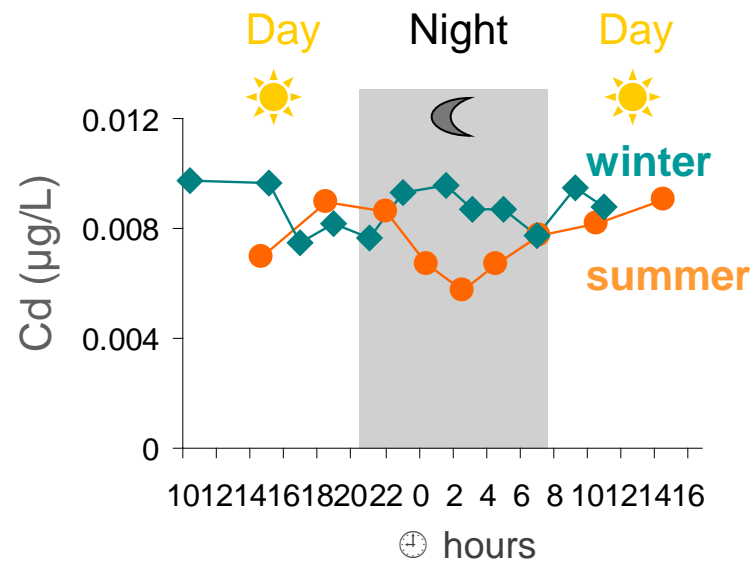
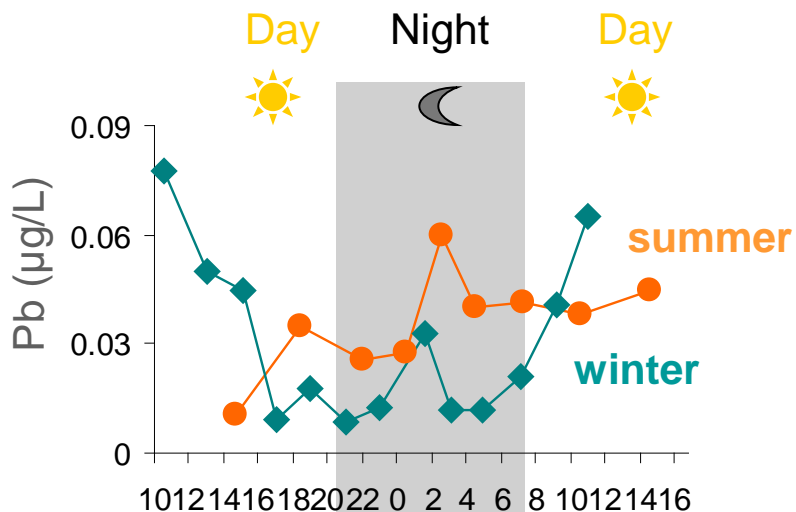
- ▶ Peaks during the night in **summer** when  $\text{O}_2$  was lower

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Nutrient regeneration in the anoxic sediment and exportation to the water column (relevance of **internal source**)

- ▶ Higher nutrient availability in **winter**, except phosphate

# DAY-NIGHT CYCLES – Metal availability

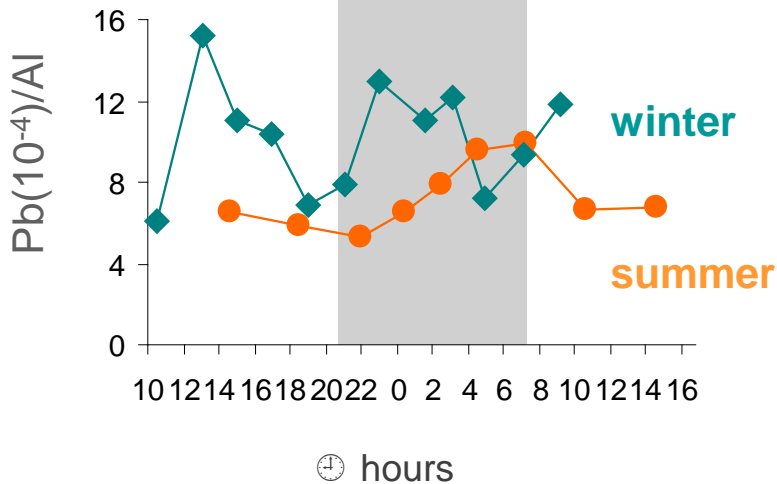
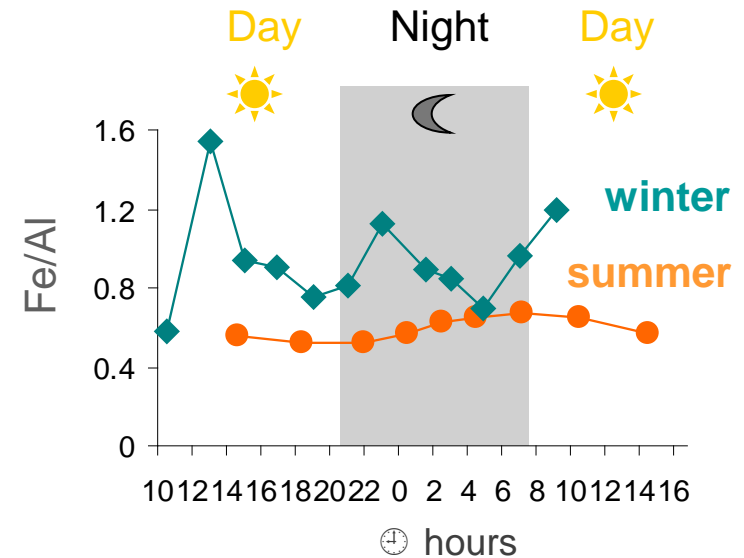
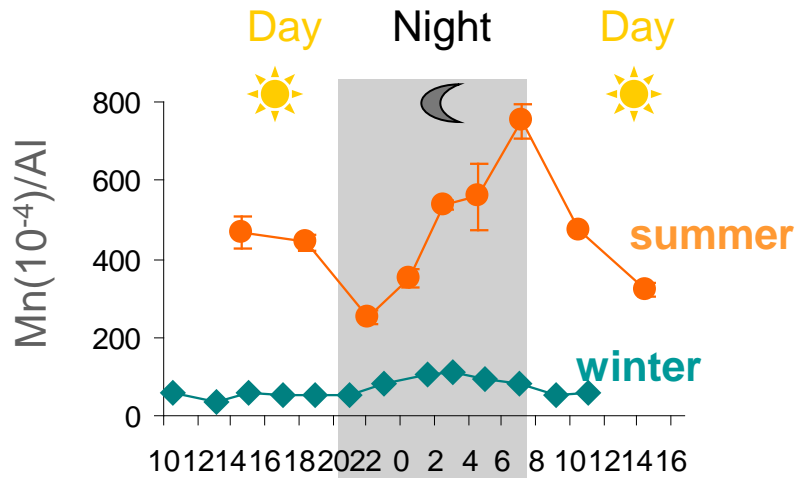


► Pb peak during the night in **summer** when O<sub>2</sub> was lower

Metal remobilization in the anoxic sediment and exportation to the water column (relevance of **internal source**)

► Higher Pb levels in **summer** than in **winter**; the opposite pattern was recorded for Cu and no differences were found for Cd.

# DAY-NIGHT CYCLES – Metal availability



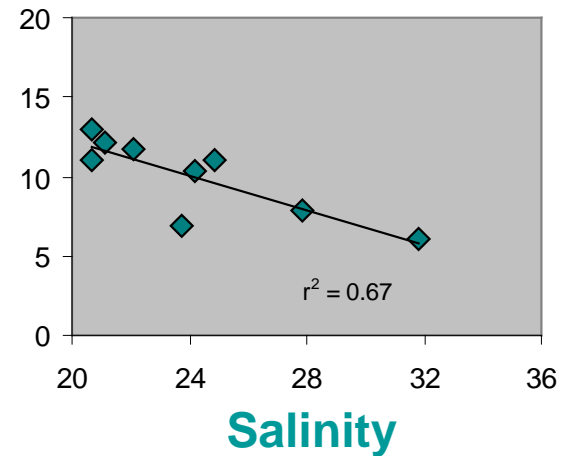
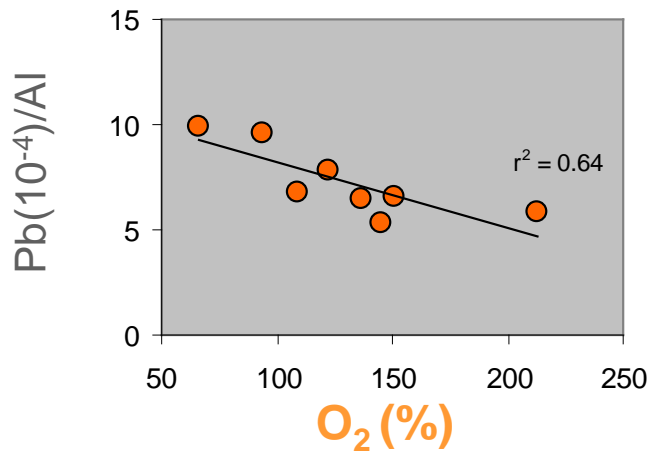
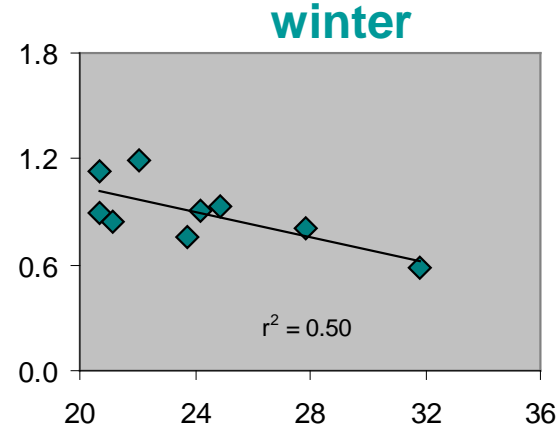
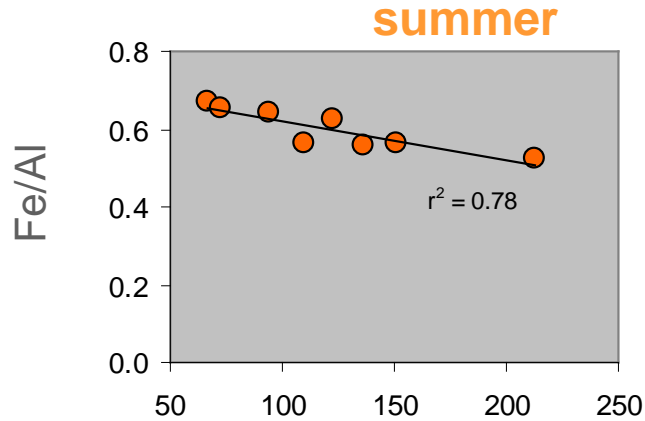
- ▶ Peaks during the night in **summer** when  $O_2$  was lower, particularly for manganese

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Metal remobilization in the anoxic sediment and exportation to the water column (relevance of **internal source**)

- ▶ Higher Mn/Al ratios in **summer** than in **winter**; the opposite pattern was recorded for Fe and Pb highlighting the importance of freshwater inputs.

# METAL LEVELS *VERSUS* KEY PARAMETERS



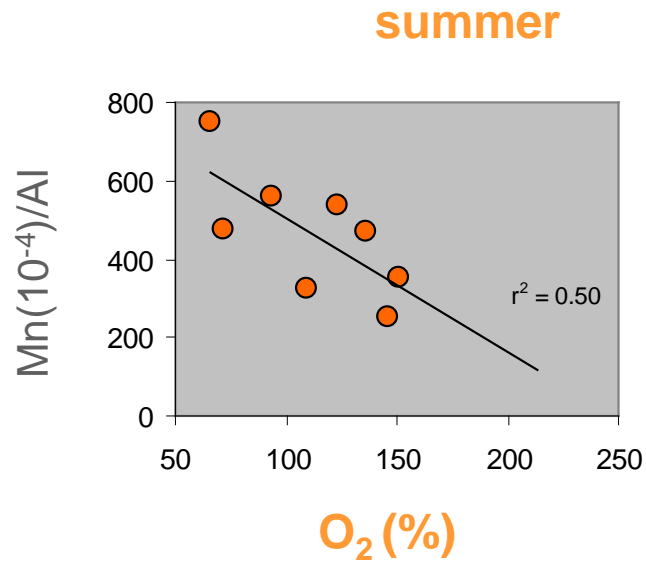
. Significant correlations between metal levels and O<sub>2</sub> in **summer**

Internal source

. Significant correlations between metal levels and salinity in **winter**

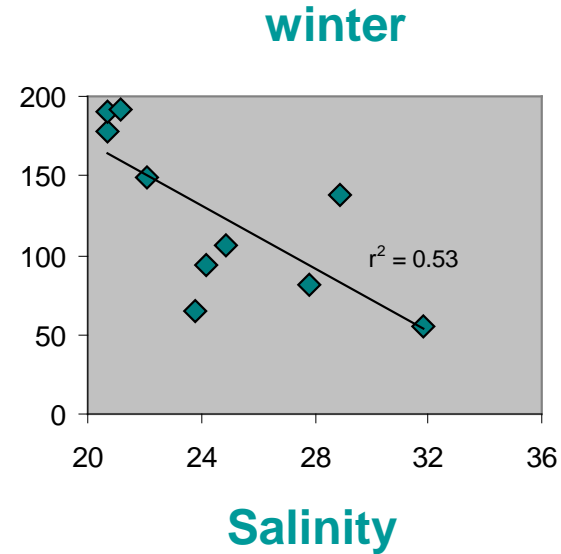
Diffuse source

# METAL LEVELS *VERSUS* KEY PARAMETERS



. Significant correlations between metal levels and O<sub>2</sub> in **summer**

Internal source



. Significant correlations between metal levels and salinity in **winter**

Diffuse source

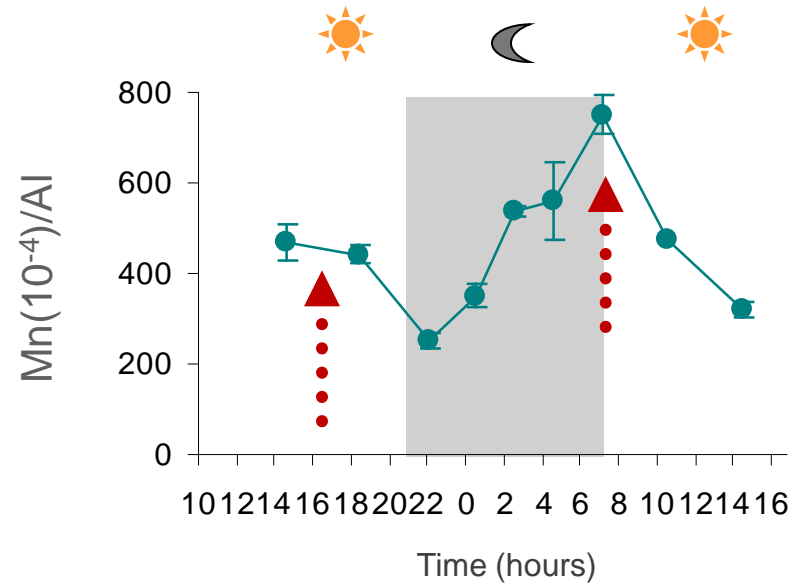
# DAY-NIGHT CYCLES

## Óbidos Lagoon



Eutrophic conditions  
(Barrosa branch)

The example of Mn as an element with high mobility near the sediment-water interface

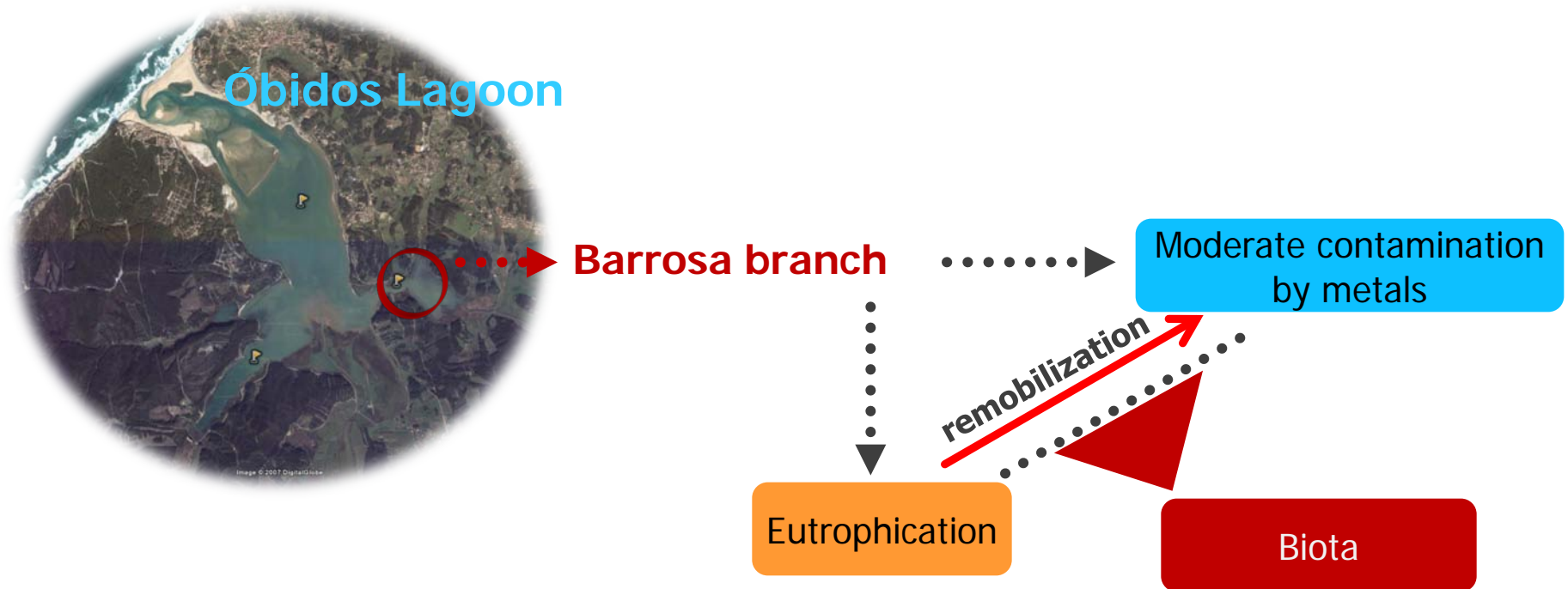


- ▶ Input of nutrients and metals at **Barrosa branch** by freshwater discharges (Cal river), mainly in winter (**diffuse source**).
- ▶ Supplementary input of nutrients and metals during the night at **Barrosa branch**, which for some elements is far above that provided by freshwater discharges (e.g. Mn).
- ▶ Reductive dissolution of Mn and Fe oxyhydroxides in sediments with the release of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and their upward diffusion in the water column.



# FINAL REMARKS

- ▶ Under eutrophic conditions, metal remobilization in sediments and the subsequent exportation to the water column represent an additional input of metals that could be incorporated by the biota.
- ▶ Current results highlight to the importance of assessing environmental conditions over day-night cycles.
- ▶ This approach seems to be particularly relevant when addressing the relationships between “chemical conditions” and “biological quality elements” foreseen in the Water Framework Directive.



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