

Supplementary Information for

Current water quality guidelines across North America and Europe do not protect lakes from salinization

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Data Availability: Data, supporting files, and metadata can also be found in the Scholars Portal Dataverse archive at:<https://doi.org/10.5683/SP3/BIDMCI> (Arnott et al. 2021)

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Supplemental Methods Text

For each experiment, we filled the mesocosms, which ranged in size from 80 to 2500 L, with water that was filtered through a 40- to 100-µm mesh to remove most zooplankton but allow small, edible phytoplankton to pass through. The water source was a local lake for 13 of the experiments; in the remaining cases, we used water from a lake outflow (Convict) or well water (Purdue, Dartmouth). We measured total phosphorus (TP), total nitrogen (TN), calcium (Ca²⁺), Cl[−], and conductivity by either a) taking a water sample from the lake, b) using a composite sample from multiple mesocosms at the beginning of the experiment, or c) by using existing data from prior analyses from long-term monitoring programs (see SI Appendix 1, Table 1.1 for water conditions for each study site). After allowing the phytoplankton communities to acclimate for a few days, we collected zooplankton from the same lake where water was collected or a nearby pond when well water was used, using the same mesh size used to filter the mesocosm water. An aliquot of zooplankton was added to each mesocosm to recreate the same community composition and abundance as in the source lake or pond. To prevent declines in zooplankton abundance due to food limitation in the mesocosms, we added nitrogen (NH_4NO_3) and phosphorus (KH2PO4) to 13 of the experimental sites at weeks 2 and 4 to replace nutrients, assuming an estimated loss of 5% per day from the water column due to periphyton growth and sedimentation (1).

One to nine days after we stocked the zooplankton, we added NaCl to achieve the nominal experimental concentrations (SI Appendix 2, Table 2.1). Initial day (day 1) and final (day 41 – 51) Cl[−] concentrations were determined either by measuring Cl[−] directly or estimating Cl[−] indirectly using conductivity (SI Appendix 3, Tables 3.1). Nominal and actual Cl[−] concentrations differed by 5-28% (SI Appendix 3, Tables 3.2). Chloride concentrations sometimes varied over time due to rainfall and evaporation in the mesocosms, therefore we used the average Cl[−] values between initial and final samples for all statistical analyses (SI Appendix 3, Figs. 3.1 – 3.2). We also measured several abiotic variables during the experiment including water temperature, conductivity, pH, and dissolved oxygen.

References

1. A. L. Downing *et al.*, Environmental fluctuations induce scale-dependent compensation and increase stability in plankton ecosystems. *Ecology* 89:3204-3214 (2008).

Table 1.1. Location and characteristics of source lakes and experimental approach. Latitude (Lat) and Longitude (Long) are given in decimal degrees, mesocosm volume (Vol), n is the number of mesocosms used in the experiment, Start and End are the dates in 2018 when the experiments were conducted, chloride (Cl), calcium (Ca), total nitrogen (TN), total phosphorus (TP), and chlorophyll a (Chl *a*) concentration represent source water values.

Table 2.1. Nominal chloride concentrations and the mass of NaCl added (on a per liter basis) for 20- and 30-mesocosm experiments.

Conversion of conductivity to chloride

For three of the sixteen experiments (KBS, Kraus, Sturgeon) we lacked direct Clmeasurements. For these experiments we used conductivity measurements to estimate initial (week 0) and final (week 6) Cl**-** concentrations. We calculated regressions between conductivity and nominal Cl**-**levels and then used the regressions to convert initial and final conductivity measures into predicted Cl**-** (Figure 3.1). To determine the accuracy of this method, we used the same regression method for experiments that had both initial conductivity and Cl**-** measurements. We used initial measurements because we assumed actual and nominal Cl**-** values would be the closest shortly after NaCl addition, before rainfall and evaporation effects. We then regressed predicted Cl**-** values versus actual Cl**-** as measured in the mesocosms. In Table 3.1, we report the R-squared values and the average absolute difference in mg Cl**-** /L for 'actual estimated Cl**-** ' vs 'actual Cl**-** ' for all experiments that had initial conductivity and Cl**-** measurements. In control tanks (no Cl**-** added) for Kraus and KBS, the regression method estimated small negative Cl**-** values. We replaced these negative values for the controls with 0 mg Cl**-** /l.

Observations from experiments that had actual Cl**-** estimates for week 0 and 6 showed changes in Cl**-** , in some cases due to known instances of high evaporation or rainfall (Figure 3.2). To account for variable Cl**-** values over the six-week period, we predicted Cl**-** values from conductivity using the regression method for experiments that did not have both initial and final Cl**-** values. For Feresjön, initial Cl**-** values were only available for week 3, not week 0. For Croche, only initial actual Cl**-** values were used for week 0 because predicted Cl**-** values for final Cl**-** were overestimated at low concentrations, and observations of Cl**-** and conductivity for both in-lake mesocosms showed very little change over time. We expect evaporation and rainfall effects on chloride to be much smaller for in-lake mesocosms due to larger volumes and lower temperature fluctuations compared to land-based mesocosms.

Nominal versus actual Cl**-** *comparisons*

To estimate the accuracy of our Cl**-**levels compared to our target (i.e., nominal) values, we calculated the percent deviation of Cl**-**levels for each mescososm in week 0 (Figure 3.3). This value was calculated as: $\frac{|actual\;chloride - nominal\;chloride|}{nominal\;chloride}$ We then calculated the average and standard deviation of the percent deviation for each lake (Table 3.2).

Table 3.1. Results of the analysis to describe error in predicting Cl**-** concentrations using conductivity levels in mesocosms. The R-squared values represent the fit between predicted Cl**-** concentrations and actual Cl**-** concentrations for lakes that had both conductivity and Cl**-** data. The mean difference shows the error in predicting Clconcentrations for each mesocosm when using conductivity. The mesocosm volume and venue are also included to provide context for potential sources of error when constructing the conductivity-nominal Cl**-**relationship used to predict actual Clconcentrations.

Table 3.2. Values of average and standard deviation (SD) of the percent deviation from the nominal Cl**-**levels in week 0 across lakes.

*based on initial Cl-in week 3

Figure 3.1. Relationship between conductivity and nominal CI⁻ concentrations for (A) Kraus Lake, (B) Sturgeon Lake, and (C) KBS Reservoir using data collected at week 0 (initial) in the experiments. The R-squared values for all fits were >0.98.

Figure 3.2. Relationship between nominal Cl**-** concentrations actual Cl**-** values. Initial chloride measurements from week $0 = \text{gray}$, final chloride measurements from week $6 =$ light blue. Circles represent actual Cl**-** measurements. Triangles represent estimated Clvalues from conductivity values. The 1:1 ratio is indicated with a dashed line. Feresjön initial Cl**-** measurements are from week 3. Croche final measurements are not shown because they were not used in the averaged Cl**-** measurements due to errors in estimation at low nominal Cl**-**levels.

Figure 3.3. Percent deviation of actual Cl⁻ values from nominal concentrations. Data are shown for each lake (coded by color) in week 0.

Individual site responses of calanoid copepods, cyclopoid copepods, rotifers, and chlorophyll *a* to Cl**-** gradients (cladoceran figure reported in main paper).

Table 4.1. Model comparison table for cladoceran abundance in the 16 study sites, including delta AICc and adjusted R^2 values and whether the relationship was used to predict an LC50. For consistency, we only used GAM models with log(abundance + 1) to predict LC⁵⁰ (in bold). The "Used for LC50" column indicates if there was enough data and the shape of the curve permitted us to calculate LC_{50} (see methods for more details). Models considered included linear (lm) and generalized additive (gam) models with abundance (ab), log(abundance + 1) (logab), log(Cl⁻ concentration + 1) (logcl), and both variables log-transformed (loglog). Table shows models within 2 ΔAIC and GAM models with $log(abundance + 1)$.

Table 4.2. Model comparison table for cyclopoid copepod abundance in the 16 study sites, including delta AICc and adjusted $R²$ values and whether the relationship was used to predict an LC₅₀. For consistency, we only used GAM models with $log(abundance + 1)$ to predict LC_{50} (in bold). The "Used for LC_{50} " column indicates if there was enough data and the shape of the curve permitted us to calculate LC₅₀ (see methods for more details). Models considered included linear (lm) and generalized additive (gam) models with abundance (ab), log(abundance + 1) (logab), log(Clconcentration + 1) (logcl), and both variables log-transformed (loglog). Table shows models within 2 \triangle AIC and GAM models with log(abundance + 1).

Table 4.3. Model comparison table for calanoid copepod abundance in the 16 study sites, including delta AICc and adjusted R^2 values and whether the relationship was used to predict an LC₅₀. For consistency, we only used GAM models with $log(abundance + 1)$ to predict LC_{50} (in bold). The "Used for LC_{50} " column indicates if there was enough data and the shape of the curve permitted us to calculate LC_{50} (see methods for more details). Models considered included linear (lm) and generalized additive (gam) models with abundance (ab), log(abundance + 1) (logab), log(Clconcentration + 1) (logcl), and both variables log-transformed (loglog). Table shows models within 2 \triangle AIC and GAM models with log(abundance + 1).

Table 4.4. Model comparison table for rotifer abundance in the 16 study sites, including delta AICc and adjusted R^2 values and whether the relationship was used to predict an LC_{50} . For consistency, we only used GAM models with log(abundance $+1$) to predict LC₅₀ (in bold). The "Used for LC₅₀" column indicates if there was enough data and the shape of the curve permitted us to calculate LC₅₀ (see methods for more details). Models considered included linear (lm) and generalized additive (gam) models with abundance (ab), log(abundance + 1) (logab), log(Cl**-** concentration + 1) (logcl), and both variables log-transformed (loglog). Table shows models within 2 ΔAIC and GAM models with $log(abundance + 1)$.

Table 4.5. Model selection table for chlorophyll a concentration, including adjusted R² and delta AICc values and whether the relationship was used to predict an $\overline{\text{LC}}_{50}$. Models considered included linear and generalized additive (GAM) models with chlorophyll abundance (chl), log(abundance + 1) (logchl), log(Cl**-** concentration + 1) (logcl), and both variables log-transformed. Table shows models within 2 ΔAIC and GAM models with $log($ abundance + 1).

Table 4.6. Comparison of the global model of taxon abundance as a function of Clcompared to a model with lake-specific smooth relationships. Bolded models are the best fit model for each taxonomic group.

Table 4.7. GAM results for the models with site-specific smooth relationships between taxon abundance and CI⁻ including the estimated degrees of freedom (edf), F-values, and p-values for each smoothed term. Bolded relationships are significant at p<0.05.

Figure 4.1. Predicted relationship between log10(x+1) cladoceran abundance and Cl[−] concentration using generalized additive models (GAMs) for 15 study sites throughout North America and Europe. Red vertical line indicates the LC₅₀ value for each site with the associated 95% confidence intervals (shaded region around the vertical line). Cladocerans were not detected in the experiment at Tavernoles.

Figure 4.2. Predicted relationship between log10(x+1) calanoid abundance and Cl[−] concentration using generalized additive models (GAMs) for 12 study sites throughout North America and Europe where calanoids were detected. Red vertical line indicates the LC⁵⁰ value for each site with the associated 95% confidence intervals (shaded region around the vertical line). Points in gray were not used in fitting the GAMs; Cl⁻ gradients were truncated to improve model fit when the decline in abundance was steep and no individuals were detected at high Cl[−] concentrations. LC₅₀ was not estimated for Storjärn because the GAM model did not detect a change in abundance along the chloride gradient.

Figure 4.3. Predicted relationship between log10(x+1) cyclopoid abundance and Cl[−] concentration using generalized additive models (GAMs) for 16 study sites throughout North America and Europe. Red vertical line indicates the LC₅₀ value for each site with the associated 95% confidence intervals (shaded region around the vertical line). LC_{50} was not calculated for Purdue because abundance did not decline with increasing Cl⁻ concentration.

Figure 4.4. Predicted relationship between log10(x+1) rotifer abundance and Cl[−] concentration using generalized additive models (GAMs) for 15 study sites throughout North America and Europe where rotifers were enumerated. Red vertical line indicates the LC⁵⁰ value for each site with the associated 95% confidence intervals (shaded region around the vertical line). LC_{50} was not calculated for 5 sites because (1) there was no change in abundance with Cl[−], (2) there was an increase in abundance with Cl[−] or (3) zooplankton abundance did not remain below 50% along the Cl[−] gradient.

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Table 5.1. Mesocosm characteristics for site-specific set up and methods.

*generally added every two weeks; weekly in George

Table 5.2. Zooplankton sampling and counting methods for the final day.

Table 5.3. Analytical methods. Fluor.=fluorometry, Spectro.=spectrophotometry

*BOE num.163 Ordre de 1 de juliol de 1987. 15871

Tables and Figures for the principal components analysis (PCA) for water chemistry and zooplankton composition in control mesocosms.

Table 6.1. Analysis of variance results for cladoceran LC₅₀ as a function of chemistry PC1 and PC2. Model = $Im(LC_{50}$ Cladoceran~ chem_PC1+ chem_PC2).

Table 6.2. Analysis of variance results for cyclopoid copepod LC₅₀ as a function of chemistry PC1 and PC2. Model = $Im(LC_{50}$ cyclopoid~ chem_PC1+ chem_PC2).

Table 6.3. Analysis of variance results for calanoid LC₅₀ as a function of chemistry PC1 and PC2. Model = $Im(LC_{50}$ calanoid~ chem PC1+ chem PC2).

	Df	F value	$Pr(>=F)$
chem_PC1		14.169	0.007
chem_PC2		9.740	0.017
Residuals			

Table 6.4. Analysis of variance results for rotifer LC₅₀ as a function of chemistry PC1 and PC2. Model = $Im(LC_{50}$ rotifer~ chem_PC1+ chem_PC2).

Table 6.5. Analysis of variance results for cladoceran LC₅₀ as a function of cladoceran PC1 and PC2. Model = $Im(LC_{50}$ Cladoceran~ clad_PC1+ clad_PC2).

Table 6.6. Analysis of variance results for cyclopoid copepod LC₅₀ as a function of $cyclopoid PC1$ and $PC2$. Model = $Im(LC_{50_Cyclopoid~cyc_PC1+ cyc_PC2)$.

Table 6.7. Analysis of variance results for calanoid copepod LC₅₀ as a function of calanoid PC1 and PC2. Model=lm(LC_{50_}calanoid~ cal_PC1+cal_PC2). The lowest AIC was associated with the model that only included the intercept.

	Df	F value	$Pr(>=F)$
cal_PC1	1	0.182	0.681
cal_PC2	1	0.777	0.404
Residuals	8		

Table 6.8. Analysis of variance results for rotifer LC₅₀ as a function of rotifer PC1 and PC2. Model=lm(LC_{50_}rotifer~ rot_PC1+rot_PC2).

Figure 6.1. The first and second principal components for log₁₀-transformed water chemistry variables (CI, Ca^{2+} , TN, TP, chl a), representing source lake conditions at each of the 16 sites.

Figure 6.2. The first and second principal components for Hellinger-transformed cladocerans abundance in control meosocsms at each of the 16 sites. 1=Convict, 2=Croche, 3=Dartmouth, 4=Erken, 5=Feresjön, 6=George, 7 Hertel, 8=KBS, 9=Kraus, 10=Long, 11 = Opeongo, 12=Paint, 13=Purdue, 14=Stortjärn, 15= Sturgeon, 16=Tavernoles.

Figure 6.3. The first and second principal components for Hellinger-transformed cyclopoid copepod abundance in control meosocsms at each of the 16 sites. 1=Convict, 2=Croche, 3=Dartmouth, 4=Erken, 5=Feresjön, 6=George, 7 Hertel, 8=KBS, 9=Kraus, 10=Long, 11 = Opeongo, 12=Paint, 13=Purdue, 14=Stortjärn, 15= Sturgeon, 16=Tavernoles. Lake numbers have been jiddered for display.

Figure 6.4. The first and second principal components for Hellinger-transformed calanoids abundance in control meosocsms at each of the 16 sites. 1=Convict, 2=Croche, 3=Dartmouth, 4=Erken, 5=Feresjön, 6=George, 7 Hertel, 8=KBS, 9=Kraus, 10=Long, 11 = Opeongo, 12=Paint, 13=Purdue, 14=Stortjärn, 15= Sturgeon, 16=Tavernoles. Lake numbers have been jittered for display.

Figure 6.5. The first and second principal components for Hellinger-transformed rotifers abundance in control meosocsms at each of the 16 sites. 1=Convict, 2=Croche, 3=Dartmouth, 4=Erken, 5=Feresjön, 6=George, 7 Hertel, 8=KBS, 9=Kraus, 10=Long, 11 = Opeongo, 12=Paint, 13=Purdue, 14=Stortjärn, 15= Sturgeon, 16=Tavernoles.