

# Ecohydrological effects of river damming and adaptive management

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Yangtze Institute for Conservation and Development

# Outlines

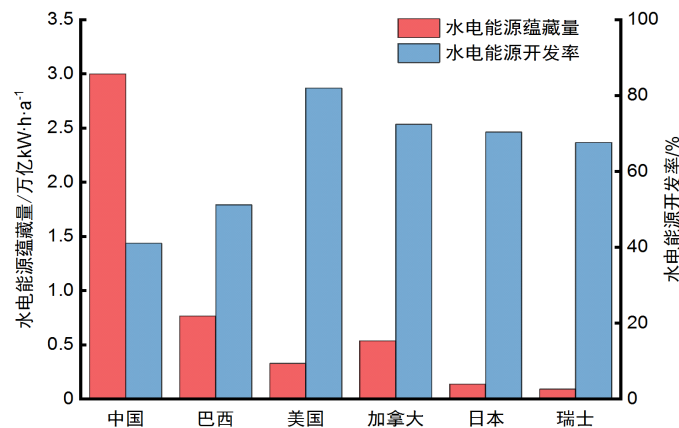
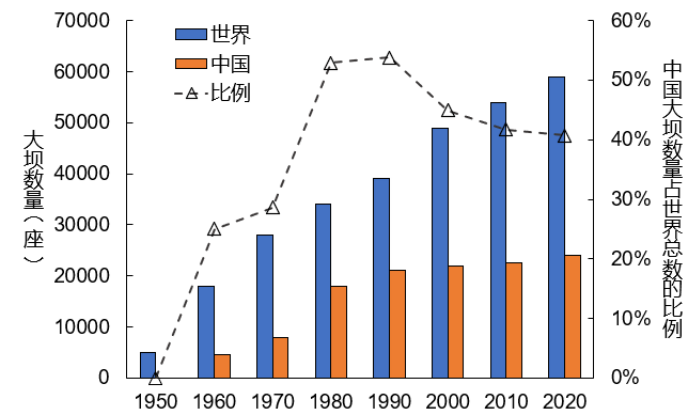
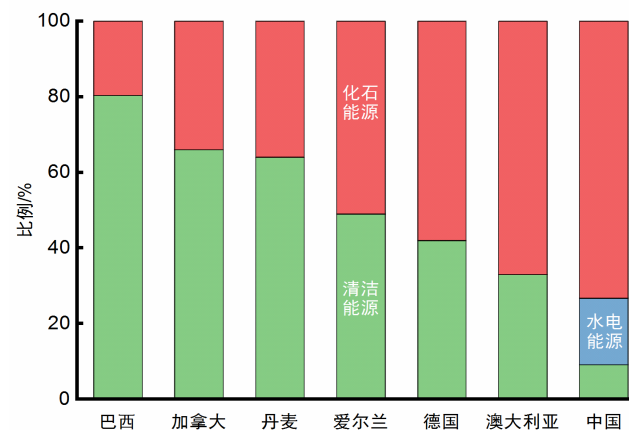
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1. Research background
2. Impact on biogeochemical cycles
3. Impacts on fish and conservations
4. Remarks and perspectives

# 1. Research background

□ National demands: energy security, carbon neutralization, poverty relief

- ✧ Carbon peaking and neutrality
- ✧ Hydropower improve energy structure
- ✧ Small hydropower & pumping storage



美国指责中国在湄公河上游修大坝影响下游国家 中方回应

来源: 央视网新闻 2018-08-03

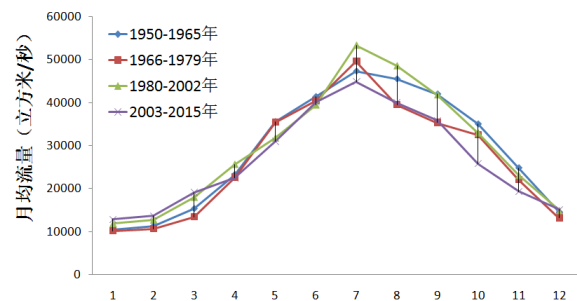


# 1. Research background

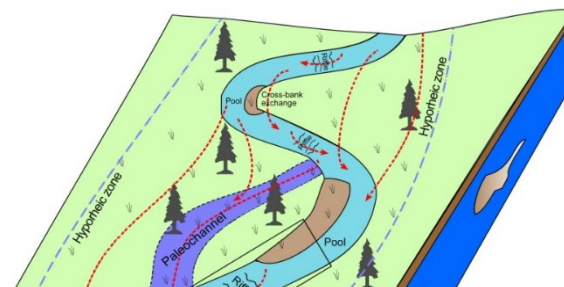
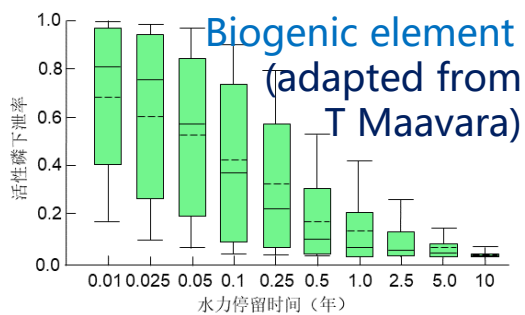
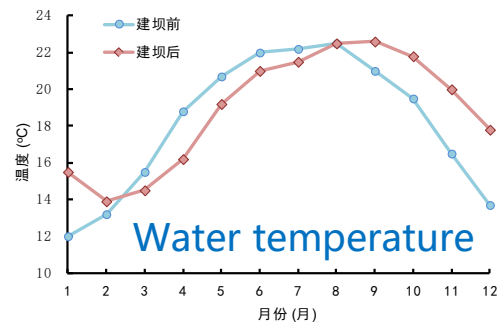
□ National demands: energy security, carbon neutralization, poverty relief



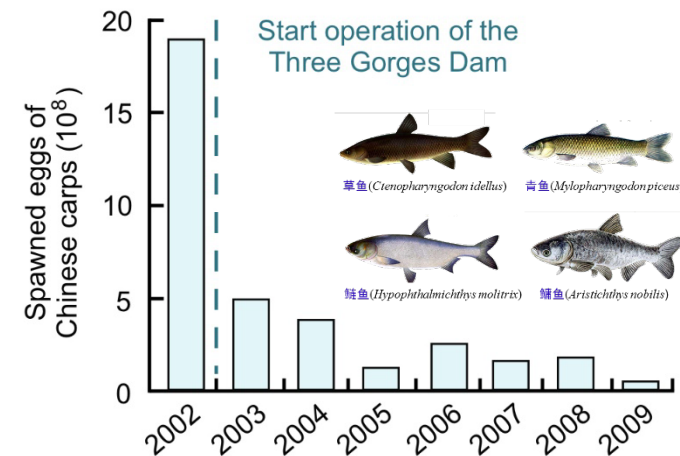
River damming



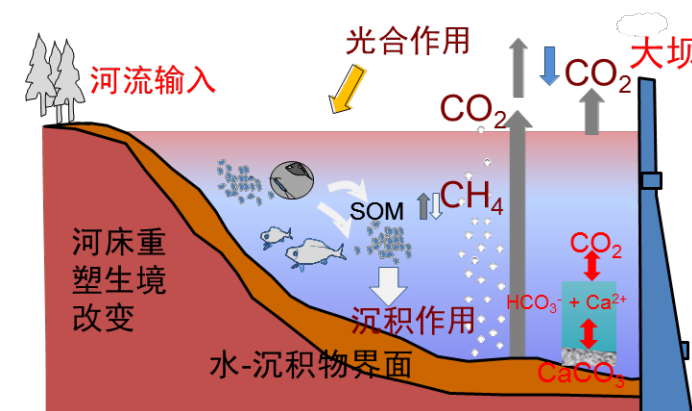
Hydrological alteration



Morphology (from D Tonina)



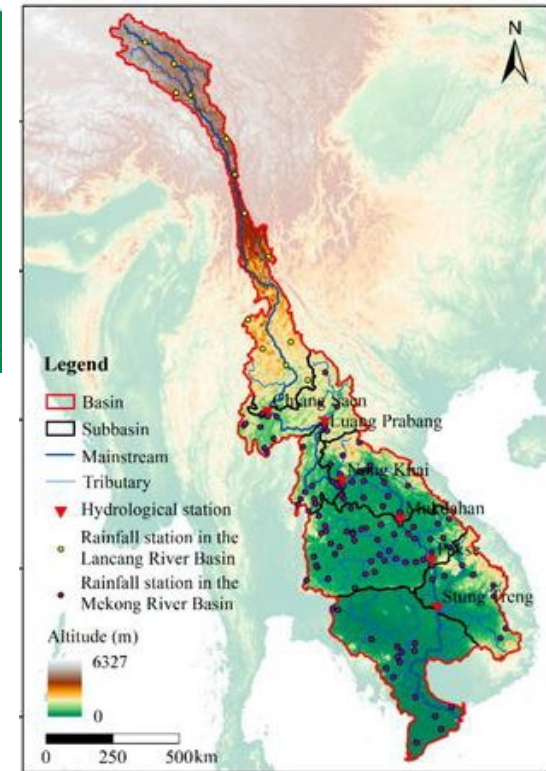
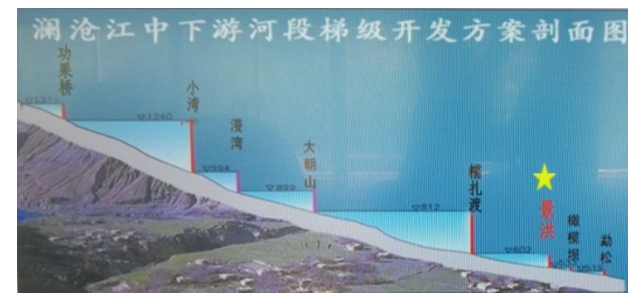
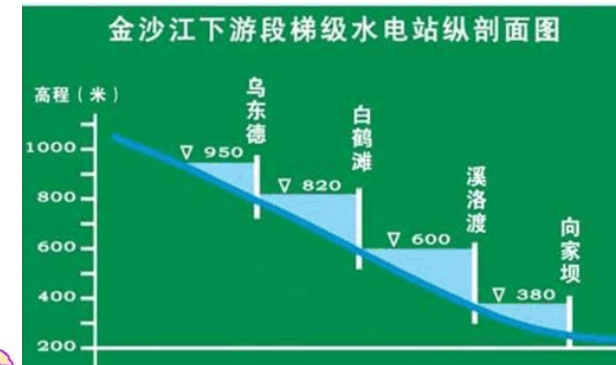
Clean energy? Green energy?



# 1. Research background

## □ Main study area

- ✧ The upper Yangtze River with 5 large dams
- ✧ The upper Mekong River with 5 large dams



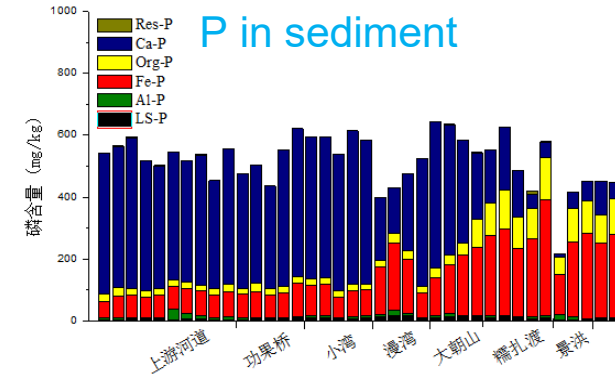
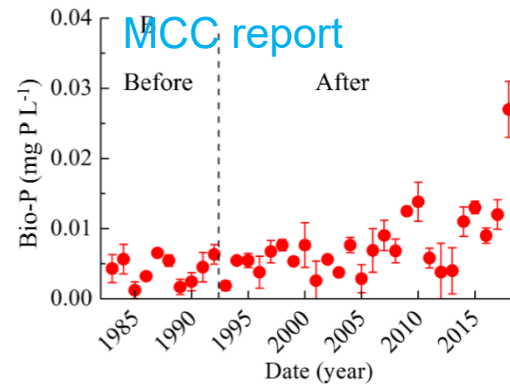
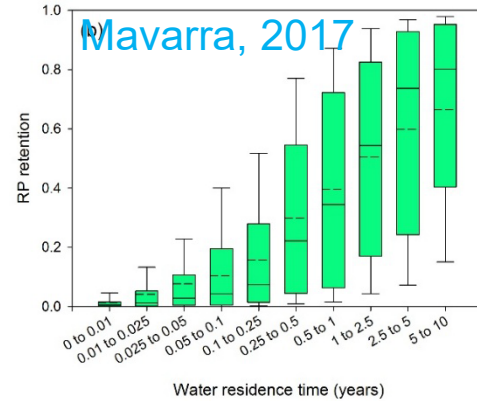
# Outlines

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2. Impact on biogeochemical cycles
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4. Remarks and perspectives

# 2. Impact on biogeochemical cycles

## Knowledge gaps



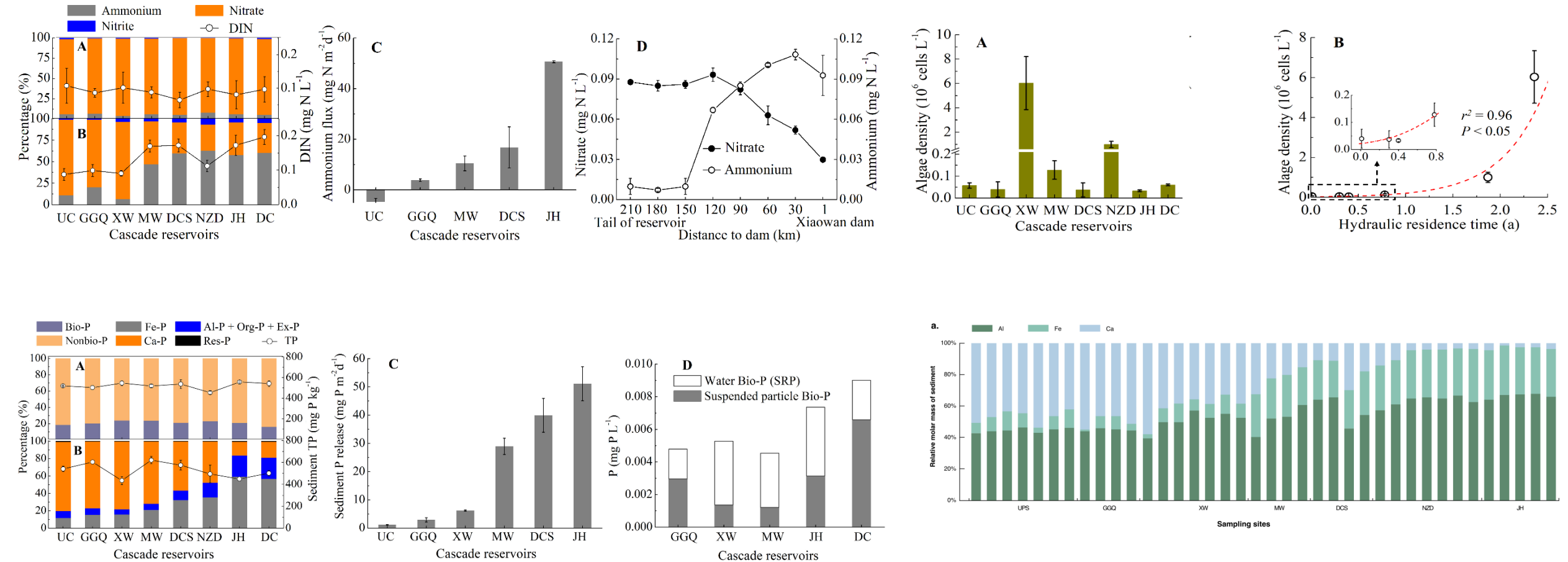
## The challenges



1. What happens to the trapped biogenic elements in the reservoirs?
2. What spatial patterns are the GHG emission in reservoir cascade?

# 2. Impact on biogeochemical cycles

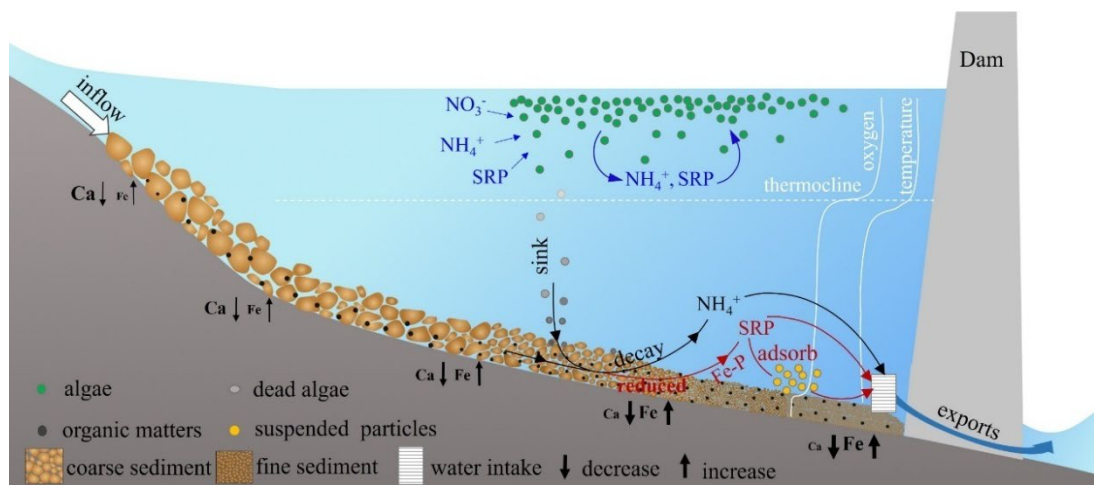
## Deep reservoirs enhance N & P bioavailability downstream



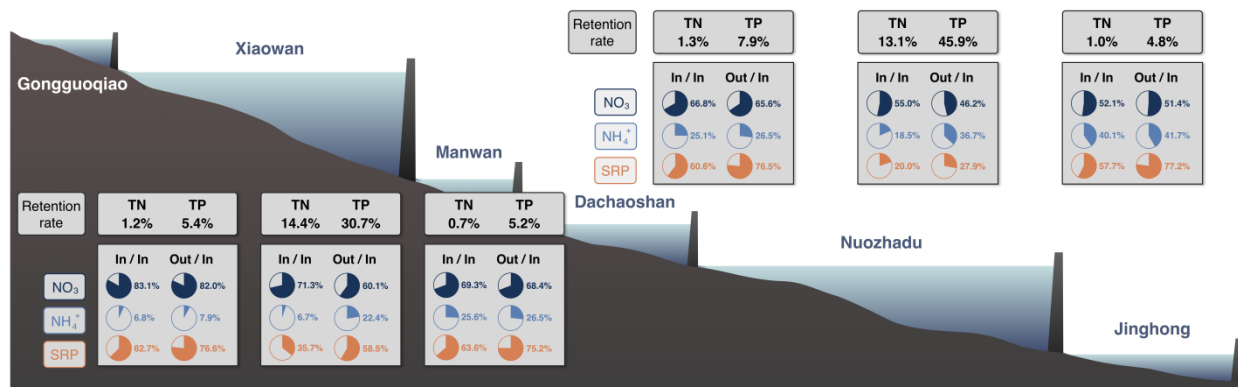


# 2. Impact on biogeochemical cycles

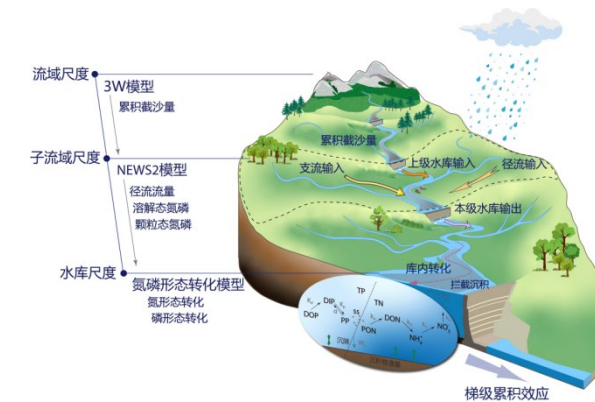
Quantified the interception and delivery of N and P in cascade reservoirs



Biogeochemical cycles in deep reservoir



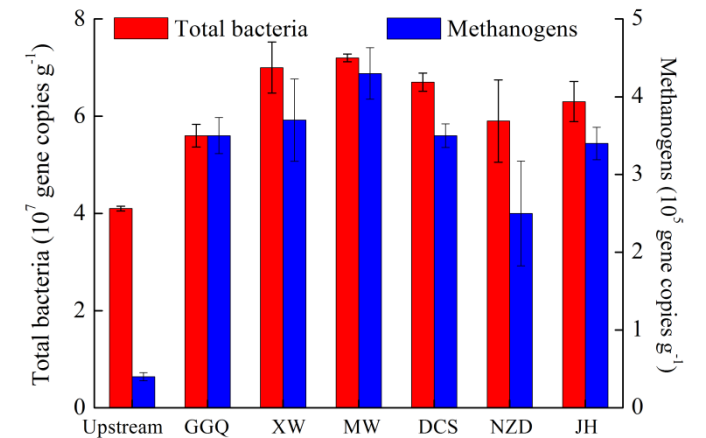
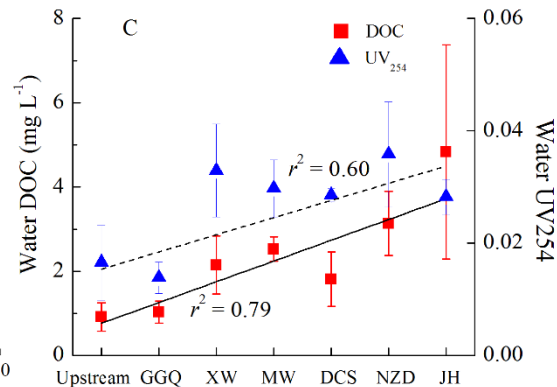
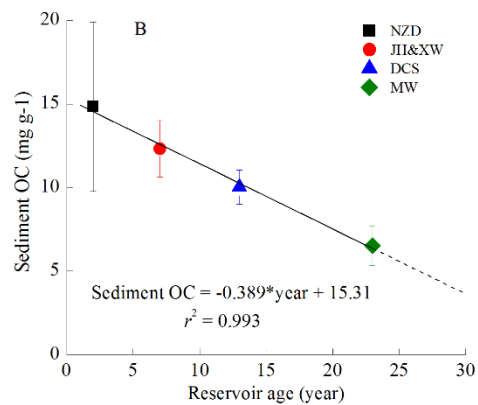
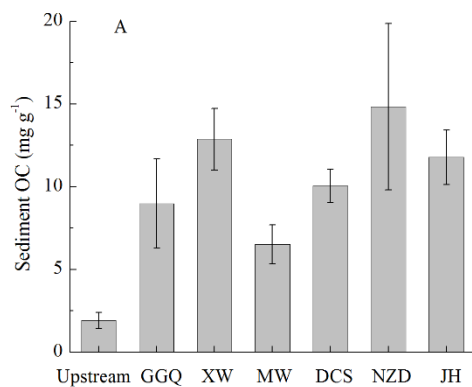
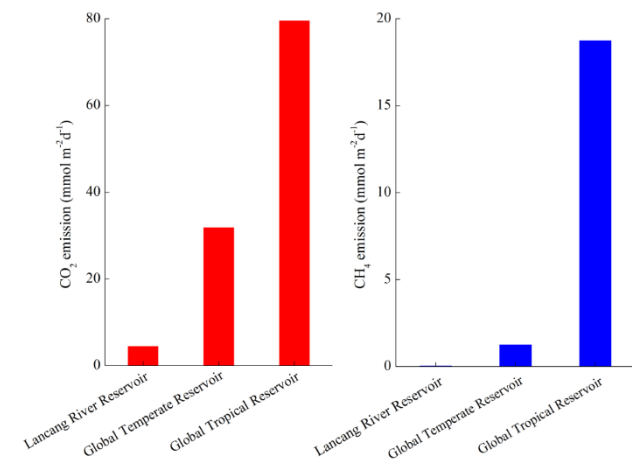
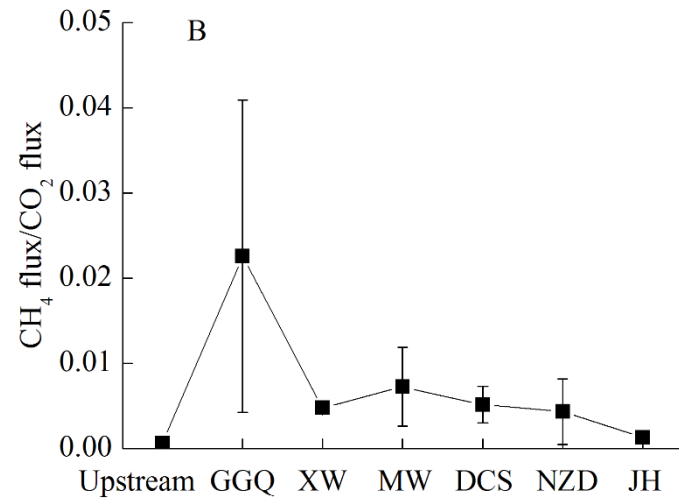
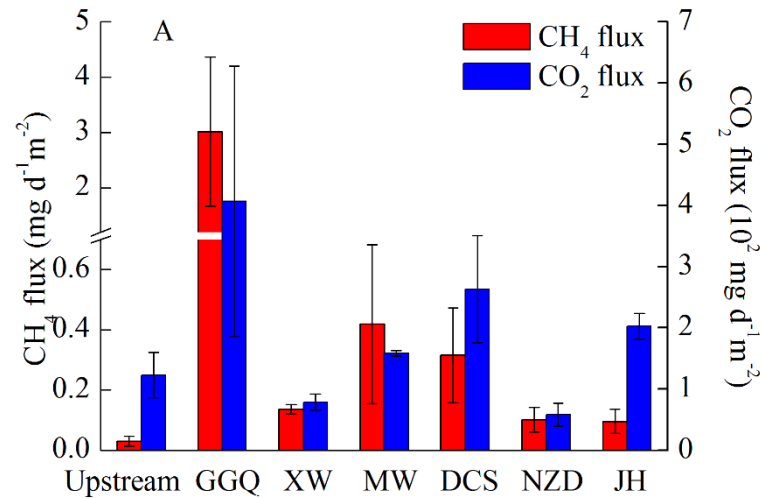
Interception and delivery N and P in cascade reservoirs



- Interception of TN and TP, regeneration of bioavailable N and P are well correlated to HRT
- The regeneration of N & P is more strong in deep reservoirs with large HRT

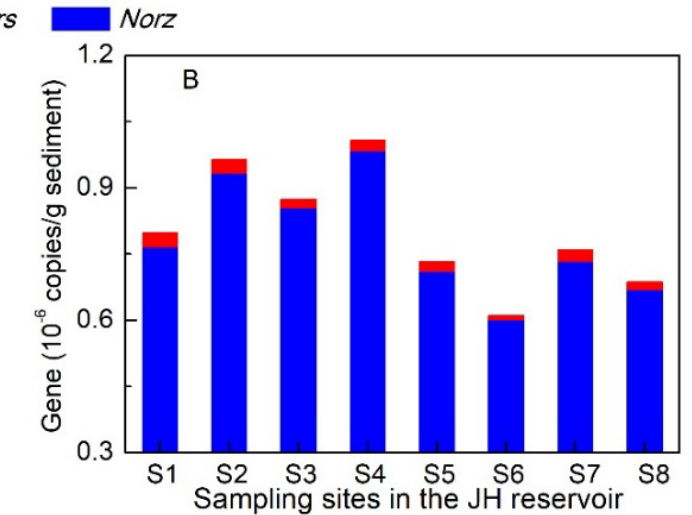
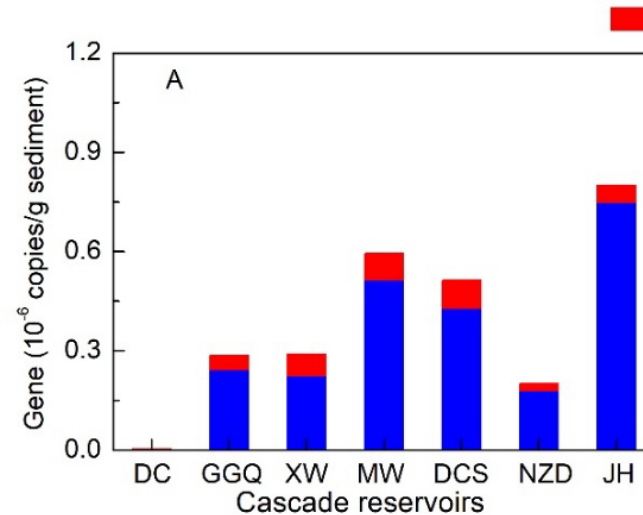
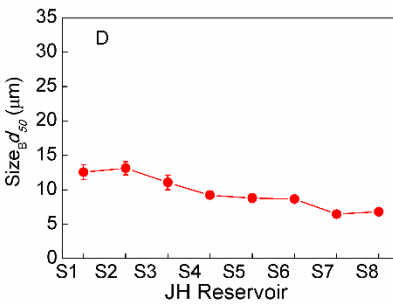
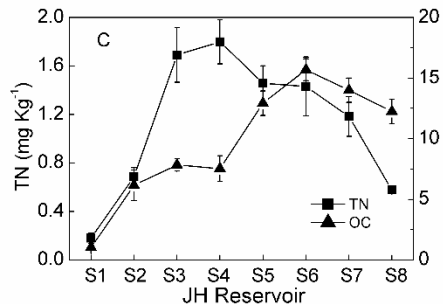
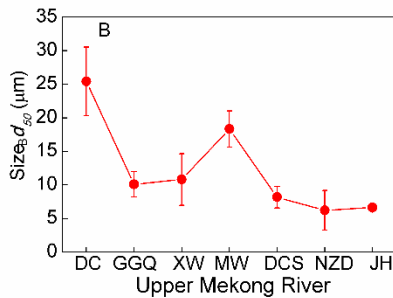
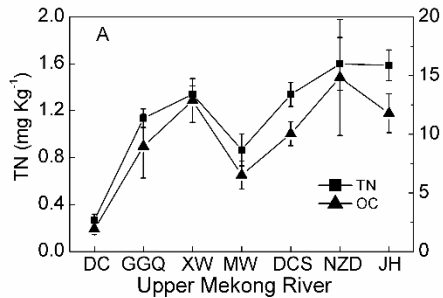
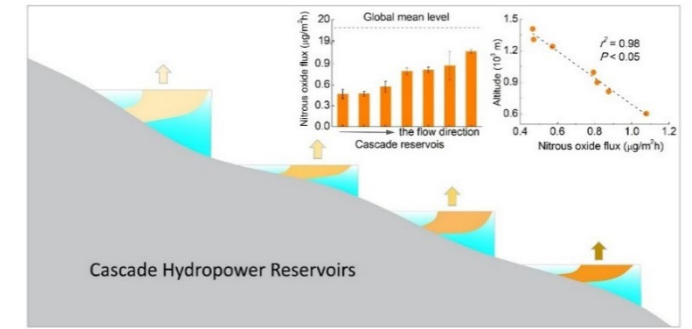
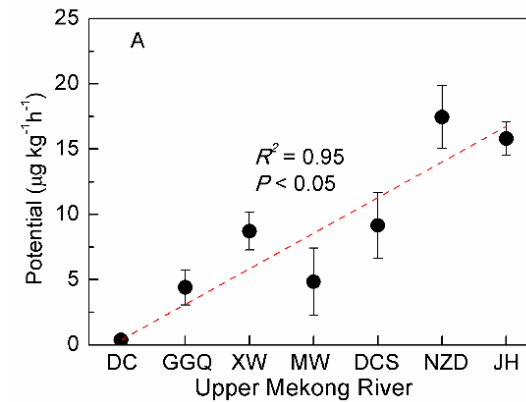
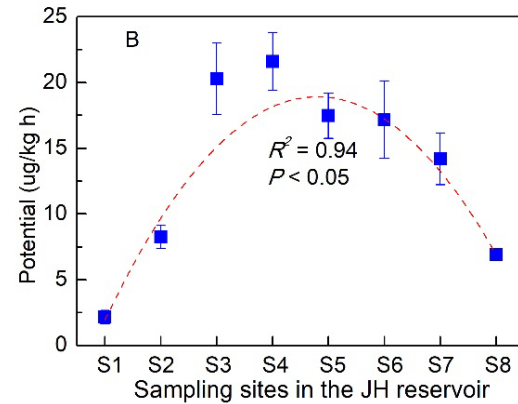
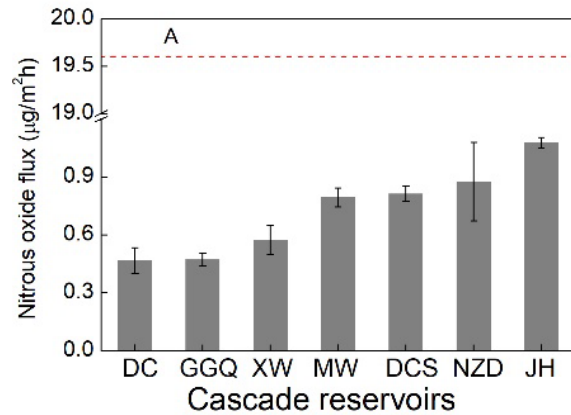
# 2. Impact on biogeochemical cycles

Carbon based GHG is extremely low and decrease with reservoir age



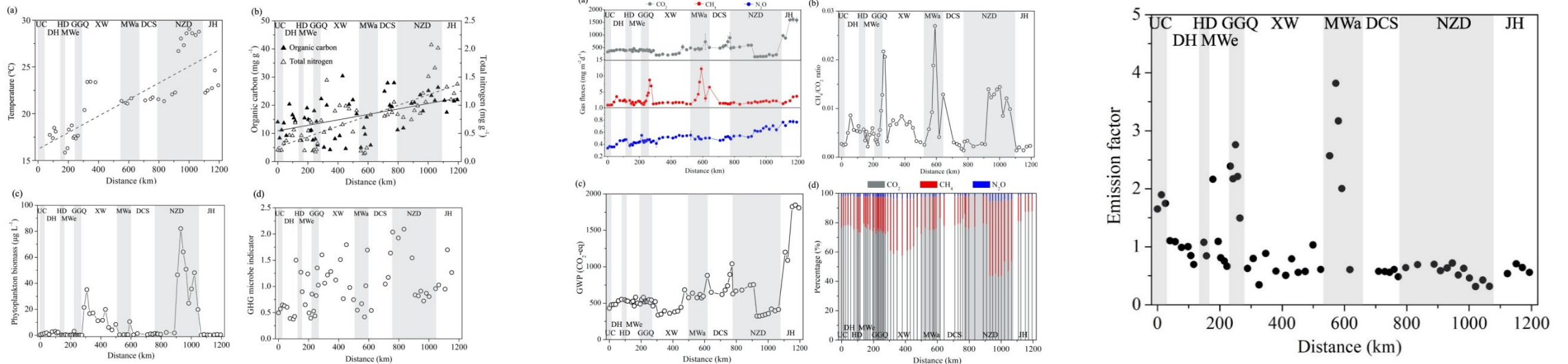
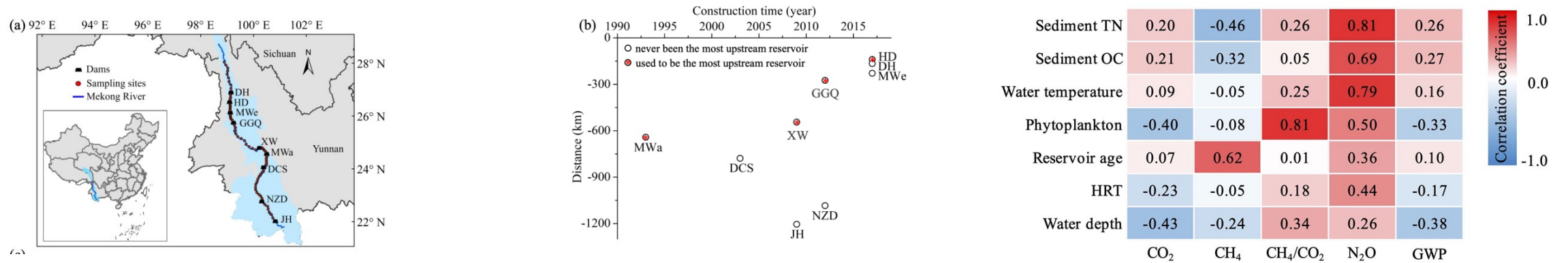
# 2. Impact on biogeochemical cycles

☐ Nitrogen based GHG is low but increased by N inputs and temperature



# 2. Impact on biogeochemical cycles

## □ Spatial pattern of GHG in reservoir cascade and implication for planning



# Outlines

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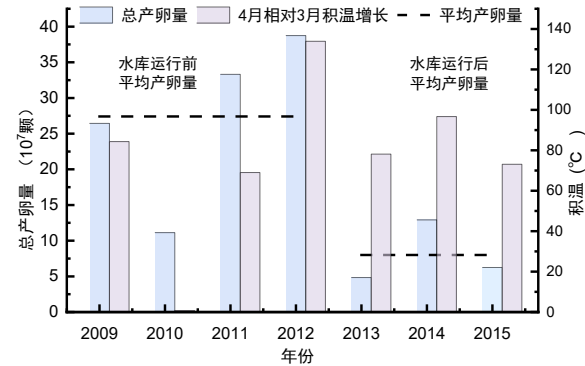
1. Research background
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# 3. Impact on fish and conservations

## □ Knowledge gaps



Costly and complex stoplogs gate has not increase spawning



The impounded upstream permanently lost habitat



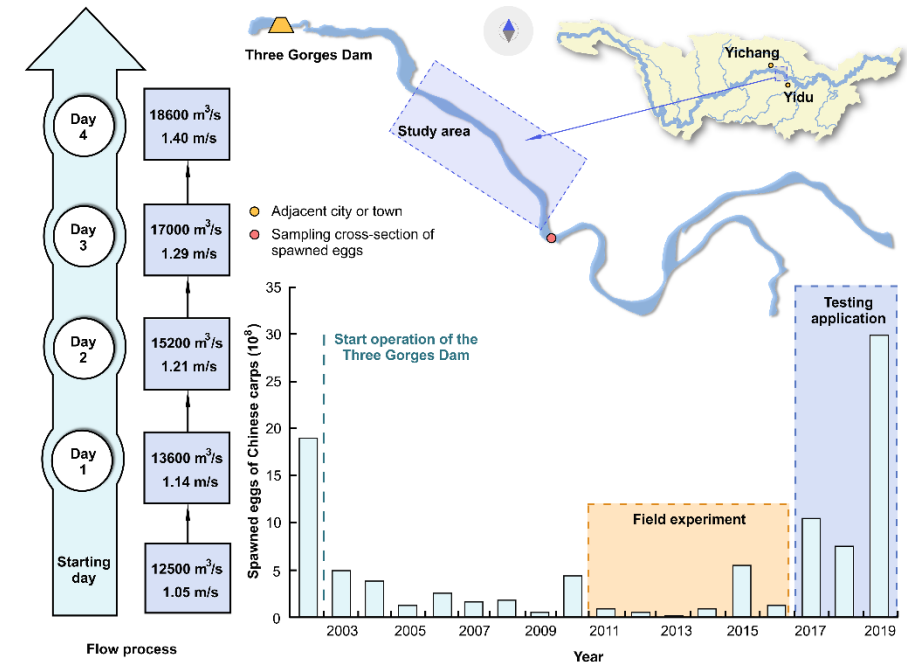
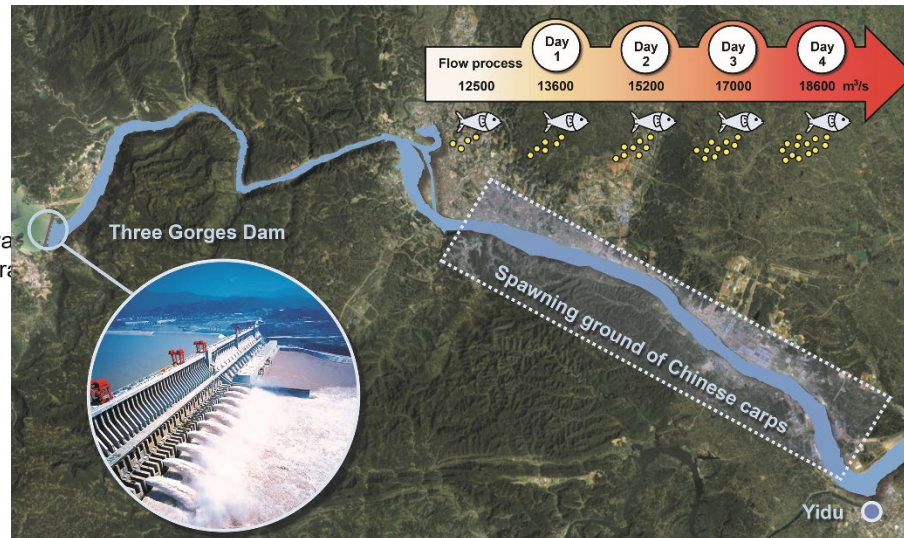
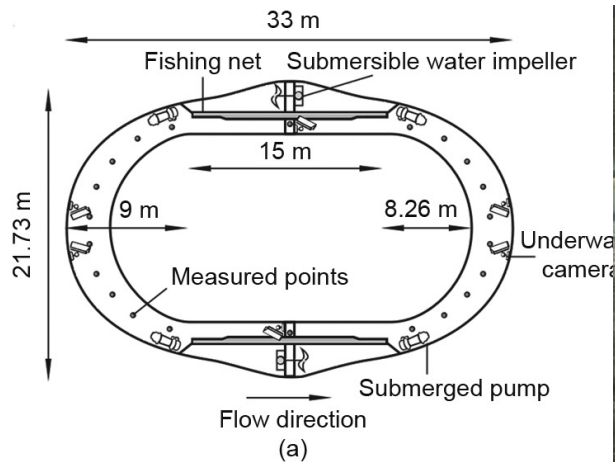
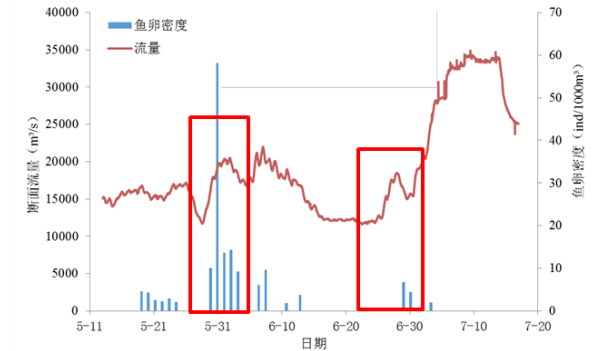
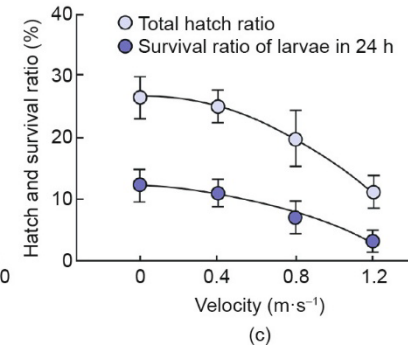
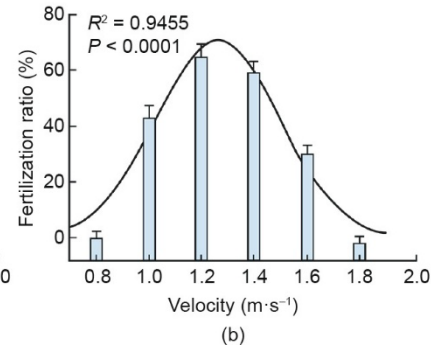
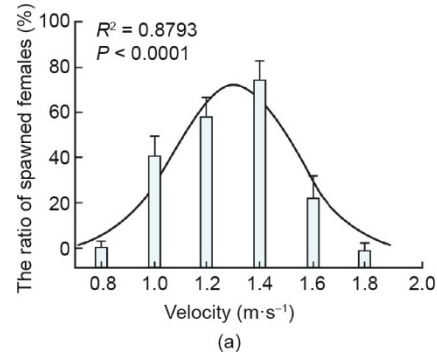
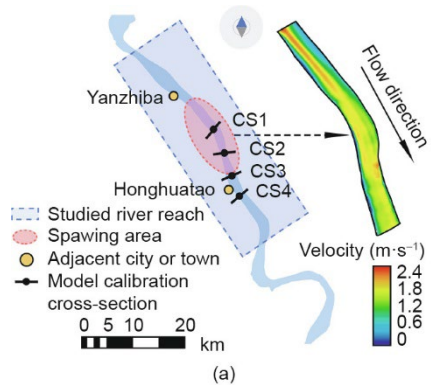
## □ The challenges



1. The physiological plausibility of reservoir ecological operation for downstream?
2. The proper measure for fish conservation in permanently impounded upstream?

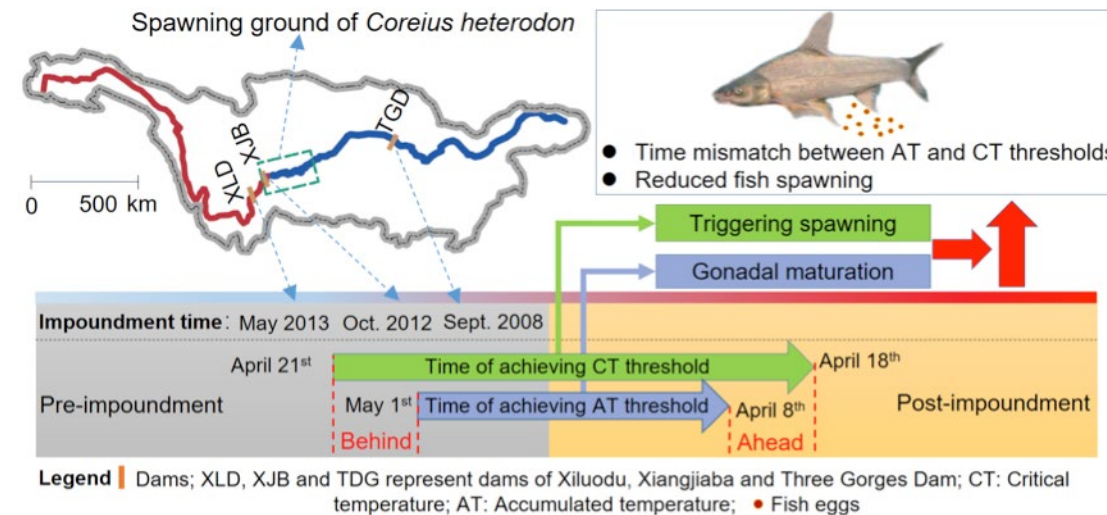
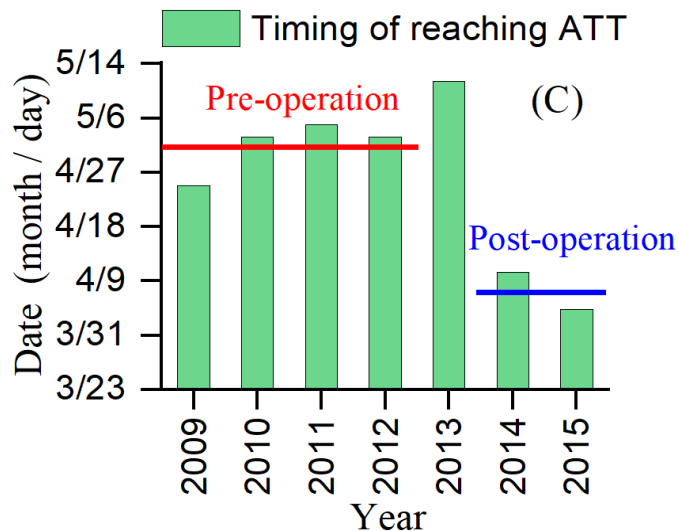
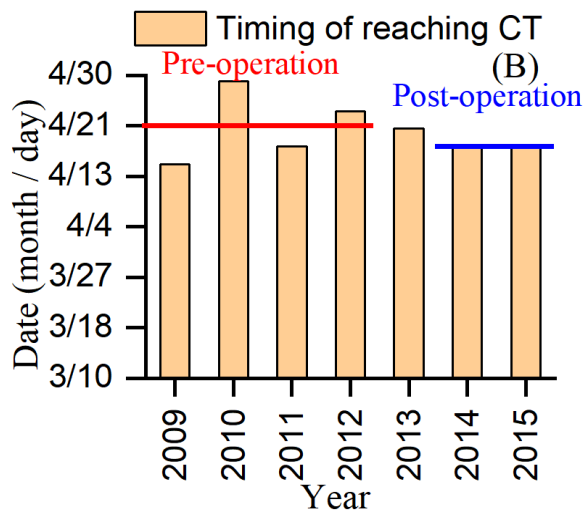
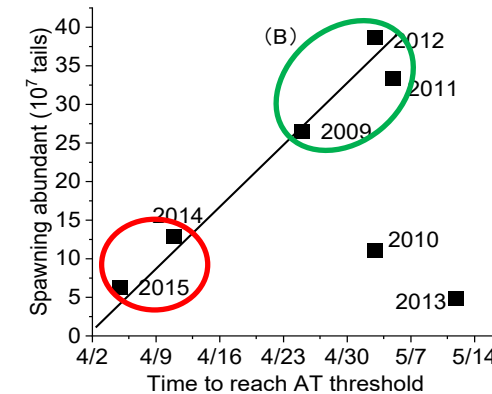
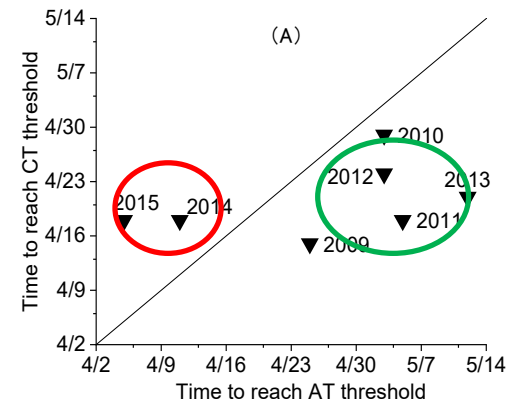
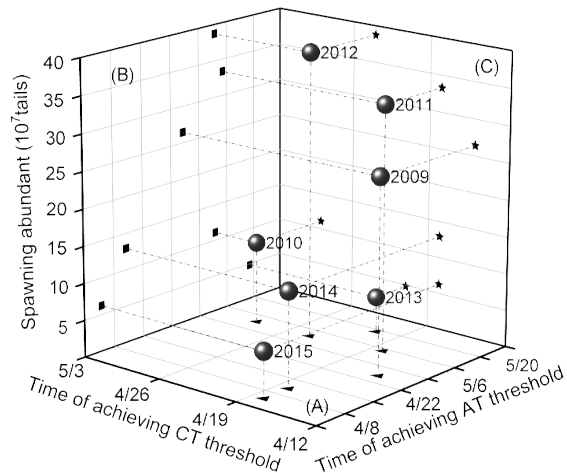
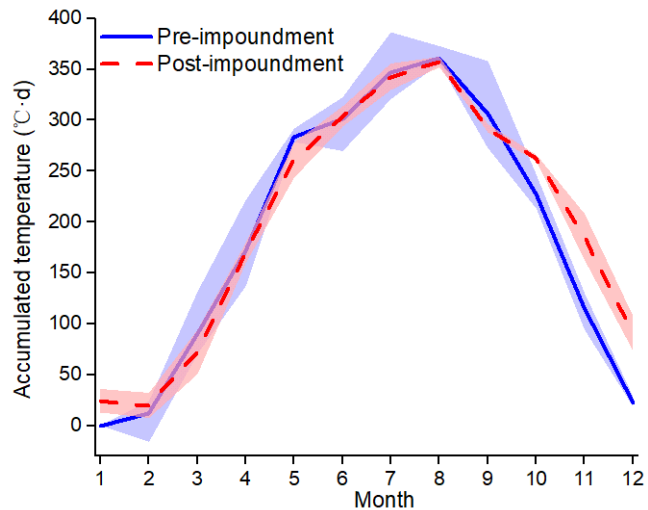
# 3. Impact on fish and conservations

## □ Pulse of high velocity for spawning and low velocity for hatching



# 3. Impact on fish and conservations

❑ Time mismatch of accumulated and critical temperature reduce spawning



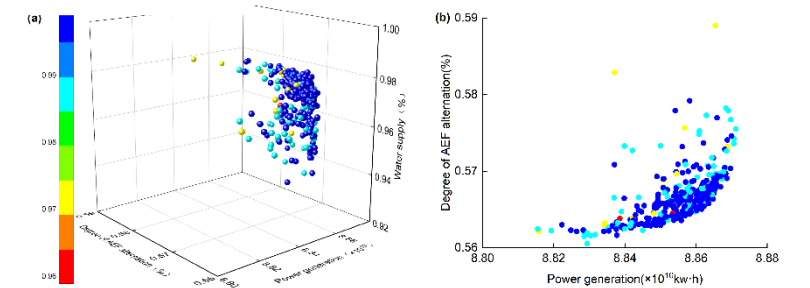


# 3. Impact on fish and conservations

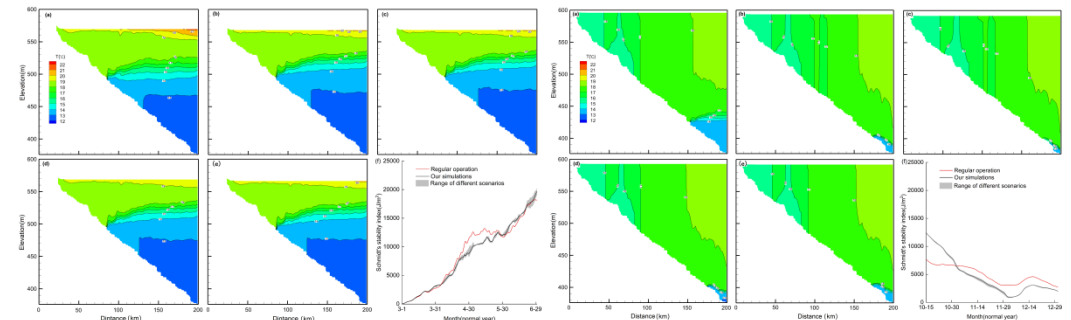
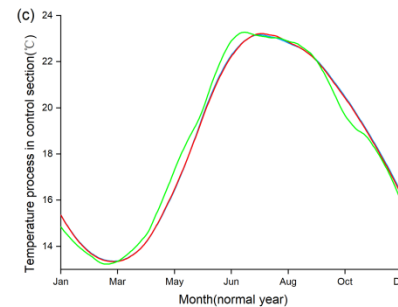
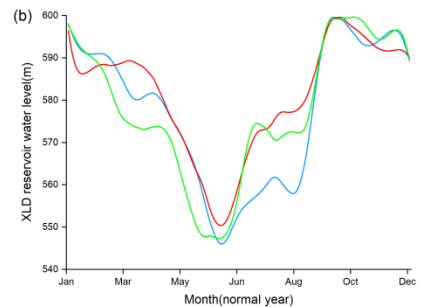
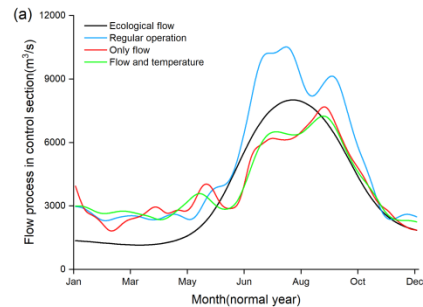
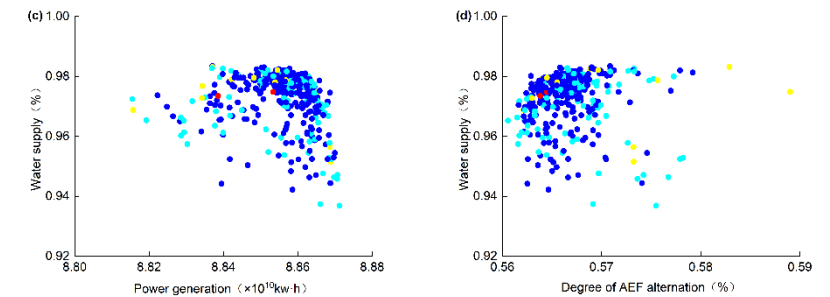
## Optimized operation coupled e-flow and water temperature requirement

### Objective & constrains

- ① Obj: hydropower production  $f_1 = \max \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^2 N_{i,t} \Delta t \quad N_{i,t} = K_i \cdot Q_{i,t}^g \cdot \Delta H_{i,t}$
- ② Constrain :e-flow demand  $f_2 = \min \frac{1}{2T} \sum_{t=1}^T \left( \left| \frac{Q_{XLD,t}^{out} - Q_{AEF,t}}{Q_{AEF,t}} \right| + \left| \frac{Q_{XLD,t}^{out} - Q_{AEF,t}}{Q_{AEF,t}} \right| \right)$
- ③ Constrain: WT demand  $f_3 = \max \frac{1}{T} \sum_{i=1}^T \frac{Q_{sw,t}}{Q_{demand}}$
- ④ Constrain: navigation demand  $f_4 = \max \left\{ \frac{T_{nav}}{T} \times 100\% \right\}$



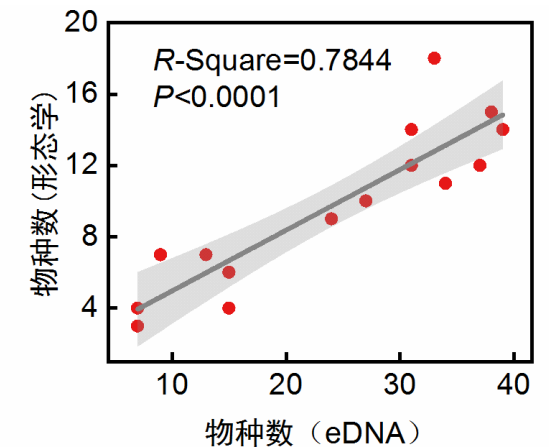
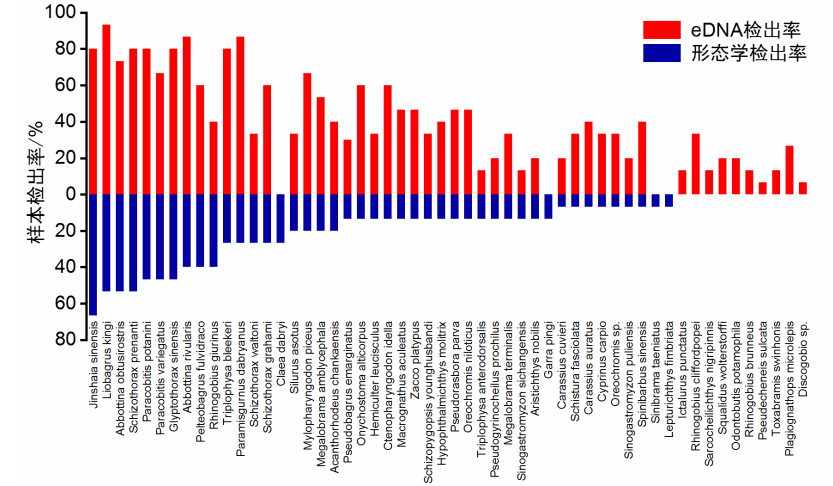
The Pareto non-inferior solutions



Water temperature distribution in the reservoir

# 3. Impact on fish and conservations

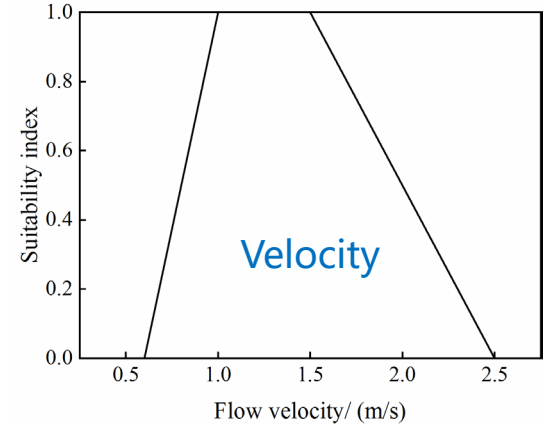
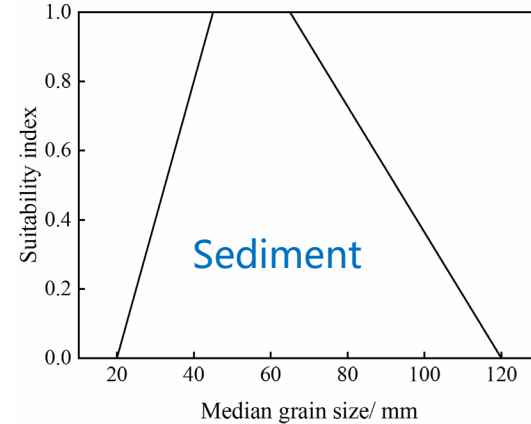
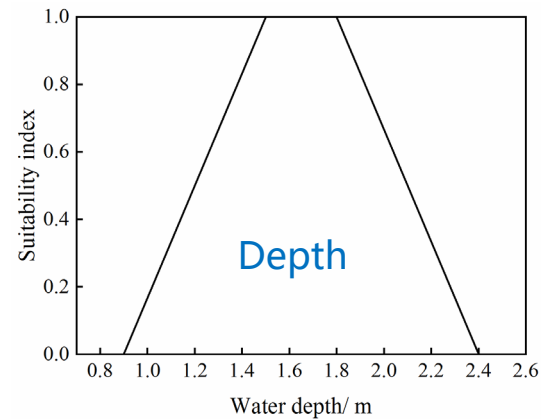
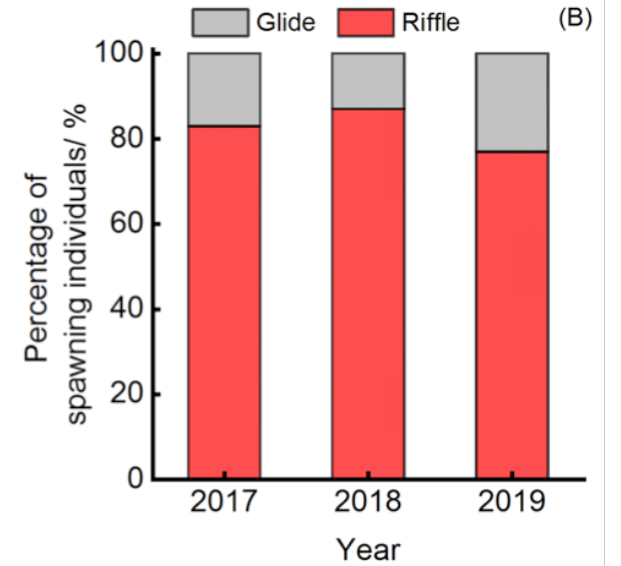
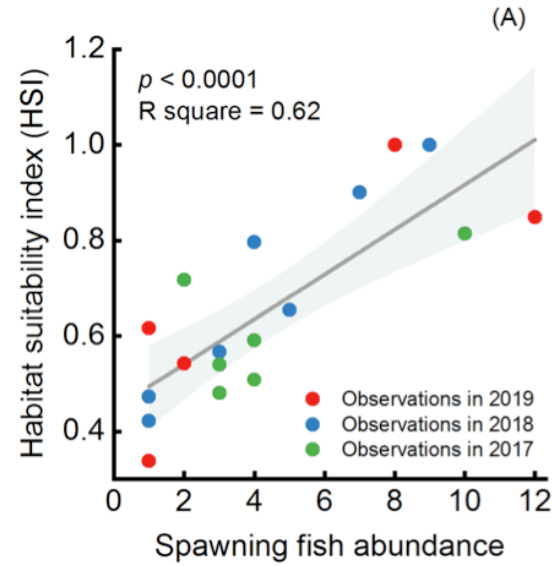
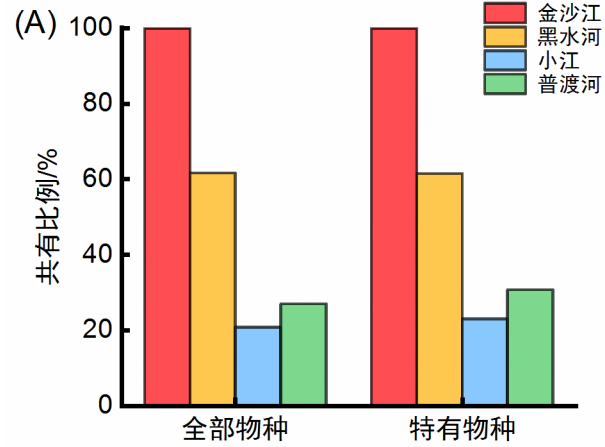
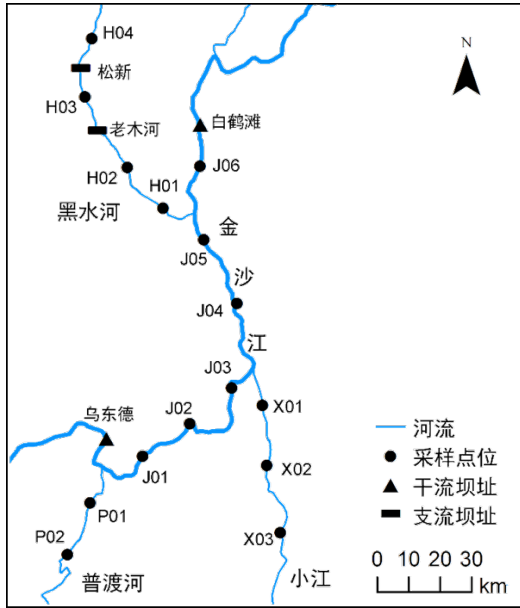
## Alternative habitats in tributaries of reservoir section



eDNA meta-barcoding for fish biodiversity

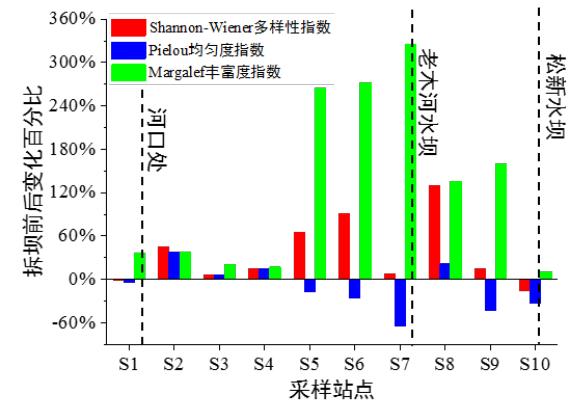
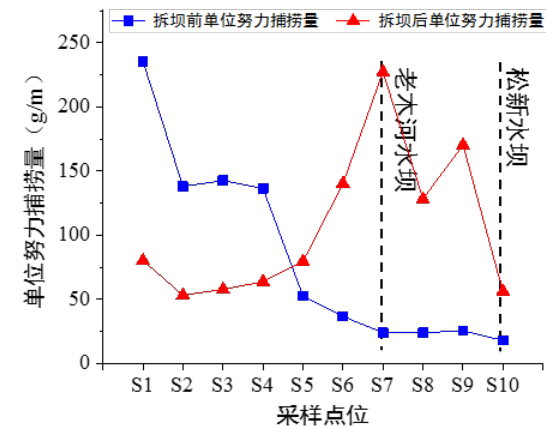
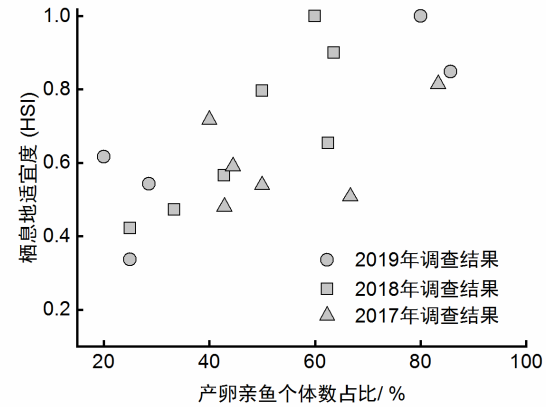
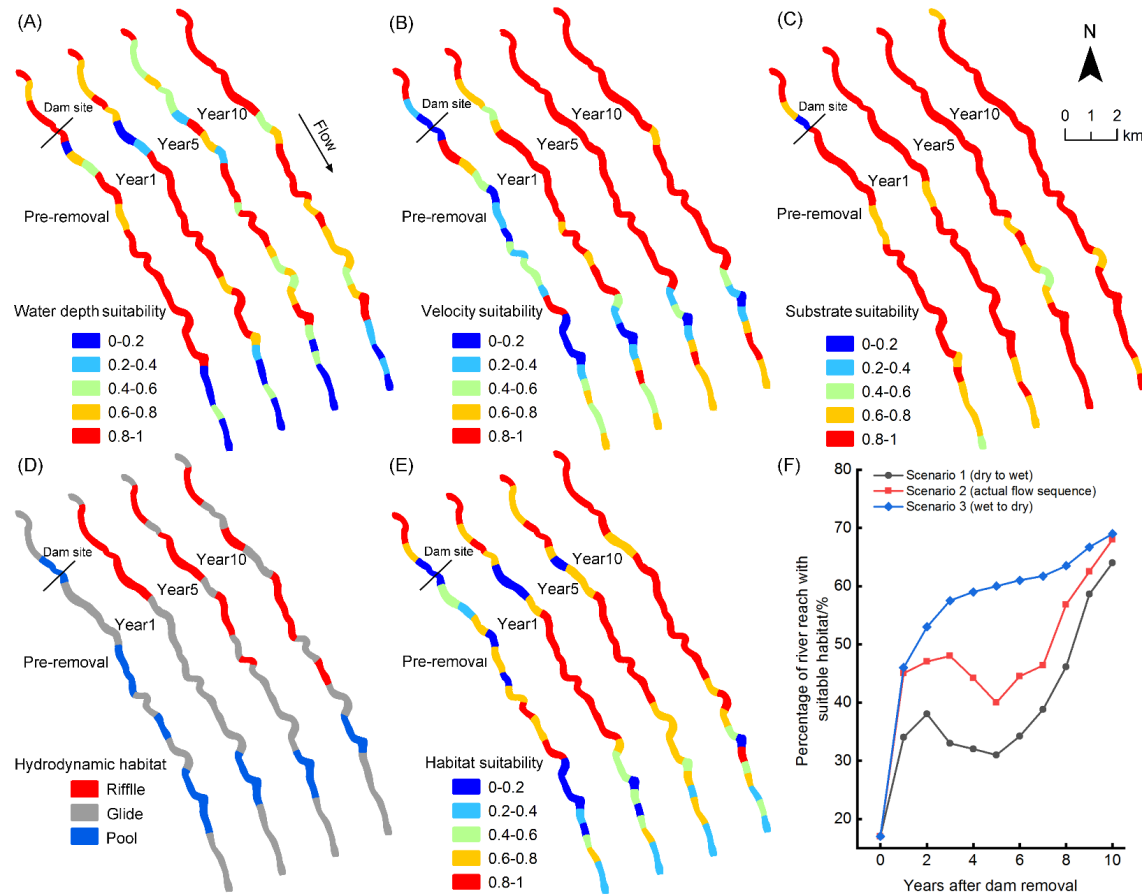
# 3. Impact on fish and conservations

## Alternative habitats in tributaries of reservoir section



# 3. Impact on fish and conservations

## Alternative habitats in tributaries of reservoir section



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# 4. Remarks and perspectives

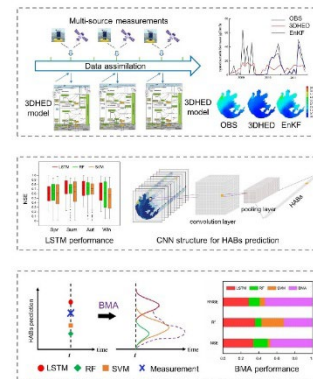
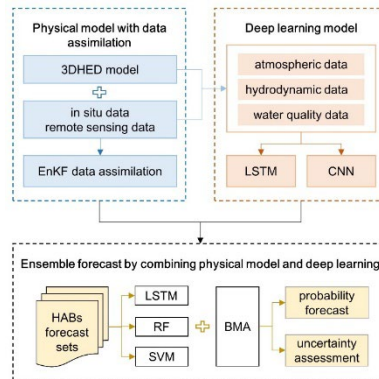
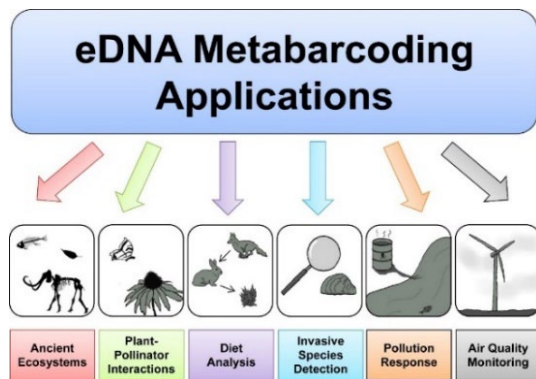
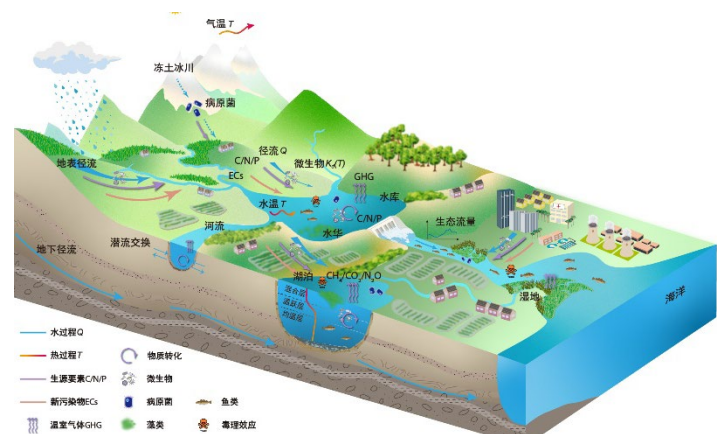
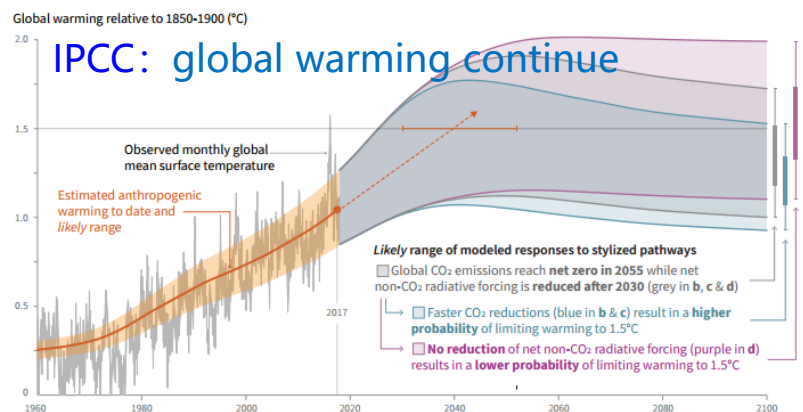
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## □ Key remarks

- ✧ Reservoirs intercept total phosphorus and nitrogen, but modify nutrient bioavailability downstream due to biogeochemical process in reservoirs.
- ✧ The reservoirs in the upper Mekong River has very low GHG emissions, and river damming does not increase GHG emission .
- ✧ Ecological flow can largely improve fish spawning; however, it is essential to rematch the time of reaching accumulated and critical temperature thresholds.
- ✧ Tributaries can provide alternative habitat for impounded mainstream, where original habitats are permanently lost

# 4. Remarks and perspectives

Key element: **Climate change, Information technology**



**Thank you very much**

