

Contribution of high and low frequency internal waves to boundary turbulence in a lake



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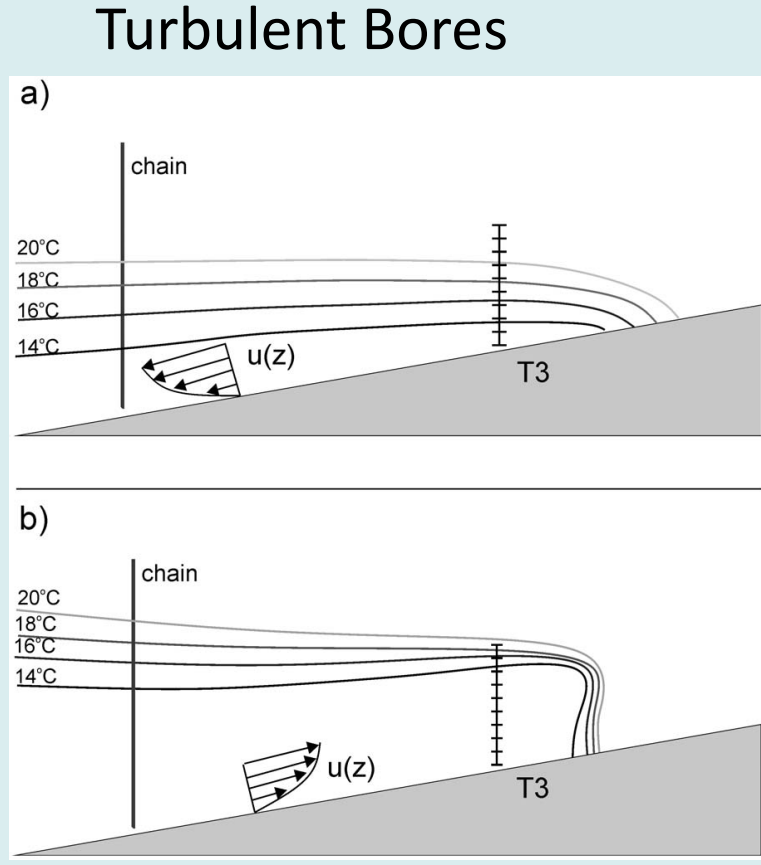
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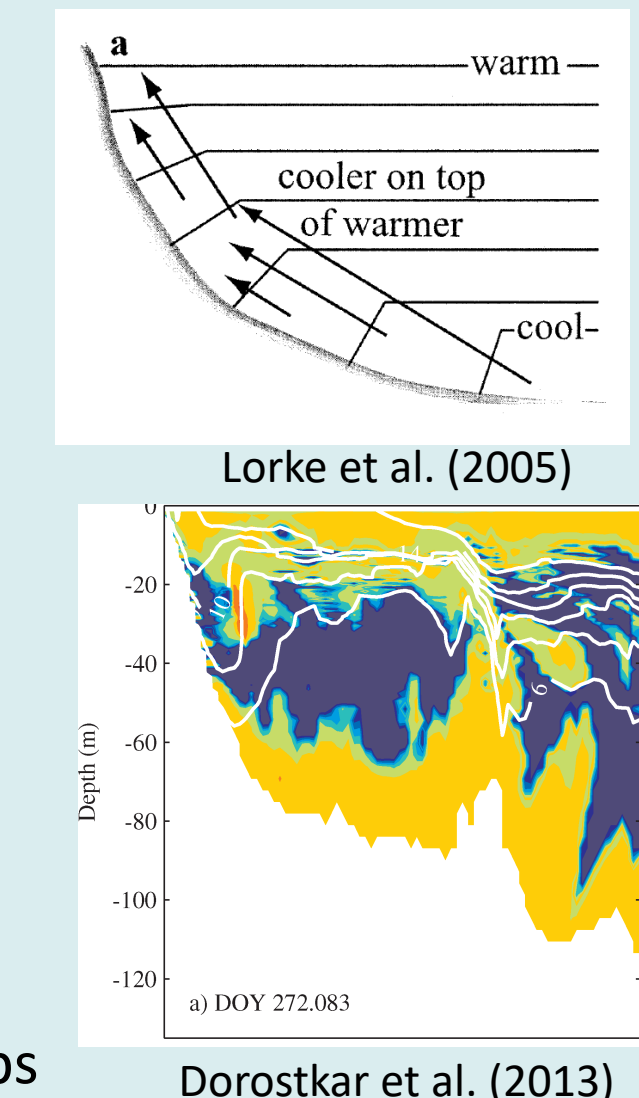
Introduction

Internal waves in lakes generally originate from wind stresses on the surface, which drive basin scale seiches (most commonly vertical mode 1 and 2 waves) which can then degenerate into high frequency waves.

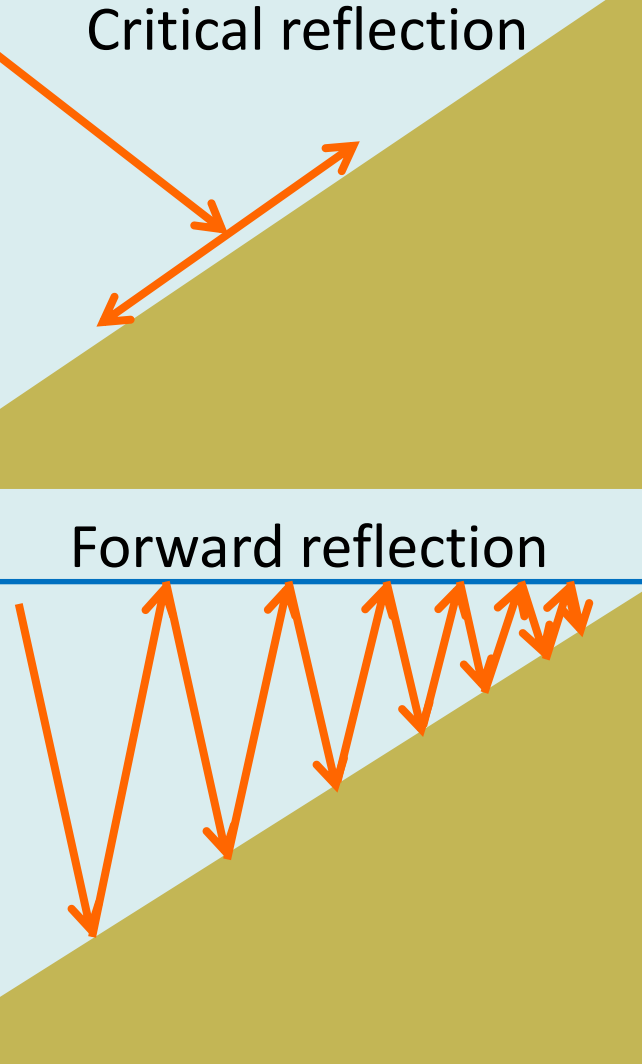
Seicheing Currents



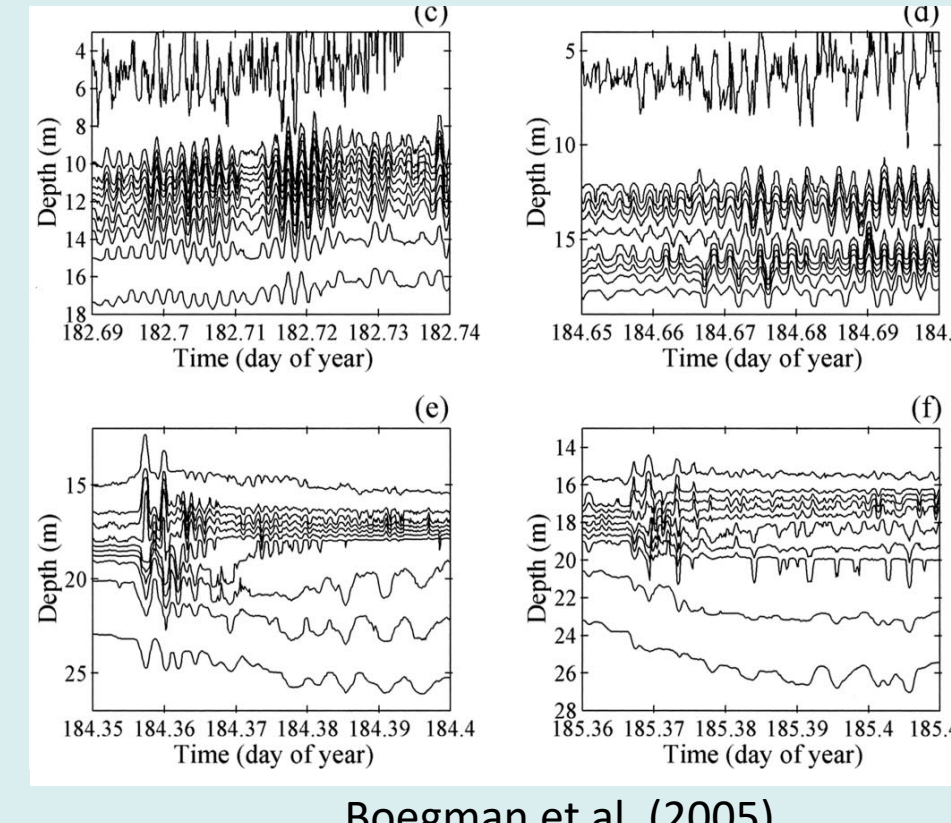
Shear Induced Convection



Gloor et al. (2000)



High Frequency Waves



When these low and high frequency waves interact with the sloping boundary of lakes, a variety of mechanisms can then lead to turbulence and mixing, including friction from seicheing currents, turbulent bores in different phases of the seiche, shear-induced convection, internal hydraulics, and critical reflection and forward upslope reflection of wave energy.

Typically, turbulence is measured with microstructure profilers. While profiles give us good spatial resolution of turbulence, profiles are only a snapshot in time. Moored acoustic instruments provide a time series to better diagnose turbulence generating processes.

OBJECTIVE: Utilize advances in measuring turbulence using acoustic methods to determine which processes are dominant in creating boundary turbulence in lakes.

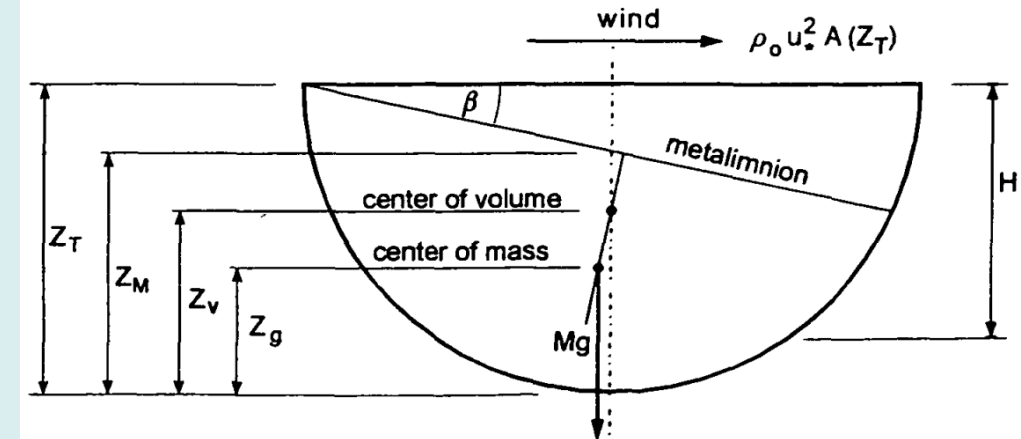
Methods

Met Station/Thermistor Chain

- Moored in 30 m water depth
- Measures wind speed and direction (2.5 m above water), solar and net radiation, relative humidity, air temperature
- Thermistor chain with nodes every 1m
- All sensors sampled every 15 s

Stratification and Wind

To quantify the strength of the wind:



Lake number:

$$L_N = \frac{g S_f (1 - z_T / z_S)}{\rho_s u_s^2 A_s^{3/2} (1 - z_V / z_S)}$$

Stability

Wind Stresses

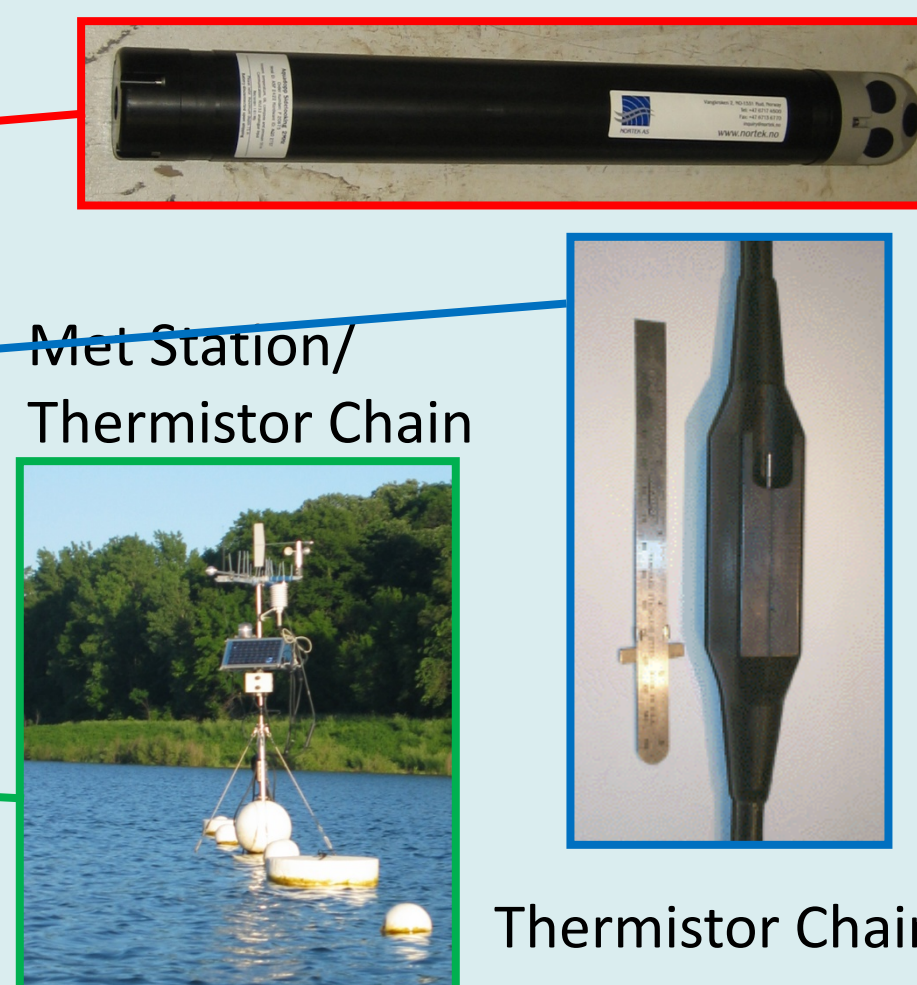
Internal Waves

- Stratification is evolving over short time scales
- Power spectra not ideal for non stationary signal
- Use wavelet analysis to determine evolution of frequencies of interest

WEST OKOBOJI LAKE



Pulse Coherent ADCP



Pulse Coherent Aquadopp

- In the thermocline (9m) on shallow slope (0.5°)
- 2 MHz HR Aquadopp
- Along-beam in 4 cm bins
- 1024 samples at 8 Hz every 10 minutes
- Upward looking, range ~1.5 above bed

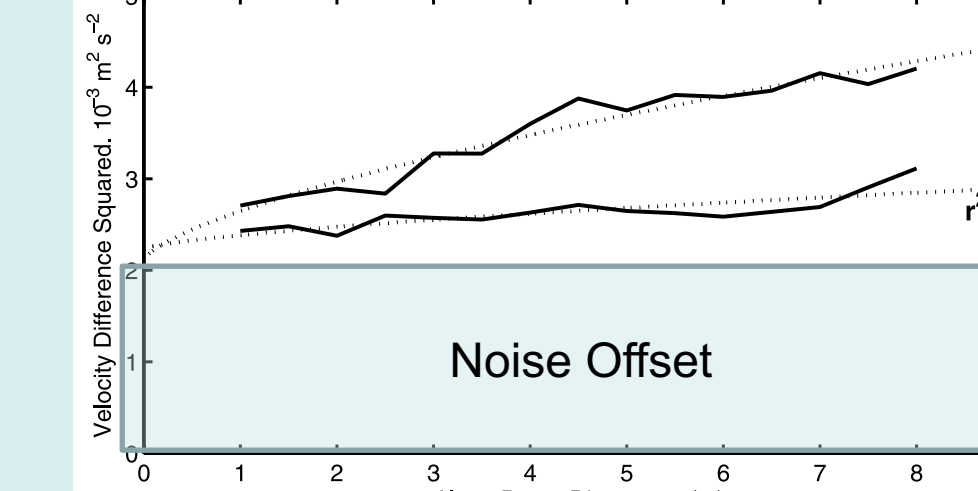
Second order structure function:

$$D(z, r) = \overline{(v'(z) - v'(z+r))^2}$$

D is related to dissipation rate:

$$\varepsilon(z) = \frac{(D(z, r) - N(z))^{3/2}}{C_v^3 r}$$

Wiles et al. (2006)



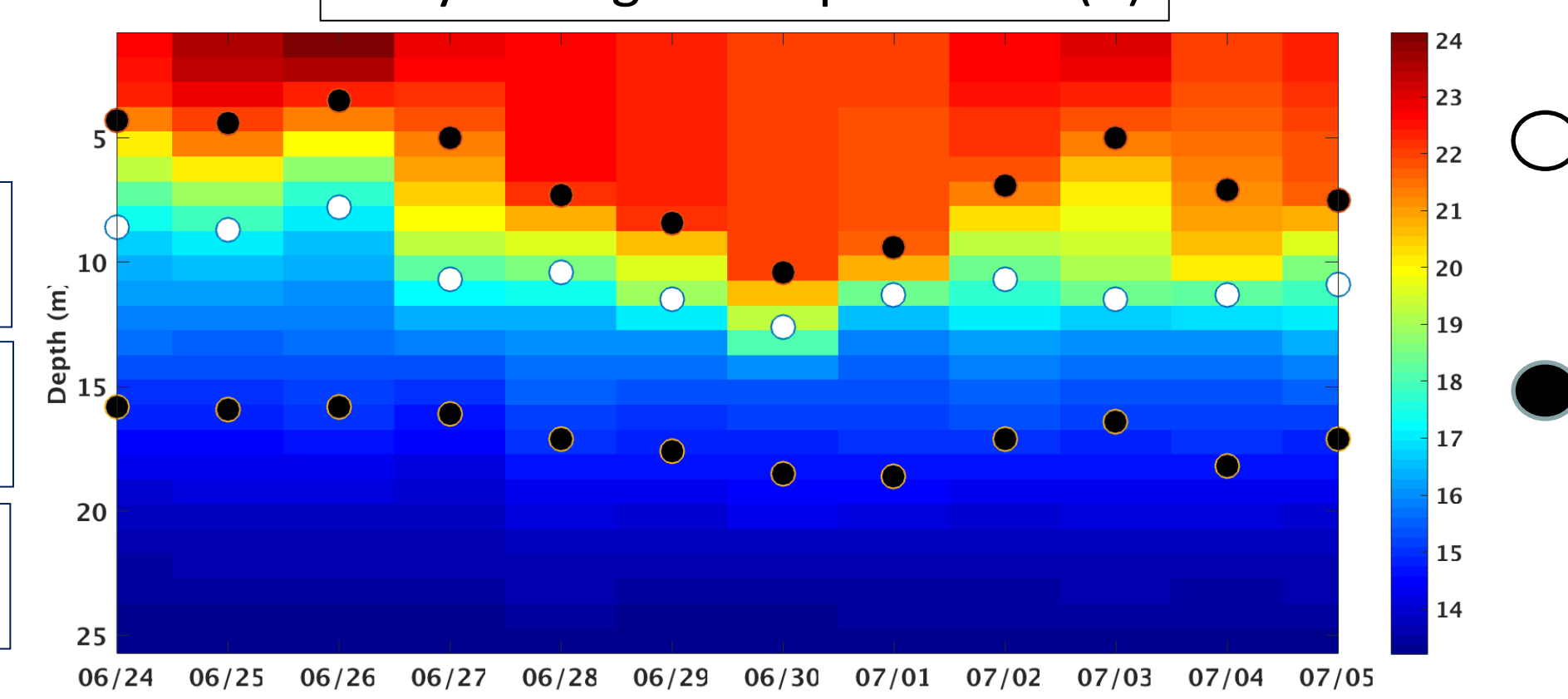
Challenges for lakes:
 Low Energy
 Small Ozmidov Scales

Results and Discussion

Mean stratification and key frequencies evolve over the measurement period.

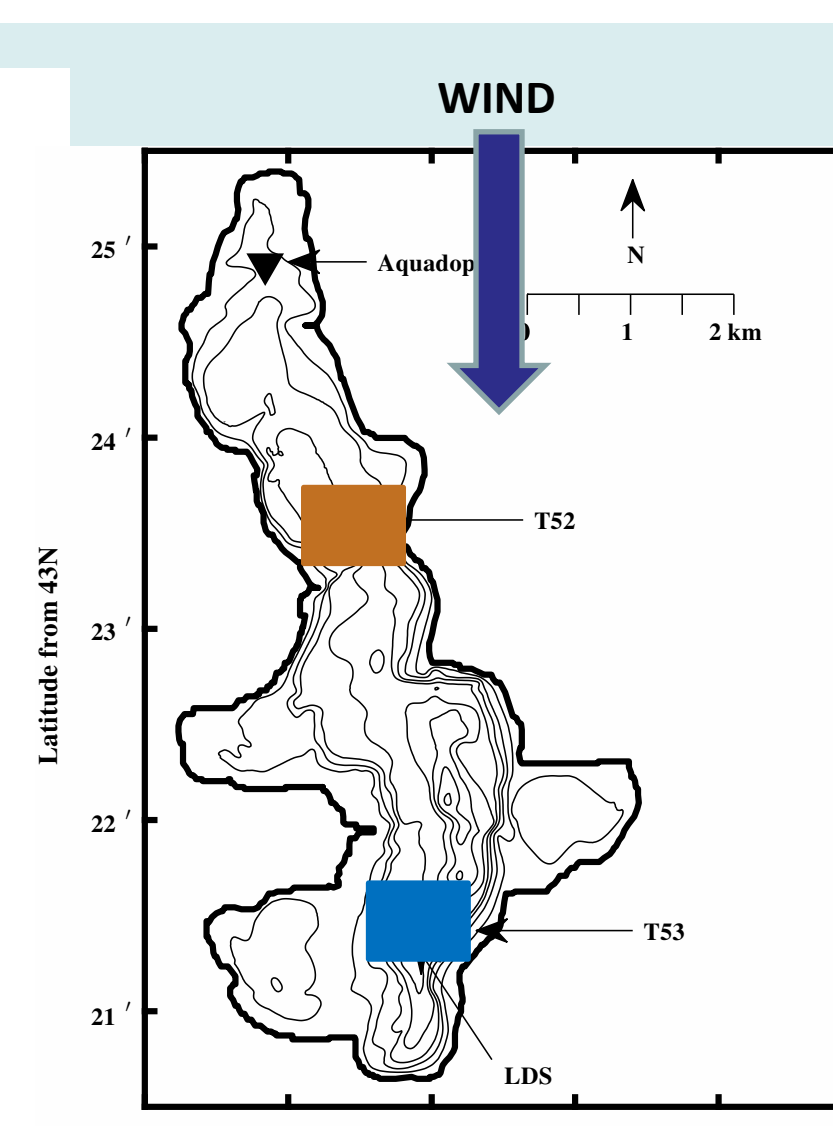
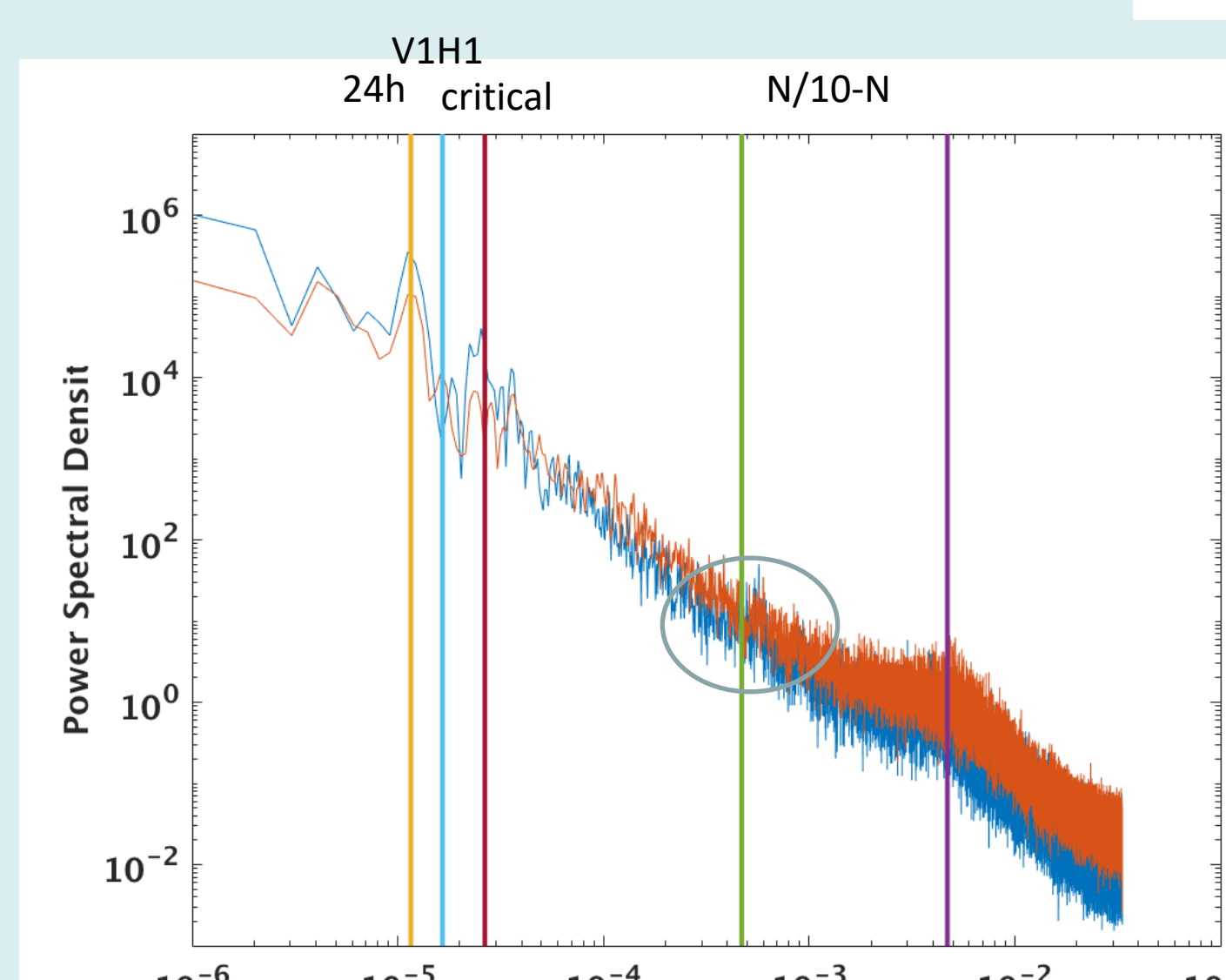
N in the metalimnion:
 $4.7 \times 10^{-3} - 5.7 \times 10^{-3}$ cps
 Critical frequency using N:
 $2.4 \times 10^{-5} - 2.9 \times 10^{-5}$ cps
 V1H1 frequency:
 $1.5 \times 10^{-5} - 1.8 \times 10^{-5}$ cps

Daily averaged temperatures (C)



Thermocline depth computed as position of maximum amplitude of 1st vertical mode

Metalimnion boundaries computed as positions of maximum amplitude of 2nd vertical mode

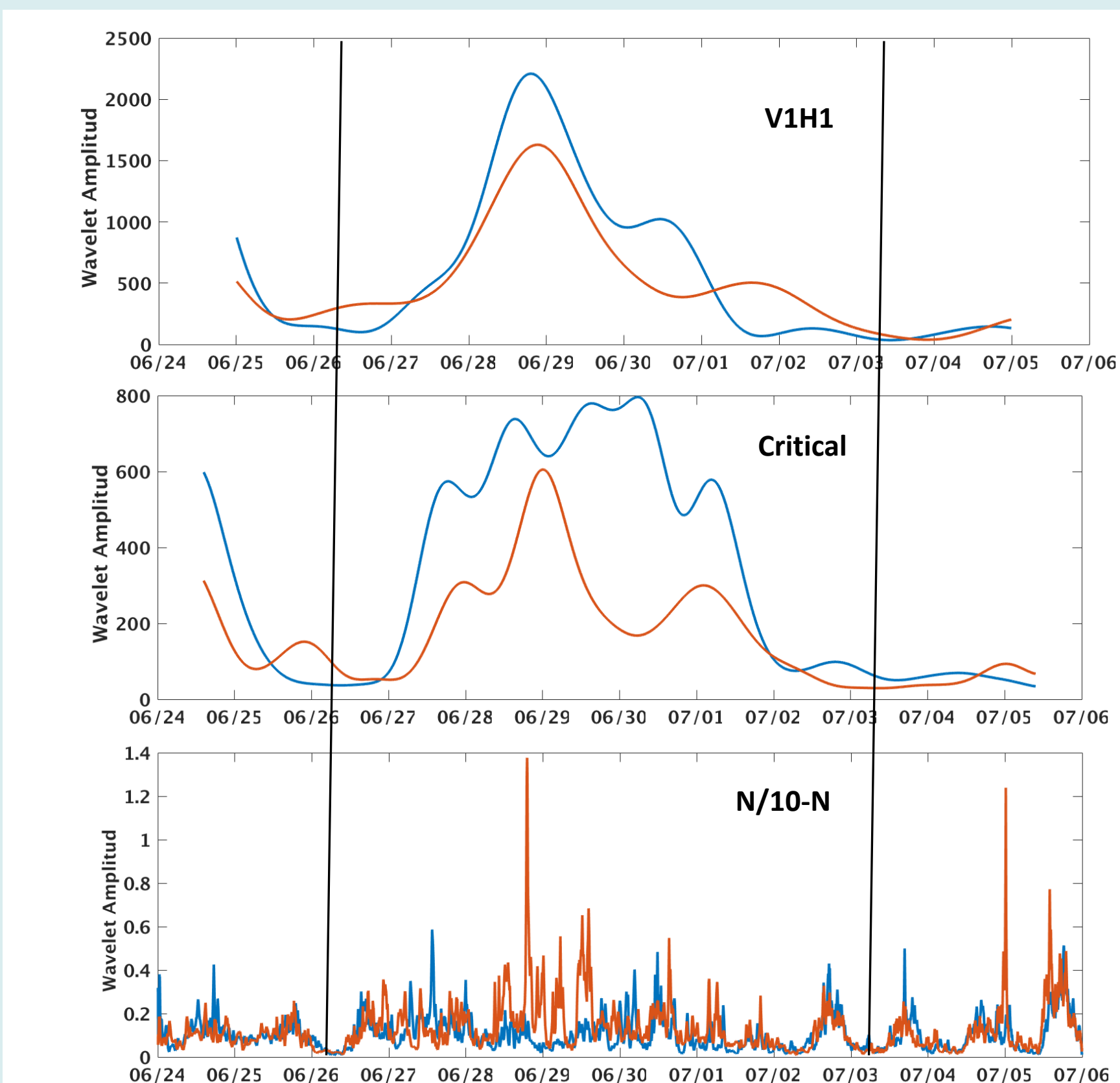
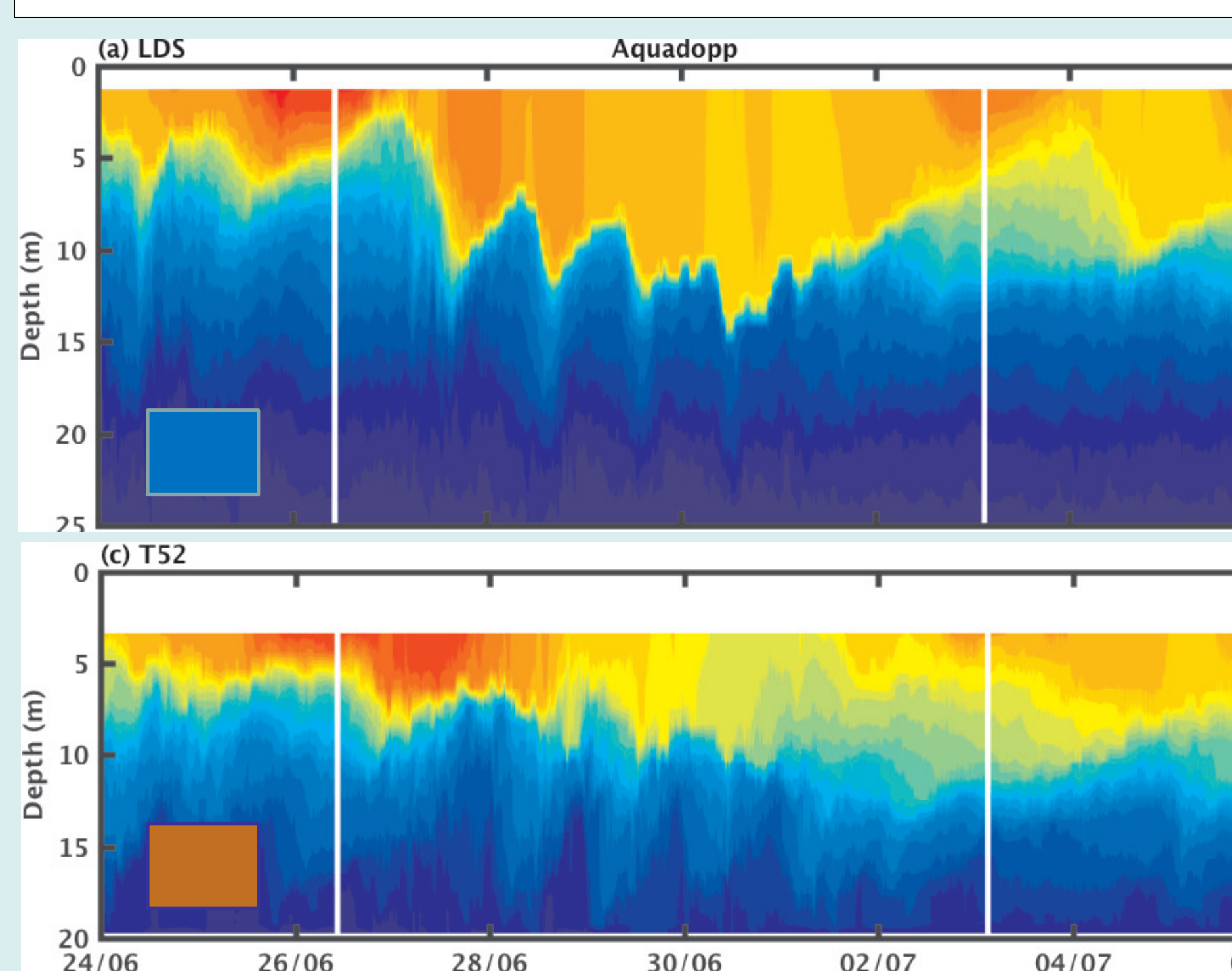


Average thermocline power spectrum of whole time series reveals strong daily forcing, which masks V1H1 frequency.

There is a peak in the critical frequency at the LDS, but this does not appear in the spectrum at T52.

There is a bump in the spectrum near N/10 in T52, indicating a shift in dominant frequencies across the lake.

Wavelet analysis shows temporal variation in frequency excitement.

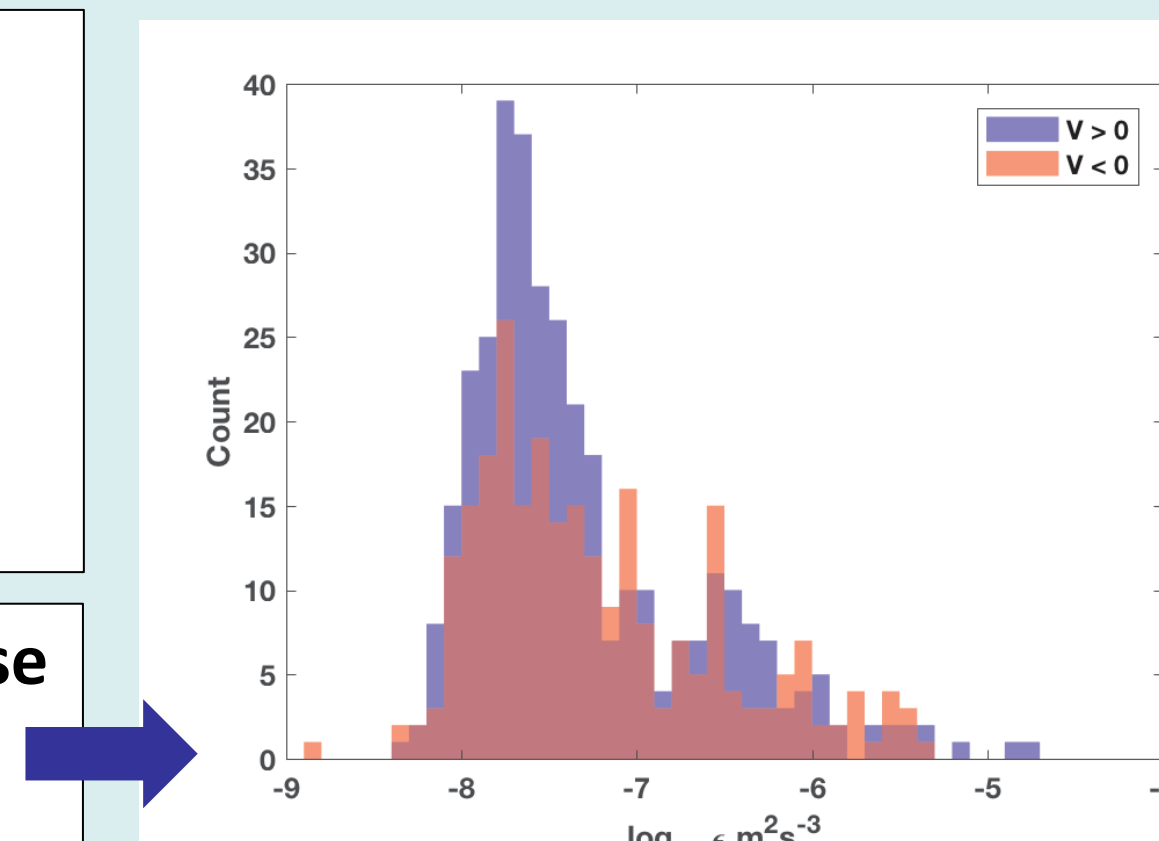


The highest dissipation rates correspond to the wind relaxing after strong wind events.

Double peak event corresponding with oscillations in mean velocity.

All frequencies show a peak where the turbulence peaks on the 29th.

There is a peak at the critical frequency corresponding to the peak on the 30th.



Asymmetry in turbulence if velocity is up or downslope. Mean velocity is very close to 0 – no net upslope flow. More turbulent events when velocity is upslope, but averages the same. Is slope so small that it is close to flat bottom?

Summary

- Boundary turbulence processes in lakes are wind-driven and thus inherently intermittent.
- Other methods besides profiling are needed to capture the turbulent events that will drive most mixing in small and medium sized lakes.
- In WOL, the wind excites a broadband spectrum of internal waves, which can generate turbulence through several mechanisms, with both low frequency and high frequency waves present when there is high turbulence on the slope
- Need to properly look at three thermistor chains to characterize transfer of energy through scales

Literature cited

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Acknowledgments

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Further information

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