

**Spatial and temporal variability in exchange between surface water and groundwater: New methods, new understanding,**  
 and how that pertains to water-resource issues and management

2012 NRP Lecture Series  
 Donald Rosenberry  
 USGS, Denver, CO, USA

**Why?**  
 "Conduct basic and problem oriented hydrologic research in support of the mission of the USGS"

**Hydrogeology of lakes, wetlands, and streams**

Investigate the spatial and temporal variability of groundwater surface-water exchange

**Why?**

**GROUNDWATER FLUXES ACROSS INTERFACES**

**NRC Committee – New/recent challenges**

**COMMITTEE ON HYDROLOGIC SCIENCE\***  
 ERIC F. WOOD, Chair, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey  
 MARY P. ANDERSON, University of Wisconsin, Madison  
 VICTOR B. BAILEY, University of Arizona, Tucson  
 DARA ESTERLIAR, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge  
 through December 31, 2002  
 NANCY B. GRIMM, Arizona State University, Tempe  
 GEORGE R. HORNBERGER, University of Virginia, Charlottesville  
 GRENDS P. LETTENMAIER, University of Washington, Seattle  
 WILLIAM R. NUTTLE, Canadian Centre for Inland Waters, Ottawa, Canada  
 through December 31, 2002  
 KENNETH W. POTTER, University of Wisconsin, Madison  
 through December 31, 2002  
 JOSE O. ROADEC, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California  
 through December 31, 2002  
 JORGE L. WELDON, New Mexico Tech, Socorro, New Mexico

**NRC Staff**  
 WILLIAM S. LOGAN, Project Director, Water Science and Technology Board  
 ANITA A. BULL, Secret, Project Assistant, Water Science and Technology Board

**National Research Council Major Findings**

1. Our ability to quantify **spatial and temporal variability** in recharge and discharge is inadequate and must be improved.
2. The roles of groundwater storage, and **recharge and discharge fluxes** in the climate system are poorly understood.
3. **Better measurements** are needed as well as better ways to scale measurements

**Spatial variability**

**Local-scale heterogeneity**

- Interlayering of sand and organics
- Trapped gas
- Vegetation zones
- Stage changes – shoreline movements
- Anthropogenic effects (veg. removal, veg. enhancement, beaches, prop wash)
- Stream meanders, hyporheic effects

**Geological controls**

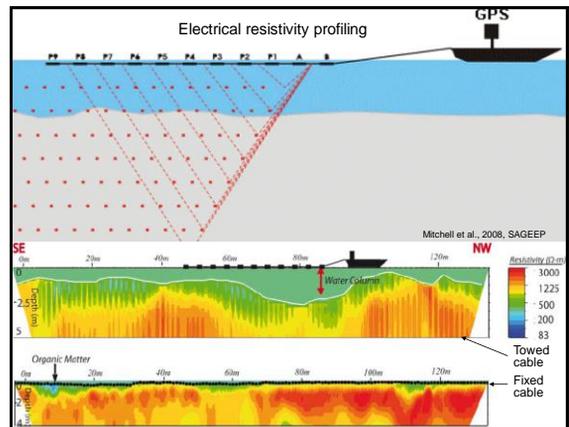
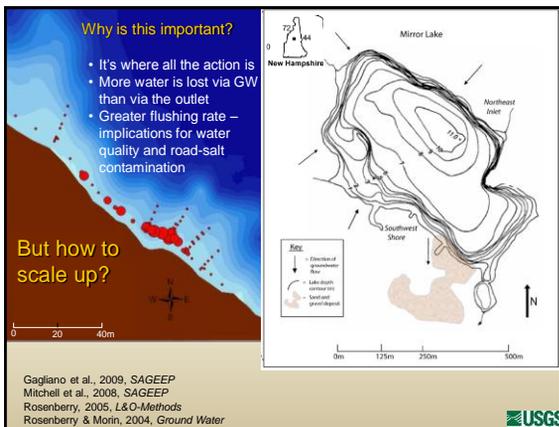
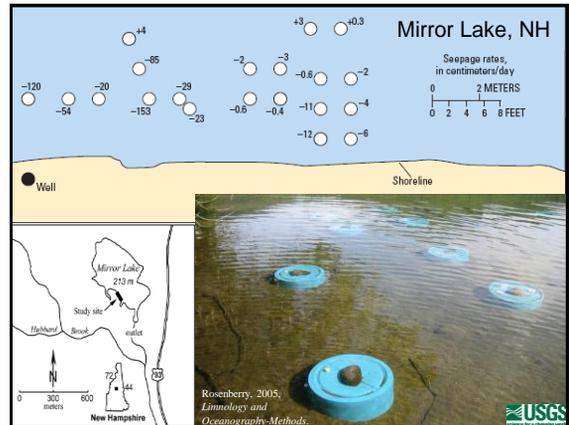
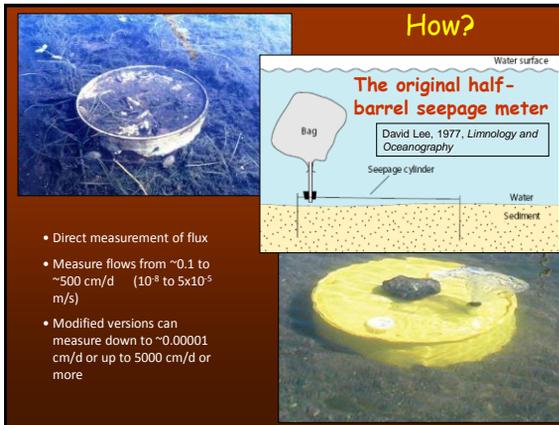
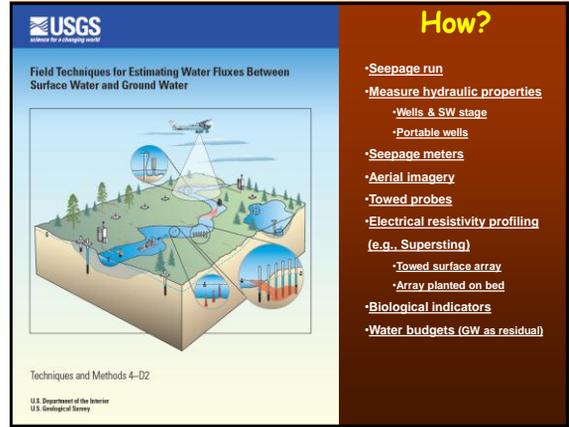
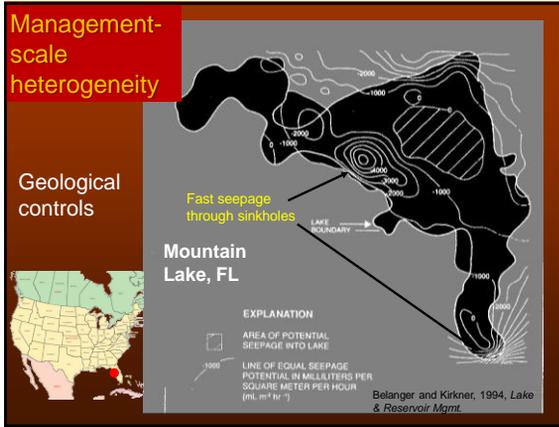
Trout Lake, WI

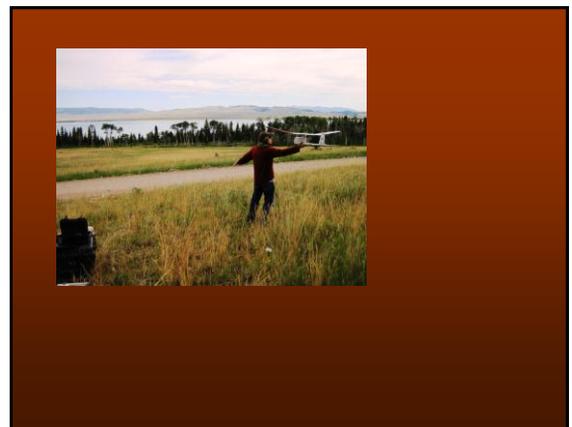
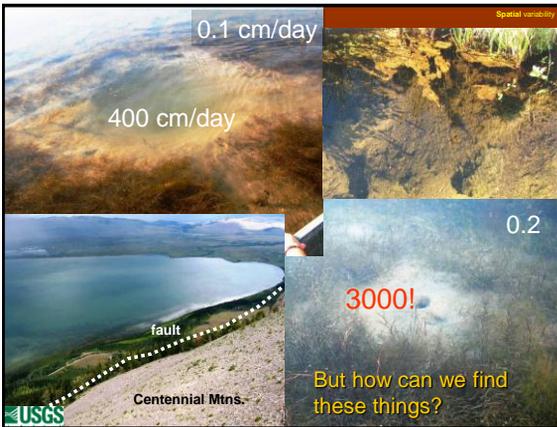
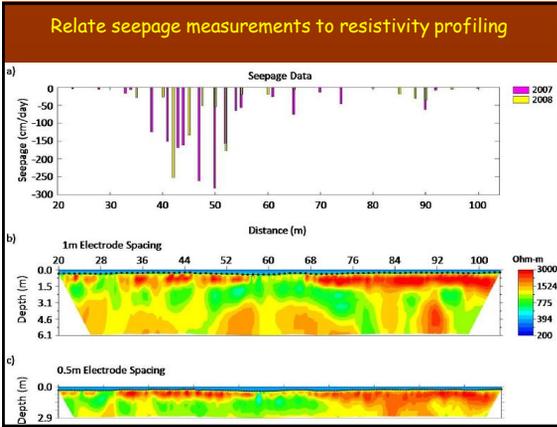
**LAKE DEPTH**

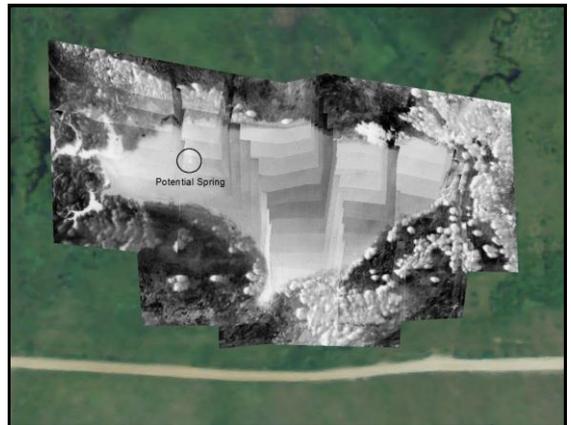
**COARSE LENS**

**Fig. 5. Three-dimensional schematic drawing of the hypothesized situation at Trout Lake showing a coarse lens intersecting the lakebed.**

Krabbenhoft and Anderson, 1986, *Ground Water*







**Heterogeneity is a bigger problem yet in fluvial settings**

**floodplain**

Woessner, 2003

**meander**

Lautz & Siegel, 2006

**bar**

Burkholder et al., 2008

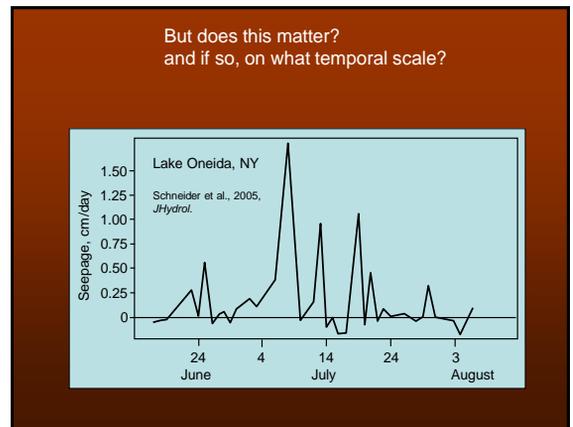
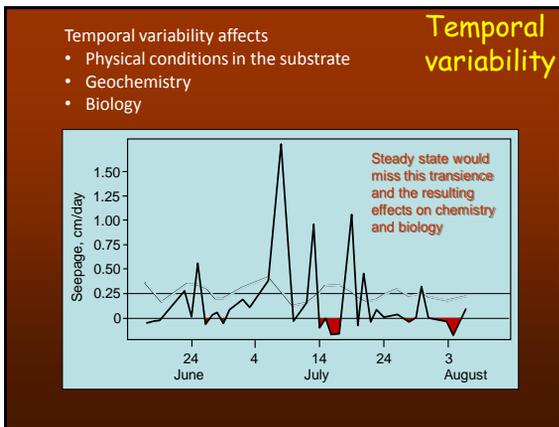
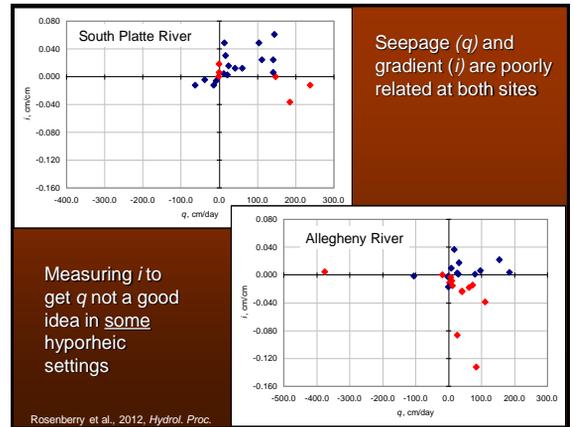
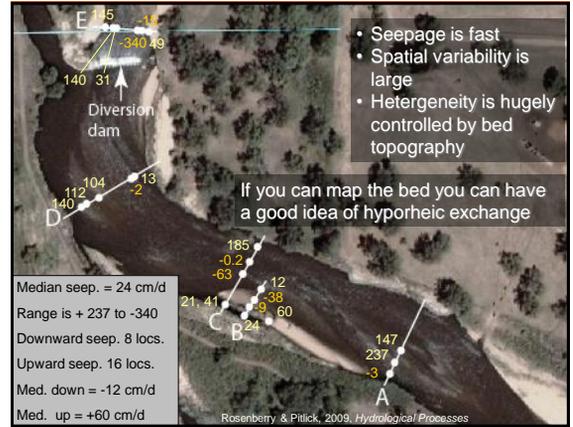
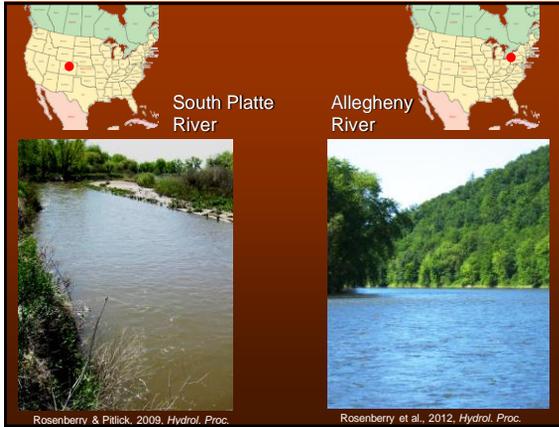
**pool-riffle**

Goosselt et al., 2006

**Donald Rosenberry**  
 US Geological Survey  
 Denver, Colorado, USA

**Seepage meter modified for use in flowing water**

Rosenberry, 2008, *J. Hydraulics*



It depends

Flux rate (cm/d)	Bag-attachment time
0.1	0.25 to 2 days
1	1 to 10 hours
10	10 to 60 minutes
100	1 to 10 minutes
1000	30 to 90 seconds

When will it ever end!?

- Temporal variability is time integrated.
- This measurement method leads to the concept that seepage rates change very little.

Individual seepage meter				
	51	52	53	54
Mean	18	5.2	8.7	10.6
s	3.23	0.85	0.49	2.66
n	6	6	6	6

Rosenberry, 2005, *Limnology and Oceanography-Methods*

Reinforced by averaging multiple measurements and report the mean

	N	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation	Standard Error	CV (%)	Maximum	Minimum
All (adjusted)	141	0.25	0.34	0.31	0.02	92	1.72	-0.02
1999 (adjusted)	177	0.35	0.41	0.31	0.02	76	1.41	-0.01
2000	120	0.17	0.28	0.30	0.02	109	1.72	-0.02

Note: Values in parenthesis. Negative values (N = 0) indicate outflow from the lake.

Simpkins, 2006, *Ground Water*

Station	Average Seepage (cm/day)							
	11-12 May 2003	11-12 June 2003	12-14 July 2003	25-27 Sept 2003	rate	±	rate	±
IRL2								
East #1	1.57	0.07	3.45	1.66	0.78	1.34	2.91	0.96
West #2	1.51	0.54	2.89	0.77	3.31	0.78	1.29	0.75

Cable et al., 2006, *Limnology and Oceanography-Methods*

Flowmeter mounts inside dome

Automated sensors provide much greater temporal resolution

ESM and piezometer used in conjunction

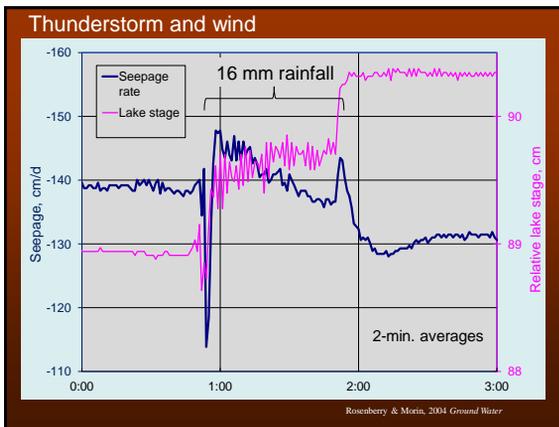
Cable to electronics box

Cable from seepage meter

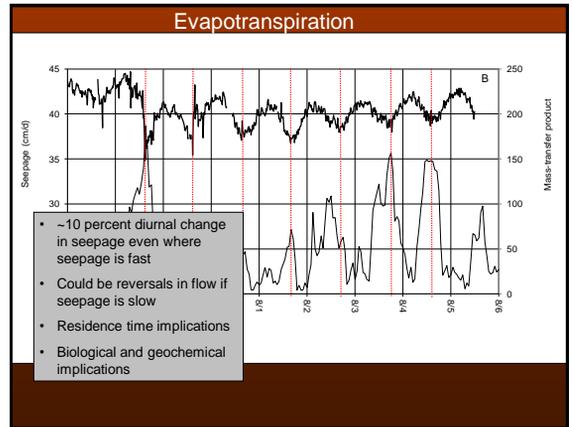
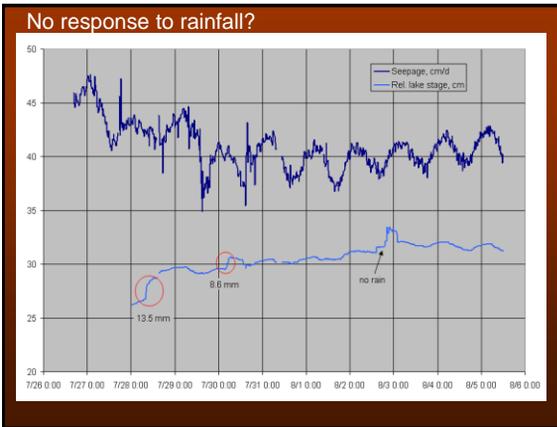
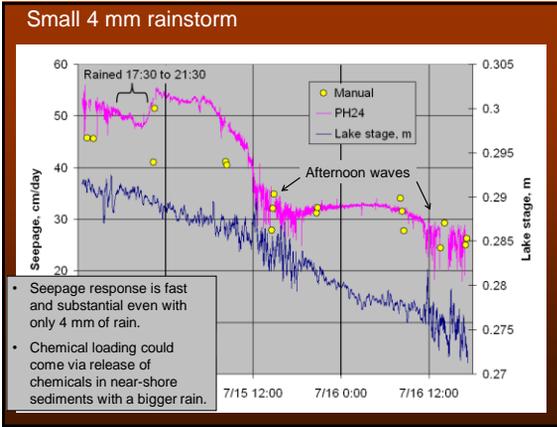
Mirror Lake, NH

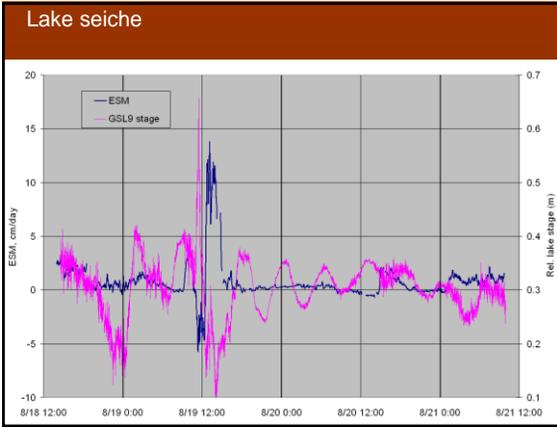
velocity meter

pressure transducer



Ashumet Pond, MA

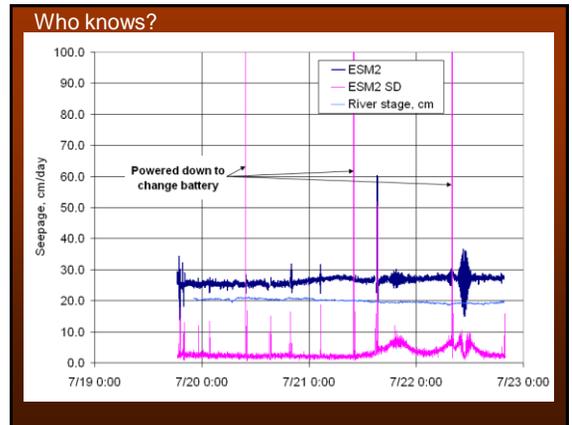
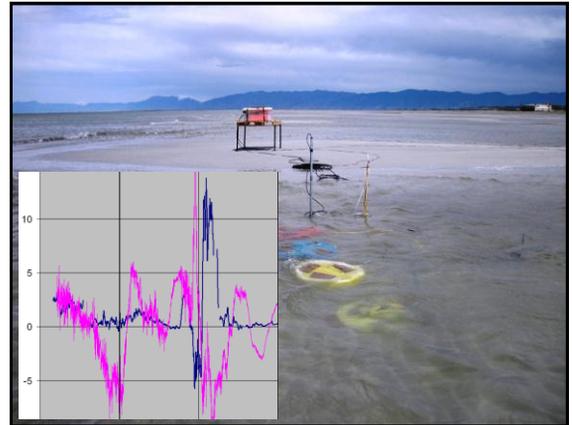


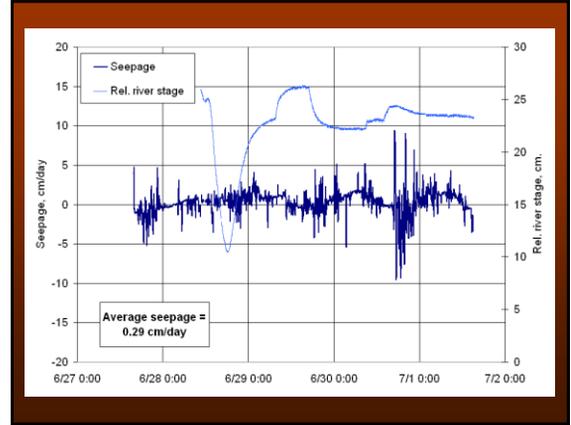


"... One of the Western Hemisphere's most important migratory bird habitats."

"... The formation of a multi-agency task force to determine levels of anthropogenic compounds, including selenium"

Utah DWQ





**Bioirrigation**

Common name	Species	Linear velocity, cm day <sup>-1</sup>
Ghost shrimp <sup>1</sup>	<i>Colstonia</i> sp.	0.2
Mud shrimp <sup>2</sup>	<i>Hyalella</i> affinis (T)	2.2
Lugworm <sup>3</sup>	<i>Arenicola marina</i>	1.5
Flumed worm <sup>4</sup>	<i>Alpheidae</i> sp.	3

Cable et al., 2006, L&OM

Many clams

Holes

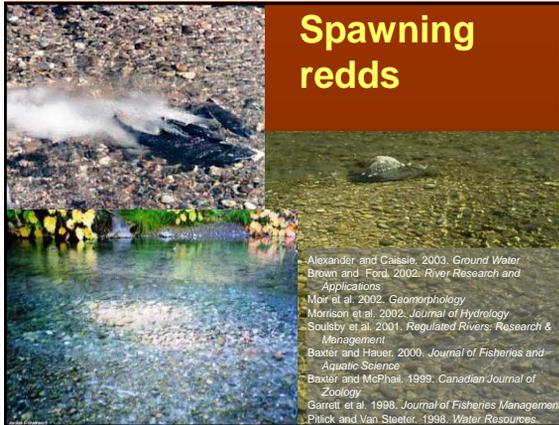
Freshwater bioirrigation

- Rusty crayfish
- Lakes in Minnesota
- No crayfish were harmed in the collection of these data

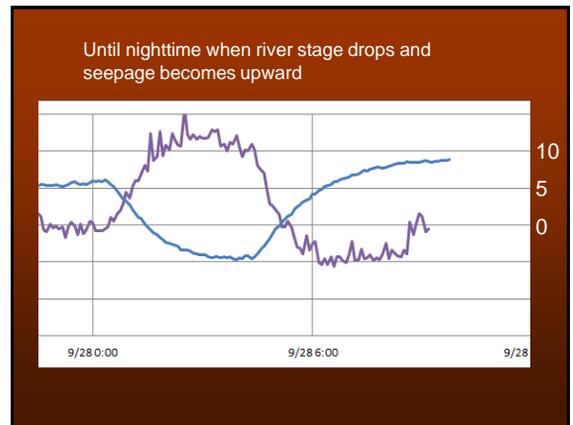
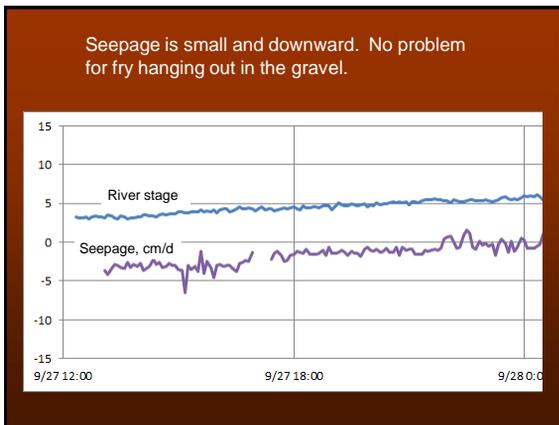
-20 cm/d

+5 cm/d

## Spawning redds



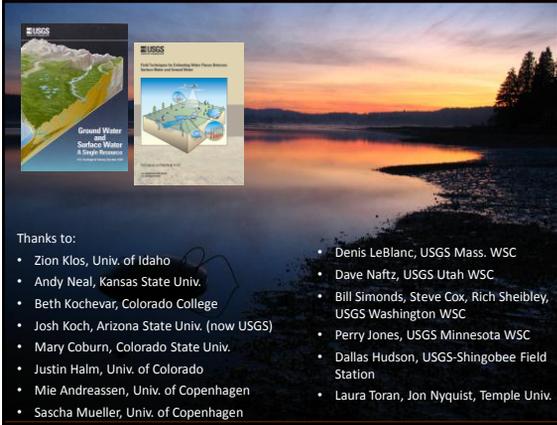
Alexander and Claessie, 2003. *Ground Water*  
 Brown and Ford, 2002. *River Research and Applications*  
 Moir et al. 2002. *Geomorphology*  
 Morrison et al. 2002. *Journal of Hydrology*  
 Soulsby et al. 2001. *Regulated Rivers: Research & Management*  
 Baxter and Hauer, 2000. *Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Science*  
 Baxter and McPhail, 1999. *Canadian Journal of Zoology*  
 Garrett et al. 1998. *Journal of Fisheries Management*  
 Pluck and Van Steeter, 1998. *Water Resources*



### So who cares?

- Plants
- Benthic invertebrates
- Endangered species
- Fish
- Ecologists
- Geochemists
- Geomorphologists
- Engineers (and water suppliers)
- Hydrologists and hydrogeologists
- Resource managers
- The public!**

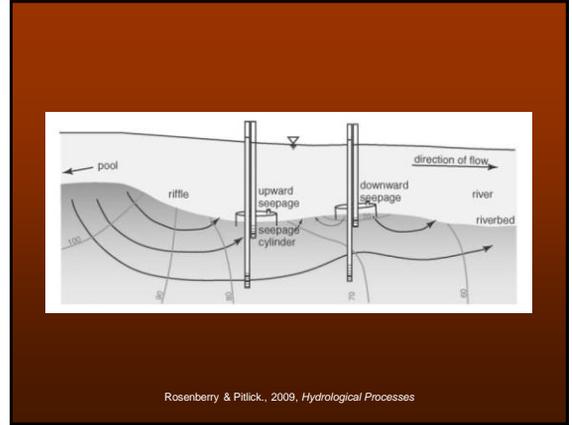




USGS  
Ground Water and Surface Water: A Single Resource

Thanks to:

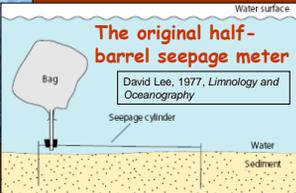
- Zion Klos, Univ. of Idaho
- Andy Neal, Kansas State Univ.
- Beth Kochevar, Colorado College
- Josh Koch, Arizona State Univ. (now USGS)
- Mary Coburn, Colorado State Univ.
- Justin Halm, Univ. of Colorado
- Mie Andreassen, Univ. of Copenhagen
- Sascha Mueller, Univ. of Copenhagen
- Denis LeBlanc, USGS Mass. WSC
- Dave Naftz, USGS Utah WSC
- Bill Simonds, Steve Cox, Rich Sheibley, USGS Washington WSC
- Perry Jones, USGS Minnesota WSC
- Dallas Hudson, USGS-Shingobee Field Station
- Laura Toran, Jon Nyquist, Temple Univ.



### How?



**The original half-barrel seepage meter**  
David Lee, 1977, *Limnology and Oceanography*




- Direct measurement of flux
- Measure flows from ~0.1 to ~500 cm/d ( $10^{-8}$  to  $5 \times 10^{-5}$  m/s)
- Modified versions can measure down to ~0.00001 cm/d or up to 5000 cm/d or more

