



*Supplement of*

## **Nutrient transport and transformation in macrotidal estuaries of the French Atlantic coast: a modeling approach using the Carbon-Generic Estuarine Model**

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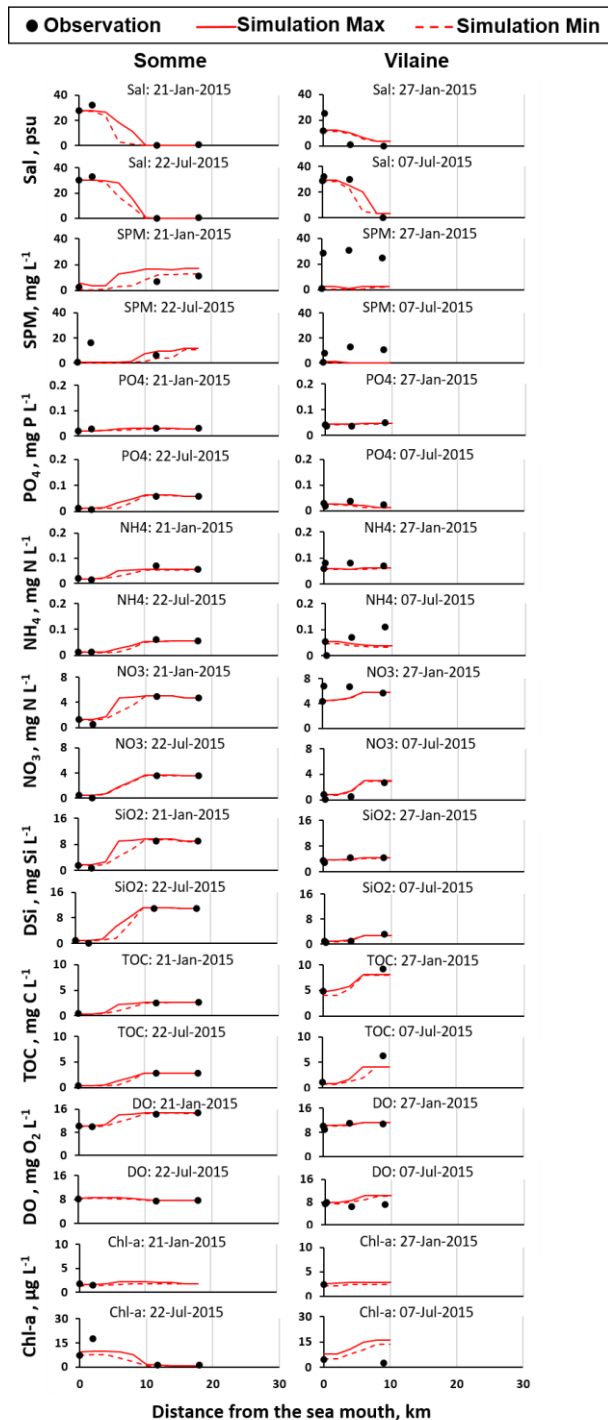


Figure S-1 Salinity (Sal), suspended particulate matter (SPM) and nutrients (PO<sub>4</sub>, NH<sub>4</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub>, DSi, TOC), dissolved oxygen (DO), chlorophyll a (Chl-a) concentrations variations along the estuaries (the Somme and Vilaine) for two selected dates (one in winter and the other one in summer). Note the different scales for the Chl-a for the estuaries.

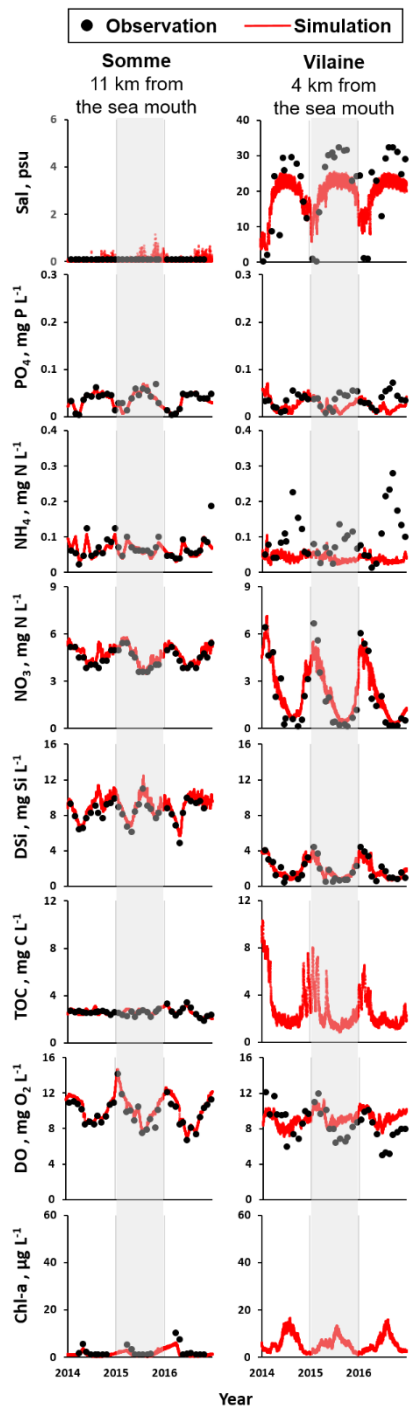


Figure S-2 Temporal variations for salinity (Sal), phosphate (PO<sub>4</sub>), ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub>), nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>), dissolved silica (DSi), total organic carbon (TOC), dissolved oxygen (DO), and chlorophyll a (Chl-a) concentrations from 2014 to 2016 for the Somme and Vilaine estuaries at the sampling stations located about 1/2 the length of the estuary to the sea mouth. Gray columns covered the year of calibration (2015).

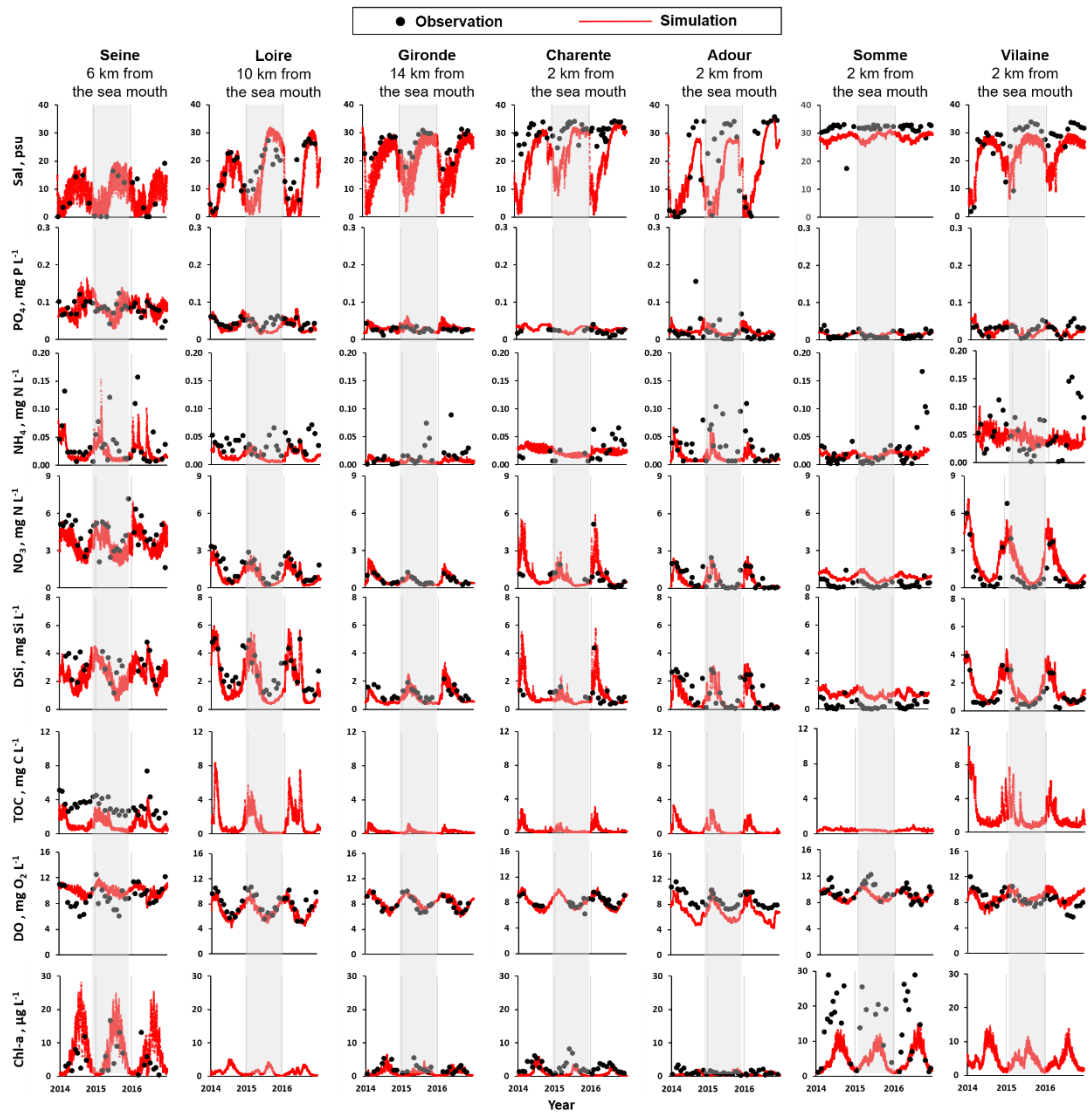


Figure S-3 Temporal variations for salinity (Sal), phosphate (PO<sub>4</sub>), ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub>), nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>), dissolved silica (DSi), total organic carbon (TOC), dissolved oxygen (DO), and chlorophyll a (Chl-a) concentrations from 2014 to 2016 at the sampling stations located closest to the sea mouth. Gray columns covered the year of calibration (2015).

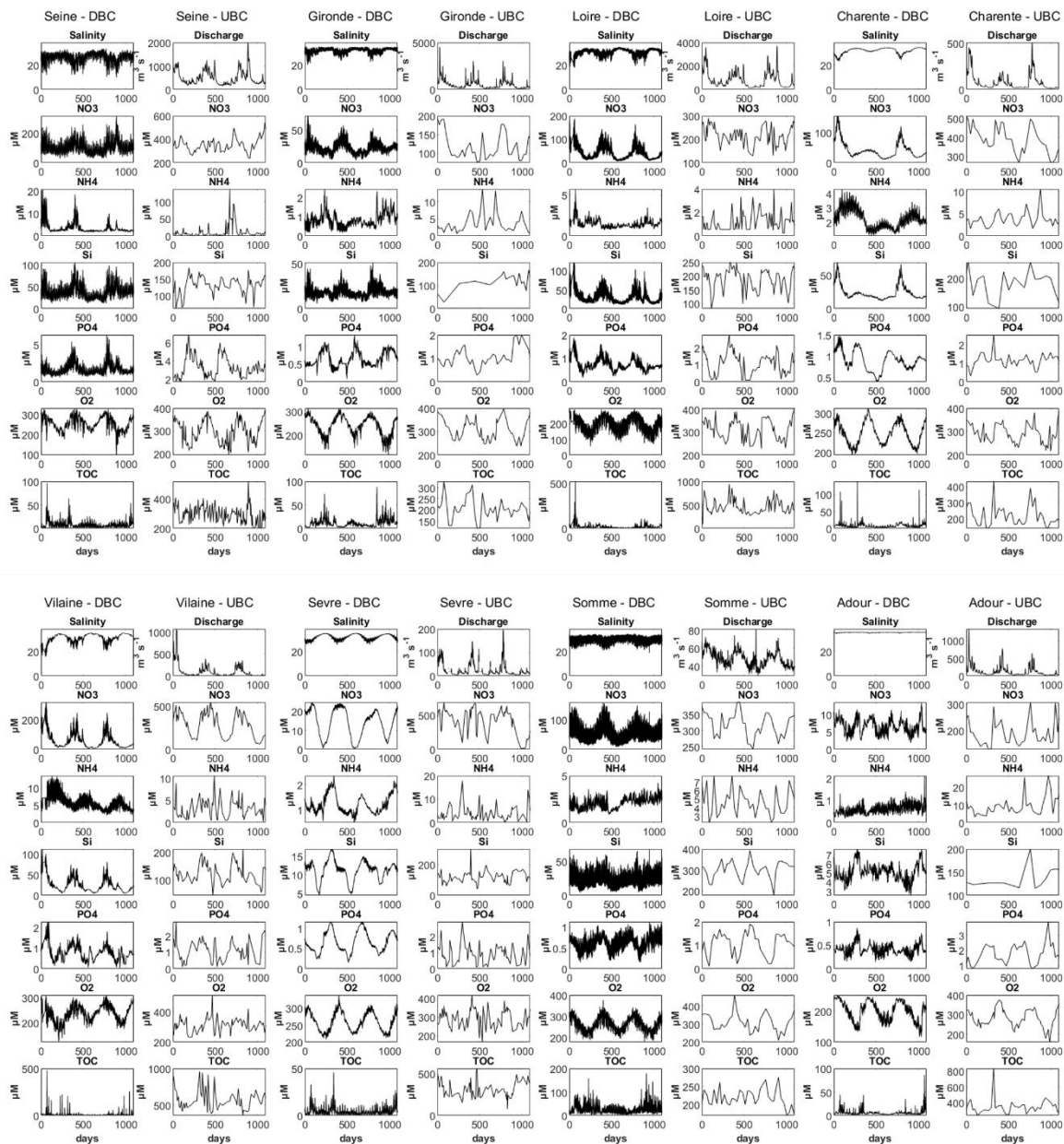


Figure S-4 Temporal variations for salinity, fresh water discharge, nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>), ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub>), dissolved silica (Si), phosphate (PO<sub>4</sub>), dissolved oxygen (DO), and total organic carbon (TOC) concentrations from 2014 to 2016 at the downstream (DBC) and upstream boundary conditions (UBC) for all the estuarine systems simulated in this study. Salinity is only provided at the DBC while fresh water discharge is only provided for the UBC.

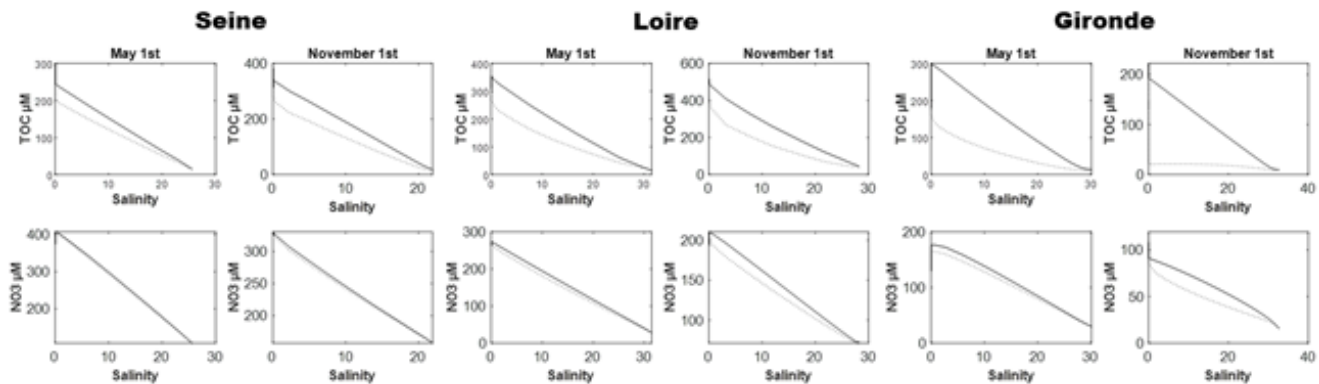


Figure S-5 Mixing curves extracted from the model outputs for total organic carbon (TOC) and nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>) along the Seine, Loire and Gironde estuaries on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 and November 1<sup>st</sup> 2014. Continuous lines correspond to simulations performed without the biogeochemical module of C-GEM while dashed lines correspond to the reference simulations.

**Table S-1 Biological formulations and stoichiometric equations used in the C-GEM biogeochemical reaction network. Tabs and T denote the absolute and the Celsius temperature, respectively, H is the water depth, S is the Salinity of the water and U and U<sub>wind</sub> are the current velocity and the wind speed at 10 meters above the surface, respectively. (a) Vanderborght et al., 2007; (b) this study; (c) Arndt et al., 2009; (d) Gamier et al., 1995. \*If PHY=diatoms, nlim needs to account for the silica limitation for the phytoplankton growth**

Gross Primary Production <sup>(a)</sup>	$GPP = P_{max}^B \cdot nlim \cdot PHY \cdot \int_H^0 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{\alpha}{P_{max}^B} \cdot I(0) \cdot \exp(-K_D \cdot H)\right) dz$
Net Primary Production <sup>(a)</sup>	$NPP = \frac{GPP}{H} \cdot (1 - k_{excr}) \cdot (1 - k_{growth}) - k_{maint} \cdot PHY$
Phytoplankton mortality <sup>(a)</sup>	$phy\_death = k_{mort}(T) \cdot PHY$
Phytoplankton burial <sup>(b)</sup>	$phy\_burial = vPHY/H \cdot PHY$
Aerobic degradation <sup>(a)</sup>	$Aer\_deg = k_{ox} \cdot f_{het}(T_{abs}) \cdot \frac{TOC}{TOC + K_{TOC}} \cdot \frac{O_2}{O_2 + K_{O_2}}$
Organic Mater burial <sup>(b)</sup>	$TOC\_burial = vTOC/H \cdot POC$
Denitrification <sup>(a)</sup>	$Denit = k_{denit} \cdot f_{het}(T_{abs}) \cdot \frac{TOC}{TOC + K_{TOC}} \cdot \frac{NO_3}{NO_3 + K_{NO_3}} \cdot \frac{K_{in,O_2}}{O_2 + K_{in,O_2}}$
Nitrification <sup>(a)</sup>	$Nit = k_{nit} \cdot f_{nit}(T_{abs}) \cdot \frac{NH_4}{NH_4 + K_{NH_4}} \cdot \frac{O_2}{O_2 + K_{O_2}}$
Oxygen air exchange <sup>(a)</sup>	$O_{2,ex} = \frac{vp}{H} \cdot (O_{2,sat} - O_2)$
Maximum photosynthesis rate <sup>(c)</sup>	$P_{max}^B = \frac{1}{\theta} \cdot \exp(0.33 + 0.102 \cdot T)$
Nutrients limitation for phytoplankton growth <sup>(d), *</sup>	$nlim = \frac{NO_3 + NH_4}{NO_3 + NH_4 + K_N} \cdot \frac{PO_4}{PO_4 + K_{PO_4}}$

Light extinction coefficient <sup>(a)</sup>

$$K_D = K_{D1} + K_{D2} \cdot SPM$$

Piston velocity <sup>(a)</sup>

$$vp = k_{flow} + k_{wind}$$

Temperature dependences for biogeochemical processes <sup>(c)</sup>

$$f_{het}(T_{abs}) = 2.75 \left( \frac{T_{abs}-278}{10} \right) ; \quad f_{nit}(T_{abs}) = 5 \left( \frac{T_{abs}-278}{10} \right)$$

Current component for  $vp$  <sup>(a)</sup>

$$k_{flow} = \sqrt{\frac{U \cdot D_{O_2}(T_{abs})}{H}}$$

Wind component for  $vp$  <sup>(a)</sup>

$$k_{wind} = \frac{1}{3.6 \cdot 10^5} \cdot 0.31 \cdot U_{wind,10m}^2 \cdot \sqrt{\frac{Sc(T, S)}{660}}$$

Switch between  $NH_4$  and  $NO_3$  utilization <sup>(a)</sup>

$$f_{NH_4} = \frac{NH_4}{10 + NH_4}$$

$$dPHY/dt = NPP - phy\_death - phy\_burial$$

$$dSi/dt = -redsi \cdot NPP$$

$$dTOC/dt = -Aer\_deg - Denit + phy\_death - TOC\_burial$$

$$dNO_3/dt = -94.4/106 \cdot Denit - redn \cdot (1 - f_{NH_4}) \cdot NPP + Nitr$$

$$dNH_4/dt = redn \cdot (R - f_{NH_4} \cdot NPP) - Nitr$$

$$dO_2/dt = -Aer\_deg + f_{NH_4} \cdot NPP + 138/106 \cdot (1 - f_{NH_4}) \cdot NPP - 2 \cdot Nitr + O_{2,ex}$$

$$dPO_4/dt = redp \cdot (Aer\_deg + Denit - NPP)$$



By using the outputs (reaction process rates,  $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1} \text{d}^{-1}$ ) from the model, we were able to calculate the related process fluxes (ton C, Si or N  $\text{d}^{-1}$ ) at each grid over three years. Then integrating the mean annual process fluxes along the estuary allowed us to evaluate the process fluxes in the each of the estuary systems which are the values presented in Table S-2.

**Table S-2 Mean daily process fluxes (2014-2016) of the estuaries studied, and percentages (%) of the reaction process with respect to the total import fluxes from upstream.**

Estuary	Variable	Reaction Process	Process Flux	% of Import Flux
Seine	TOC (ton C $\text{d}^{-1}$ )	Organic Matter Degradation	-60.7	-39%
	Si (ton Si $\text{d}^{-1}$ )	Net Primary Production	-19.2	-13%
	NO <sub>3</sub> (ton N $\text{d}^{-1}$ )	Denitrification	-15.0	-6%
Loire	TOC (ton C $\text{d}^{-1}$ )	Organic Matter Degradation	-153.7	-36%
	Si (ton Si $\text{d}^{-1}$ )	Net Primary Production	-11.3	-3%
	NO <sub>3</sub> (ton N $\text{d}^{-1}$ )	Denitrification	-39.9	-14%
Gironde	TOC (ton C $\text{d}^{-1}$ )	Organic Matter Degradation	-203.1	-98%
	Si (ton Si $\text{d}^{-1}$ )	Net Primary Production	-39.8	-16%
	NO <sub>3</sub> (ton N $\text{d}^{-1}$ )	Denitrification	-43.2	-26%
Charente	TOC (ton C $\text{d}^{-1}$ )	Organic Matter Degradation	-4.4	-24%
	Si (ton Si $\text{d}^{-1}$ )	Net Primary Production	-0.7	-2%
	NO <sub>3</sub> (ton N $\text{d}^{-1}$ )	Denitrification	-1.0	-3%
Adour	TOC (ton C $\text{d}^{-1}$ )	Organic Matter Degradation	-20.1	-33%
	Si (ton Si $\text{d}^{-1}$ )	Net Primary Production	-0.4	-1%
	NO <sub>3</sub> (ton N $\text{d}^{-1}$ )	Denitrification	-4.6	-8%
Somme	TOC (ton C $\text{d}^{-1}$ )	Organic Matter Degradation	-2.2	-29%
	Si (ton Si $\text{d}^{-1}$ )	Net Primary Production	-3.2	-12%
	NO <sub>3</sub> (ton N $\text{d}^{-1}$ )	Denitrification	-0.5	-3%
Vilaine	TOC (ton C $\text{d}^{-1}$ )	Organic Matter Degradation	-9	-10%
	Si (ton Si $\text{d}^{-1}$ )	Net Primary Production	-3.4	-8%
	NO <sub>3</sub> (ton N $\text{d}^{-1}$ )	Denitrification	-2.0	-3%

**Table S-3 Mean daily process fluxes (2014-2016) of the estuaries studied, and percentages (%) of the reaction process with respect to the total import fluxes from upstream.**

Estuary	Variable	Biogeochemical Reaction Process	Biogeochemical Process Flux	% of Total Riverine Flux Import (C, N, Si, P)
Seine	TOC (ton C d <sup>-1</sup> )	Organic Matter Degradation	-60.7	39
	NO <sub>3</sub> (ton N d <sup>-1</sup> )	Denitrification	-15.0	6
	Si (ton Si d <sup>-1</sup> )	Net Primary Production	-19.2	13
	PO <sub>4</sub> (ton P d <sup>-1</sup> )	Net Primary Production	-1.25	16
Loire	TOC (ton C d <sup>-1</sup> )	Organic Matter Degradation	-153.7	36
	NO <sub>3</sub> (ton N d <sup>-1</sup> )	Denitrification	-39.9	14
	Si (ton Si d <sup>-1</sup> )	Net Primary Production	-11.3	3
	PO <sub>4</sub> (ton P d <sup>-1</sup> )	Net Primary Production	-0.54	4
Gironde	TOC (ton C d <sup>-1</sup> )	Organic Matter Degradation	-203.1	98
	NO <sub>3</sub> (ton N d <sup>-1</sup> )	Denitrification	-43.2	26
	Si (ton Si d <sup>-1</sup> )	Net Primary Production	-39.8	16
	PO <sub>4</sub> (ton P d <sup>-1</sup> )	Net Primary Production	-2.24	43
Charente	TOC (ton C d <sup>-1</sup> )	Organic Matter Degradation	-4.4	24
	NO <sub>3</sub> (ton N d <sup>-1</sup> )	Denitrification	-1.0	3
	Si (ton Si d <sup>-1</sup> )	Net Primary Production	-0.7	2
	PO <sub>4</sub> (ton P d <sup>-1</sup> )	Net Primary Production	-0.04	6
Adour	TOC (ton C d <sup>-1</sup> )	Organic Matter Degradation	-20.1	33
	NO <sub>3</sub> (ton N d <sup>-1</sup> )	Denitrification	-4.6	8
	Si (ton Si d <sup>-1</sup> )	Net Primary Production	-0.4	1
	PO <sub>4</sub> (ton P d <sup>-1</sup> )	Net Primary Production	-0.02	7
Somme	TOC (ton C d <sup>-1</sup> )	Organic Matter Degradation	-2.2	29
	NO <sub>3</sub> (ton N d <sup>-1</sup> )	Denitrification	-0.5	3
	Si (ton Si d <sup>-1</sup> )	Net Primary Production	-3.2	12
	PO <sub>4</sub> (ton P d <sup>-1</sup> )	Net Primary Production	-0.22	76
Vilaine	TOC (ton C d <sup>-1</sup> )	Organic Matter Degradation	-9.0	10
	NO <sub>3</sub> (ton N d <sup>-1</sup> )	Denitrification	-2.0	3
	Si (ton Si d <sup>-1</sup> )	Net Primary Production	-3.4	8
	PO <sub>4</sub> (ton P d <sup>-1</sup> )	Net Primary Production	-0.21	8

**Reference:**

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