

Quality aspects of storing fresh water in brackish aquifers; experiences from Netherlands and Florida

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Deltas in CC Sept. 29- Oct.1, 2010, Rotterdam

Advantages and disadvantages of addressing brackish target aquifers for AR

| General advantages of AR | Additional advantages using brackish aquifers |
|--|--|
| Subsurface storage of water, quality and heat! | Extra subterranean reservoir |
| Purification | Admixed brackish groundwater less polluted |
| Damping quality and temp. Fluctuations | Less interference other users of aquifer |
| Maintain or restore groundwater levels/pressures | Direct reversal of salinization or sea water barrier |
| Disposal of undesired waters or Reuse of effluents | |
| Transport of water (aquifer as aquaduct) | |
| Impede land subsidence | |
| Reduce storm runoff+erosion, maintain river flows | |

| General problems of AR | Additional problems in brackish target aquifers |
|---|---|
| physical clogging of infiltration basins / wells | clogging by clay mobilization |
| (bio)chemical clogging of recovery systems | |
| accumulation of pollutants from input | too high recovery --> brackish water |
| flushing with mobile pollutants (pharma, xenobio) | brackish groundwater exfiltrating elsewhere |
| leaching of aquifer matrix (pH+redox buffer, CEC) | extra dissolution of CaCO ₃ and F+PO ₄ minerals |
| mobilization of As, Fe, Mn, Ni, NH ₄ , DOC | mobilization of Na, K, Mg, B, Li, Mo, F, PO ₄ |
| water losses by lateral outflow or mixing | water losses by vert upflow (buoyancy) |
| rise of groundwater tables | |
| interference other users | more corrosion of well materials |

Processes accompanying salt (SWI) or fresh water intrusion (FWI) in aquifers without evaporites

Local mixing of fresh and salt groundwater

Direct changes in EC, TDS, osm. press., density, piezometric level

Cation exchange (Na, K, Ca, Mg, Fe, Mn, NH₄, Ba, Li, Rb, Sr)

Precipitation / dissolution of carbonate minerals (cave development)

Formation of dolomite (Mg/Ca > 6 mol basis)

Changes in porosity and permeability by:

- Flocculation and deflocculation of clay
- Precipitation (cements) or dissolution (caves) of carbonates
- Dolomitization (generating microporosity)

Desorption of DOC, PO₄, B, F upon FWI

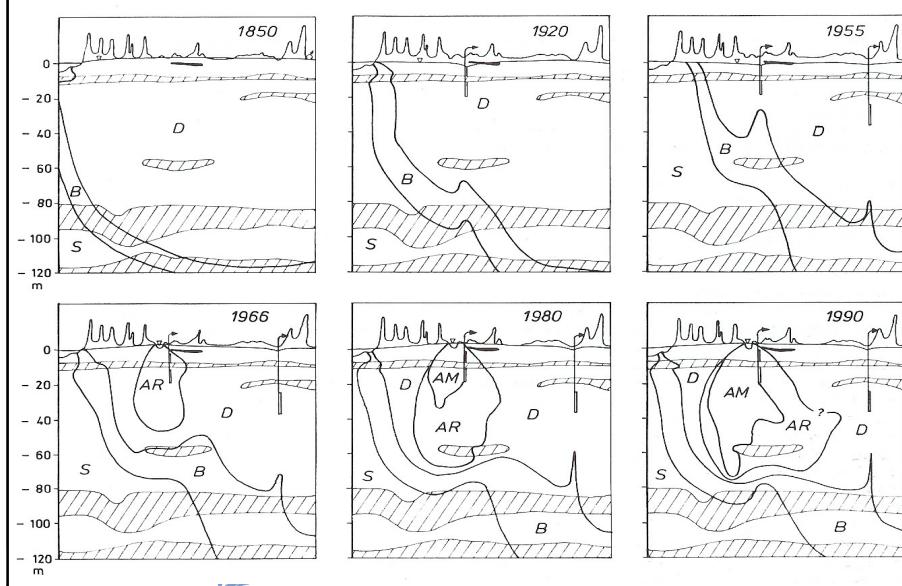
Asorption of B, F upon SWI

Other removal processes: U, SO₄ upon SWI

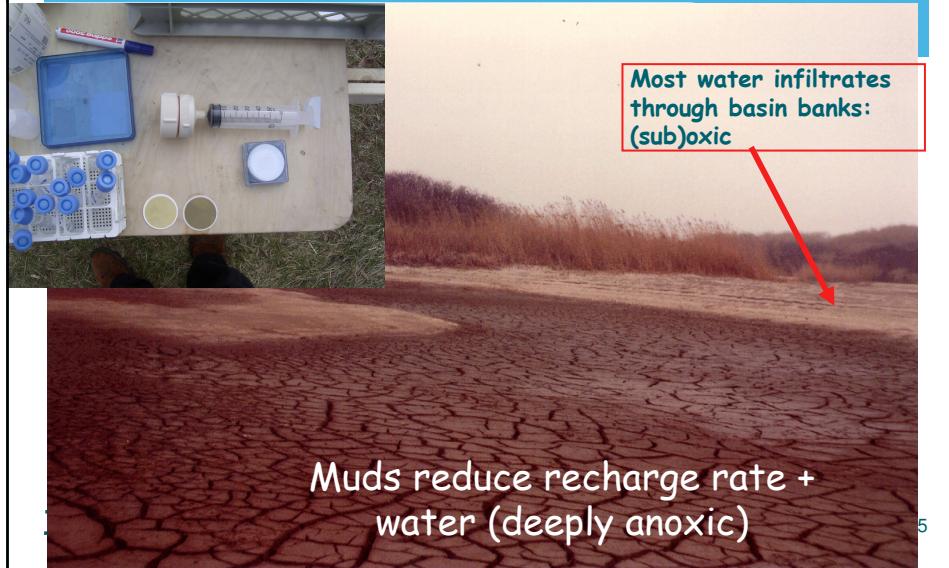
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Salinization and MARS north of The Hague (Stuyfzand, 1993 p.97)



Clogging of recharge basins and wells. Also neofomation of BOM + CaCO_3 precipitation



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Clogging will lead to (deeply) anoxic conditions → spatial and temporal variations in water quality

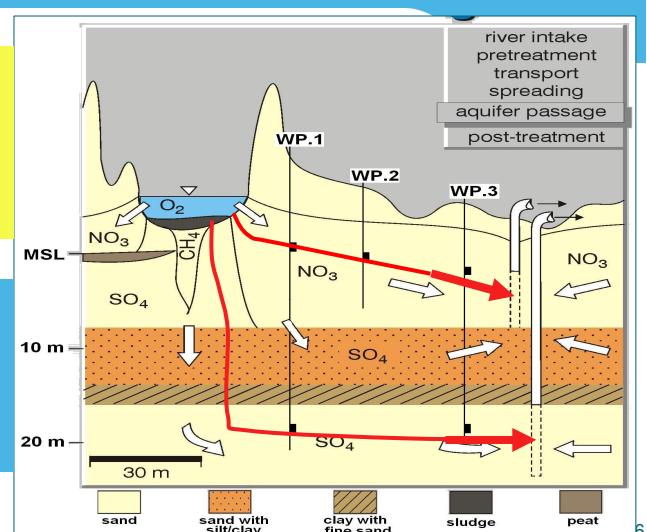
Crucial for pollutants:

- mobility
- (bio)degradation
- toxicity

Zoning:

O_2 = oxic
 NO_3 = suboxic
 SO_4 = anoxic
 CH_4 = deep anoxic

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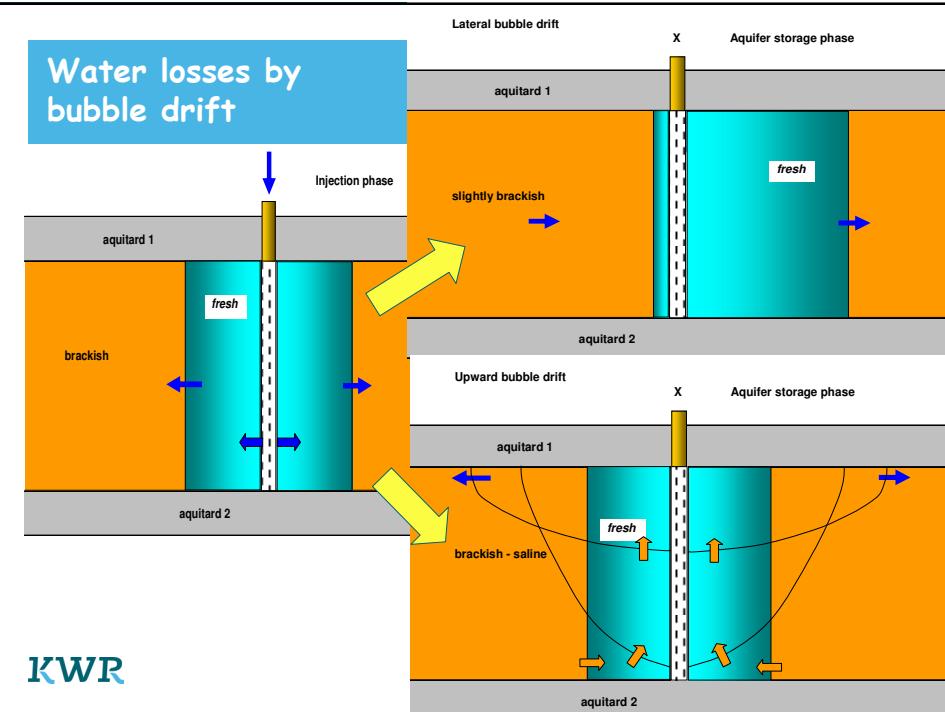
Fe(OH)₃ clogging of recovery / pumping wells
Diagnosis by camera inspection + chem analysis



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Water losses by bubble drift



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Cation exchange: its duration upon FWI >> SWI

The classical reaction (most text books):



But more realistic is:



Its duration in aquifers:

$$R_{EQ} = t_{EQ} / t_{H2O} = 1 + CEC \rho_s (1 - n) / [n \sum C]$$

Examples:

$$CEC = 10 \text{ meq/kg d.w.}; \rho_s = 2.65 \text{ kg/L}; n = 0.35$$

$$\text{Fresh water intrusion: } \sum C = 6 \text{ meq/L} \rightarrow R_{EQ} = 9.2$$

$$\text{Salt water intrusion: } \sum C = 520 \text{ meq/L} \rightarrow R_{EQ} = 1.1$$

Cation exchange triggers various dissolution reactions

Cation exchanger: the main trigger



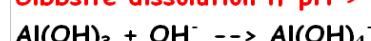
Calcite dissolution due to Ca-sequestration by exchange



fluoroapatite dissolution due to Ca-sequestration by exchange



Gibbsite dissolution if pH > ca. 8.5

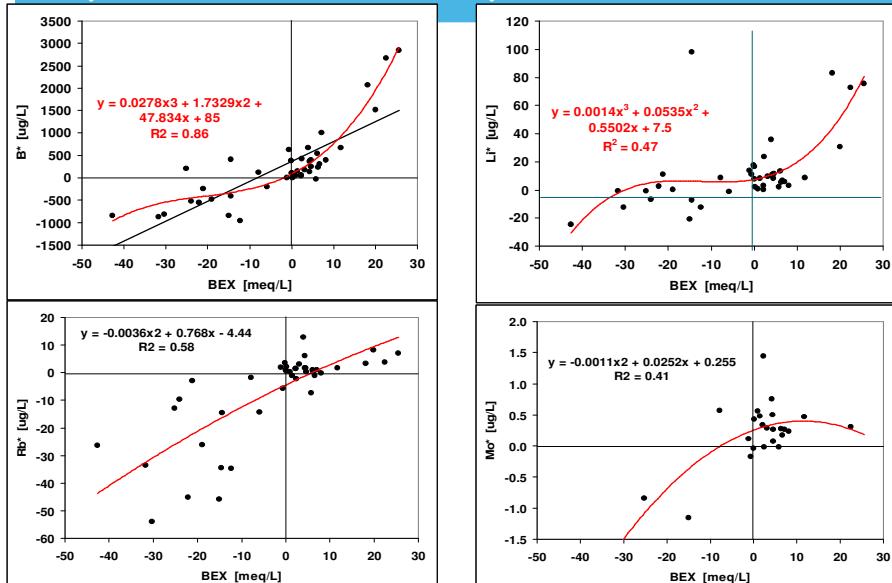


Results in concentration increases for:

Na, K, Mg, HCO₃, PO₄, F, OH (pH up), (Al)

Results in change from CaHCO₃ in NaHCO₃ or MgHCO₃ type

B, Li, Rb +Mo, corrected for marine contribution via Cl⁻, are pos. linked to BEX: desorption due to FWI (+)



Correcting individual ions for contribution of sea salt → losses or gains by hydrogeochemical reactions

$$X^* = X - \alpha_X Cl^-$$

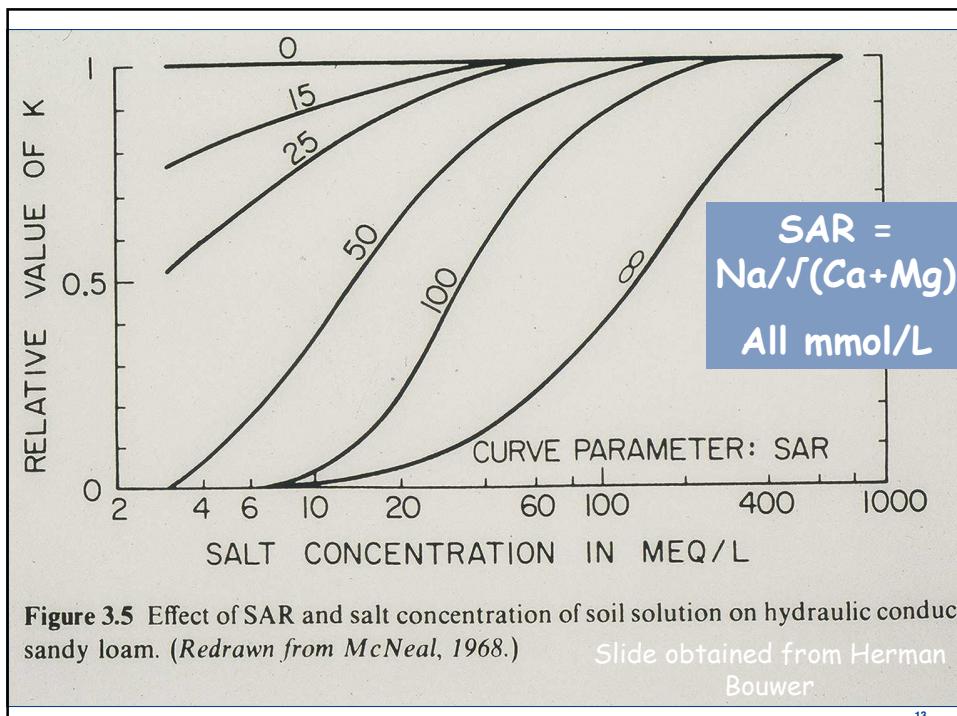
with: $\alpha_X = X/Cl$ in SMOW

| Major constituent | factor | | Trace constituent | factor | |
|---|--------|--------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| | mg/L | mol/L | | mg/L | mol/L |
| Na ⁺ | 0.5564 | 0.8581 | B | $2.3 \cdot 10^{-4}$ | $7.541 \cdot 10^{-4}$ |
| K ⁺ | 0.0206 | 0.0187 | Br ⁻ | $3.48 \cdot 10^{-3}$ | $1.543 \cdot 10^{-3}$ |
| Ca ²⁺ | 0.0213 | 0.0188 | F ⁻ | $7.19 \cdot 10^{-5}$ | $1.341 \cdot 10^{-4}$ |
| Mg ²⁺ | 0.0668 | 0.0974 | Li ⁺ | $9.34 \cdot 10^{-6}$ | $4.773 \cdot 10^{-5}$ |
| SO ₄ ²⁻ | 0.1401 | 0.0517 | Mo | $5.17 \cdot 10^{-7}$ | $1.913 \cdot 10^{-7}$ |
| TotH (Ca ²⁺ + Mg ²⁺) | | 0.1162 | Rb ⁺ | $6.06 \cdot 10^{-6}$ | $2.513 \cdot 10^{-6}$ |
| BEX = Na ⁺ +K ⁺ +Mg ²⁺ | meq/L | 1.0716 | Sr ²⁺ | $4.21 \cdot 10^{-4}$ | $1.702 \cdot 10^{-4}$ |

Example:

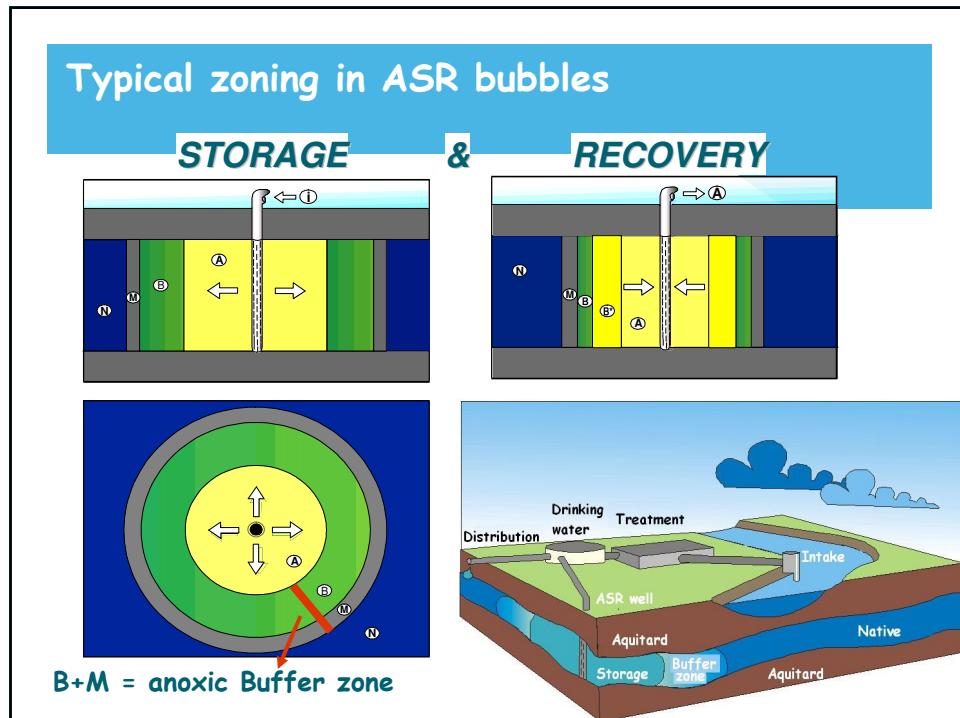
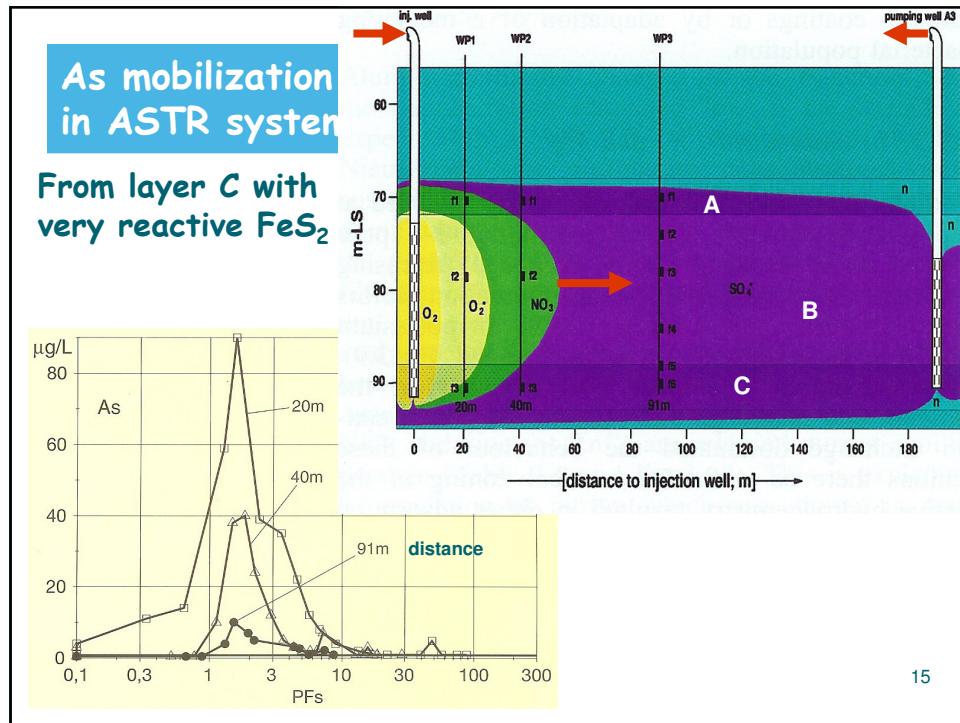
$$Na = 50, Cl = 100 \text{ mg/L} \rightarrow Na^* = 50 - 56 = -6 \text{ mg/L}$$

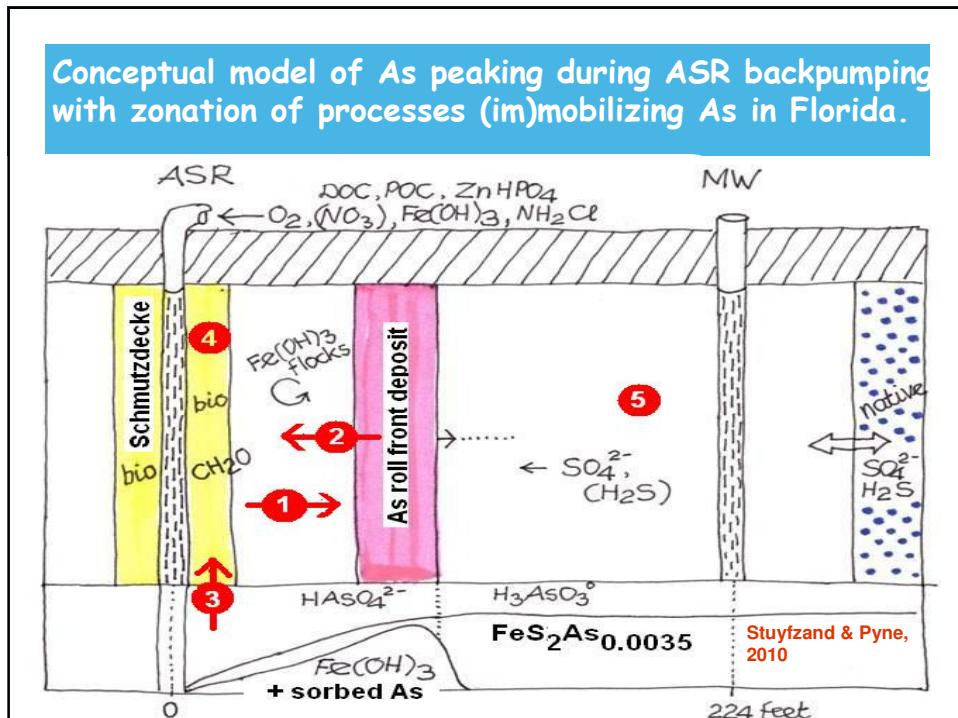
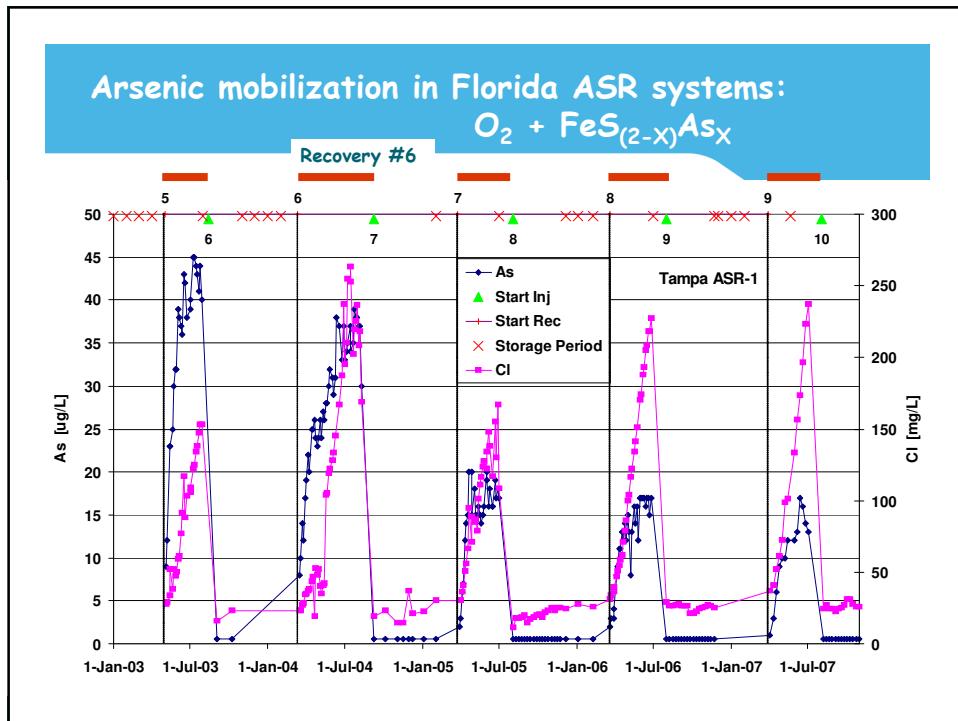
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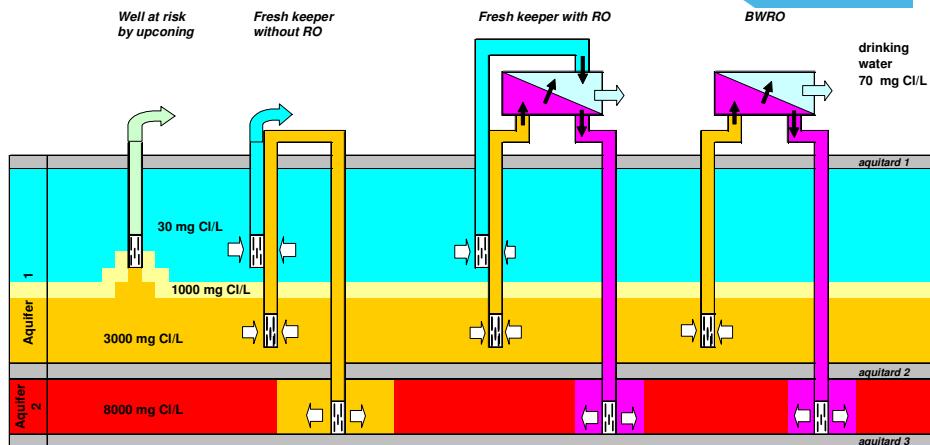
Arsenic mobilizing processes in general During AR especially # 2+5+6+7

| No. | Mobilizing process | Trigger | Fred |
|-----|---|---|------|
| 1 | Desorption by decreasing AEC | Ripening of iron(hydr)oxides (Fe^{2+} flushing, Time, Temp increase); Increase of pH and Temp; Clay+peat compaction? | C |
| 2 | Anion exchange | Flushing with higher conc of PO_4 , H_4SiO_4 , HCO_3 , DOC, SO_4 , F, I; Changes in selectivity of sorbent | CC |
| 3 | Dissolution of minerals containing As traces (like glauconite?, apatite, vivianite, siderite, struvite) | Flushing of (deeply) anoxic system with lower pH and lower conc of PO_4 , Fe^{2+} , CO_3 , etc. | C |
| 4 | Dissolution of As-minerals (like As_2S_3) | Flushing of (deep) anoxic system with higher conc of CO_3^{2-} which raises solubility by complexes as $As(CO_3)_2$, $As(CO_3)(OH)_2$, $AsCO_3^+$ | RR |
| 5 | Oxidation of Fe-sulphide minerals | Moderate or no input of O_2 and high input of NO_3 with Fe^{2+} (partly) escaping from oxidation; Lowering of groundwater table | CC |
| 6 | Reduction of H_3AsO_4 to H_3AsO_3 | High input of CH_4 , H_2 , labile DOC; | |
| 7 | Reductive dissolution of iron(hydr)oxides and manganese oxides | High input of H_2S but Fe^{2+} low; Inundation or rise of groundwater table; Contact with SOM; Raised Fe^{2+} input | CC |





The aquifer for waste disposal: MC from brackish groundwater RO (BWRO)



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Some conclusions

When addressing brackish aquifers, take care of:

- Clay migration: by selecting low SAR infiltrate and aquifer with low clay content (+dominant clay type being kaolinite)
- Removal of TSS by pretreatment + sel intake
- Well management to prevent ageing of clogging
- Measures to reduce WRI in ASR applications (As, Mn): reduce input of oxidants (As), keep pH > 7.5 (Mn)

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