

# Water Quality

## MIKE ECO Lab WQ Templates

### Scientific Description



**DHI headquarters**

Agern Allé 5  
DK-2970 Hørsholm  
Denmark

+45 4516 9200 Telephone  
[mike@dhigroup.com](mailto:mike@dhigroup.com)  
[www.mikepoweredbydhi.com](http://www.mikepoweredbydhi.com)

Company Registration No.: DK36466871

# CONTENTS

Water Quality  
MIKE ECO Lab WQ Templates  
Scientific Description

|          |                                           |           |
|----------|-------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Introduction.....</b>                  | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Applications .....</b>                 | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Mathematical Formulations .....</b>    | <b>5</b>  |
| 3.1      | Oxygen .....                              | 5         |
| 3.1.1    | Oxygen balance .....                      | 5         |
| 3.1.2    | Oxygen processes .....                    | 6         |
| 3.1.3    | Additional expressions .....              | 7         |
| 3.1.4    | Explanation to oxygen expressions .....   | 8         |
| 3.2      | Biological Oxygen Demand .....            | 9         |
| 3.2.1    | Biological oxygen demand balance .....    | 9         |
| 3.2.2    | Biological oxygen demand processes .....  | 10        |
| 3.2.3    | Explanation to BOD expressions .....      | 10        |
| 3.3      | Ammonium .....                            | 11        |
| 3.3.1    | Ammonium balance .....                    | 11        |
| 3.3.2    | Ammonium processes .....                  | 11        |
| 3.3.3    | Explanation to ammonium processes .....   | 13        |
| 3.4      | Nitrite .....                             | 13        |
| 3.4.1    | Nitrite balance .....                     | 13        |
| 3.4.2    | Nitrite processes .....                   | 13        |
| 3.4.3    | Explanation to nitrate processes .....    | 13        |
| 3.5      | Nitrate .....                             | 14        |
| 3.5.1    | Nitrate balance .....                     | 14        |
| 3.5.2    | Nitrate processes .....                   | 14        |
| 3.5.3    | Explanation to nitrate expressions .....  | 14        |
| 3.6      | Phosphorus .....                          | 14        |
| 3.6.1    | Phosphorus balance .....                  | 14        |
| 3.6.2    | Phosphorus processes .....                | 15        |
| 3.6.3    | Explanation to phosphorus processes ..... | 16        |
| 3.7      | Chlorophyll-a .....                       | 16        |
| 3.7.1    | Chlorophyll-a balance .....               | 16        |
| 3.8      | Temperature processes .....               | 16        |
| 3.9      | Bacterial processes .....                 | 17        |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Data Requirements .....</b>            | <b>19</b> |
| <b>5</b> | <b>List of Literature .....</b>           | <b>21</b> |



## 1 Introduction

MIKE ECO Lab is a numerical lab for Ecological Modelling. It is a generic and open tool for customising aquatic ecosystem models to describe for instance water quality and eutrophication. DHI's expertise and know how concerning ecological modelling has been collected in predefined ecosystem descriptions (MIKE ECO Lab templates) to be loaded and used in MIKE ECO Lab. So the MIKE ECO Lab templates describe physical, chemical and biological processes related to environmental problems and water pollution. The following is a common description of the DHI supported WQ (water quality) templates:

1. WQSimpleTandSCOLI.ecolab
2. WQSimpleTandS.ecolab
3. WQSimpleCOLI.ecolab
4. WQSimple.ecolab
5. WQNutrients.ecolab

The templates describes the resulting concentrations a number of variables such as bacteria, which threatens bathing water quality, oxygen depletion due to the release of BOD, excess concentrations of nutrients, chlorophyll-nutrient interactions and degradation of chemical substances.

The MIKE ECO Lab is integrated with the advection-dispersion module, which describes the physical transport processes at each grid-point covering the area of interest. Other data required are concentrations at model boundaries, flow and concentrations from pollution sources, water temperature, etc.

The MIKE ECO Lab system solves the process equations using a rational extrapolation method in an integrated two-step procedure with the advection-dispersion module. Only the water quality processes are included in the description and equations explained below.



## 2 Applications

The water quality templates are used for a range of environmental investigations:

- Studies of hygienic problems related to bacteria from sewage outfalls and other sources.
- Survival of bacteria related to different environmental conditions.
- Oxygen conditions affected by BOD, ammonia and other oxygen consuming substances.
- Spreading, degradation and interaction between the inorganic nutrient: ammonia, nitrite, nitrate and phosphate.
- Evaluation of potential for eutrophication problems related to nutrient levels (nitrogen and phosphorus) and chlorophyll-a.
- Decay of chemical substances and effect evaluation based on resulting concentration levels.





### 3 Mathematical Formulations

The MIKE 21/3 ECO Lab solves the system of differential equations describing the physical, chemical and biological interactions involved in the survival of bacteria, degradation of organic matter, resulting oxygen conditions and excess levels of nutrients in coastal areas.

The following variables can be modelled using DHI supported WQ templates:

|                                           |                        |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Dissolved BOD                             | BOD <sub>d</sub>       |
| Suspended BOD                             | BOD <sub>s</sub>       |
| Sedimentated BOD                          | BOD <sub>b</sub>       |
| Ammonia (NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> -N) | NH <sub>3</sub>        |
| Nitrite (NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> -N) | NO <sub>2</sub>        |
| Nitrate (NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> -N) | NO <sub>3</sub>        |
| Dissolved oxygen                          | DO                     |
| Phosphorus                                | PO <sub>4</sub>        |
| Faecal coliforms                          | C <sub>F</sub>         |
| Total coliforms                           | C <sub>T</sub>         |
| One or more user defined pollutants       | (UDP <sub>1...</sub> ) |

The processes and concentrations of the parameters are influenced by external factors such as incident solar radiation (coliform bacteria decay) and discharges.

Several combinations of the listed variables are implemented as “model levels” securing maximum flexibility. At the most simple level only BOD and DO are modelled and the most complex level includes all the variables.

## 3.1 Oxygen

### 3.1.1 Oxygen balance

The oxygen balance depends on the chosen complexity level. There are 4 levels of complexity for the description of DO mass balance:

Level 1, Oxygen, simple description

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dDO}{dt} = & \\ & + \text{reaeration} \quad (\text{only at water surface}) \\ & - \text{BOD decay} \\ & + \text{photosynthesis} \\ & - \text{respiration} \\ & - \text{sediment oxygen demand} \quad (\text{only at water bed}) \end{aligned}$$

Level 2, Oxygen, extended description

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dDO}{dt} = & \\ & + \text{reaeration} \quad (\text{only at water surface}) \end{aligned}$$

- BOD decay (1 or 3 fractions)
  - + photosynthesis
  - respiration
  - sediment oxygen demand (only at water bed)

Level 3, Oxygen with nutrients

- $$\frac{dDO}{dt} =$$
- + reaeration (only at water surface)
  - $Y_1 \cdot \text{nitrification}$  ( $Y_1$ : yield factor for oxygen)
  - BOD decay (1 or 3 fractions)
    - + photosynthesis
    - respiration
    - sediment oxygen demand (only at water bed)

Level 4, Oxygen with nutrients and chlorophyll

- $$\frac{dDO}{dt} =$$
- + reaeration (only at water surface)
  - $Y_1 \cdot \text{nitrification}$  ( $Y_1$ : yield factor for oxygen)
  - BOD decay (1 or 3 fractions)
    - + photosynthesis  $\cdot F(N,P)$  (Potential nutrient limitation)
    - respiration
    - sediment oxygen demand (only at water bed)

### 3.1.2 Oxygen processes

Reaeration is the process describing the interchange of oxygen between the dissolved oxygen in the water and the atmosphere. The expression includes a saturation level for oxygen in water  $C_s$  that depends on the salinity and temperature.

Nitrification is another process influencing the oxygen balance as oxygen is consumed in the nitrification process when transforming ammonia into nitrite.

The oxygen producing photosynthesis process is described relative to a given maximum production at noon and varies with the time of the day and the relative day length.

Respiration from autotroph and heterotrophs is consuming oxygen and described as dependent of the temperature.

The degradation of organic matter is another oxygen consuming process. It is dependent of the temperature, the oxygen concentration and the concentration of organic material.

The sediment oxygen demand from the degradation of organic material not originating from pollution sources is described separately. The sediment oxygen demand (SOD) is assumed to depend only of the oxygen concentration and the temperature. A Michaelis-Menten expression is used to simulate the processes at low oxygen conditions.

**Reaeration**

$$reaeration = K_2 (C_s - DO)$$

**Nitrification**

$$nitrification = K_4 \cdot NH_3 \cdot \theta_4^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{DO}{DO + HS\_nitr}$$

**Photosynthesis and respiration**

$$photosynthesis = \begin{cases} P_{\max} \cdot F_1(H) \cdot \cos 2\pi(\tau/a) \cdot \theta_1^{(T-20)}, & \text{if } \tau \in [t_{up}, t_{down}] \\ 0, & \text{if } \tau \notin [t_{up}, t_{down}] \end{cases}$$

$$respiration = R_1 \cdot F_1(H) \cdot \theta_1^{(T-20)} + R_2 \cdot \theta_2^{(T-20)} \quad (\text{level 1-3})$$

$$respiration = R_1 \cdot F_1(H) \cdot F(N, P) \cdot \theta_1^{(T-20)} + R_2 \cdot \theta_2^{(T-20)} \quad (\text{level 4})$$

**BOD decay (one fraction of BOD)**

$$BOD\ decay = K_3 \cdot BOD \cdot \theta_3^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{DO}{DO + HS\_BOD}$$

**BOD decay (three fractions of BOD)**

$$BOD_d\ decay = K_{d3} \cdot BOD_d \cdot \theta_{d3}^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{DO}{DO + HS\_BOD}$$

$$BOD_s\ decay = K_{s3} \cdot BOD_s \cdot \theta_{s3}^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{DO}{DO + HS\_BOD}$$

$$BOD_b\ decay = K_{b3} \cdot BOD_b \cdot \theta_{b3}^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{DO}{DO + HS\_BOD}$$

**Sediment oxygen demand**

$$sed.\ oxygen\ demand = \frac{DO}{HS\_SOD + DO} \cdot \theta_3^{(T-20)}$$

**3.1.3 Additional expressions**

The potential nutrient limitation on photosynthesis is described by a nutrient limitation function:

$$F(N, P) = \frac{2}{\frac{IN}{IN + KSN} + \frac{PO_4}{PO_4 + KSP}}$$

The saturation level for oxygen in water varies with salinity and temperature and is described by the following empiric expression:

$$C_s = 14.652 - 0.0841 \cdot S + T \cdot \begin{cases} 0.00256 \cdot S - 0.41022 + T \cdot (0.007991 - \\ 0.0000374 \cdot S - 0.000077774 \cdot T) \end{cases}$$

The rate for the reaeration process  $K_2$  depends of the wind speed  $W_v$ , the flow velocity  $V$  and the water depth  $H$ :

$$K_2 = 3.93 \cdot V^{0.5}/H^{1.5} + W/H \text{ (1/s)}$$

$$W = 0.728 \cdot W_v^{0.5} - 0.371 \cdot W_v + 0.0372 \cdot W_v^2 \text{ (m/s)}$$

The photosynthetic oxygen production and the autotrophic respiration vary with the water depth due to the light dependency of the autotrophs. The depth variation is in MIKE 3 modelled using the Lambert Beer Law, which requires a light extinction coefficient for the water to describe the dampening of the light irradiation through the water column. Lambert Beer Law or the light dampening function:

$$F_1(H) = e^{-k \cdot H}$$

Figure 3.1 shows the principle of the light dampening curve versus the water depth.

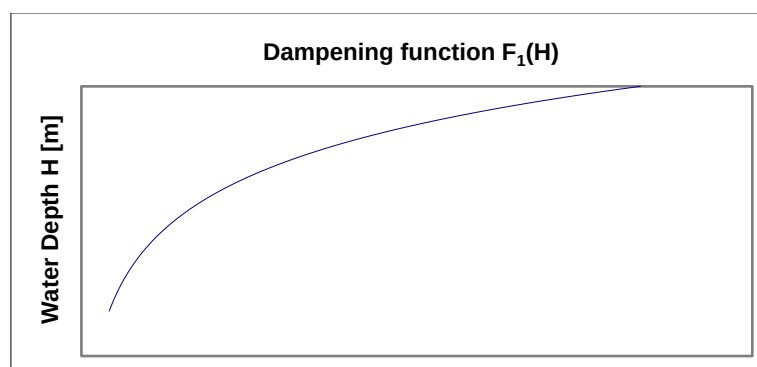


Figure 3.1 The dampening function for light in the water column

### 3.1.4 Explanation to oxygen expressions

|                   |                                                                                                         |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| IN =              | sum of inorganic nitrogen (mg N/l)                                                                      |
| KSN =             | halfsaturation concentration for nitrogen, limitation for photosynthesis by plants and algae (mg N/l)   |
| KSP =             | halfsaturation concentration for phosphorus, limitation for photosynthesis by plants and algae (mg P/l) |
| S=                | salinity (ppt)                                                                                          |
| T=                | temperature (°C)                                                                                        |
| W <sub>v</sub> =  | wind speed (m/s)                                                                                        |
| H=                | water depth (m)                                                                                         |
| V=                | depth averaged flow velocity (m/s)                                                                      |
| NH <sub>3</sub> = | concentration of ammonia (mg/l)                                                                         |
| K <sub>4</sub> =  | nitrification rate at 20°C (1/day)                                                                      |
| θ <sub>4</sub> =  | temperature coefficient for nitrification                                                               |
| HS_nitr=          | halfsaturation concentration for nitrification (mg O <sub>2</sub> /l)                                   |
| Y <sub>1</sub> =  | yield factor for oxygen                                                                                 |
| photosynthesis =  | actual production (g O <sub>2</sub> /m <sup>2</sup> /day)                                               |
| Pmax=             | maximum production at noon (g O <sub>2</sub> /m <sup>2</sup> /day)                                      |
| τ =               | actual time of the day related to noon                                                                  |
| α =               | actual relative day length                                                                              |
| tup,down=         | time for sunrise and sunset                                                                             |
| respiration =     | actual respiration rate of plants, bacteria and (g O <sub>2</sub> /m <sup>2</sup> /day),                |
| R <sub>1</sub> =  | photosynthetic (autotrophic) respiration rate at 20°C (g O <sub>2</sub> /m <sup>2</sup> /day)           |
| θ <sub>1</sub> =  | temperature coefficient for photosynthetic respiration/production                                       |

|                 |                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| $R_2 =$         | respiration rate of animals and bacteria (heterotrophic) (g $O_2/m^2/day$ )                                                                                 |
| $\theta_2 =$    | temperature coefficient for heterotrophic respiration                                                                                                       |
| $F_1(H) =$      | light dampening function                                                                                                                                    |
| $k =$           | light extinction coefficient [ $m^{-1}$ ]                                                                                                                   |
| $H =$           | Water depth [m]                                                                                                                                             |
| $BOD =$         | actual concentration of BOD (mg $O_2/l$ )                                                                                                                   |
| $K_3 =$         | degradation constant for organic matter at 20°C (1/day)                                                                                                     |
| $\theta_3 =$    | Arrhenius temperature coefficient                                                                                                                           |
| $DO =$          | Actual oxygen concentration (mg $O_2/l$ )                                                                                                                   |
| $HS\_BOD =$     | Half-saturation oxygen concentration for BOD (mg $O_2/l$ )                                                                                                  |
| $BOD_d =$       | actual concentration of suspended organic matter (mg $O_2/l$ )                                                                                              |
| $BOD_s =$       | actual concentration of suspended organic matter (mg $O_2/l$ )                                                                                              |
| $BOD_b =$       | actual amount of sedimentated organic matter at the bottom (mg $O_2/l$ )                                                                                    |
| $K_{d3} =$      | degradation constant for dissolved organic matter at 20°C (1/day). Normally suspended $BOD_s$ will have a slower degradation rate than dissolved $BOD_d$ .  |
| $\theta_{d3} =$ | Arrhenius temperature coefficient (dissolved BOD)                                                                                                           |
| $K_{s3} =$      | degradation constant for suspended organic matter at 20 °C (1/day). Normally suspended $BOD_s$ will have a slower degradation rate than dissolved $BOD_d$ . |
| $\theta_{s3} =$ | Arrhenius temperature coefficient (suspended BOD)                                                                                                           |
| $K_{b3} =$      | degradation constant for sedimentated organic matter (1/day)                                                                                                |
| $\theta_{b3} =$ | Arrhenius temperature coefficient (sedimentated BOD)                                                                                                        |
| $HS\_SOD =$     | half-saturation oxygen concentration for SOD (mg $O_2/l$ )                                                                                                  |
| $\theta_3 =$    | Arrhenius temperature coefficient (SOD)                                                                                                                     |

## 3.2 Biological Oxygen Demand

The mass balance for organic matter can be described with three equations or one equation depending on the number of fractions chosen for BOD.

### 3.2.1 Biological oxygen demand balance

#### One fraction of BOD

The mass balance for organic matter if only one fraction is chosen can be described as

$$\frac{dBOD}{dt} = -BOD \text{ decay}$$

#### Three fractions of BOD

If fractions for dissolved, suspended and sedimentated BOD are selected the balances are:

The balance describing the dissolved BOD concentration is:

$$\frac{dBOD_d}{dt} = -BOD_d \text{ decay}$$

The balance describing the suspended BOD concentration is

$$\frac{dBOD_s}{dt} =$$

- $BOD_s$  decay
- + resuspension
- sedimentation

The balance describing the sedimentated BOD concentration is

$$\frac{dBOD_b}{dt} =$$

- $BOD_b$  decay
- resuspension
- + sedimentation

### 3.2.2 Biological oxygen demand processes

$$BOD \text{ decay} = -K_3 \cdot BOD \cdot \theta_3^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{DO}{DO + HS\_BOD}$$

$$BOD_d \text{ decay} = -K_{d3} \cdot BOD_d \cdot \theta_{d3}^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{DO}{DO + HS\_BOD}$$

$$BOD_s \text{ decay} = -K_{s3} \cdot BOD_s \cdot \theta_{s3}^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{DO}{DO + HS\_BOD}$$

$$BOD_b \text{ decay} = -K_{b3} \cdot BOD_b \cdot \theta_{b3}^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{DO}{DO + HS\_BOD}$$

Resuspension,  $S_1$ , is assumed where the flow velocity ( $V$ ) exceeds the critical value ( $V_1$ ). The resuspension is assumed to be constant in time. At flow velocities smaller than the critical value, sedimentation will occur.

$$resuspension = S_1 \cdot BOD_b / H$$

Sedimentation of BODs is assumed if the flow velocity ( $V$ ) is below a critical value ( $V_1$ ). It is described as a first order process.

$$sedimentation = K_s \cdot BOD_s / H$$

### 3.2.3 Explanation to BOD expressions

|              |                                                            |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| $T$ =        | temperature (°C)                                           |
| $K_3$ =      | degradation constant for organic matter at 20°C (1/day)    |
| $\theta_3$ = | Arrhenius temperature coefficient                          |
| $DO$ =       | Actual oxygen concentration (mg $O_2$ /l)                  |
| $HS\_BOD$ =  | Half-saturation oxygen concentration for BOD (mg $O_2$ /l) |
| $BOD$ =      | actual concentration of organic matter (mg $O_2$ /l)       |

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| $BOD_d =$       | actual concentration of suspended organic matter<br>(mg $O_2/l$ )                                                                                                 |
| $BOD_s =$       | actual concentration of suspended organic matter<br>(mg $O_2/l$ )                                                                                                 |
| $BOD_b =$       | actual amount of sedimentated organic matter at the bottom (mg<br>$O_2/l$ )                                                                                       |
| $K_{d3} =$      | degradation constant for dissolved organic matter at 20°C (1/day).<br>Normally suspended $BOD_s$ will have a slower degradation rate than<br>dissolved $BOD_d$ .  |
| $\theta_{d3} =$ | Arrhenius temperature coefficient (dissolved BOD)                                                                                                                 |
| $K_{s3} =$      | degradation constant for suspended organic matter at 20 °C<br>(1/day). Normally suspended $BOD_s$ will have a slower degradation<br>rate than dissolved $BOD_d$ . |
| $\theta_{s3} =$ | Arrhenius temperature coefficient (suspended BOD)                                                                                                                 |
| $K_{b3} =$      | degradation constant for sedimentated organic matter (1/day)                                                                                                      |
| $\theta_{b3} =$ | Arrhenius temperature coefficient (sedimentated BOD)                                                                                                              |
| $S_1 =$         | resuspension rate for $BOD_b$ (m/day)                                                                                                                             |
| $K_s =$         | sedimentation rate for $BOD_s$ (m/day)                                                                                                                            |
| $H =$           | water depth (m)                                                                                                                                                   |

The processes involved in the mass balances for organic matter is derived from the descriptions of the processes in the oxygen balance except for the description of resuspension and sedimentation of BOD, that is described in 3.2.3.

### 3.3 Ammonium

#### 3.3.1 Ammonium balance

The balance describing the ammonium/ammonia mass balance:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dNH_3}{dt} = & \\ & + \text{ammonium yield from BOD decay} \\ & - \text{transformation of ammonium tonitrate} \\ & - \text{ammonium uptake by plants} \\ & - \text{ammonium uptake by bacteria} \\ & + \text{heterotroph respiration} \end{aligned}$$

#### 3.3.2 Ammonium processes

##### BOD decay

##### One fraction of BOD

ammonium yield from BOD decay =

$$Y_{BOD} \cdot K_3 \cdot BOD \cdot \theta_3^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{DO}{DO + HS\_BOD}$$

### Three fractions of BOD

ammonium yield from BOD decay =

$$\begin{aligned}
 &+ Y_b \cdot K_{b3} \cdot BOD_b \cdot \theta_{b3}^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{DO}{DO + HS\_BOD} \\
 &+ Y_d \cdot K_{d3} \cdot BOD_d \cdot \theta_{d3}^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{DO}{DO + HS\_BOD} \\
 &+ Y_s \cdot K_{s3} \cdot BOD_s \cdot \theta_{s3}^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{DO}{DO + HS\_BOD}
 \end{aligned}$$

## Nitrification

The transformation of ammonium to nitrate is described by the following expression:

transformation of ammonium to nitrate =

$$K_4 \cdot NH_3 \cdot \theta_4^{(T-20)}$$

## Uptake by plants

ammonium uptake by plants =

$$UN_p \cdot (P - R_1 \cdot \theta_1^{(T-20)}) \quad (\text{level 1-3})$$

ammonium uptake by plants =

$$UN_p \cdot (P - R_1 \cdot \theta_1^{(T-20)}) \cdot F(N, P) \quad (\text{level 4})$$

## Uptake of ammonium by bacteria

### One fraction of BOD

ammonium uptake by bacteria =

$$UN_b \cdot K_3 \cdot BOD \cdot \theta_3^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{NH_3}{NH_3 + HS\_NH_3}$$

### Three fractions of BOD

ammonium uptake by bacteria =

$$\begin{aligned}
 &UN_b \cdot K_{b3} \cdot BOD_b \cdot \theta_{b3}^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{NH_3}{NH_3 + HS\_NH_3} \\
 &+ UN_b \cdot K_{d3} \cdot BOD_d \cdot \theta_{d3}^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{NH_3}{NH_3 + HS\_NH_3} \\
 &+ UN_b \cdot K_{s3} \cdot BOD_s \cdot \theta_{s3}^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{NH_3}{NH_3 + HS\_NH_3}
 \end{aligned}$$

## Heterotroph respiration

heterotroph respiration =



$$UN_p \cdot R_2 \cdot \theta_2^{(T-20)}$$

### 3.3.3 Explanation to ammonium processes

|               |                                                                     |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| $UN_p$ =      | ammonia uptake by plants (mg N/mg $O_2$ )                           |
| $UN_b$ =      | ammonia uptake by bacteria (mg N/mg BOD)                            |
| $Y_b$ =       | nitrogen content in sedimented organic matter (mg $NH_3$ -N/mg BOD) |
| $Y_d$ =       | nitrogen content in dissolved organic matter (mg $NH_3$ -N/mg BOD)  |
| $Y_s$ =       | nitrogen content in suspended organic matter (mg $NH_3$ -N/mg BOD)  |
| $F(N,P)$ =    | nutrient limitation on the photosynthesis                           |
| $HS_{NH_3}$ = | halfsaturation concentration for N uptake by bacteria (mg N/l)      |

The BOD decay term equals the BOD decay term in the oxygen and BOD balances, except for the yield factor Y. Y is the amount of ammonium which is released at BOD decay.  $K_4$  is the nitrification rate. During the night time the ammonium uptake by plants is assumed to be constant. See also explanation to oxygen processes.

## 3.4 Nitrite

### 3.4.1 Nitrite balance

Only relevant when nutrients with or without chlorophyll is selected:  
The reactions influencing the nitrite mass balance are given by:

$$\frac{dNO_2}{dt} = \begin{aligned} &+ \text{transformation of ammonia to nitrite} \\ &- \text{transformation of nitrite to nitrate} \end{aligned}$$

### 3.4.2 Nitrite processes

$$\text{transformation of ammonia to nitrite} = K_4 \cdot NH_3 \cdot \theta_4^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{DO}{DO + HS_{nitr}}$$

$$\text{transformation of nitrite to nitrate} = K_5 \cdot NO_2 \cdot \theta_5^{(T-20)}$$

### 3.4.3 Explanation to nitrate processes

|               |                                                                    |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| $NH_3$ =      | concentration of ammonia (mg/l)                                    |
| $K_4$ =       | nitrification rate at 20°C (1/day)                                 |
| $\theta_4$ =  | temperature coefficient for nitrification                          |
| $HS_{nitr}$ = | halfsaturation concentration for nitrification (mg $O_2$ /l)       |
| $NO_2$ =      | concentration of nitrite (mg/l)                                    |
| $K_5$ =       | specific rate for conversion of nitrite to nitrate at 20°C (1/day) |
| $\theta_5$ =  | temperature coefficient for conversion of nitrite to nitrate       |

## 3.5 Nitrate

### 3.5.1 Nitrate balance

Only relevant when the option nutrients with or without chlorophyll is selected:  
The reactions influencing the nitrite mass balance are given by:

$$\frac{dNO_3}{dt} = + \text{transformation of nitrite to nitrate} \\ - \text{denitrification}$$

### 3.5.2 Nitrate processes

$$\text{transformation of nitrite to nitrate} = \\ K_5 \cdot NO_2 \cdot \theta_5^{(T-20)}$$

$$\text{denitrification} = \\ K_6 \cdot NO_3 \cdot \theta_6^{(T-20)}$$

### 3.5.3 Explanation to nitrate expressions

$K_6$ = denitrification rate (1/day)  
 $\theta_6$ = Arrhenius temperature coefficient

The nitrification term is the same as that described under nitrite processes.

## 3.6 Phosphorus

### 3.6.1 Phosphorus balance

BOD contain phosphorus. When BOD is degraded this phosphorus is released as orthophosphate.

Taking into account the uptake of orthophosphate in the production of algae the equation governing the orthophosphate concentration reads:

$$\frac{dPO_4}{dt} = \\ + \text{phosphorus yield from BOD decay} \\ - \text{phosphorus uptake by plants} \\ - \text{phosphorus uptake by bacteria} \\ - \text{heterotrophic respiration}$$

### 3.6.2 Phosphorus processes

#### Phosphorus yield from BOD decay

##### One fraction of BOD

Phosphorus yield from BOD decay =

$$K_3 \cdot BOD \cdot Y_2 \cdot \theta_3^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{PO_4}{PO_4 + HS\_PO_4}$$

##### Three fractions of BOD

Phosphorus yield from BOD decay =

$$\begin{aligned}
 &+ K_{b3} \cdot BOD_b \cdot Y_{b2} \cdot \theta_{b3}^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{PO_4}{PO_4 + HS\_PO_4} \text{ (degradation of BOD}_b\text{)} \\
 &+ K_{d3} \cdot BOD_d \cdot Y_{d2} \cdot \theta_{d3}^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{PO_4}{PO_4 + HS\_PO_4} \text{ (degradation of BOD}_d\text{)} \\
 &+ K_{s3} \cdot BOD_s \cdot Y_{s2} \cdot \theta_{s3}^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{PO_4}{PO_4 + HS\_PO_4} \text{ (degradation of BOD}_s\text{)}
 \end{aligned}$$

#### Uptake by plants

phosphorus uptake by plants =

$$UP_p \cdot (P - R_1 \cdot \theta_1^{(T-20)}) \cdot F(N, P)$$

#### Uptake by bacteria

##### One fraction of BOD

phosphorus uptake by bacteria =

$$UP_b \cdot K_3 \cdot BOD \cdot \theta_3^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{PO_4}{PO_4 + HS\_PO_4}$$

##### Three fractions of BOD

phosphorus uptake by bacteria =

$$\begin{aligned}
 &+ UP_b \cdot K_{b3} \cdot BOD_b \cdot \theta_{b3}^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{PO_4}{PO_4 + HS\_PO_4} \\
 &+ UP_b \cdot K_{d3} \cdot BOD_d \cdot \theta_{d3}^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{PO_4}{PO_4 + HS\_PO_4} \\
 &+ UP_b \cdot K_{s3} \cdot BOD_s \cdot \theta_{s3}^{(T-20)} \cdot \frac{PO_4}{PO_4 + HS\_PO_4}
 \end{aligned}$$

#### Heterotrophic respiration

Heterotrophic respiration =

$$UP_p \cdot R_2 \cdot \theta_2^{(T-20)}$$

### 3.6.3 Explanation to phosphorus processes

|               |                                                                           |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| $UP_p$ =      | phosphorus uptake by plants (mg P/mg O <sub>2</sub> )                     |
| $UP_b$ =      | phosphorus uptake by bacteria (mg P/mg BOD)                               |
| $Y_{b2}$ =    | phosphorus content in sedimented organic matter (mg P/mg O <sub>2</sub> ) |
| $Y_{d2}$ =    | phosphorus content in dissolved organic matter (mg P/mg O <sub>2</sub> )  |
| $Y_{s2}$ =    | phosphorus content in suspended organic matter (mg P/mg O <sub>2</sub> )  |
| $F(N,P)$ =    | nutrient limitation on the photosynthesis                                 |
| $HS_{PO_4}$ = | halfsaturation concentration for phosphorus uptake by bacteria (mg P/l)   |

## 3.7 Chlorophyll-a

### 3.7.1 Chlorophyll-a balance

The production of chlorophyll-a is assumed proportional to the carbon production and hereby also to the oxygen production.

A constant chlorophyll-a to carbon ratio is assumed. Furthermore, death and sedimentation of chlorophyll are included.

$$\frac{dCHL}{dt} =$$

+ netto production of chlorophyll  
- death of chlorophyll  
- sedimentation of chlorophyll

$$\frac{dCHL}{dt} =$$

+  $(P - R_1 \cdot \theta_1^{(T-20)}) \cdot K_{11} \cdot F(N, P) \cdot K_{10}$   
-  $K_8 \cdot CHL$   
-  $K_9 / H \cdot CHL$

where

|            |                                                                    |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| $CHL$ =    | the chlorophyll-a concentration (mg/l)                             |
| $K_{10}$ = | chlorophyll-a to carbon ratio (mg CHL/mg carbon)                   |
| $K_8$ =    | death rate of chlorophyll-a (1/day)                                |
| $K_9$ =    | settling rate of chlorophyll-a (m/day)                             |
| $K_{11}$ = | carbon to oxygen ratio at primary production (mg carbon/mg oxygen) |

## 3.8 Temperature processes

Details about the temperature model for MIKE 3 can be seen in the Scientific Documentation of the Advection-Dispersion Module.

The temperature model in MIKE 21 incorporates an exchange rate to account for the net surface heat transfer at the interface with the air.:

$$dT / dt = -(E(T - A)) / (STC \cdot H)$$

where

|      |                                                                        |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| E=   | surface heat exchange coefficient (Watts/m <sup>2</sup> K)             |
| T=   | water temperature (°C)                                                 |
| A=   | ambient air temperature (°C)                                           |
| STC= | specific thermal capacity of sea water (Mega-joules/ m <sup>3</sup> K) |
| H=   | water depth (m)                                                        |

The user defines the ambient air and water temperature for the simulation. The water depth is input from the HD-module.

### 3.9 Bacterial processes

The WQ templates can describe the spreading and fate of total coliforms and faecal coliforms.

The die-off of bacteria is described by:

$$\frac{d C_F}{dt} = -K_{dF} \cdot C_F$$

where

|                   |                                                |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| C <sub>F</sub> =  | concentration of faecal coliforms (1/100 ml)   |
| K <sub>dF</sub> = | decay coefficient for faecal coliforms (1/day) |

The decay coefficient is dependent on the light conditions as well as the salinity and water temperature.

Light conditions in the water column is the most important factor affecting the decay coefficient and is described using Beer's law:

$$f_z = f_o \cdot e^{-\mu \cdot z}$$



## 4 Data Requirements

- Basic Model Parameters
  - Model Grid size and extent
  - Time step and length of simulation
  - Type of output required and its frequency
- Bathymetry and Hydrodynamic Input
- Combined Advection-Dispersion Model
  - Dispersion coefficients
- Initial Conditions
  - Concentration of parameters
- Boundary Conditions
  - Concentration of parameters
- Pollution Sources
  - Discharge magnitudes and concentration of parameters
- Process rates
  - Size of coefficients governing the process rates. Only some of these coefficients can be determined by calibration. Others will be based on literature values or found from actual measurements and laboratory tests.





## 5 List of Literature

Flonery, W.H., B.P. Tenholsky, S.A. & Vitterling, W.T. **Numerical Recipes**. Cambridge University Press (1986).

Banks, R.B., F.F. Herrera. **Effect of wind and rain on surface reaeration**. J.Env.Eng.Div., ASCE 103, June 1977, pp. 489-504.

Evison, L.M. **Comparative studies on the survival of indicator organisms and pathogens in fresh and sea water**. Wat.Sci.Tech., Vol. 20, 1986, pp. 1051-1054.

Gameson, A.L.H. **Investigations of sewage discharges to some British coastal waters**. TR 239. Water Research Centre, Brecks, UK, 1986.

Malmgren-Hansen, A., P. Mortensen, B. Moller. **Modelling of oxygen depletion in coastal waters**. Wat.Sci.Tech., Vol. 17, 1984, pp. 967-978.

Henriksen, K. et al. **Rates of nitrification, distribution of nitrifying bacteria and nitrate fluxes in different types of sediments from Danish Waters**. Mar.Biol. 61, pp. 299-304, 1981.

Kasper, H.F. **Denitrification in marine sediments: measurement of capacity and estimate of in situ rate**. Appl.Environ.Microbiol., Vol. 43, No. 3, 1982, pp. 522-527.

