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Dynamic Model of a Municipal Wastewater Stabilization Pond in the Arctic

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Waste stabilisation ponds (WSPs) are the method of choice for sewage treatment in most arctic communities because they can operate in extreme climate conditions, they require a relatively modest investment, they are passive and therefore easy and inexpensive to operate and maintain. However, most arctic WSPs are currently limited in their ability to remove carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD), total suspended solids (TSS) and ammonia-nitrogen. An arctic WSP differs from a 'southern' WSP in the way it is operated and in the conditions under which it operates. Consequently, the existing WSP models cannot be used to gain better understanding of the arctic lagoon performance. This work describes an Arctic-specific WSP model. The model accounts for both aerobic and anaerobic degradation pathways of organic materials and considers the periodic nature of WSP operation as well as the partial or complete freeze of the water in the WSP during winter. A multi-layer approach was taken in the model development, which significantly simplified and expedited model solution, enabling efficient model calibration to available field data.

Keywords: Arctic, facultative lagoon, WSP, dynamic model

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24 1. INTRODUCTION

25 Waste stabilisation ponds (WSPs, also called “sewage lagoons” or “facultative lagoons”)
26 are used for secondary treatment of municipal sewage by many small communities around the
27 globe because they require a relatively modest investment, they are easy and inexpensive to
28 operate and maintain by locally available personnel. WSPs are the method of choice for sewage
29 treatment in most Canadian arctic communities because they can operate in extreme climate
30 conditions. However, most arctic WSPs are currently limited in their ability to remove
31 carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD), total suspended solids (TSS) and ammonia-
32 nitrogen.

33 There are some fundamental differences between WSPs operated in the Arctic and those
34 operated elsewhere. Whereas in non-Arctic settings the lagoon is always full (constant water
35 volume) and is operated as a flow-through system, the extreme sub-zero temperatures in the
36 Arctic winter do not allow for any outflow of effluent, as this would freeze instantly. Moreover,
37 as the sewage in the arctic lagoon is ice-capped during most of the year, a low organic removal
38 rate can be expected during this cold period. As a result, the typical Arctic WSP has a volume
39 designed to accommodate an entire year of sewage production with the sewage flowing into the
40 WSP during the year. The WSP is typically emptied (decanted) in late summer to early fall (in
41 some locations WSPs are decanted slowly during the entire summer). After decanting, the WSP
42 is ready to receive the next year’s sewage production. These conditions make all existing WSP
43 models unsuitable for simulating Arctic WSPs.

44 Despite the simplicity of WSP design and the practical experience gained from its use for
45 several decades all around the world, a complete understanding of all the physical, chemical and
46 biological processes involved is still an ongoing area of research [*Sah et al.*, 2012]. Some kinetic

47 and stoichiometric parameters for the biochemical processes can be assumed from well-
48 established models used in other domains, e.g. ADM1 [Batstone *et al.*, 2002] and ASM3 [Henze
49 *et al.*, 2000]. Current WSP models concentrate on describing only some of the complex
50 interactions occurring in such systems. Many of the existing models focus on hydrodynamics for
51 a better WSP geometry design in 1D, 2D or 3D [Aldana *et al.*, 2005; Martínez *et al.*, 2014; Sah
52 *et al.*, 2011; Salter *et al.*, 2000; Sweeney *et al.*, 2003], whilst others assume simplified hydraulic
53 conditions (completely mixed or plug flow) and focus on the biochemical processes for a better
54 understanding of the biodegradation processes and effluent quality [Beran and Kargi, 2005;
55 Dochain *et al.*, 2003; Houweling *et al.*, 2005; Peng *et al.*, 2007]. Other models still, focus
56 primarily on describing the sedimentation mechanisms of the particulates [Jupsin and Vasel,
57 2007; Toprak, 1994] or the daily [Kayombo *et al.*, 2000] or seasonal [Banks *et al.*, 2003;
58 Chaturvedi *et al.*, 2014] oxygen dynamics. Temperature profiles have also been the object of
59 study and modeling in WSP operated in moderate climates [Gu and Stefan, 1995; Sweeney *et al.*,
60 2005]. More recently, the coupling of hydrodynamic equations with biochemical processes
61 produced a complex 3D model [Sah *et al.*, 2011] that provides a detailed component distribution
62 in the lagoon. However, such 3D models are difficult to calibrate, given existing scarce
63 experimental data, often lacking measurements at different lagoon depths and locations.

64 The literature reflects scant information with regard to calibration and validation of
65 models with full-scale WSP data [Sah *et al.*, 2012]. In the Arctic, this dearth of WSP field data is
66 even greater due to extreme winter conditions and remoteness of WSP locations [Ragush *et al.*,
67 2015]. The formation of a thick ice cover in Arctic lagoons for 6 to 8 months of the year
68 (depending on location) increases modeling complexity as it affects all physical and biological
69 mechanisms of COD removal. This study attempts to close the gap by developing a dynamic

70 model of a WSP, which accounts for periodic nature of lagoon operation in the Arctic and
71 considers the impact of ice cover on WSP performance.

72

73 **2. MODEL FORMULATION**

74 **2.1 Modeling approach**

75 The proposed model uses a multi-layer approach to describe the existence of several
76 distinct zones in a facultative lagoon. The multi-layer approach to modeling was successfully
77 applied in the past to various biological systems with significant oxygen, carbon source, or
78 biomass gradients [*Rauch et al.*, 1999; *Tartakovsky and Guiot*, 1997]. Accordingly, the model
79 assumes the existence of three distinct layers at any given time, each assumed to be completely
80 mixed. In the relatively warm period in the summer, the top layer is assumed to be aerobic liquid,
81 the middle layer anaerobic liquid, and the bottom layer is sludge, assumed to always be under
82 anaerobic conditions. The depth of the aerobic layer is expected to be restricted to 20 – 50 cm
83 due to limited oxygen penetration (no forced aeration) and fast oxygen consumption by aerobic
84 bacteria [*Hunik et al.*, 1994; *Stephenson et al.*, 1999; *Tartakovsky et al.*, 2006].

85 In the cold period the WSP is assumed to be completely ice-capped, which means that
86 there is no oxygen flow from the air into the liquid (the depletion of oxygen in the liquid due to
87 icing is nearly instantaneous). Consequently, there is no aerobic layer during the cold season.
88 The anaerobic layer of liquid can become partially or completely frozen, depending on ambient
89 temperature. The sludge layer is assumed to remain in a liquid state due to its depth as well as
90 due to exothermic microbial activities such as hydrolysis of solids and anaerobic biodegradation
91 of soluble organics, which result in heat production and help to prevent the sludge layer from
92 freezing.

93 Figure 1 shows a schematic diagram of the layers considered during the warm and cold
94 periods. During the warm season the depth (or thickness) of the aerobic layer (z^{AE}) is considered
95 to be constant, while the depth of the anaerobic (z^{AN}) and the sludge (z^{SL}) layers increases as a
96 result of the daily addition of raw wastewater.

97 **2.2 Icecap modeling**

98 A separate model was developed to estimate the thickness of ice as a function of the
99 ambient temperature profiles (degree days). This model was developed based on work by Ashton
100 et al [Ashton, 1986; 1989] with modifications to account for the heat flux from the relatively
101 warm sewage inflow to the ice layer and for the insulating properties of snow cover. A detailed
102 description of the icecap model is provided in Supplementary Information (Appendix A). The
103 direct coupling of the icecap model to the multi-layer lagoon model would have resulted in more
104 complex computations and a slower combined model with a marginal improvement in accuracy.
105 Instead, the icecap model is used to estimate the time at which the icecap begins to form, the
106 time at which it reaches maximum thickness, and the time at which it completely melts. The
107 maximum icecap thickness is also estimated. These estimated values are subsequently used in the
108 lagoon model under the simplifying assumption of constant rate of freeze (ice growth) and
109 constant rate of ice thaw.

110 **2.3 Biodegradation modeling**

111 In formulating the biodegradation, several simplifying assumptions were made towards
112 reducing model integration time and facilitating model calibration. Although ADM1 and ASM3
113 models consider multiple microbial populations, in the absence of Arctic-specific data on the
114 distribution of microbial populations, the proposed model only aerobic heterotrophic ($X_{B,H}$) and
115 anaerobic ($X_{B,AN}$) microorganisms. These populations are assumed to be present in all layers.

116 Also, only readily biodegradable soluble (S_s) and particulate (X_s) organic materials are
 117 considered in the material balances, i.e., the current version of the model does not include
 118 nitrogen and phosphorus balances.

119 The aerobic and anaerobic liquid layers are assumed to have a saturation (maximal
 120 attainable) concentration (X_{max}) of suspended solids. At the end of each day of model integration,
 121 the solids in excess of this saturation concentration are assumed to settle directly into the sludge
 122 layer. Another simplifying assumption is that removal (or settling) of solids from the aerobic and
 123 anaerobic layers to the sludge layer is instantaneous. Also, all dissolved components are assumed
 124 to be uniformly distributed between the layers (instant mixing assumption). The instantaneous
 125 settling and mixing assumptions can be justified by the fact that the lagoon performance is
 126 simulated over a period of one year. Therefore the settling and mixing processes occurring at a
 127 scale of several hours or even days may be considered instantaneous without any significant loss
 128 of accuracy.

129 Material balances and kinetic equations describing the hydrolysis of particulate organic
 130 materials and the growth of $X_{B,H}$ and $X_{B,AN}$ microbial populations on soluble organic materials
 131 were adapted from ASM3 [Henze *et al.*, 2000]. In particular, multiplicative Monod kinetic
 132 equations are used to describe aerobic and anaerobic (anoxic) growth of heterotrophic biomass,
 133 which is dependent on readily available dissolved substrate (S_s) and dissolved oxygen (S_o)
 134 concentrations, i.e.

$$135 \quad \mu_H = \mu_{max,H} \left(\frac{S_s}{K_{S,H} + S_s} \right) \left(\frac{S_o}{K_{O,H} + S_o} \right) X_{B,H} + \mu_{max,H} \left(\frac{S_s}{K_{S,H} + S_s^i} \right) \left(\frac{K_{O,I}}{K_{O,I} + S_o} \right) X_{B,H}, \quad (1)$$

136 where μ_H is the specific growth rate of the aerobic heterotrophic microorganisms, $\mu_{max,H}$ is the
 137 maximum specific growth rate of the heterotrophs, $K_{S,H}$ and $K_{O,H}$ are the half saturation
 138 constants, and $K_{O,I}$ is the inhibition constant.

139 The specific growth rate of anaerobic microorganisms (μ_{AN}) is described as

$$140 \quad \mu_{AN} = \mu_{max,AN} \left(\frac{S_S}{K_{S,AN} + S_S} \right) \left(\frac{K_{O,I}}{K_{O,I} + S_O} \right) \left(\frac{K_{AN,I}}{K_{AN,I} + X_{B,AN}} \right) X_{B,AN}, \quad (2)$$

141 where $\mu_{max,AN}$ is the maximum specific growth rate of the anaerobes, $K_{S,AN}$ is the half-saturation
142 constant of anaerobic microorganisms and $K_{AN,I}$ is the self-inhibition constant.

143 The rate of hydrolysis of particulate materials plays an important role in determining the
144 outcome of wastewater treatment, as it often represents the slowest biodegradation step. The
145 following expression, adapted from ASM3 model, is used to describe the specific hydrolysis rate
146 (r_h) in the proposed model, where both aerobic and anaerobic populations contribute to the
147 hydrolysis:

$$148 \quad r_h = k_{h,H} \left(\frac{X_S^i / (X_{B,H}^i + X_{B,AN}^i)}{K_{X,H} + X_S^i / (X_{B,H}^i + X_{B,AN}^i)} \right) (X_{B,H}^i + \eta X_{B,AN}^i), \quad (3)$$

149 where $k_{h,H}$ is the maximum hydrolysis rate, $k_{X,H}$ and $k_{B,H}$ are the half saturation constants of
150 hydrolysis and η is the fraction of anaerobes ($X_{B,AN}$) contributing to hydrolysis.

151 The rates of aerobic and anaerobic degradation of soluble organic materials are assumed
152 to be proportional to the growth rates of the corresponding microbial populations. A detailed
153 description of these equations and the material balances of the model are provided in
154 Supplementary Information (Appendix B).

155

156 2.4 Numerical methods

157 At each moment in time the performance of the WSP is described by the COD
158 concentration in the lagoon (total - COD_t , soluble - COD_s and particulate - COD_p) calculated as

$$159 \quad COD_p = \frac{1}{V_t} \sum_i (X_S^i + X_I^i) V^i \quad (4)$$

$$160 \quad COD_s = \frac{1}{V_t} \sum_i (S_s^i + S_j^i) V^i \quad (5)$$

$$161 \quad COD_t = COD_s + COD_p \quad (6)$$

162 where V_i is the combined volume of all layers (volume of the lagoon content), i is the
 163 layer index, $i = AE, IC, AN, SL$ corresponding to the aerobic, ice, anaerobic, and sludge layers.

164 First-order differential equations, corresponding to the model material balances, are
 165 numerically solved using *ODE45* function of Matlab R2010 (Mathworks, Natick, MA, USA).
 166 Model parameters are estimated using Matlab's unconstrained optimization function *fminsearch*,
 167 to minimize the root mean squared error (RMSE) between estimated and observed values of
 168 total, soluble and particulate COD concentrations:

$$169 \quad RMSE_{Tot} = \sqrt{\sum_k \left(\frac{1}{N_k} \sum_{j=1}^{N_k} (y_{k,j}^{obs} - y_{k,j}^{mod})^2 \right)}. \quad (7)$$

170 Here, N_k is the total number of measurements; y^{obs} represents experimentally measured (or
 171 observed) values; y^{mod} represents the corresponding model output (estimated) values; k is the
 172 index corresponding to COD components, $k = \{COD_t, COD_s, COD_p\}$.

173 As will be described later, the sensitivity of model results to parameter values was used in
 174 the calibration/validation process. The relative sensitivity s_k of each model parameter θ with
 175 respect to each output variable y_k was computed as:

$$176 \quad s_k = \frac{\partial y_k}{\partial \theta_j} \cdot \frac{\theta_j}{y_k} \quad (8)$$

177 where $k = \{COD_t, COD_s, COD_p\}$ and j is the parameter's index.

178

179 3. MODEL CALIBRATION AND VALIDATION

180 The proposed model was calibrated and validated using data collected at three arctic
 181 lagoons situated in the hamlets of Pond Inlet, Gjoa Haven, and Kugaruuk (Nunavut, Canada).

182 The three are engineered lagoons, with surface areas (when full) of about 40,000, 20,000, 13,000
183 m², and average depths (when full) of about 1.6, 3 and 3 m, respectively.

184 Available measurements at these lagoons included characterization of raw sewage and
185 samples withdrawn from the lagoons (typically near the discharge point) during one year. Only
186 two to three sampling campaigns per year were carried out at each location, typically in early or
187 mid-summer as well as late-summer or early fall, towards decanting. Information provided
188 through these campaigns include total and soluble COD and/or BOD concentration, and total
189 suspended solid (TSS) concentration. If total COD concentration values were unavailable, they
190 were estimated using BOD₅ measurements by assuming a COD to BOD₅ ratio of 2 (i.e., 1 mg L⁻¹
191 of BOD₅ is equivalent to 2 mg L⁻¹ of COD). Pond Inlet lagoon characterization results were
192 taken from [*Ragush et al.*, 2015], while measurements at Gjoa Haven, and Kugaruuk were
193 provided by Environment Canada (unpublished data corresponding to lagoon characterization
194 from September 2009 to September 2010). Also, daily temperatures, precipitation (rain and
195 snow) and depth of snow on the ground at each location were obtained from the publicly
196 available Environment Canada website for the corresponding years and used for icecap
197 formation/melting dates and thickness computations.

198

199 **3.1 Icecap formation**

200 The icecap formation and decay model described in Appendix A was used to estimate the
201 beginning and end of ice formation as well as the icecap thickness. Figure 2 shows the resulting
202 ice thickness profiles calculated for the Pond Inlet, Gjoa Haven, and Kugaruuk lagoons in
203 Nunavut, Canada, based on the temperature profiles from September 2009 to September 2010. In
204 the fall of 2009 icecap started forming around September 15th to September 20th (relatively soon

205 after decant) in all three locations. Consequently, September 15th was considered as $t = 0$ (see
206 Figure 2) for the model calibration calculations. The calculations of ice thickness were carried
207 out for 350 days. Water discharge was assumed to take place between days 350 – 365 (not shown
208 in Figure 2) and effective average snow cover thickness was assumed to be 50% of the “snow on
209 the ground” values provided by Environment Canada data.

210 As can be seen from Figure 2, at all three locations a near constant ice formation rate is
211 estimated, resulting in a linear increase of ice thickness up to about day 200. Subsequently, a
212 constant ice thickness is estimated between days 200-270, followed by a period of relatively fast
213 thaw that culminates with ice-free surface at about day 295. It should be noted that only 50% of
214 the accumulated snow on the ground (as recorded by Environment-Canada) was effectively
215 considered for heat-flux calculations, as a portion of the snow was assumed to have been blown
216 away due to winds.

217 As mentioned earlier, the ice-formation model was not directly coupled with the lagoon
218 model. Rather, these simulation results were used to determine ice formation parameters (start of
219 ice formation and thaw as well as constant ice formation and thaw rates), which were used as
220 inputs for the multi-layer lagoon model.

221

222 **3.2 Biodegradation kinetics**

223 Initially, model parameters related to aerobic heterotrophic activity were taken from ASM3
224 [Henze *et al.*, 2000], while degradation rates under anaerobic conditions were assumed from
225 [Lettinga *et al.*, 2001]. Also, initial value of the oxygen transfer coefficient (k_L) was adapted
226 from the work of Chaturvedi *et al.* [Chaturvedi *et al.*, 2014], assuming wind speeds between 1
227 and 8 m s^{-1} and an average water temperature of $10 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. Table 1 provides the values of all model

228 parameters and Tables 2 and 3 describe influent wastewater composition and initial conditions
229 used for model integration.

230 Considering the rather large number of model parameters and the limited number of available
231 measurements (only 2-3 sets of COD and TSS measurements were available for each lagoon,
232 with no biomass measurements at all), it was deemed best to identify a small subset of model
233 parameters with the largest influence on model outputs and subsequently calibrate the model
234 using only this limited subset, while all other parameters are kept constant at values obtained
235 from the literature. The most influential parameters were identified through a sensitivity analysis,
236 using Eq. 8. Table 4 summarizes results of this sensitivity analysis. Based on these results, a
237 subset of three parameters was selected for estimation, namely the maximum specific growth rate
238 of anaerobic microorganisms ($\mu_{max,AN}$), the rate of solid organic matter hydrolysis (k_h), and the
239 oxygen transfer coefficient (k_L).

240 Parameter estimation (model calibration) was performed using data of two lagoons, Pond
241 Inlet and Gjoa Haven, whereby values of parameters $\mu_{max,an}$, k_h , and k_L that minimized RMSE
242 (Eq. 7) were identified (all other parameters were held constant). Figure 3 provides the resulting
243 profiles of total, soluble, and particulate CODs for the Pond Inlet and Gjoa Haven lagoons with
244 the calibrated parameters. Table 5 summarizes the estimated values of these parameters. The
245 model was subsequently validated by applying the estimated parameter values to the Kugaruuk
246 lagoon. Figure 4 illustrates a comparison between estimated and observed values of COD and
247 TSS measurements in the Kugaaruk lagoon.

248 It can be seen that in all cases the model predicted a COD accumulation during winter
249 months followed by a relatively fast COD degradation during the ice-free period. While the
250 predicted trends qualitatively agreed with the observed values, the RMSE value for Kugaruuk

251 validation was higher (as expected) than for the lagoons used for parameter estimation (Table 5).
252 It was nonetheless deemed that the model showed a reasonable capability to correctly predict the
253 measured trends in total and dissolved COD concentrations.

254 As mentioned earlier, the small number of measured data available for calibration
255 presented a significant challenge to the confidence with which the results could be evaluated.
256 Consequently, an additional calibration method was undertaken whereby the estimation
257 procedure was repeated for each lagoon individually. In this case however, the oxygen transfer
258 coefficient was kept at the estimated value of 6.4 m d^{-1} , while $\mu_{max,an}$ and $k_{h,H}$ values were re-
259 estimated for each lagoon. As shown in Table 5, this approach resulted in smaller RMSE values
260 and also demonstrated the differences between the lagoons in terms of $\mu_{max,an}$ and $k_{h,H}$ values.
261 Since parameter sensitivity analysis showed high impact of these parameters on the model
262 outputs, the differences between the lagoons are likely represented by the differences between
263 lagoon-specific values.

264

265 **4. DISCUSSION**

266 While the dearth of calibration data limits the confidence in the accuracy of the results,
267 some important, and not altogether expected, trends on the performance of facultative sewage
268 lagoons in the Arctic can be discerned from the model outputs. For example, a clear trend
269 emerges, whereby soluble COD concentration increases consistently during winter months
270 (Figures 3, 4). This can be explained by the fact that during winter, particulate COD settles and
271 continuously undergoes hydrolysis in the sludge layer of the lagoon, albeit at a low rate, while at
272 the same time a relatively slow anaerobic degradation acts to reduce soluble COD concentration.
273 When the icecap melts away, fast reduction in soluble COD concentration can be observed, as

274 aerobic activity initiates and increases in the top layer. The aerobic growth of suspended
275 heterotrophic biomass is accompanied by biomass settling, since the suspended biomass
276 concentration in the aerobic layer is limited by the maximum attainable density (X_{max}). The
277 aerobic biomass in the sludge layer contributes to hydrolysis of solids according to Eq. (3).
278 Notably, the hydrolysis rate is not limited by the absence of oxygen in the sludge. As a result,
279 the overall rate of hydrolysis accelerates during summer.

280 Another important observation can be made that although the degradation of organic
281 materials under anaerobic conditions is slow (compared to aerobic degradation), the anaerobic
282 activity provides a significant contribution to the overall COD removal in the lagoon due to the
283 fact that this activity takes place throughout the year and also due to the high sludge density. This
284 can be further demonstrated by comparing different scenarios of COD degradation in the shallow
285 Pond Inlet lagoon (Figure 5A) and the deep Kugaruuk lagoon (Figure 5B). In one scenario the
286 COD degradation is simulated with the anaerobic rate of COD degradation set to zero (only
287 aerobes), while in the other scenario the aerobic degradation rate is set to zero (only anaerobes).
288 It is clear that the absence of anaerobic biodegradation throughout the winter results in COD
289 accumulation in both lagoons. If zero anaerobic activity is assumed, the rate of aerobic
290 degradation required to achieve observed COD concentrations at the end of summer would have
291 to be increased to an unrealistically high value of approximately 10 d^{-1} , which is not likely given
292 that water temperature in the lagoons does not typically exceed 10-12°C during the summer.
293 Clearly, only a combination of both aerobic and anaerobic degradation activities results in the
294 COD profiles matching the field measurements.

295 Interestingly, the model predicts different COD profiles during winter for each lagoon.
296 Pond Inlet lagoon is relatively shallow (about 1.6 m average depth when full), in which the ice

297 thickness can reach a maximum of about 1.4 m (Figure 2). This results in an expected gradual
298 increase of total and soluble COD concentrations throughout the winter due to the absence of
299 biological activity in the ice layer. Although, anaerobic degradation continues in the sludge layer,
300 it is not sufficient to considerably reduce soluble CODs (Figure 3). This prediction agrees well
301 with the high COD value measured at the beginning of summer, right after the complete melting
302 of the ice cover. This accumulation of CODs is followed by a relatively fast COD reduction in
303 the summer. It can be seen that even in the shallow Pond Inlet lagoon anaerobic degradation
304 contributes to the overall COD removal as the comparison of different scenarios shown in Figure
305 5A indicates.

306 The predicted COD profiles in the much deeper Gjoa Haven, and Kugaruuk lagoons followed
307 a somewhat different pattern. In these lagoons a fast increase in COD concentrations is predicted
308 during the first 50-60 days, followed by slow COD concentration decrease throughout the winter,
309 due to anaerobic activity in the unfrozen anaerobic and sludge layers under the ice. The rate of
310 COD degradation is predicted to accelerate during the summer (Figures 3 and 4) due to aerobic
311 activity. It is noted (again) that only COD trends in the summer months can be confirmed by
312 observed data. Profiles of particulate CODs in all lagoons were similar with a somewhat higher
313 concentration during summer. Fast growth of aerobic bacteria in the upper oxygenated layer
314 during summer months results is accompanied by biomass settling, which contributes to
315 particulate CODs as well as to sludge accumulation, although it increases the rate of hydrolysis
316 according to model equation (3). Notably, solids hydrolysis does not require dissolved oxygen
317 and therefore proceeds in the sludge layer, where the biomass concentration is the highest.

318 A detailed look at the model outputs and the parameter estimation results suggests that
319 the difference in COD profiles can be explained by the differences in lagoon depths. The shallow

320 Pond Inlet lagoon is frozen during 260 days of the year (most of this period frozen through,
321 except the sludge layer), which significantly limits anaerobic activity during winter months.
322 During the summer months a high degradation rate is achieved due to higher ratio of aerobic to
323 anaerobic activity. In Pond Inlet, an aerobic layer thickness of 40 cm corresponds to
324 approximately 25% of this lagoon depth, while in two other lagoons the aerobic layer comprises
325 less than 15% of the total lagoon depth. Consequently, aerobic degradation provides a relatively
326 higher contribution to COD removal at the Pond Inlet lagoon compared to two other, deeper
327 lagoons (Figure 5).

328 Gradual degradation of COD throughout winter in the Gjoa Haven and Kugaruuk lagoons
329 is attributed to the existence of a liquid anaerobic layer throughout the winter months (Figures 3,
330 4), which supports anaerobic activity. As a result, a moderate COD concentration decrease is
331 predicted, despite the presence of the icecap.

332 The importance of considering anaerobic microbial activity in northern lagoons appears
333 to be an immediate conclusion, with important implications for future lagoon design. It can be
334 surmised that some combination of deep and shallow lagoons is likely to provide the best results
335 in terms of degradation of organics in the sewage. In fact, there is some evidence that multi-cell
336 lagoons in the Arctic are functioning well. It appears that a deep first lagoon is likely to provide
337 substantial anaerobic degradation in winter, while a shallow and wide second lagoon will provide
338 substantial aerobic degradation in summer.

339 Another important consideration in evaluating Arctic lagoon performance could be
340 related to the contribution of algae blooms to COD removal. While the current version of the
341 model does not consider algae growth, it appears to be indirectly accounted for by the oxygen
342 transfer coefficient (k_L). During long summer days algae are expected to supply oxygen to the

343 top (aerobic) layer of the lagoon. Indeed, parameter estimation yielded a k_L value of 6.4, which is
344 somewhat higher than a range of values suggested in literature (0.9 – 6.0 m d⁻¹), as indicated in
345 Table 1. In addition to increased oxygen supply, both phototrophic and heterotrophic growth of
346 algae are likely to contribute to solids accumulation, especially after the end of summer, when
347 temperatures become lower and days become shorter, before the formation of icecap. Future
348 version of the Arctic lagoon model needs to be extended to account for this phenomenon as well
349 as for nitrogen and phosphorus removal at low temperatures.

350

351 **5. CONCLUSION**

352 This study describes a mathematical model capable of simulating the biodegradation of
353 wastewater in arctic WSPs. The model accounts for several unique features of Arctic lagoons,
354 including the periodic nature of lagoon operation and the existence of icecap for most of the
355 lagoon operation cycle. The proposed model is calibrated and validated using limited observed
356 data, obtained at three arctic lagoons. Acceptable agreement between the predicted and measured
357 COD and TSS concentration profiles was obtained. Analysis of predicted COD concentration
358 profiles suggests significant anaerobic biodegradation of organic materials throughout winter
359 months. The model can be used for analyzing and improving Arctic lagoon design.

360

361 **Acknowledgement**

362 The authors wish to acknowledge Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and in
363 particular Ms. Shirley Anne Smyth, who provided unpublished data that were invaluable for the
364 initial calibration of the model. Also Mr. Babesh Roy of the Government of Nunavut, who
365 facilitated data sharing on the Pond Inlet lagoon.

366 Notations

A	Lagoon's surface, m^2
a	Specific interfacial area, m^{-1}
BOD	Biological oxygen demand, $mg L^{-1}$
b_{AN}	Decay rate of $X_{B,AN}^*$, d^{-1}
b_H	Decay rate of $X_{B,H}^*$, d^{-1}
COD	Chemical oxygen demand, $mg L^{-1}$
CSTR	Continuous stirred tank reactor
f_P	Fraction of X_B yielding X_S , %
h	Lagoon's depth, m
$K_{AN,I}$	Self-inhibition coefficient for $X_{B,AN}$, $mg L^{-1}$
K_L	Oxygen mass transfer coefficient**, $m d^{-1}$
$K_{O,H}$	Half-saturation coefficient of S_O for $X_{B,H}$, $mg L^{-1}$
$K_{O,I}$	Inhibition coefficient of S_O for $X_{B,H}$, $mg L^{-1}$
$K_{S,AN}$	Half-saturation coefficient of S_S for $X_{B,AN}$, $mg L^{-1}$
$K_{S,H}$	Half-saturation coefficient of S_S for $X_{B,H}$, $mg L^{-1}$
$K_{X,H}$	Half-saturation coefficient of X_S for $X_{B,H}$, $mg L^{-1}$
k_h	Maximum specific hydrolysis rate*, d^{-1}
MSE	Mean squared error
q_{in}	Input flow rate, $L d^{-1}$
$q_{tr}^{i \rightarrow j}$	Transfer flow rate from layer i to layer j , $L d^{-1}$
S_O	Concentration of soluble oxygen, $mg L^{-1}$
$S_{O,max}$	Maximum value for S_O , $mg L^{-1}$
S_I	Concentration of soluble inert materials, $mg L^{-1}$
S_S	Concentration of biodegradable soluble substrate, $mg L^{-1}$
t_{ini}^{ICE}	Start of ice formation, d
t_{end}^{ICE}	End of ice thaw, d
V	Lagoon's volume, L
WSP	Wastewater stabilization pond

$X_{B,AN}$	Concentration of heterotrophic bacteria, mg L ⁻¹
$X_{B,H}$	Concentration of anaerobic bacteria, mg L ⁻¹
X_I	Concentration of particulate inerts, mg L ⁻¹
$X_{max}^{AE,AN}$	Solids saturation density in liquid, mg L ⁻¹
X_{max}^S	Solids saturation density in sludge, mg L ⁻¹
X_{max}^{IC}	Solids saturation density in ice, mg L ⁻¹
X_S	Concentration of biodegradable particulate substrate, mg L ⁻¹
$Y_{S,H}$	Yield factor of S_S for $X_{B,H}$ mg/mg
$Y_{S,AN}$	Yield factor of S_S for $X_{B,AN}$ mg/mg
$Y_{O,H}$	Yield factor of S_O for $X_{B,H}$, mg/mg
z	layer height, m
z_{max}^{AE}	Maximum thickness aerobic layer, m
z_{max}^{IC}	Maximum thickness of ice layer, m
α	Solids settling, %
Δt^{IC}	Period of ice formation/thaw, d
η_h	Correction factor for hydrolysis by $X_{B,AN}^*$
η_g	Correction factor anoxic growth $X_{B,H}$
$\mu_{max,H}$	Maximum specific growth rate of $X_{B,H}^*$, d ⁻¹
$\mu_{max,AN}$	Maximum specific growth rate of $X_{B,AN}^*$, d ⁻¹
<u>Indices</u>	
AE	Aerobic layer
AN	Anaerobic layer
end	Final
exp	Experimental values
H	Heterotrophic microbial population
h	Related to hydrolysis
I	Inert
IC	Ice layer
i or j	Any of the layers in the model

<i>in</i>	Influent
<i>ini</i>	Initial
<i>max</i>	Maximum
<i>O</i>	Oxygen, S_o , mg L ⁻¹
<i>SL</i>	Sludge layer or related to the soluble substrate
<i>sim</i>	Simulated values
<i>tr</i>	Transfer between layers

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458 **Table 1.** Values of the lagoon model parameters.

Parameter	Value	Notes	Source	Range
$\mu_{max,H}$	3 ¹	Assumed	[Henze et al., 2000]	0.6 – 13.2
$\mu_{max,AN}$	0.09 – 0.12 ¹	Calibrated	[Batstone et al., 2002] [van der Berg, 1977] [Chen and Hashimoto, 1978] [Borja et al., 2002]	0.05 – 8
b_H	0.05 ¹	Assumed	[Henze et al., 2000]	0.05-1.6
b_{AN}	0.02 ¹	Assumed	[Batstone et al., 2002]	-
$K_{S,H}$	20	Assumed	[Henze et al., 2000]	5-225
$K_{S,AN}$	28	Assumed	[Batstone et al., 2002] [Langergraber et al., 2009] [Borja et al., 2002]	28 - 150
$K_{O,H}$	0.2	Assumed	[Henze et al., 2000] [Banks et al., 2003]	0.01 – 0.2
$K_{X,H}$	0.01	Assumed	[Henze et al., 2000]	0.01 – 0.03
k_h	0.10 - 0.22 ¹	Calibrated	[Henze et al., 2000]	1-3
η_h	0.1 ¹	Assumed	[Henze et al., 2000] [Langergraber et al., 2009]	0.1-0.4
$K_{O,I}$	0.2	Assumed	[Henze et al., 2000]	0.01 – 0.2
$K_{AN,I}$	200	Assumed	-	-
$S_{O,max}$	12	Assumed	[Perry and Green, 1984] [Sah et al., 2011]	7-15
K_L	6.4 ²	Calibrated	[Chaturvedi et al., 2014]	0.86 – 6.04
a	0.32 - 0.6	Measured	-	-
η_g	0	Assumed	[Henze et al., 2000]	0.6 – 0
$Y_{S,H}$	1.58	Assumed	[Henze et al., 2000]	1.33 – 2.63
$Y_{S,AN}$	1.3	Assumed	[Batstone et al., 2002]	-
$Y_{O,H}$	1.72	Assumed	[Henze et al., 2000]	-
f_P	0.08	Assumed	[Henze et al., 2000]	0.08
A	11,093- 36,686	Measured	this work	-
h	1.65-3.13	Measured	this work	-
t_{ini}^{IC}	10	Calculated	this work	-
t_{end}^{IC}	295	Calculated	this work	-
Δt^{IC}	30	Calculated	this work	-
Z_{max}^{IC}	1.2 - 1.5	Calculated	this work	-
α	90	Assumed	this work	-
$X_{max}^{AE,AN}$	32.0-70.3	Measured	this work	-
X_{max}^{SL}	8,000	Assumed	this work	-
X_{max}^{IC}	infinite	Assumed	this work	-
Z_{max}^{AE}	0.4	Assumed	this work	-

459 ¹ Set to zero in the ice layer460 ² Only considered for the aerobic layer

461 **Table 2.** Influent wastewater composition.

WW component	Notation	Dimension	Value	Notes
Heterotrophic biomass	$X_{B,Hin}$	mg L ⁻¹	5	Assumed
Anaerobic biomass	$X_{B,ANin}$	mg L ⁻¹	5	Assumed
Soluble biodegradable substrate	$S_{s,in}$	mg L ⁻¹	1010 ¹ ; 789 ² ; 775 ³	Measured
Particulate biodegradable substrate	$X_{s,in}$	mg L ⁻¹	460 ¹ ; 391 ² ; 366 ³	Measured
Dissolved oxygen	$S_{o,in}$	mg L ⁻¹	0	Assumed
Particulate inert substrate	$X_{I,in}$	mg L ⁻¹	0	Assumed
Soluble inert substrate	$S_{I,in}$	mg L ⁻¹	0	Assumed
Flow rate	q_{in}	m ³ d ⁻¹	138.1 ¹ ; 128.2 ² ; 85.1 ³	Measured

462 ¹Pond Inlet lagoon, ²Gjoa Haven lagoon, and ³Kugaruuk lagoon

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464 **Table 3.** Initial conditions used for lagoon model integration.

Parameter	Dimension	Layer				Notes
		Aerobic	Anaerobic	Sludge	Ice	
$X_{B,H}$	mg L ⁻¹	10	0	0	0	Assumed
$X_{B,AN}$	mg L ⁻¹	0	10	100	0	Assumed
S_s	mg L ⁻¹	260 ¹ ; 200 ^{2,3}	260 ¹ ; 200 ^{2,3}	260 ¹ ; 200 ^{2,3}	0	Measured ¹ Assumed ^{2,3}
X_s	mg L ⁻¹	64 ¹ ; 50 ^{2,3}	64 ¹ ; 50 ^{2,3}	X_{max}^{SL}	0	Measured ¹ Assumed ^{2,3}
S_o	mg L ⁻¹	3.5	0	0	0	Measured
X_I	mg L ⁻¹	0	0	0	0	Assumed
S_I	mg L ⁻¹	0	0	0	0	Assumed
z	m	z_{max}^{AE}	0	0.02	0	Assumed

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466 ¹Pond Inlet lagoon, ²Gjoa Haven lagoon, and ³Kugaruuk lagoon

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469 **Table 4.** Parameter sensitivity values with respect to COD_t , COD_p , and COD_s variations.
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Parameter	s_{COD_t}	s_{COD_p}	s_{COD_s}
$\mu_{max,H}$	-12.6	-6.8	-15.5
$\mu_{max,AN}$	710.4	-256.9	968.8
b_H	48.8	5.5	59.9
b_{AN}	57.8	0.9	69.8
$K_{S,H}$	-2.6	13.9	-5.4
$K_{O,H}$	0.8	0.2	1.0
$K_{X,H}$	0.1	-0.1	0.2
k_h	-5484.9	285.4	-6760.8
η_h	85.1	14.5	124.0
$K_{O,I}$	-0.4	-0.1	-0.5
K_L	-430.5	-997.9	-387.3
z_{max}^{AE}	1.0	-3.8	2.3

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474 **Table 5.** Model calibration and validation results. Notations: PI – Pond Inlet lagoon, GH - Gjoa
 475 Haven, and KU – Kugaruuk.

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Lagoon	K_L	k_h	$\mu_{\max,AN}$	RMSE	Notes
PI and GH	6.40	0.043	0.07	197	calibration
KU	6.40	0.043	0.07	195	validation
PI	6.40	0.100	0.11	63	re-calibration
GH	6.40	0.220	0.09	69	re-calibration
KU	6.40	0.22	0.12	102	re-calibration

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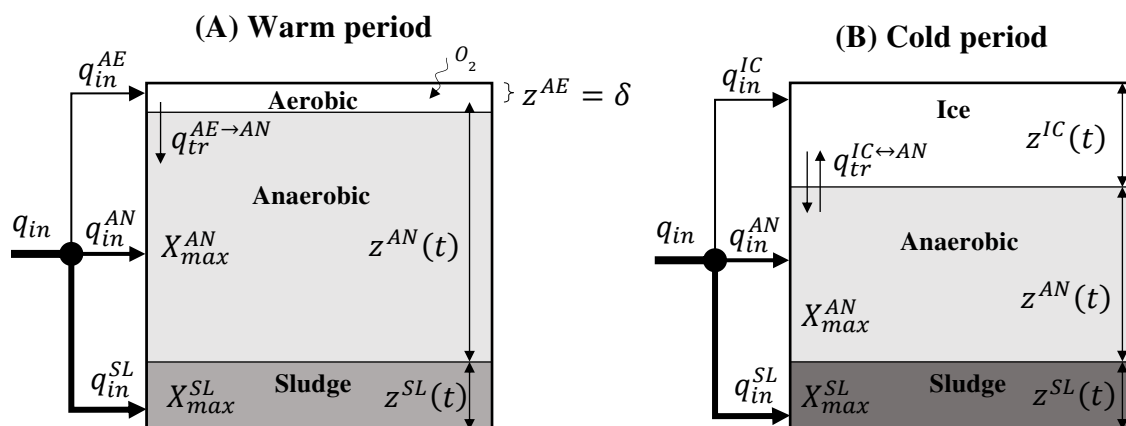
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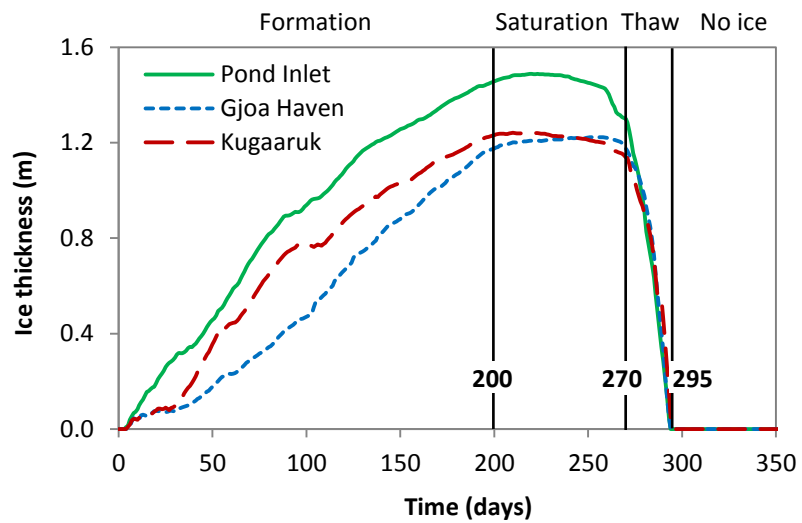
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499 **Figure 1.** Schematic diagram of the layers considered in the model during (A) warm and (B)

500 cold periods.

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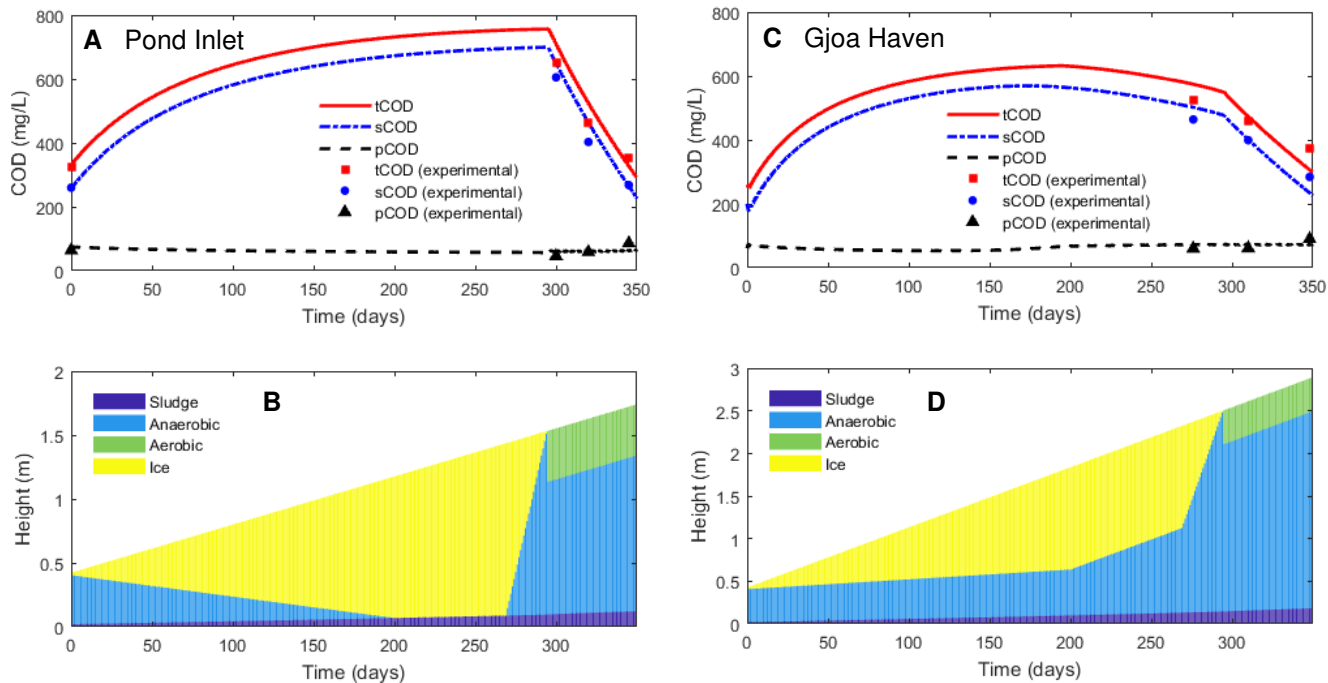
513 **Figure 2.** Icecap profile simulated using temperature data collected in 2010. Ice thickness values

514 are presented from September 15th 2009 (day 0) until August 31st, 2010 (day 350).

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536 **Figure 3.** Model calibration results showing a comparison of model outputs with experimental

537 data and predicted layer thickness for (A, B) Pond Inlet and (C, D) Gjoa Haven lagoons.

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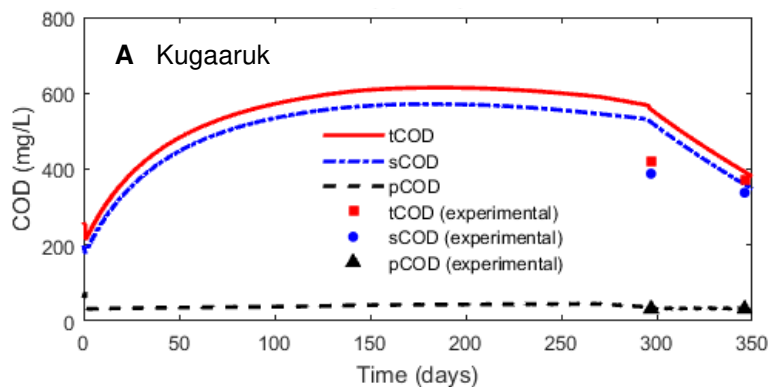
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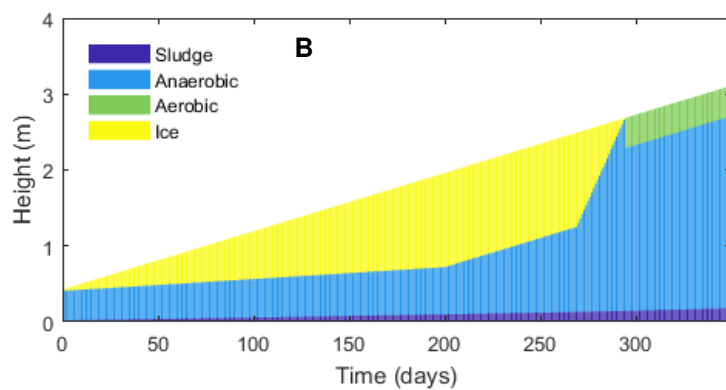
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557 **Figure 4.** Model validation results showing a comparison of model outputs with experimental

558 data (A) and predicted layer thickness (B) for Kugaaruk lagoon.

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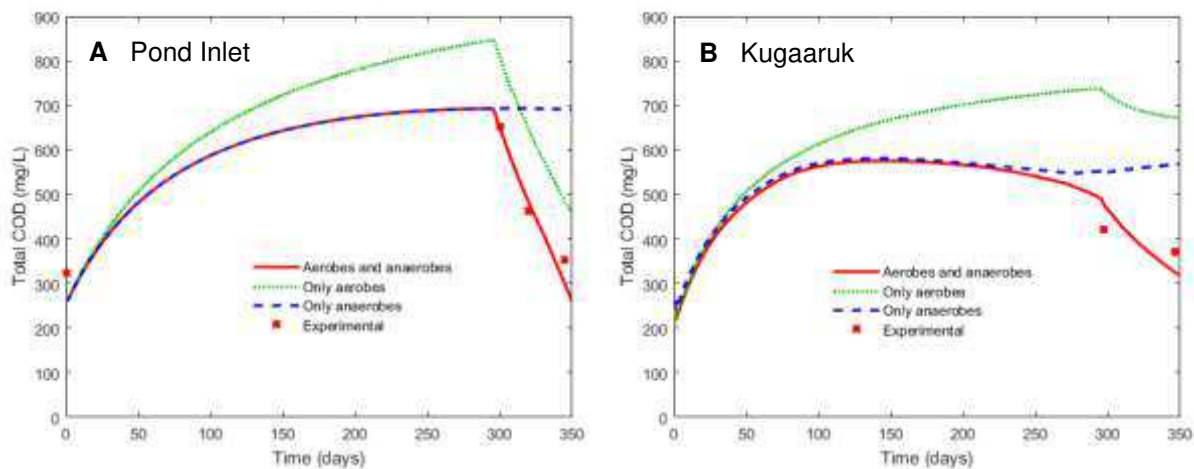
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581 **Figure 5.** A comparison of COD concentration profiles calculated with and without contribution

582 of aerobic and anaerobic degradation for the Pond Inlet (A) and Kugaaruk (B) lagoons.

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584 **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**585 **APPENDIX A. Modelling icecap formation and decay**

586 The following equation was used to describe ice formation. This equation is based on
 587 work by Ashton [Ashton, 1986; 1989] with modifications to account for the heat flux from the
 588 relatively warm sewage inflow to the ice layer and for the insulating properties of snow cover:

$$\Delta h = \left(\frac{\Delta t}{\rho L} \right) \left[\frac{T_m - T_a}{\left(\frac{h_i}{k_i} + \frac{h_s}{k_s} + \frac{1}{H_a} \right)} - H_{wi}(T_w - T_m) \right] \quad (\text{A1})$$

589 where

590 Δh = incremental growth of ice layer thickness [m] over time-step Δt

591 k_i = thermal conductivity of ice [$\text{W m}^{-1} \text{ }^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$] (taken as 2.3 (corresponding to temp. of
 592 about $-10 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$) for this research)

593 k_s = thermal conductivity of snow [$\text{W m}^{-1} \text{ }^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$] (taken as 0.4 for this research)

594 T_m = temperature at the ice water interface (assumed $0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$)

595 T_w = temperature of the water under the ice

596 T_a = temperature of air above the ice [$^\circ\text{C}$]

597 H_a = thermal resistance (or heat transfer coefficient) between the uppermost surface and
 598 the air above it (i.e., when $h_s = 0$ then $H_a = H_{ia}$; and when $h_s > 0$ then $H_a = H_{as}$)

599 H_{ia} = bulk heat transfer coefficient between the top surface temperature of the ice and the
 600 air temperature above the ice (taken as $25 \text{ [W m}^{-2} \text{ }^\circ\text{C}^{-1}]$ for this research)

601 H_{sa} = bulk heat transfer coefficient between the top surface temperature of snow and the
 602 air temperature above the snow (taken as $15 \text{ [W m}^{-2} \text{ }^\circ\text{C}^{-1}]$ for this research)

603 H_{wi} = bulk heat transfer coefficient between the water and the ice (taken as 2.19 [W m^{-2}
 604 $^\circ\text{C}^{-1}]$ for this research)

605 $\rho =$ ice density [kg/m^3] (taken as 919 (corresponding to temp. of about -10°C) for this
606 research)

607 $L =$ heat of fusion [J/kg^{-1}] (taken as $3.3355 \cdot 10^5$ for this research)

608 $h_i =$ thickness of the ice cover at time-step Δt

609 $h_s =$ thickness of the snow cover at time-step Δt

610 When Δt is taken as one day (or 86,400 seconds) the ice layer thickness becomes a
611 function of freezing degree-days.

612 The following equation was used to model the decay of ice over a sewage lagoon. This
613 equation is also based on work by Ashton [Ashton, 1983] with modifications to account for the
614 heat flux from the relatively warm sewage inflow to the ice layer:

$$\Delta h = \left(\frac{\Delta t}{\rho L} \right) [-H_{ia}(T_m - T_a) - H_{wi}(T_w - T_m)] \quad (\text{A2})$$

615 Here too, when Δt is taken as one day the ice layer thickness becomes a function of
616 melting degree-days. In the absence of real field data, the water temperature T_w is assumed to
617 have a sinusoidal form over the year with an amplitude of A_{Tw} and a period of 365 days. The
618 average temperature in day d is therefore estimated as:

$$T_{Wd} = T_{Wmin} + 0.5A_{Tw} \left[1 + \cos \frac{2\pi d}{365} \right] \quad (d = 1, 2, \dots 365) \quad (\text{A3})$$

619 where $d=1$ is the day at which decanting ends. Minimum water temperature T_{Wmin} was assumed
620 to be 3°C . The amplitude can be expected to be in the range of 4 to 12 degrees.

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623 **APPENDIX B. Biodegradation model**

624 The following material balance equations are used to describe sewage biodegradation. The
 625 balances are composed for each layer I , where $i, j = AE, AN, SL, IC$ and $j \neq i$.

626 **1. Heterotrophic biomass ($X_{B,H}^i$)**

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dX_{B,H}^i}{dt} = & \underbrace{\mu_{max,H} \left(\frac{S_S^i}{K_{S,H} + S_S^i} \right) \left(\frac{S_O^i}{K_{O,H} + S_O^i} \right) X_{B,H}^i}_{\text{Aerobic growth of heterotrophic biomass}} + \underbrace{\eta_g \mu_{max,H} \left(\frac{S_S^i}{K_{S,H} + S_S^i} \right) \left(\frac{K_{O,I}}{K_{O,I} + S_O^i} \right) X_{B,H}^i}_{\text{Anoxic growth of heterotrophic biomass}} \\ & - \underbrace{\frac{b_H X_{B,H}^i}{V^i}}_{\text{Decay of heterotrophic biomass}} + \underbrace{\frac{q_{in}^i}{V^i} (X_{B,H,in} - X_{B,H}^i)}_{\text{Flow in}} + \underbrace{\frac{q_{tr}^{j \rightarrow i}}{V^i} (X_{B,H}^j - X_{B,H}^i)}_{\text{Transport term}} \end{aligned}$$

627 **2. Anaerobic biomass ($X_{B,AN}^i$)**

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dX_{B,AN}^i}{dt} = & \underbrace{\mu_{max,AN} \left(\frac{S_S^i}{K_{S,AN} + S_S^i} \right) \left(\frac{K_{O,I}}{K_{O,I} + S_O^i} \right) \left(\frac{K_{AN,I}}{K_{AN,I} + X_{B,AN}^i} \right) X_{B,AN}^i}_{\text{Growth of anaerobic biomass}} - \underbrace{\frac{b_{AN} X_{B,AN}^i}{V^i}}_{\text{Decay of anaerobic biomass}} \\ & + \underbrace{\frac{q_{in}^i}{V^i} (X_{B,AN,in} - X_{B,AN}^i)}_{\text{Flow in}} + \underbrace{\frac{q_{tr}^{j \rightarrow i}}{V^i} (X_{B,AN}^j - X_{B,AN}^i)}_{\text{Transport term}} \end{aligned}$$

628 **3. Readily biodegradable soluble substrate (S_S^i)**

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{dS_S^i}{dt} = & \underbrace{-Y_{S,H}\mu_{max,H} \left(\frac{S_S^i}{K_{S,H} + S_S^i} \right) \left(\frac{S_O^i}{K_{O,H} + S_O^i} \right) X_{B,H}^i}_{\text{Aerobic growth of heterotrophic biomass}} - \underbrace{\eta_g Y_{S,H}\mu_{max,H} \left(\frac{S_S^i}{K_{S,H} + S_S^i} \right) \left(\frac{K_{O,I}}{K_{O,I} + S_O^i} \right) X_{B,H}^i}_{\text{Anoxic growth of heterotrophic biomass}} \\
& - \underbrace{Y_{S,AN}\mu_{max,AN} \left(\frac{S_S^i}{K_{S,AN} + S_S^i} \right) \left(\frac{K_{O,I}}{K_{O,I} + S_O^i} \right) \left(\frac{K_{AN,I}}{K_{AN,I} + X_{B,AN}^i} \right) X_{B,AN}^i}_{\text{Growth of anaerobic biomass}} \\
& + \underbrace{k_{h,H} \left(\frac{X_S^i / (X_{B,H}^i + X_{B,AN}^i)}{K_{X,H} + X_S^i / (X_{B,H}^i + X_{B,AN}^i)} \right) (X_{B,H}^i + \eta X_{B,AN}^i)}_{\text{Hydrolysis of entrapped particulate organics}} + \underbrace{\frac{q_{in}^i}{V^i} (S_{S,in} - S_S^i)}_{\text{Flow in}} \\
& + \underbrace{\frac{q_{tr}^{j \rightarrow i}}{V^i} (S_S^j - S_S^i)}_{\text{Transport term}}
\end{aligned}$$

629 **4. Slowly biodegradable particulate substrate (X_S^i)**

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{dX_S^i}{dt} = & \underbrace{(1 - f_P)b_H X_{B,H}^i}_{\text{Decay of heterotrophic biomass}} + \underbrace{(1 - f_P)b_{AN} X_{B,AN}^i}_{\text{Decay of anaerobic biomass}} + \underbrace{\frac{q_{in}^i}{V^i} (X_{S,in} - X_S^i)}_{\text{Flow in}} + \underbrace{\frac{q_{tr}^{j \rightarrow i}}{V^i} (X_S^j - X_S^i)}_{\text{Transfer flow}} \\
& - \underbrace{k_{h,H} \left(\frac{X_S^i / (X_{B,H}^i + X_{B,AN}^i)}{K_{X,H} + X_S^i / (X_{B,H}^i + X_{B,AN}^i)} \right) (X_{B,H}^i + \eta X_{B,AN}^i)}_{\text{Hydrolysis of entrapped particulate organics}}
\end{aligned}$$

630 **5. Soluble oxygen (S_O^i)**

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{dS_O^i}{dt} = & \underbrace{-Y_{O,H}\mu_{max,H} \left(\frac{S_S^i}{K_{S,H} + S_S^i} \right) \left(\frac{S_O^i}{K_{O,H} + S_O^i} \right) X_{B,H}^i}_{\text{Consumption by aerobic growth of heterotrophic biomass}} + \underbrace{K_L a (S_{O,max} - S_O^i)}_{\text{Transfer term}} + \underbrace{\frac{q_{in}^i}{V^i} (S_{O,in} - S_O^i)}_{\text{Flow in}} \\
& + \underbrace{\frac{q_{tr}^{j \rightarrow i}}{V^i} (S_O^j - S_O^i)}_{\text{Transfer flow}}
\end{aligned}$$

631 **6. Inert particulate (X_I^i)**

$$\frac{dX_I^i}{dt} = \underbrace{f_P b_H X_{B,H}^i}_{\text{Decay of heterotrophic biomass}} + \underbrace{f_P b_{AN} X_{B,AN}^i}_{\text{Decay of anaerobic biomass}} + \underbrace{\frac{q_{in}^i}{V^i} (X_{I,in} - X_I^i)}_{\text{Flow in}} + \underbrace{\frac{q_{tr}^{j \rightarrow i}}{V^i} (X_I^j - X_I^i)}_{\text{Transfer flow}}$$

632 **7. Soluble inert organic (S_I^i)**

$$\frac{dS_I^i}{dt} = \underbrace{\frac{q_{in}^i}{V^i} (S_{I,in} - S_I^i)}_{\text{Flow in}} + \underbrace{\frac{q_{tr}^{j \rightarrow i}}{V^i} (S_I^j - S_I^i)}_{\text{Transfer flow in}}$$

633 **8. Height (depth) of the layer (z^i)**

$$\frac{dz^i}{dt} = \underbrace{\frac{q_{in}^i}{A}}_{\text{Flow in}} \pm \underbrace{\frac{q_{tr}^{j \rightarrow i}}{A}}_{\text{Transfer flow}}$$

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635 **9. Recalculation of initial conditions (instant settling of solids)**

636 Figure B1 explains the simplified approach for describing the settling of solids produced
 637 by microbial growth. This calculation is used after each day of integration. Solids redistribution
 638 is not considered in the ice layer.

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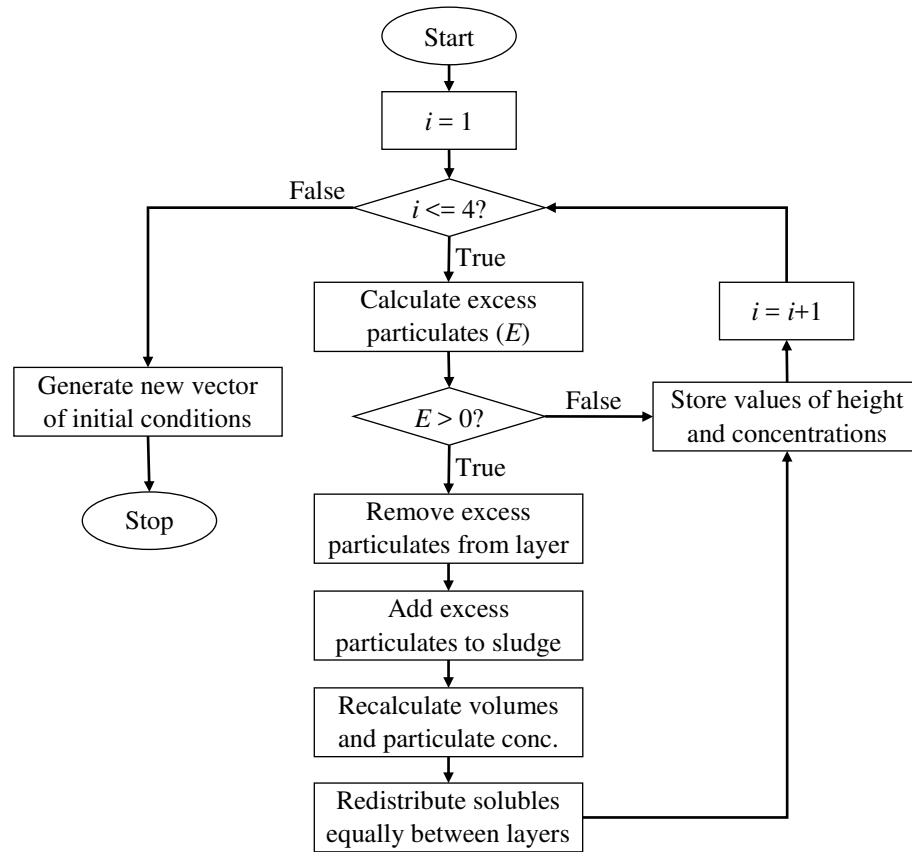


Figure B1. Flow chart describing the particulates and solubles redistribution between layers for the simulation of instant solids settlement (where $i = AE, AN, SL$). Note: Excess particulates are transferred to the sludge layer without affecting the anaerobic liquid layer.

662 **10. Flow rates distribution**

663 Input wastewater is distributed between the aerobic, ice, anaerobic, and sludge layers by using
 664 the following conditions for selecting the flow rate between layers.

Condition	Time	Layer thickness	Input flow	Transfer flow
1. No icecap	$t \in [0, t_{ini}^{ICE})$ or $t \in (t_{end}^{ICE}, 350]$	$z^{AN}(t) > 0$	$q_{in}^{AE*} =$ $\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right) q_{in}$ $q_{in}^{AN*} =$ $\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right) q_{in}$ $q_{in}^{S*} = \alpha q_{in}$ $q_{in}^{ICE} = 0$	$q_{tr}^{AE \rightarrow AN} = -q_{in}^{AE*}$ $q_{tr}^{AN \leftarrow AE} = q_{in}^{AE*}$
2. Icecap formation	$t \in [t_{ini}^{ICE}, t_{ini}^{ICE} + \Delta t_{ini}^{ICE})$	$z^{AN}(t) > 0$	$q_{in}^{AE} = 0$ $q_{in}^{AN} = q_{in}^{AN*}$ $q_{in}^S = q_{in}^{S*}$ $q_{in}^{ICE} = q_{in}^{AE*}$	$q_{tr}^{AN \rightarrow ICE} = q_{in}^{AE*} -$ γ_1 $q_{tr}^{ICE \leftarrow AN} =$ $-q_{in}^{AE*} + \gamma_1$
3. Icecap saturation	$t \in [t_{ini}^{ICE} + \Delta t_{ini}^{ICE}, t_{end}^{ICE} - \Delta t^{ICE})$	$z^{AN}(t) > 0$		$q_{tr}^{AN \rightarrow ICE} = q_{in}^{AE*}$ $q_{tr}^{ICE \leftarrow AN} = -q_{in}^{AE*}$
4. Icecap melt	$t \in (t_{end}^{ICE} - \Delta t_{end}^{ICE}, t_{end}^{ICE}]$	$z^{AN}(t) > 0$	$q_{in}^{AE} = 0$ $q_{in}^{AN} = 0$ $q_{in}^S = q_{in}^{S*}$ $q_{in}^{ICE} = q_{in}^{AE*} +$ q_{in}^{AN*}	$q_{tr}^{AN \leftarrow ICE} = q_{in}^{AN*} +$ γ_2 $q_{tr}^{ICE \leftarrow AN} =$ $-q_{in}^{AN*} - \gamma_2$
4. Icecap limited	$t \in [t_{ini}^{ICE}, t_{end}^{ICE}]$	$z^{AN}(t) = 0$ $z^{ICE}(t) < z_{max}^{ICE}$		None

665 where $\gamma_1 = \frac{A}{\Delta t_{ini}^{ICE}} \cdot (z_{max}^{ICE} - z_{max}^{AE})$ and $\gamma_2 = \frac{A}{\Delta t_{end}^{ICE}} \cdot (z^{ICE}(t_{end}^{ICE} - \Delta t^{ICE}) - z_{max}^{AE})$

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