

Phosphorus removal from dilute sources

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Global problem, large economic damages



Additional actions needed

88 % of all sewage plants comply to EU UWWT for advanced P removal

BUT, of all EU lakes:

- 38% do not meet water quality standards (Voulvoulis, 2017)
- 15% do not meet WHO risk thresholds for recreational use (Carvalho 2013)

MAIN SOURCES:

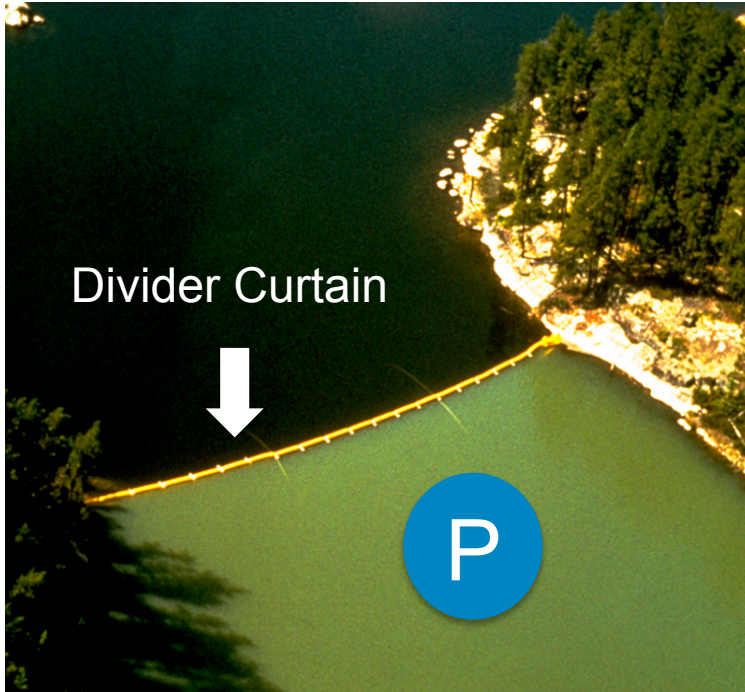


Agriculture

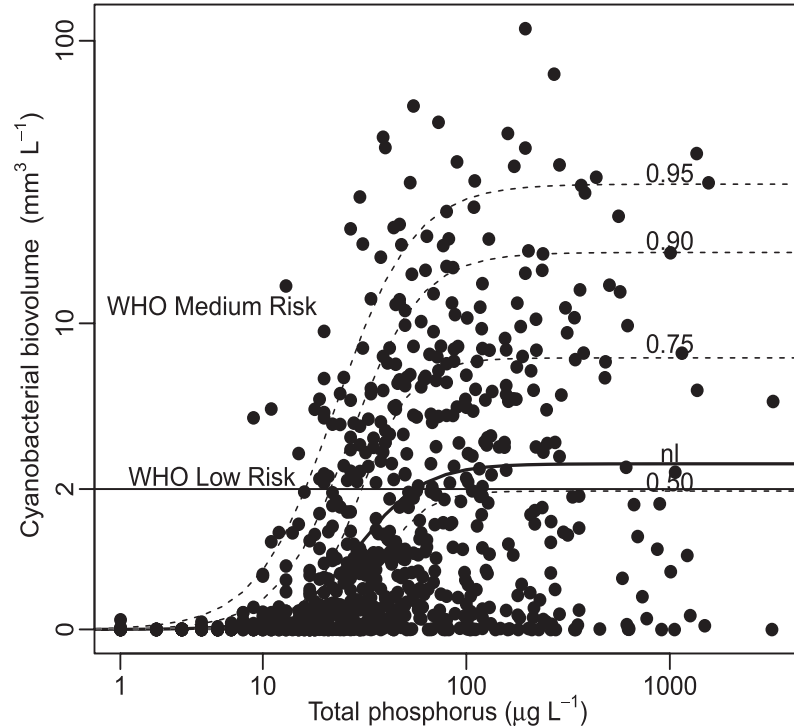


Sewage effluent

Fresh water: P is the limiting nutrient



Lake 227, Canada
Schindler, 1974



Example Florida

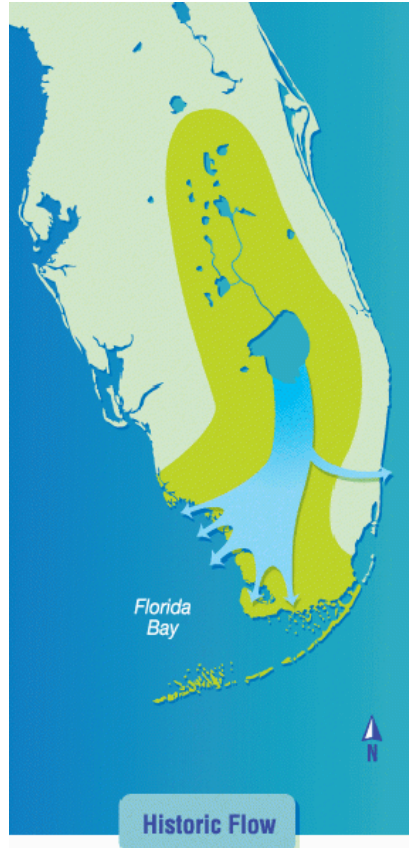


THE
GEORGE BARLEY
WATER PRIZE

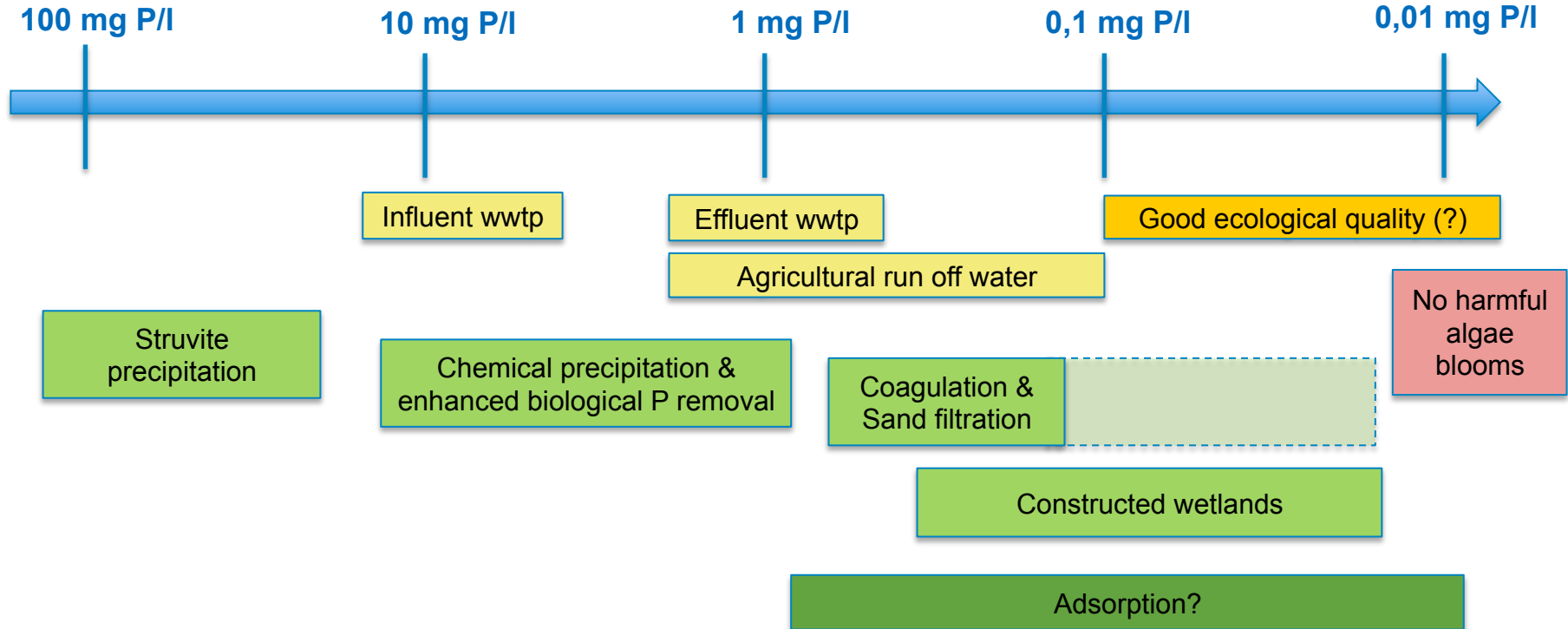
10 Million \$ prize!



EVER
GLADES
FOUNDATION



Ultra low P removal

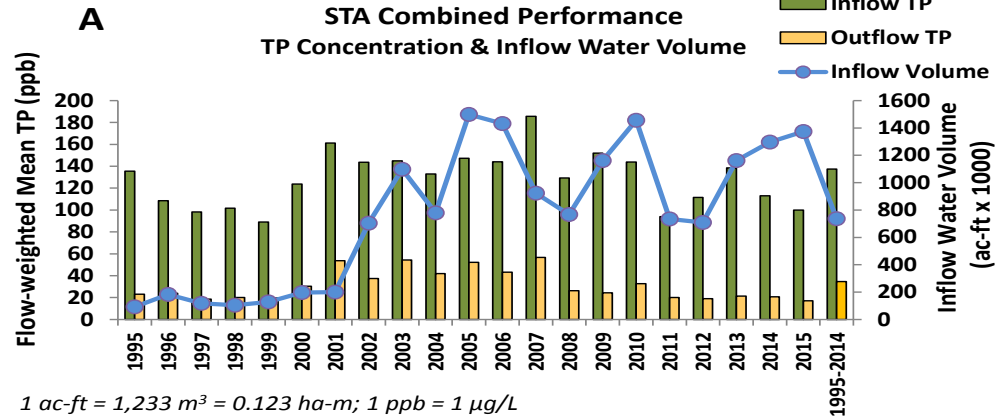


Constructed wetlands

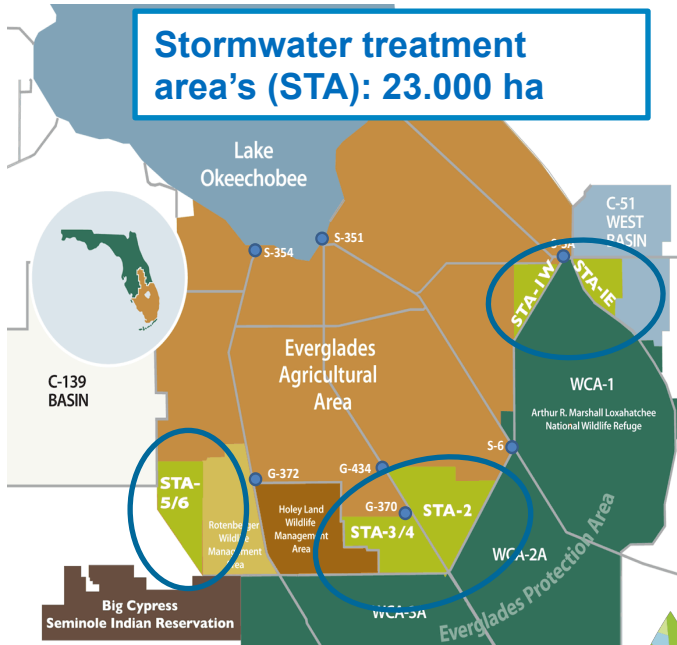
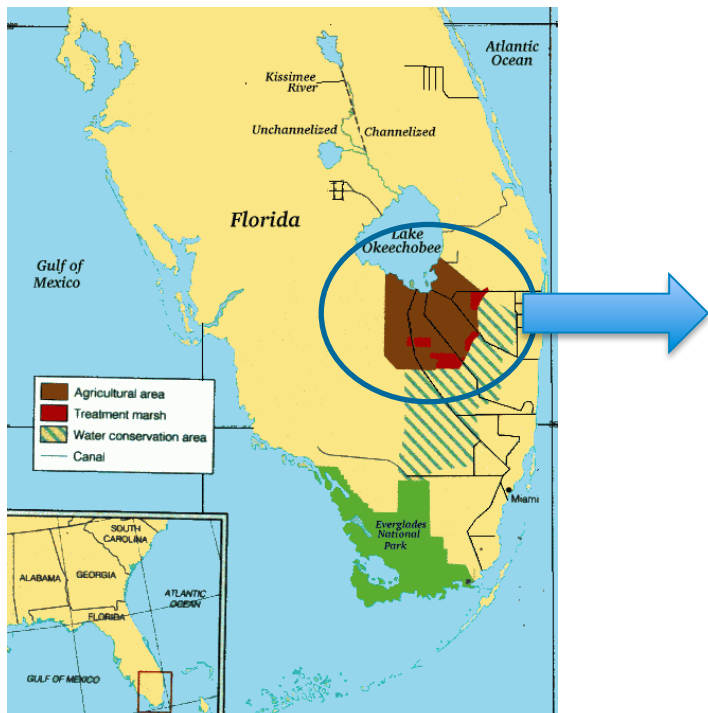
Everglades, Florida

2015:
 4.400.000 m³/day
 83% P retention
 17 ppb P in effluent

Ch. 5B, Florida Env. Report 2016



Large area's required



George Barley prize:
100 x more compact technology required



THE
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WATER PRIZE

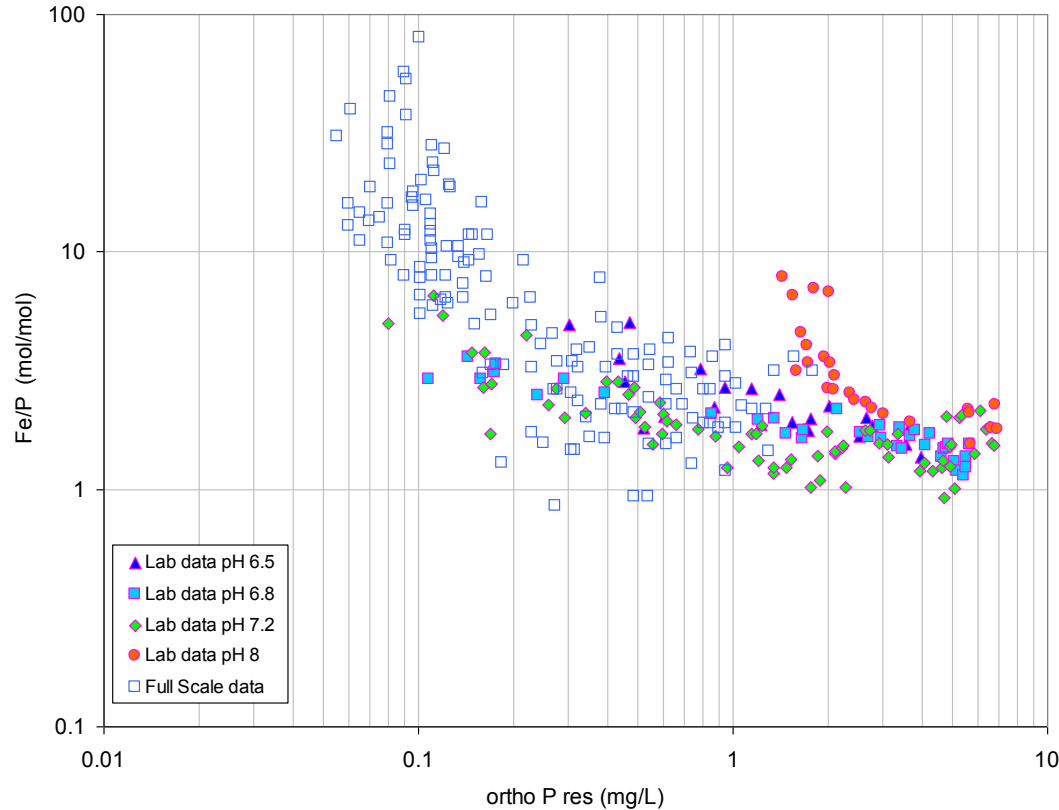
Sand filtration

- Effluent quality generally $\geq 0,15$ mg/l
- Coagulant dose (Fe or Al): Me/P = 3-6
- High chemical dosages
- Large sludge production

- US: removal shown to ca 0,05 mg/l
⇒ High Me/P ratio's



Increasing Me/P ratios for low P effluent



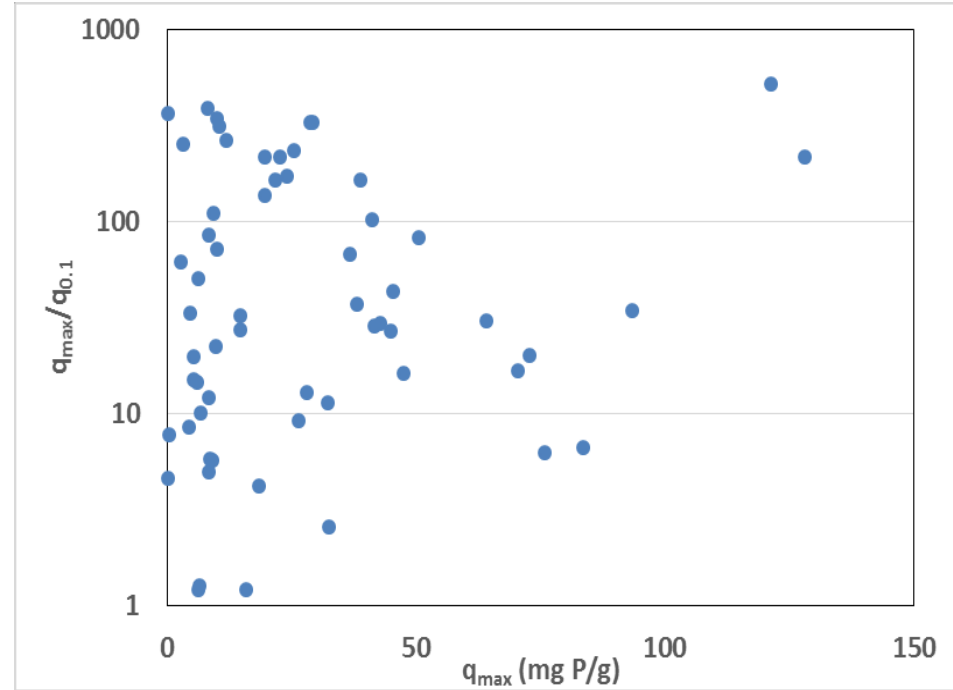
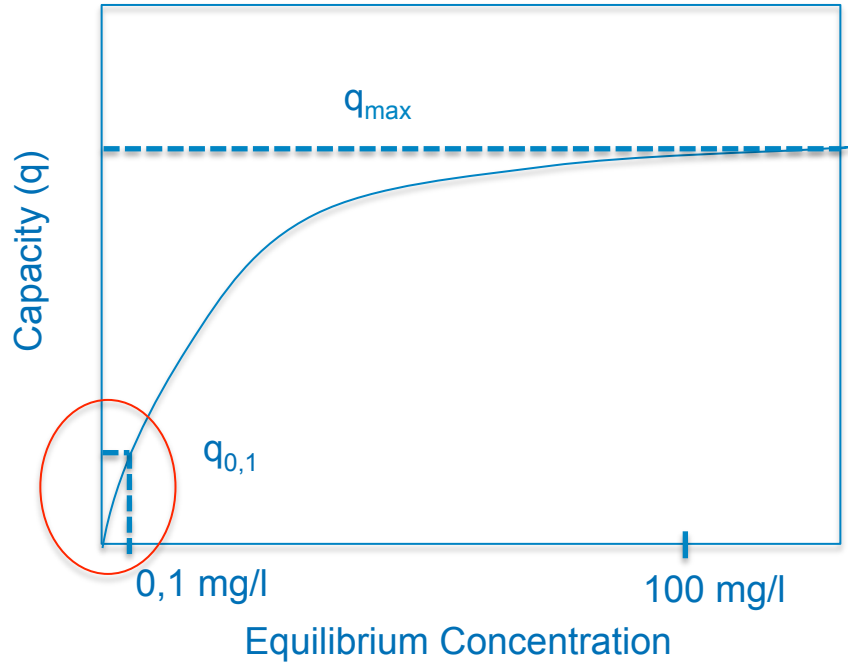
Adsorption: small footprint



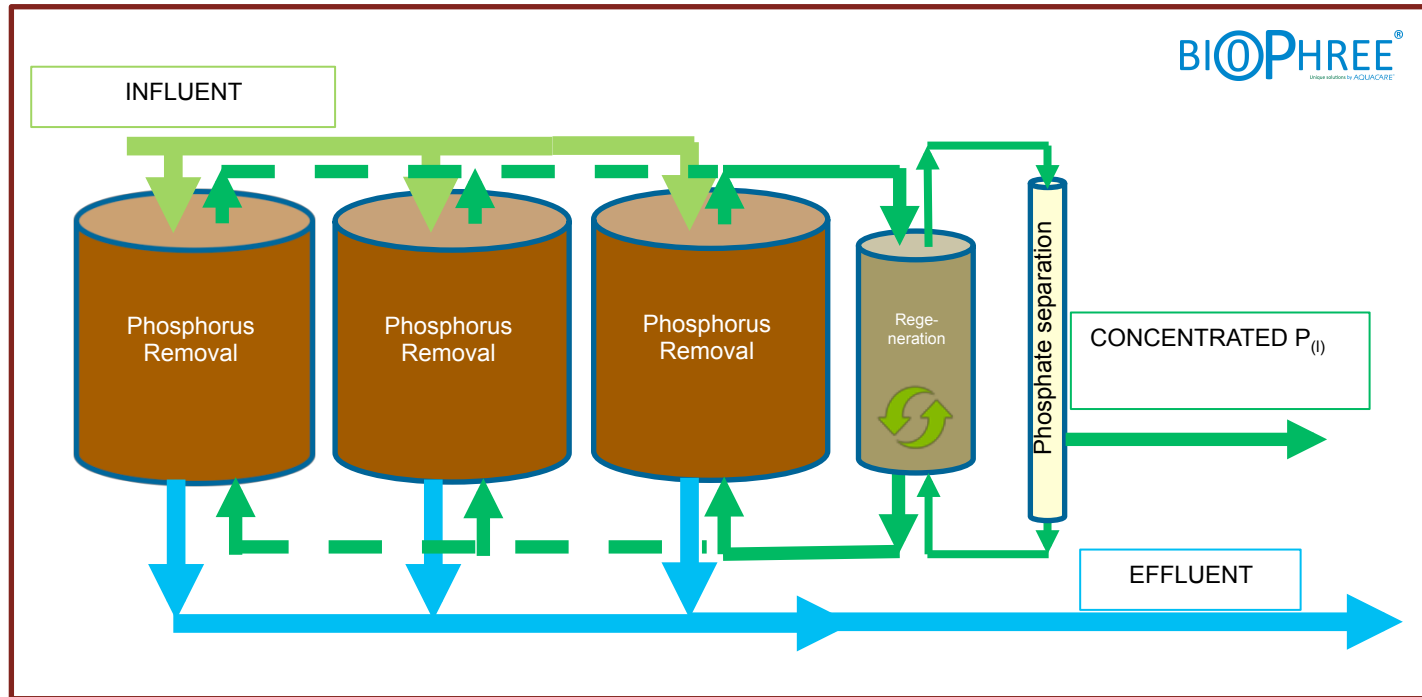
Adsorption

- Promising for low effluent values
- Lots of literature
- Often single use:
 - Iron coated sand
 - Waste materials impregnated with Fe, La or other doping materials
 - Fancy high performance adsorbents
- Very little real life applications
 - Research is often not directed to economic relevant parameters

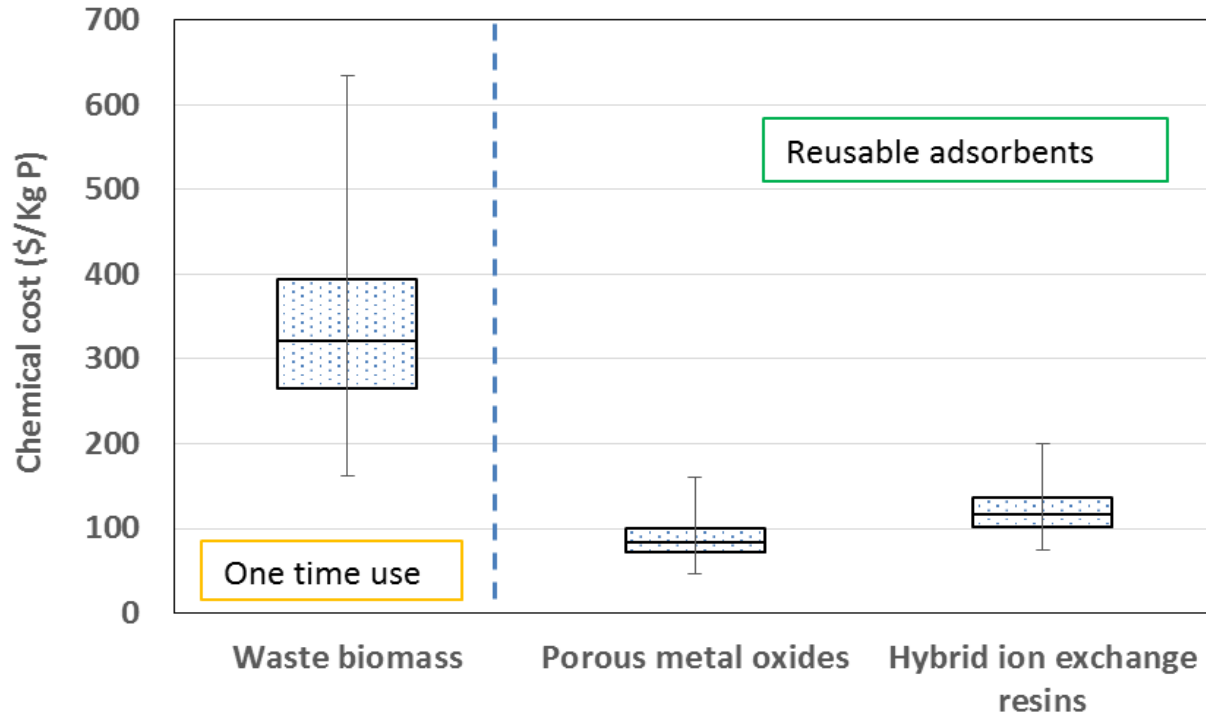
Adsorption: capacity



Regenerative adsorption: removal & recovery



Regeneration reduces costs



Pilot stage 10 M\$ George Barley prize

Objectives:

- P-removal to 10 ppb
- Less than 120 \$/kg P
- Restricted footprint

- 8 out of 9 teams use adsorption
- At least 6 teams regenerate the adsorbent



Take home message

Ultra low P removal:

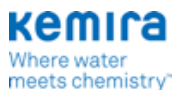
- ⇒ Adsorption is an interesting & promising approach
- ⇒ Close to real life application (George Barley Prize)

However:

- Research often not considers practical applications
 - Affinity at low concentrations, kinetics, selectivity
- Regeneration: essential, but is in development
 - Stability adsorbent
 - Reuse regeneration liquid
 - Phosphate product



Wetsus P-recovery theme members



Ministry of Economic Affairs
Ministry of Infrastructure & Environment

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