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Assessing impacts of climate change, sea level rise, and drainage canals

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Assessing impacts of climate change, sea level rise, and drainage canals on saltwater intrusion to coastal aquifer

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Abstract

Groundwater abstraction from coastal aquifers is vulnerable to climate change and sea level rise because both may potentially impact saltwater intrusion and hence groundwater quality depending on the hydrogeological setting. In the present study the impacts of sea level rise and changes in groundwater recharge are quantified for an island located in the Western Baltic Sea. Agricultural land dominates the western and central parts of the island, which geologically are developed as push moraine hills and a former lagoon (later wetland area) behind barrier islands to the east. The low-lying central area of the island was extensively drained and reclaimed during the second half of the 19th century. Summer cottages along the beach on the former barrier islands dominate the eastern part of the island. The main water abstraction is for holiday cottages during the summer period (June–August). The water is abstracted from 11 wells drilled to a depth of around 20 m in the upper 5–10 m of a confined chalk aquifer. Increasing chloride concentrations have been observed in several abstraction wells and in some cases the WHO drinking water standard has been exceeded. Using the modeling package MODFLOW/MT3D/SEAWAT the historical, present and future freshwater–sea water distribution is simulated. The model is calibrated against hydraulic head observations and validated against geochemical and geophysical data from new investigation wells, including borehole logs, and from an airborne transient electromagnetic survey. The impact of climate changes on saltwater intrusion is found to be sensitive to the boundary conditions of the investigated system. For the flux-controlled aquifer to the west of the drained area only changes in groundwater recharge impacts the freshwater–sea water interface whereas sea level rise do not result in increasing sea water intrusion. However, on the barrier islands to the east of the reclaimed area below which the sea is hydraulically connected to the drainage canal, and the boundary of the flow system therefore controlled, the projected changes in sea level, groundwater recharge and stage of the drainage canal all have significant impacts on saltwater intrusion and hence the chloride concentrations found in the abstraction wells.

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1 Introduction

Climate change impacts especially sea level rise and changed precipitation patterns will challenge the current water supply management and groundwater abstraction from well fields close to the coast.

5 Previous studies of seawater intrusion (SWI) and salt water distribution in coastal aquifers have focused on mapping of salt water occurrence, fluid-density aspects of numerical flow modeling, effects of drainage in a polder context, effects of autonomous salinization, tidal effects, and parameter estimation (Essink et al., 2001; Post, 2005; Carrera et al., 2010; de Louw et al., 2011). More recently several studies have fo-
10 cused on using geophysical data and groundwater age data for corroboration of SWI models (Goes, 2009; Vandenbohede et al., 2011; Kirkegaard, 2011), as SWI models may be significantly improved by the use of efficient geophysical (e.g. airborne electro- magnetic, AEM) measurements (Comte and Banton, 2007; Comte et al., 2010; Carrera et al., 2010). Presently, focus is very much on climate change effects on seawater intru-
15 sion and saltwater distribution in coastal aquifers (Werner and Simmons, 2009; Essink et al., 2010; Webb, 2011; Chang, 2011).

In addition to sea level rise, most climate models predict an increase in winter precipitation for the Danish area. An increased winter precipitation will most likely increase groundwater recharge (van Roosmalen et al., 2007), which is expected to counteract
20 the effect of sea level rise. Studies of the effects of sea level rise, changed recharge and drainage elevations on seawater intrusion to coastal groundwater aquifers are described by Feseker (2007), Vandenbohede et al. (2008), Essink et al. (2010), and Sulzbacher et al. (2012). Chang et al. (2011) investigated the impact of sea-level rise on an idealized coastal aquifer system and showed that for confined systems where
25 the ambient recharge to the aquifer remains constant, sea-level rise has no long-term impact on the saltwater wedge. Groundwater level is found to increase in response to sea-level rise and potential intrusion effects are therefore mitigated. Werner and Simmons (2009) further show that the inland boundary conditions are crucial for the effect

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of sea-level rise on the evolution of the saltwater wedge of unconfined aquifers. For constant flux conditions similar to those used by Chang et al. (2011), where the discharge through the aquifer is assumed to be the same with and without sea-level rise, only small changes in the location of the wedge is found for typical aquifer characteristics. However, for head-controlled systems where the inland hydraulic head remain unchanged during sea-level changes, the saltwater wedge are predicted to migrate hundreds of meters to several kilometers inland for a realistic sea-level rise. Study areas where the water table is controlled by drainage systems are therefore expected to be more vulnerable to future changes in sea level than natural systems.

The objectives of this paper are to investigate the following questions:

(a) What is the effect of climate change, including sea level rise and changed groundwater recharge, on an aquifer in an area where the groundwater head is partly controlled by drainage canals? The importance and effect of drainage canals is analyzed through selected climate scenarios and canal stage scenarios. The effects on the aquifer as such and on the actual groundwater abstraction wells are analyzed. (b) What are the most important factors for seawater intrusion to a coastal aquifer; sea level rise, changes in groundwater recharge or water level in the drainage canals? (c) What are the dynamics of increased seawater intrusion in combination with increased recharge? Increased recharge might counteract saltwater intrusion as an effect of sea level rise. Dynamics and time lags are analyzed in this real-world case study. (d) Will the water works have to move some of their wells in the area in the 21st century due to salinization?

Hydrochemical data, groundwater age data, airborne geophysics, and borehole logging are all used to corroborate the results from the established SWI model.

2 Materials and methods

2.1 The study area

The study area is located in the southern part of the island of Falster in southeastern part of Denmark (Fig. 1). To the east the area is confined by the Baltic Sea and to the west by the strait of Guldborgsund. The top elevation varies from 19 m above mean sea level (m a.s.l.) to -7 m a.s.l. to the east of the model area. The landscape is mainly developed from north-south trending low push moraine hills of clayey tills along the coast in the western part of the island, which were formed during the last glaciation by an east to west moving glacier. During the Holocene small barrier islands with eolian sand dunes, which constitute the eastern part of the island, and a lagoon developed in front of the glacial moraine hills. As the barrier islands grew it became possible to reclaim the low-lying wetland area between the push moraine and the barrier islands in the central part of the study area (Fig. 2). In the early 18th century only a small strait to the south made a connection between the shallow lagoon, and the Baltic Sea. In the period 1860–1865 the strait was closed by a dike and the drainage of Bøtø Nor started. In 1871 a pumping station was established and after a major storm in 1872 a 17 km new long dike was build and the area was drained and converted into farm land. The pumping station is pumping water from the drainage system to the Marrebæk creek discharging to the strait of Guldborgsund at the western coastline (Fig. 2). The reclaimed low-lying area is dominated by marine post-glacial sands deposited on top of a clayey ground moraine.

The land use in the study area is dominated by agriculture and settlements of summer cottages although a few small permanent villages have developed on top of the push moraine hills in the western part of the area. The first summer cottages were built in the Marielyst area in 1908 on the barrier islands along the eastern coastline. Around 1940 more than 500 houses existed in the area. In the 1960s and 1970s the construction of houses exploded and today there are more than 5000 summer cottages. Although most of these are built on the original barrier islands in the eastern

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part of the investigated area, the most recent have spread into the reclaimed areas and some of these are therefore located at or below sea level. As estimated from the seasonal variation in abstraction, 10–15 % of the houses are now used as year-round residence. The freshwater supply for the village and the summer cottages is based solely on groundwater. In this study we focus on the evolution of the salt (chloride) contents of the 11 water abstraction wells of Marielyst Waterworks supplying the summer cottages as the salinity of these are increasing (Fig. 3) and some already have been taken out of production.

As described above part of the area has undergone significant changes during the last centuries from a brackish lagoon connected to the Baltic Sea to a lake, and finally to drained and reclaimed land mainly used for agriculture. The salinization effects of these changes have been included in the study by modeling four consecutive hydrographical phases leading up to the present situation.

2.1.1 Geology and hydrogeology

The geology down to 30 m below ground surface are quite well described with geological information from more than 70 boreholes in the area. However, only four wells are deeper than 50 m and no well is deeper than 100 m meaning that information on the deep geology is limited. Information on off-shore geology is scarce. A marine raw materials mapping indicates that from the shore line and 1 to 2 km to the east the bottom sediments consists of fine to medium grained sand, whereas further to the east the bottom sediments are clayey till (Kuijpers, 1991). The Quaternary sediments consist mainly of clayey tills with local sand lenses. The thicknesses of the Quaternary deposits are up to 45 m in the center and southwest of the area, and down to 5–10 m under the post-glacial sands. The postglacial marine sands and the eolian dunes may be up to 10 m thick. The pre-quaternary surface consists of several hundred meters of Maastrichtian chalk.

The main aquifer for water supply in the area is the upper chalk. The Quaternary glaciations have caused fracturing of the upper 20–30 m of the chalk where the chalk

is fully or partly refreshed due to fast advective groundwater flow through the fractures. Previous studies of chalk aquifers in Denmark have shown that the residual saltwater is flushed out in the upper 50–80 m of the chalk by infiltrating fresh water (Bonnesen et al., 2009). Below this zone a mixing zone with higher chloride concentrations is seen where the number of fractures and the effective hydraulic conductivity is gradually decreasing compared to the fully refreshed zone above. Below this depth matrix diffusion is the dominating transport process for saltwater (Bonnesen et al., 2009). At depth below 150–200 m the saltwater is of oceanic concentration with total dissolved solids concentrations above 35 000 mg TDS l⁻¹ and chloride concentrations above 19 000 mg l⁻¹.

2.1.2 Hydrology

The average annual precipitation in the area is approximately 700 mm. Based on results from the national water resources model. The DK-Model (Henriksen et al., 2003, 2008; Højberg et al., 2008), groundwater recharge has been estimated on daily basis for the period 1990–2010. For the present study area the annual variation in the period was 79–437 mm yr⁻¹. The surface water system is dominated by the artificial drainage canal system. A few minor creeks flow towards the drainage system or towards Guldborgsund. The drainage system is lowering the groundwater table in the area where the ground surface is between +1 and –3 m a.s.l. The pumping station is aiming at keeping a constant water level in the drainage canals. During a field campaign the water level in the drainage system were measured at several locations across the drained area and the stages were found to vary between –1 and –2.5 m a.s.l.

The Marielyst waterworks supplies water to 5200 households mainly summer cottages with drinking water. Due to the high percentage of summer cottages in the area the groundwater supply varies considerably during the year with a maximum of 2000 m³ day⁻¹ in July to a minimum of 300 m³ day⁻¹ in January. The waterworks has 11 active abstraction wells which are located in three well fields (Figs. 2 and 5). The oldest well field is located about 0.5 km from the coast, a second group of wells are approximately 1 km from the coast (established 1975–1990), both well fields are located

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production due to elevated chloride concentrations above the drinking water standard. Well field 3 was established at approximately the same time to support increasing demands and ensure the supply for all consumers. In addition to the general geochemistry analysis of major ions all wells were also analysed every 3–4 yr for contaminants such as organic micro contaminants, pesticides and nitrate as described in the Danish monitoring programme. Generally, there are no traces of contaminants or human impacts on the extracted groundwater indicating that the groundwater pumped for water supply recharged the chalk aquifer prior to 1950 (e.g. Hinsby et al., 2001).

3 Data collection and investigations conducted in the project

Groundwater samples were collected from selected water supply wells in collaboration between GEUS and the waterworks for the analysis of general hydrochemistry and groundwater age estimation by the environmental tracers $^3\text{H}/^3\text{He}$.

– General hydrochemistry

Major ion analyses were performed in the laboratory at GEUS by atom absorption spectroscopy (Ca), ion chromatography (Na, K, Mg, Cl, Br, F, SO_4^{2-}), FIA/Flow Injection Analysis (NH_4^+) and spectroscopy (PO_4^{3-}). Alkalinity was measured in the field by Gran titration, while O_2 , pH and SEC (specific electrical conductivity) were measured by standard WTW electrodes in the field. The total dissolved solids were calculated manually from the analysis of the major cations and anions, after checking of the ion balance for every sample.

– $^3\text{H}/^3\text{He}$

Samples for ^3H , He isotopes and Ne analysis and groundwater dating were collected in two copper tubes (for noble gases) and a 1 l plastic bottle (for ^3H) by sampling techniques provided by the “Helis-Helium Isotope Studies Bremen” (University of Bremen), where the collected samples were analysed by mass spectrometry (Sueltenfuss et al., 2009). Tritium (^3H) is determined by the helium-in-growth

method where the decay product of ^3H (^3He) is measured by mass spectrometry with a detection limit of 0.01 TU (1 TU = $^3\text{H}/^2\text{H}$ ratio of 1×10^{-18}).

3.1 Airborne geophysics and borehole logging

Borehole logging (Buckley et al., 2001) and airborne electromagnetics (AEM) by the SkyTEM method (Sørensen and Auken, 2004) have proven their value for the mapping of the fresh and saltwater distribution in the subsurface in Danish geological settings (Buckley et al., 2001; Kirkegaard et al., 2011; Jørgensen et al., 2012). We therefore used these methods to provide valuable data on salinity variations in the subsurface for the model setup and for corroboration of the simulation results in the investigated area. The geophysical investigations were conducted as part of the present study mainly to supplement the existing knowledge of the lithological variations (distribution of aquitards and aquifers), groundwater flow in aquifers, and the subsurface distribution of saltwater.

– Borehole logging

Borehole wireline geophysics were conducted by GEUS in 14 wells, including three new wells drilled during the project, primarily to evaluate the fresh/salt water boundaries (Fig. 2). The logging program was conducted using standard slimhole logging equipment (by Robertson Geologging LTD). The collected data are used to evaluate geological stratification, saltwater distribution and groundwater flow into wells (e.g. Buckley et al., 2001; Maurer et al., 2009), and to support and corroborate the interpretation of the regional airborne SkyTEM measurements (Jørgensen et al., 2012). The combined use of logging probes measuring natural gamma radiation, formation conductivity (focused induction log), fluid conductivity and temperature and inflow to wells (propeller flow meter) were applied to e.g. identify whether low formation resistivities are due to saline porewaters or high clay contents in sediments (Sánchez et al., 2012) and to identify hydraulic active zones in the Chalk aquifer.

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– AEM (SkyTEM)

An airborne (Helicopter) time domain electromagnetic survey (SkyTEM, Sørensen and Auken, 2004) was flown over areas covering most of well field 2 and 3. The SkyTEM system was developed for high – resolution surveys for especially hydrological targets. In this particular SkyTEM survey an average helicopter speed of 13ms^{-1} was chosen and the transmitter (314m^2 octagonal loop) set up with a low moment ($10\text{A} \times 314\text{m}^2 \times 1\text{turn} = 3140\text{Am}^2$) and a high moment ($100\text{A} \times 314\text{m}^2 \times 2\text{turns} = 62800\text{Am}^2$), enabling shallow and deep penetration, respectively, and allowing TEM measurements every 30 m with a depth of investigation of up to 120–150 m (Auken et al., 2009a). Unfortunately, due to a large number of electrical cables, it is not possible to measure in the housing areas along the eastern coastline and around well field 1. The survey provides resistivity or electrical conductivity maps of the subsurface indicating e.g. the distribution of saltwater in aquifers (Auken et al., 2009b; Kirkegaard et al., 2011; Jørgensen et al., 2012). Approximately 50 km of SkyTEM were flown in the investigated area with a distance between flightlines of 150–200 m. The data was processed and inverted with Spatially Constrained Inversion algorithm (Viezzoli et al., 2008), using the Aarhus Workbench software (Auken et al., 2009b; Aarhus Geophysics, 2009).

3.2 Flow and transport model

The numerical modeling complex MODFLOW-2000/MT3DMS/SEAWAT was used for simulating the 3-D variable density groundwater flow and solute transport (Harbaugh et al., 2000; Zheng and Wang, 1999; Zeng, 2010; Langevin et al., 2007). The user interface Groundwater Vistas version 6 was used as the pre- and post-processing tool (Rumbaugh and Rumbaugh, 2011).

The groundwater abstraction, the groundwater recharge, and the drainage canals are simulated with the MODFLOW Well Package, the Recharge Package, and the Drainage Package. The Time-Variant Specified-Head (CDH) package is used to assign specified or constant head boundaries that can change within or between stress

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periods (Harbaugh et al., 2000). When using the CHD package for variably density modeling the reference head value assigned to the boundary cell is updated prior to each transport timestep using the fluid density from the previous transport timestep (Langevin et al., 2007).

5 The Hydrogeologic-Unit Flow (HUF) Package was used for the MODFLOW-2000 program (Anderman, 2000). The HUF package is a flow-package that makes it possible to define hydrogeological units that are independent from the numerical layers. Hydraulic properties are assigned to the hydrogeological units in the HUF package and the HUF package calculates the effective hydraulic properties for the numerical
10 layers. The advantage of using the HUF package in variable density modeling is the ability on the one hand to represent hydrological units of variable thickness and distribution and at the same time honor the recommendations of using horizontal numerical layers of uniform thickness for the density modeling (Langevin et al., 2007).

15 The Preconditioned Conjugate-Gradient (PCG2) Package is used to solve the flow equations.

Due to the length of simulation time the finite difference solution scheme is used for solving the advection term of the solute transport equation in the first three modeling phases despite the risk of numerical dispersion. For the three last model phases including the scenario simulations the TVD method is used. The TVD method introduces
20 only limited numerical dispersion. The Generalized Conjugate solver (GCG) with the SSOR pre-conditioner is used for solving the sink/source and dispersion terms.

A sensitivity analyses is performed comparing the use of the Finite Difference solution scheme compared to the TVD solution scheme on the effect on salinity in groundwater abstraction wells.

25 For SEAWAT_v4 the Variable-Density Flow (VDF) package is used. The density-concentration slope is defined in the VDF package.

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3.3 Scenarios

The central part of Falster has, as described above, undergone several significant changes in the hydrological system during the last centuries. These changes may be divided into four phases, Fig. 4. Until mid-last millennium (phase 1) the lagoon was open to the Baltic Sea and the water was salt/brackish. Due to the sedimentation around the barrier islands the outlet between the lagoon and the Baltic Sea became narrower and the water in the lagoon became fresher (phase 2). Around 1870 the connection to the sea was closed and the reclamation and drainage of the area was initiated and a pumping station built (phase 3). Later a waterworks was established on one of the barrier islands and groundwater abstraction was initiated (phase 4). This four-phase transition from saltwater lagoon to groundwater abstraction area forms the initial conditions for the climate scenarios (Table 1). An autonomous salinization might be ongoing, i.e. the aquifer system may not be in dynamic equilibrium with respect to salinization after these changes in the hydrological system.

The scenarios focus on two aspects of climate change: sea level rise and change in groundwater recharge. The basic climate scenario includes a sea level rise of 0.75 m and an increase in groundwater recharge of 15% or 36 mm in the period from 2010 to 2100 (phase 5). The increase in groundwater recharge is based on van Roosmalen (2007) who has estimated the expected change in groundwater recharge for a comparable area in Denmark based on output from regional climate models representing IPCC scenarios A2 and B2. In phase 6 both recharge and sea level are kept constant for additional 200 yr to capture the long-term effects of the imposed climate changes (Fig. 4).

Eight climate change scenarios were simulated with different combinations of sea level rise, groundwater recharge, and drainage canal stage (Table 2). Scenario 0 represents a situation where no changes occur. Scenario 1 represents an estimate of the most likely future with an increase in recharge of 15% and sea level rise of 0.75 m. In scenario 2–8 a sensitivity analysis of the most likely scenario is carried out, where

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realistic changes in sea level and recharge have been implemented. The drainage canals play an important role in the modeled groundwater system. To evaluate the sensitivity of the drains two simulations (scenarios 7 and 8) are performed with changed stage, +30 cm and –30 cm.

4 Model setup, calibration and validation

4.1 Hydro-stratigraphic model

The hydrogeological model is based on the hydro-stratigraphic layers defined in the DK-model (Højberg et al., 2008). The DK-model consists of eight alternating Quaternary clayey till and sand layers below which the pre-quaternary sediments consisting of chalk is defined. The surfaces and thicknesses of the model layers in the DK-Model have been estimated on the basis of the extensive Danish well record database Jupiter with more than two wells per square kilometer (national average), geological maps and models, and regional geophysical surveys. The hydro-stratigraphic model layers are interpreted in horizontal/lateral resolution of 100m × 100m grid.

In the present study area three adjustments of the hydro-stratigraphic layers have been made. Based on the soil map and geological information from wells, a top layer of 5 m sand is implemented where the soil map shows sand. Clayey till is assigned elsewhere in the top layer. The upper five meters of the clayey till is assumed fractured with a higher hydraulic conductivity than deeper laying clayey till (Højberg et al., 2008). Based on studies of comparable Chalk formations in Denmark, Bonnesen et al. (2009) suggest that the upper 30–80 m of the Chalk is fully refreshed due to fracture systems allowing freshwater to circulate and displace the original marine saltwater. The stratification of the upper part of the chalk aquifer may be conceptualized in three units: an upper zone crushed by glacial activities with many fractures, high effective hydraulic conductivity and dominated by advective groundwater flow; an intermediate fractured and

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partly refreshed mixing zone (Bonnesen, 2009; Klitten, 2006) with a medium hydraulic conductivity; and a deeper zone with low hydraulic conductivity dominated by diffusion.

In order to represent an upper zone where solute transport is dominated by advection and a deeper zone where solute transport is dominated by diffusion, the chalk formation has been divided into eight hydro-stratigraphic layers with gradually decreasing hydraulic conductivity. The upper four layers have a thickness of 15 m while the lower four layers have a thickness of 30 m. The hydro-stratigraphic layers of the chalk formation follow the topography of the chalk, the pre-Quaternary surface.

4.2 Model setup

The model area covers an area of 44 km² where 12 km² or 27 % of the area is sea (Fig. 5). Horizontally a grid size of 50 m by 50 m is used while in the vertical 32 numerical layers with thicknesses varying from 2 m to 12 m are specified, adding to a total number of active cells of 560 640. The thickness of the numerical layers gradually increases with depth down to -200 m a.s.l. The top elevation follows the digital terrain model including the elevation of the sea floor. In order to ensure that the drainage canal is located in the top layer the bottom of the top layer is specified at 4 m below ground surface. A minimum of 2 m layer thickness means that the model layer topography has been modified in the sea area.

The boundary conditions of the model include constant head in the uppermost model layer in the area representing the sea, drains in 848 cells, no-flow along the outer boundaries, as well as groundwater recharge and groundwater abstraction. A horizontal impermeable layer at -200 m depths defines the bottom of the numerical model.

The simulation of seawater intrusion has been divided into six phases (Fig. 4) using four separate but consecutive model setups and simulations with different boundary conditions (Table 3) to represent the historical situation. The groundwater head and salinity distribution at the end of each model phase was used as initial heads and concentrations for the consecutive model phase. In phase one the saltwater concentration in the lagoon, Bøtø Nor, and the water table is assumed to be the same as the Baltic

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4.3 Calibration of flow model

A sensitivity analysis performed using PEST (Doherty, 2005) showed highest sensitivities for the vertical hydraulic conductivity of the clayey till, horizontal hydraulic conductivity of the sand and the upper chalk layer, and the hydraulic conductivity of the drain level. Initially, automatic parameter estimation using PEST of the hydraulic conductivities for the hydro-stratigraphic layers and drainage level was tried, but due to the uneven distribution of the head data it was not possible to come up with groundwater head distribution comparable to previous studies. So a trial and error calibration using the parameters from the DK-Model as a starting point was performed on the steady-state flow model (Sonnenborg et al., 2003).

A comparison of the calibration statistics for the steady-state model shows a good agreement between the numerical model without density and the numerical model with density effects (Table 5). The calibration results for the groundwater heads for the steady-state models are regarded as satisfactory with a RMS value of 1.53 m. For the transient calibration a R^2 -value (the Nash-Sutcliffe coefficient) of 0.88 was found for the drainage canal main gauging station based on monthly data, which in general is an acceptable calibration result. The best calibration of the numerical flow model was achieved to the east and north around the well field areas with respect to groundwater heads. Figure 9 shows groundwater head for model layer 7 (–18 to –21 m a.s.l.), the groundwater flow velocity vectors in a cross-section, and observed versus simulated groundwater heads.

The main model parameters are shown in Table 6. Dispersivity values are based on values from previous studies and literature (Brettmann et al., 1993).

4.4 Sensitivity analysis

A sensitivity analysis was performed to evaluate the importance of the longitudinal dispersivity value and the MT3DMS solution scheme. For the two groundwater abstraction wells (172 and 212) with simulated TDS concentrations between 0.4–0.8 g l⁻¹ a 4–6 %

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reduction in TDS concentrations was found after 100 yr of pumping using a longitudinal dispersivity of 1 m compared to the estimated value of 8 m. The sensitivity analysis of the MT3D finite difference solution scheme showed 5–14 % higher concentrations using the TVD scheme compared to the finite difference solution scheme.

5 4.5 Simulation of travel times to wells

MT3DMS/SEAWAT is used for simulation of groundwater age using the MT3DMS Reaction package. Groundwater age is simulated as species number 2 (salt water is species number 1) with “no-sorption” and “zero-order decay”. All water in the model starts with an age of zero days, and as the water moves through the model the water is tracked with time.

4.6 Validation of transport model (incl. sensitivity analysis) against time series, hydrochemical and geophysical data

The 3-D numerical simulations of seawater intrusion have been corroborated by analysis of groundwater chemical data (electrical conductivity, EC; chloride; and total dissolved solids, TDS), estimated groundwater tracer ages ($^3\text{H}/^3\text{He}$ dating), and geophysical investigations (borehole logging and airborne electromagnetics/SkyTEM). Geophysical borehole logs from the water supply wells were available at the time of model setup and were applied to e.g. assist in the definition and distribution of hydraulic parameters in the model. The interpreted SkyTEM measurements, the logging results of the new investigation well and the $^3\text{H}/^3\text{He}$ tracer ages became available after model setup. Hence, they provide independent data for comparison to and possible validation of the model simulations.

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4.6.1 Hydrochemical and geophysical data corroborating results of the model simulations

Table 7 compares selected results from laboratory analyses on groundwater samples and geophysical borehole logs in the sampled water supply wells and the Baltic Sea.

The presented data focuses on salinity related parameters relevant for evaluating and simulating salt water intrusion. The data show that chloride concentrations vary from approximately 30 mg l^{-1} in water supply wells in the new well field 3 in the main groundwater recharge area to more than 4000 mg l^{-1} in a sample from the Baltic Sea.

Figure 6 illustrate the relation between measured chloride and measured and calculated electrical conductivity and TDS, respectively. The shown data are all from the investigated water supply wells and cover salinities around the WHO and EU guideline value for chloride (250 mg l^{-1}) in order to make the resolution as precise as possible around this value. Figure 6 demonstrates the near perfect linear relationship between the chloride contents and the EC and TDS of the samples around the drinking water standard for chloride in the investigated chalk aquifer.

Hence, the data shown in Table 7 and Fig. 6 can be used to estimate the EC and TDS values corresponding to the guideline for chloride (Table 8), and thereby facilitating the comparison between model simulations, airborne and borehole geophysics and hydro-chemical measurement as well as for estimation of the size of the drinking water resource in the area. By using a factor ($f_{\text{form.}} = \text{EC}_{\text{water}} / \text{EC}_{\text{formation}}$) for the chalk aquifer of 4 obtained by geophysical borehole logging in the water supply wells (Table 7) and previous investigations (Larsen et al., 2006; Bonnesen et al., 2009) it becomes possible to estimate the average groundwater conductivity from airborne resistivity measurements of the formation, and hence indicate where groundwater comply with the guideline value for chloride in the chalk aquifer.

In the investigated chalk aquifer the EC for groundwater corresponding to the drinking water guideline for chloride is 107 mS m^{-1} (Table 8), and hence much less than the guideline value for EC itself (250 mS m^{-1} at 20°C corresponds to around 200 mS m^{-1}

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at 10 °C). The guideline value for chloride is therefore significantly stricter as a quality indicator than the EC value in the investigated aquifer. Hence, we use the TDS and EC values corresponding to the measured chloride concentrations to develop colour scales that facilitate regional comparison between the results of model simulations and SkyTEM surveys. Further, the colour scales is defined such that they clearly indicate where the chloride contents are above (red colour) or below (blue/green colours) drinking water guidelines. Hence the blue and green colours in the plots of model and SkyTEM results in Fig. 7 indicate the size and location of the drinking water resource. Yellow indicate where the groundwater breach a threshold value of 150 mg l⁻¹ (Hinsby et al., 2008) and may serve as an early warning of significant salt water intrusion. The comparison of the results from the model simulations and the SkyTEM (Fig. 7) shows that the model simulations capture the main features of the current fresh and saltwater distribution mapped by SkyTEM quite well e.g. by identifying the two fresh water lenses that have developed below the clayey push moraine hills in the west and the smaller sandy barrier island in the east. Further, both the SkyTEM measurements and the model simulations are able to locate the expected up-coning of saltwater below the main drain canal through the investigation area.

Figure 8 showing results of the geophysical borehole logs that were run in the new deep investigation well (well no. 344) indicate that the salinity of the pore waters in the Chalk aquifer increase from the drinking water guideline at a depth of approximately 25 m below surface to the salinity of the Baltic Sea at a depth of about 74 m. At a depth of 100 m where the borehole terminates the salinity approaches the salinity of ocean water. Based on previous investigations of deep wells (down to about 400 m below surface) in limestone and chalk about and diffusion profiles observed in these (Bonnesen et al., 2009), we estimate that the salinity of chalk reaches the salinity of the cretaceous sea at a depth of approximately 150 m. Hence, the log from the deep investigation well indicates that the salt water interface is located at approximately 25 m below surface. This compares well with the results of the SWI model simulations (Figs. 7 and 8).

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The salt water interface estimated by the SkyTEM measurements is located somewhat deeper at a depth of approximately 40 m below surface.

4.6.2 Estimated $^3\text{H}/^3\text{He}$ ages and simulated travel times to wells

Table 9 compares $^3\text{H}/^3\text{He}$ estimated groundwater ages to travel times to water supply wells computed by the established SWI model. The data shows a generally quite good agreement between the age estimates, except for well no. 242.319 and 242.320, where the simulated ages are significantly younger than the tracer estimates. The reason for the discrepancy is currently not known, but it could be a result of diffusive loss of ^3H and ^3He from fractures to matrix in the approximately 11 m thick clay tills above the chalk aquifer. This process removes the tracers from the hydraulic active fractures resulting in tracer groundwater age estimates older than actual groundwater advective ages (LaBolle et al., 2006).

5 Model results and predictions

Nine different climate change scenarios have been simulated in this study (Table 2).

5.1 Present situation

In scenario 0 no climate change is implemented and only effects of the hydrogeographical changes including the drainage from 1870 and groundwater abstraction from 1960 is affecting the change in TDS concentration in the aquifer and groundwater wells. The results of the numerical simulation are first described by time series of TDS concentration from two groundwater abstraction wells, well no. 172 and 212 (Fig. 10). Both wells show an increasing TDS concentration from the start of groundwater abstraction in 1960 until a maximum is seen around 2010. Beyond this time a minor decrease in concentration is seen, most significantly over the following 200 yr, where after the changes in concentrations are marginal.

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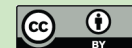


Figure 11a and b show that fresh water lenses are generated under both the barrier islands to the east and the push moraine hills to west of the drainage canal, where the lens on the western part is much deeper than the one on the western part due to higher elevations of the groundwater table. At the western part a single flow system is developed showing a nearly symmetrical flow net with a groundwater divide located in the central part and groundwater discharging to the drainage canal and the strait of Guldborgsund, respectively. The freshwater lens extends to approximately –80 m a.s.l. Below the lens the low permeable units of the chalk formation is situated. The flow system to the east of the drainage canal is somewhat different. A groundwater divide is located close to the east coast and a local groundwater flow system is developed at the top of the profile where groundwater discharges to the Baltic Sea in the eastern, near shore area while groundwater recharging the rest of the aquifer flows toward west. Below, a regional flow system is found where groundwater flows to the west. Hence, most of the groundwater recharge flows towards the abstraction wells and the drainage canals. Below the freshwater lens saltwater flow from the Baltic Sea in the east towards the drainage canal. In Fig. 11a the upconing effect beneath the drainage canal is clearly seen on the freshwater-saltwater distribution in a model cross section. Comparison to the cross section with no pumping (Fig. 11b) reveals that upconing also takes place at the two abstraction wells. It is also seen that elevated chloride concentrations in the shallow system is primarily caused by saltwater intrusion from the sea whereas upward migration of residual saltwater from the deeper chalk formations is negligible.

5.2 Scenario 1 (best estimate)

Scenario 1 is considered to represent the most likely estimate of future changes in sea level and groundwater recharge. However, large uncertainties are associated with this projection and a sensitivity analysis on this reference scenario is therefore carried out.

When sea level and groundwater recharge are increased simultaneously almost no effect on the saltwater distribution is observed to the west of the drainage canal (Fig. 11e). The expected saltwater intrusion caused by sea level rise is balanced by the

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increase in groundwater recharge and hence groundwater level. The situation on the eastern part is quite different, where an inland movement of saltwater from the Baltic Sea below the freshwater lens is observed (Fig. 11e and f). The eastern flow system is characterized by the regional flow system that connects the drainage canal to the sea through high permeable fractured chalk, as the eastern freshwater lens does not extend down into the low-permeable chalk. The rising sea level results in an increasing gradient towards the drainage canal where the stage is constant despite the increase in sea level and recharge. Hence, saltwater intrusion is more pronounced in this situation. Under the drainage canal the picture is more diverse with increasing TDS content in parts of the aquifer and decreasing TDS in other parts, here the effect of the increasing recharge counteract to some extent the increasing sea level (Fig. 11c–f).

The TDS concentration simulated for well no. 172 (Fig. 10) shows for scenario 1 an increasing concentration from 2100 and onwards and the increase has not stabilized in year 2300. For well no. 212, which is located further from the coast and closer to the drainage canals, scenario 1 has no significant impact on the TDS concentration is observed. A minor decrease in TDS concentration compared to scenario 0 is indicated by the model simulations (Fig. 10).

5.3 Changing recharge (scenario 2 and 3)

In scenario 2 groundwater recharge is reduced from +15 % to 0 %. For well 172 located closest to the sea a gradual increase in chloride concentration is found (Fig. 10a), indicating that the thickness of the freshwater lens is reduced and more chloride is mixed into the abstracted water. Well no. 212 is not affected within the simulation period (Fig. 10b).

The effects are more significant when the recharge is decreased further to –15 % while sea level rise remains at 0.75 m (scenario 3). For the groundwater abstraction wells a 3–5-fold increase in concentration is found (well 172 and 212, Fig. 10). Especially at the well close to the east coast a dramatic increase in concentration is observed. An increase in salinity of the eastern freshwater lens also is seen on the

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cross sections, Fig. 12a and b, and the increase is observed all the way to the top of the saturated zone.

The reason for this dramatic change is explained by Fig. 13. When groundwater recharge is decreased, the groundwater divide is displaced to the east and the local shallow flow system at the top eastern corner disappears. Hence, saltwater from the sea flows directly into the freshwater lens and freshwater is displaced from the area resulting in an increase in concentration for the entire lens system (Fig. 12a and b). Because of recharging freshwater the concentrations in the shallow parts of the aquifer does not reach the level of the sea. It should be noted that the concentration distribution has not reached a steady state situation at year 2300 and the concentration changes shown in Fig. 12a and b, therefore do not represent the final state of the system.

Figure 12a and b also show that the decrease in groundwater recharge results in a reduction of the freshwater lens of the area west of the drainage canal where the transition zone has moved 10–20 m upwards. This is a result of a decrease in the elevation of the groundwater table which causes the saltwater–freshwater interface to move up.

5.4 Changing sea level (scenario 4–6)

In scenarios 4, 5 and 6 the sea level is increased successively from 0 m to 0.5 m and 1.0 m. In the area west of the drainage canal the changes in sea level have almost no impact on the concentration distribution (Fig. 12c and d). As sea level is increased, the elevation of the groundwater table also increases. This corroborates with the findings of Chang et al. (2011) who found that sea level changes did not result in significant impacts on saltwater intrusion for constant flux systems. However, on the eastern side of the drainage canal the concentration of the abstracted water at the well closest to the coast is sensitive to the changes (Fig. 10a). If zero sea level rise is specified, sea water intrusion is reduced both compared to scenario 0 and 1 and when the sea level is increased the concentration at the well gradually increases. Contrary to the western flow system, the drainage canal is connected to the sea through high permeable

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geological layers and changes in sea level therefore affect the gradient and hence the location of the mixing zone between the fresh and salt water. At well 212 almost no impact of sea level changes are observed (Fig. 10b). Here, recharging freshwater from above prevents the saltwater to invade this well further.

5.5 Effect of drainage system (scenarios 7–8)

In scenarios 7 and 8 the impact of stage in the drainage canal is investigated. If the stage is increased the hydraulic gradient from the sea to the canal is reduced and a marginal reduction in saltwater intrusion is found (Fig. 10). However, a decrease of the stage by only 30 cm has a relatively large effect on the concentration of well 172 (Fig. 10a). At the end of the simulation period the concentration has increased by approximately 50 % compared to scenario 1. Figure 12e and f show that relatively large differences in concentration distribution are found below the wells. As the hydraulic head at the canal is dictated by the specified stage, the gradient from the sea increases which results in additional sea water intrusion.

6 Discussion

6.1 Salinity trends in water supply wells

According to the model simulations some abstraction wells have reached equilibrium conditions before 2010. After the start of pumping upconing of saline water takes place and the TDS contents in the wells are seen to increase to a certain maximum level. Subsequently, a minor decrease in TDS content towards a constant level is observed, when all other parameters are unchanged. This dynamic is due to the delayed effect of continuous recharge to the aquifer. Other wells have just reached a new equilibrium around 2010 and the TDS content has stopped increasing indicating that some of the existing abstraction wells could continue to be in use with a proper abstraction scheme if sea level and climate do not change. Some of these wells might even experience

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a minor decrease in chloride content. A third group of abstraction wells are still seeing an increase in chloride content after 50 yr of abstraction. Which situation applies to a given well not only depend on the distance to the shore but to a high extend also the hydrogeological settings around the well.

6.2 Comparison of model results with geochemical and geophysical data

The comparison of simulation results with independent geochemical (chloride, TDS) and geophysical (SkyTEM and borehole logging) data (Sect. 4.6) show a reasonable agreement between the overall distribution of freshwater and saltwater as mapped by the different measurements (Figs. 7 and 8) especially considering that the geophysical data from the airborne EM, and the borehole logging results from the deep investigation well, were not available during setup of the model, and hence were not applied for e.g. defining hydraulic parameters and the location of the salt/freshwater boundaries. When analyzing results more closely it becomes clear that some discrepancies exist. For instance when comparing the location of the interface between fresh and saline groundwater in Fig. 7, it is found that the freshwater generally penetrates deeper in the SWI model than in the SkyTEM measurements in the east-west trending cross section to the left, while the opposite is the case for the freshwater penetration in the north-south trending cross section to the right. Note that the model agrees with the borehole log that the interface is located at approximately 25 m below surface at the 100 m deep investigation well, while the SkyTEM measurements indicate a depth of 40 m to the interface. However, both SkyTEM and model results agrees that the groundwater chloride concentrations exceed the drinking water standard of 250 mg l^{-1} in the whole investigation depth in the reclaimed land east of the drainage canal. Hence, the performance of the SWI model can be fine-tuned to capture the salinity variations at the canal and at the water supply wells, when all collected data especially the airborne geophysical measurements are used for cross-validation of both the SWI model and the airborne mapping of subsurface resistivity's (Comte and Banton, 2007; Comte et al., 2010) not the least when borehole logging data are included in the evaluation.

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6.3 Comparison of travel time simulations and $^3\text{H}/^3\text{He}$ groundwater ages

Estimation of travel times and groundwater ages is not a simple task and is associated with considerable uncertainties whether estimated by model simulations or environmental tracers such as $^3\text{H}/^3\text{He}$ (Weissmann et al., 2002; LaBolle et al., 2006; Trolborg et al., 2008). $^3\text{H}/^3\text{He}$ ages computed assuming piston flow and simulated travel times to wells may differ considerably especially in complex geological settings (Trolborg et al., 2008). However, both methods contribute to the understanding of the flow dynamics in the investigated systems (Sueltenfuss et al., 2011), and combined with analyses of contaminants and general geochemistry they provide valuable data for the understanding of the temporal and spatial evolution of the groundwater quality (Hinsby et al., 2001, 2007). In the present study there is a relatively good agreement between the relatively old groundwater ages estimated by the two methods, and between the estimated (relatively old) groundwater ages and the general hydrochemistry (the fact that no human impacts/contamination are observed in the aquifer). The groundwater age estimations indicate generally ages of more than 75 yr and in a few cases more than 100 yr. This indicates that the flow system of the chalk aquifer is efficiently isolated from the upper shallow groundwater flow system by the extensive system of drain canals developed in the late 19th century and the clay till aquitard above the chalk. The drainage system drains away the major part of the recharged groundwater, and maintains upward hydraulic gradients in large parts of the investigated area. However, the flow through the clay till in recharge areas and the groundwater flow from the chalk to the drainage canals in discharge areas are limited. The latter is corroborated by the fact that no increased chloride contents can be observed in the canals despite the fact that the canals have a significant impact on saltwater intrusion in the chalk.

6.4 Development scenarios for the investigated area in the 21st century

The reference scenario where the effects of both sea level rise and an increase in groundwater recharge were quantified revealed that only small effects on the saltwater

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Combinations of the changes examined above, i.e. decreasing groundwater recharge, increasing sea level and decreasing stage in the drainage canal will be especially critical for the freshwater resources to the east of the former lagoon. However, the system is found to react relatively slowly on the imposed stresses and a proper monitoring system, e.g. using continuous sampling of chloride concentrations or EC from wells located relatively close to the Baltic Sea coast could provide the waterworks with an early warning system that enables them to take appropriate measures in case of increasing saltwater intrusion, e.g. to find locations for new well fields. Alternatively, measures to avoid or remediate salt water intrusion such as the introduction of hydraulic barriers (Abarca et al., 2006; Misut and Voss, 2007; Pool and Carrera, 2010) could be introduced. Effects and benefits of different hydraulic barrier designs should be further analysed as the application of such tools most probably will become of increasing importance for sustainable water management in the investigated area and in many other coastal regions in the future. Especially in regions with a high population density.

Other effects of projected climate change impacts include an increase in the number and size of extreme events resulting in floodings along drainage canals if measures are not taken to avoid this. Such floodings have increased in recent decades (the latest occurred in August 2011 while the authors were doing field work in the area) as the capacity of the pumping station and the drainage system is becoming too small. Hence, to minimize the risk of future flooding in the area the capacity of the pumping station and the drainage canals have to be increased by at least 20 % according to the SWI model. Further, we propose that the most low-lying parts of the area to the east of the pumping station, which in the early 19th century was a wetland, are prepared for controlled emergency flooding e.g. by introduction of a few flow controlled sluice gates in the main canals just before the pumping station for intelligent flood risk management (e.g. Tang et al., 2010). This would reduce the potential damage of the flooding considerably.

7 Conclusions

In this study SWI modeling of a real-world case demonstrates the importance and effect of changes in sea level and groundwater recharge on salt water intrusion into confined and unconfined coastal aquifers, where the groundwater head is controlled by drainage canals especially in the upper unconfined aquifer. A 3-D density-dependent numerical groundwater model was set up for the groundwater abstraction areas including a larger drainage canal system located centrally in the area. The transition over the last centuries from an open brackish lagoon to a large wetland, and later to reclaimed and drained land changed the fresh water/salt water distribution in the chalk aquifer located between the coast and the drained area. The model studies of these four transition phases showed that the chalk aquifer in the eastern coast of the island of Falster is affected by seawater intrusion and that the system had reached a new equilibrium before the time where the extensive groundwater abstraction started in the 1960s.

The SWI model has been corroborated against geophysical data (SkyTEM and borehole logging) and hydrochemical data. In general a good agreement was found between the geophysical survey of apparent aquifer resistivities, the chloride analyses and the modeled TDS.

The study shows that saltwater intrusion is sensitive to changes in sea level, groundwater recharge and stage of the drainage canals. However, the boundary conditions of the examined system are important for the resulting effects. For the system with flux controlled boundary conditions only changes in groundwater recharge had an effect of the saltwater distribution, whereas for the system with head-controlled boundary conditions changes in recharge, sea level and the boundary itself (the stage of the canal) were found to be important for saltwater intrusion. For the actual system changes in recharge was found to be the most important factor, whereas minor sea level rises do not seem to affect the sea water intrusion as much. However, the combination of significant changes in groundwater recharge, sea level rise, groundwater abstraction, and canal maintenance are crucial for the development of the groundwater quality.

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The established SWI model including the interaction between groundwater, drainage canals, and the sea, is an important tool in future land use planning and water management in a changing climate. Such models will be needed to assess climate change impacts, minimize flooding risks, and to maintain a sustainable water resource in many coastal areas, globally.

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Table 1. Model phases.

Phase	Start year	End year	Years	
1			3000	Lagoon open to Baltic Sea, saltwater in lagoon
2	1601	1870	270	Minor outlet from lagoon to Baltic Sea, fresh water in lagoon
3	1871	1960	90	Reclamation and drainage of lagoon
4	1961	2010	50	Groundwater abstraction
5	2011	2100	90	Climate change effects implemented
6	2101	2300	200	Climate change input held constant

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Table 2. Climate change scenarios.

Scenario	SLR	Recharge	Drain stage
0	0 m	0%	no change
1	0.75 m	+15%	no change
2	0.75 m	0%	no change
3	0.75 m	–15%	no change
4	0 m	+15%	no change
5	0.5 m	+15%	no change
6	1 m	+15%	no change
7	0.75 m	+15%	+30 cm
8	0.75 m	+15%	–30 cm

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Table 3. Boundary conditions for three model phases.

Phase	Start year	End year	Years	Constant Head Lagoon (m)	Constant Conc. Lagoon (TDS mg l ⁻¹)	Drain in Lagoon	Groundwater Abstraction
1			3000	0	10 500	No	No
2	1601	1870	270	0.2		No	No
3	1871	1960	90	No	No	Yes	No
4	1961	2010	50	No	No	Yes	Yes

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Table 4. Estimated monthly variation in groundwater abstraction.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Distribution (%)	7	6	6	7	9	11	15	12	8	7	6	6

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Table 5. Calibration statistics.

	Numerical model, no density	Numerical model, with density
Groundwater head observations		
Residual mean (m)	−0.14	−0.15
RMS error (m)	1.53	1.53
Number of observations	30	30
Drain canal flow		
Deviation from target (%)	13.2	13.5
Number of observations	1	1

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Table 6. Model parameters.

Parameter name	Value
Horizontal hydraulic conductivity, sand (m s^{-1})	5×10^{-4}
Horizontal hydraulic conductivity, clay, top layer (m s^{-1})	5×10^6
Horizontal hydraulic conductivity, clay, aquitard (m s^{-1})	1×10^6
Horizontal hydraulic conductivity, chalk, aquifer (m s^{-1})	5×10^5
Horizontal hydraulic conductivity, chalk, fractured (m s^{-1})	$1 \times 10^5 - 2 \times 10^8$
Vertical Anisotropy (K_z/K_x)	0.1
Effective porosity	5–35
Specific yield	0.05–0.35
Specific storage (m^{-1})	$1 \times 10^4 - 1 \times 10^{-5}$
Dispersivity, longitudinal (m)	8
Dispersivity, transverse (m)	0.05
Dispersivity, vertical (m)	0.001
Diffusion (m s^{-1})	4.1×10^{-10}
Baltic Sea Salinity (TDS (g l^{-1}))	10.5*

* (Feistel et al., 2008)

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Table 7. Electrical conductivity measured by borehole logging and on water samples in the laboratory compared to analyzed chloride concentrations and calculated total dissolved solids (TDS).

well no.	Log EC ¹ mSm ⁻¹ 10°C	Lab. EC mSm ⁻¹ 25°C	Lab. EC ² mSm ⁻¹ 10°C	TDS ³ gl ⁻¹	Chloride mg l ⁻¹	log EC ⁴ mSm ⁻¹ 10°C	Log R Ωm 10°C	<i>f</i> _{form.} ⁵
242.44B	100	158	114	1.04	270	39	26	
242.178	109	152	109	1.01	257	26	38	4.2
242.182	46	66	47	0.57	31	13	77	3.5
242.212	83	117	84	0.84	185			
242.230	67	98	70	0.75	104			
242.232	82	115	83	0.86	155	22	45	3.7
242.319	45	67	48	0.57	40	10	100	4.5
242.320	42	62	45	0.53	32	9	111	4.7
Baltic Sea	–	1366	983	7.9	4403			

¹ Fluid conductivity log.

² Calculated as: $EC_{10} = EC_{25} (1 + a (10 - 25))$ where $a = 0.0187$ (Hayashi, 2004).

³ Calculated from the chemical analysis of the water sample.

⁴ Electrical conductivity of the formation measured by focused induction log.

⁵ Calculated formation factor. Note! The European drinking water guideline for electrical conductivity is 250 mSm⁻¹ at 20°C this corresponds to approximately 200 mSm⁻¹ at 10°C or 275 mSm⁻¹ at 25°C.

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Table 9. Measured $^3\text{H}/^3\text{He}$ values and estimated $^3\text{H}/^3\text{He}$ groundwater ages compared to model simulated travel times in supply wells.

Well no. ¹	He ⁴ radio nml cm ³ (STP)	³ H TU	err- ³ H TU	trit- ³ He TU	³ H/ ³ He age yr	Simulated travel times yr
242.178 (1)	8.97×10^{-4}	0.01	0.01	0.0	>75	113
242.182 (2)	1.02×10^{-4}	0.06	0.12	0.0	>75	–
242.212 (2)	3.83×10^{-4}	–0.01	0.01	0.0	>75	67
242.230 (2)	5.39×10^{-4}	0.09	1.06	0.0	>75	42
242.231 (2)	3.28×10^{-4}	0.01	0.15	0.0	>75	70
242.232 (2)	7.21×10^{-4}	0.01	0.02	0.0	>75	92
242.239 (2)	2.11×10^{-4}	0.01	0.01	0.0	>75	95
242.317 (3)	1.30×10^{-5}	0.05	0.02	3.3	75	85
242.319 (3)	1.12×10^{-5}	0.02	0.02	0.5	>75	48
242.320 (3)	1.38×10^{-5}	0.00	0.02	0.9	>75	45

¹ Numbers in parentheses indicate the well field each well belongs to.

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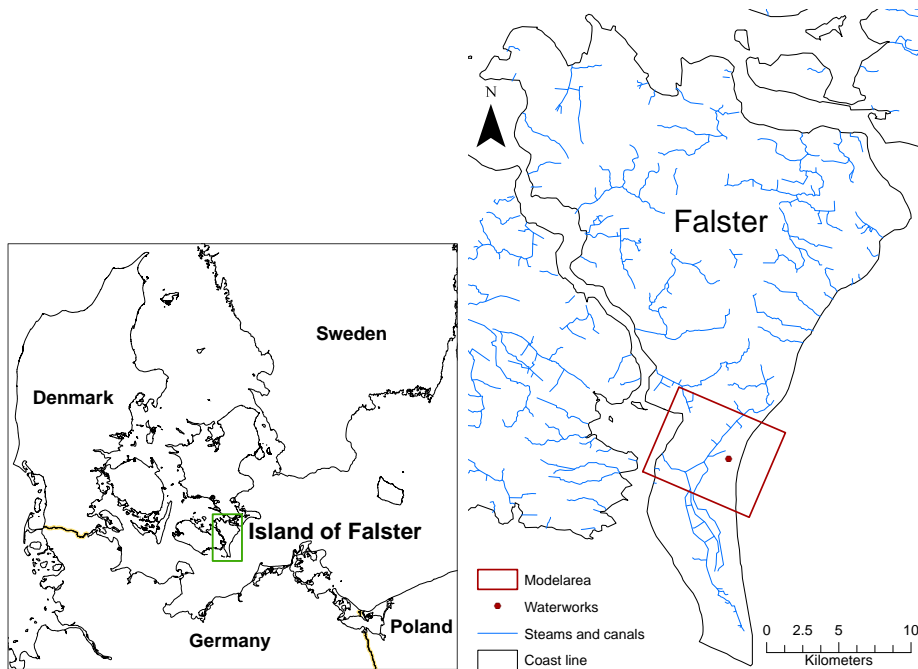


Fig. 1. Location of study area in the Western Baltic Sea.

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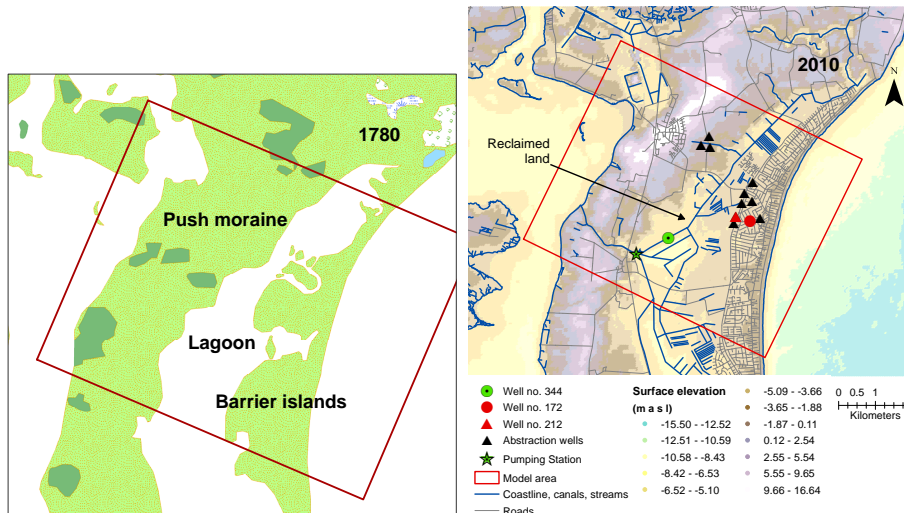


Fig. 2. Illustration of the development of the study area between 1780 and 2010. The drainage of the lagoon was initiated in 1860. The well archive number of wells described in the text is shown on Fig. 5.

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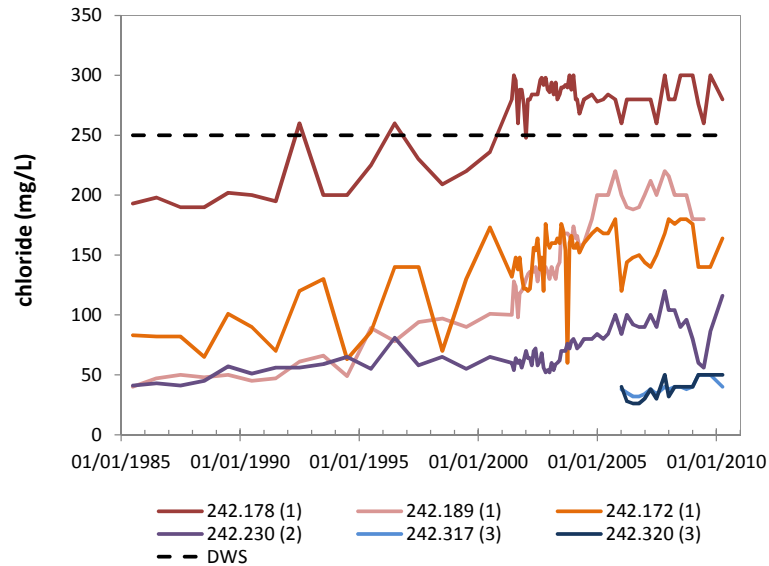


Fig. 3. The development of chloride concentrations in selected groundwater supply wells. The chloride concentrations are analyzed approximately once a year since 1985. Examples from the three well fields. DWS: The EU drinking water standard for chloride (250 mg l^{-1}).

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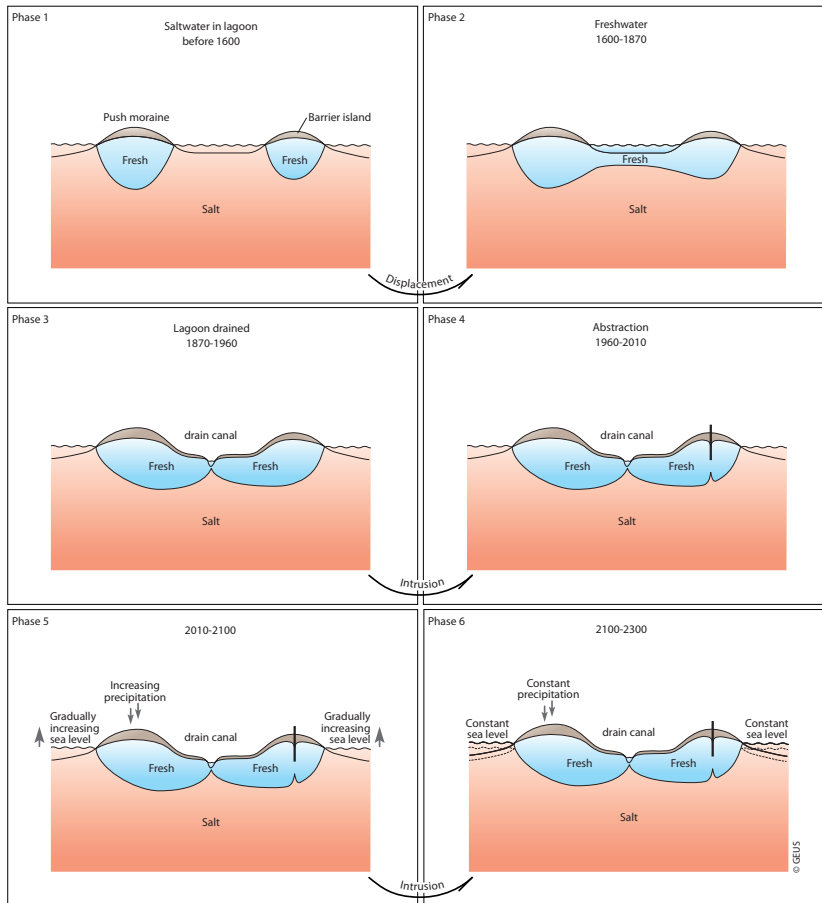


Fig. 4. Modeled transition phases of study area from lagoon with barrier islands to reclaimed land with groundwater abstraction and climate change impacts. Model results of previous phase define initial conditions of subsequent phase.

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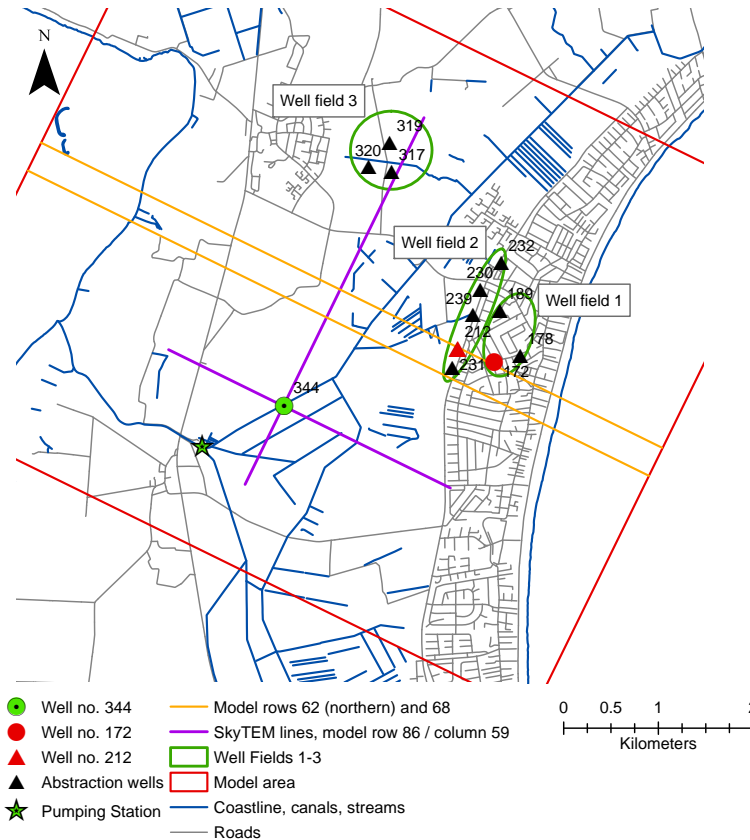


Fig. 5. Model area with groundwater abstraction wells (Q-wells) and new 100 m deep monitoring well (M2). Model rows, locations of well 212 and 172, and SkyTEM-profiles shown are used for illustration of model validation and results.

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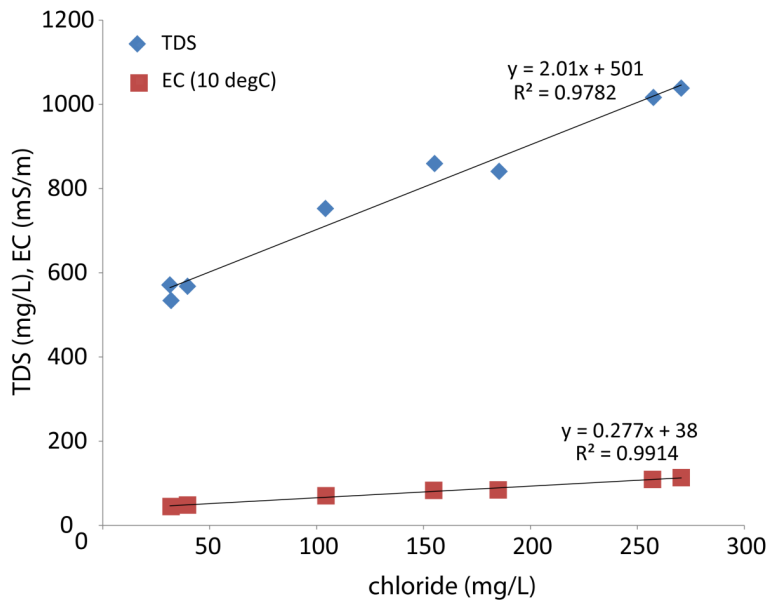


Fig. 6. Relation between measured chloride and measured and calculated electrical conductivity and TDS, respectively.

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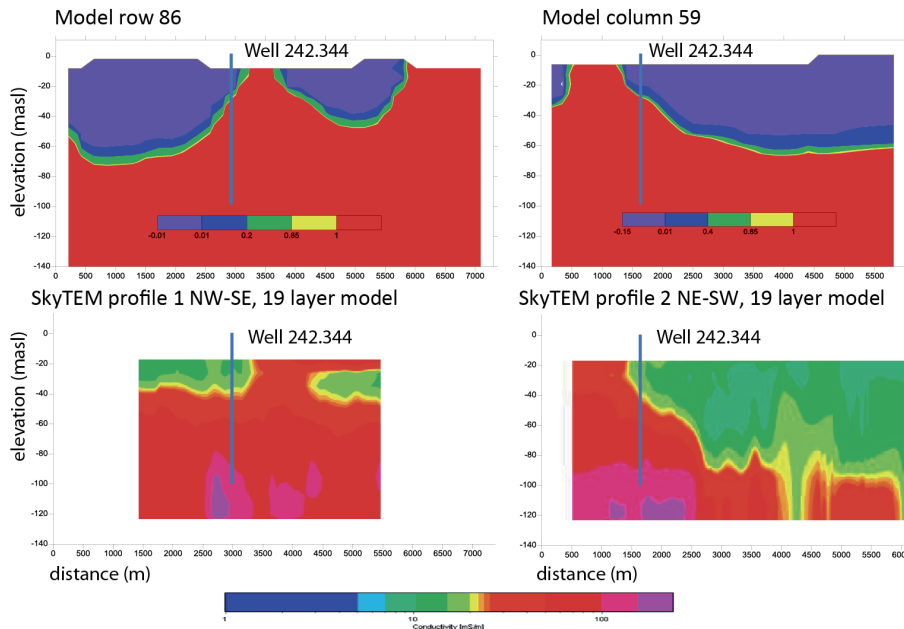


Fig. 7. Comparison between the results of model simulations (upper cross sections) and SkyTEM surveys (lower cross sections). Location of cross sections, see Fig. 5.

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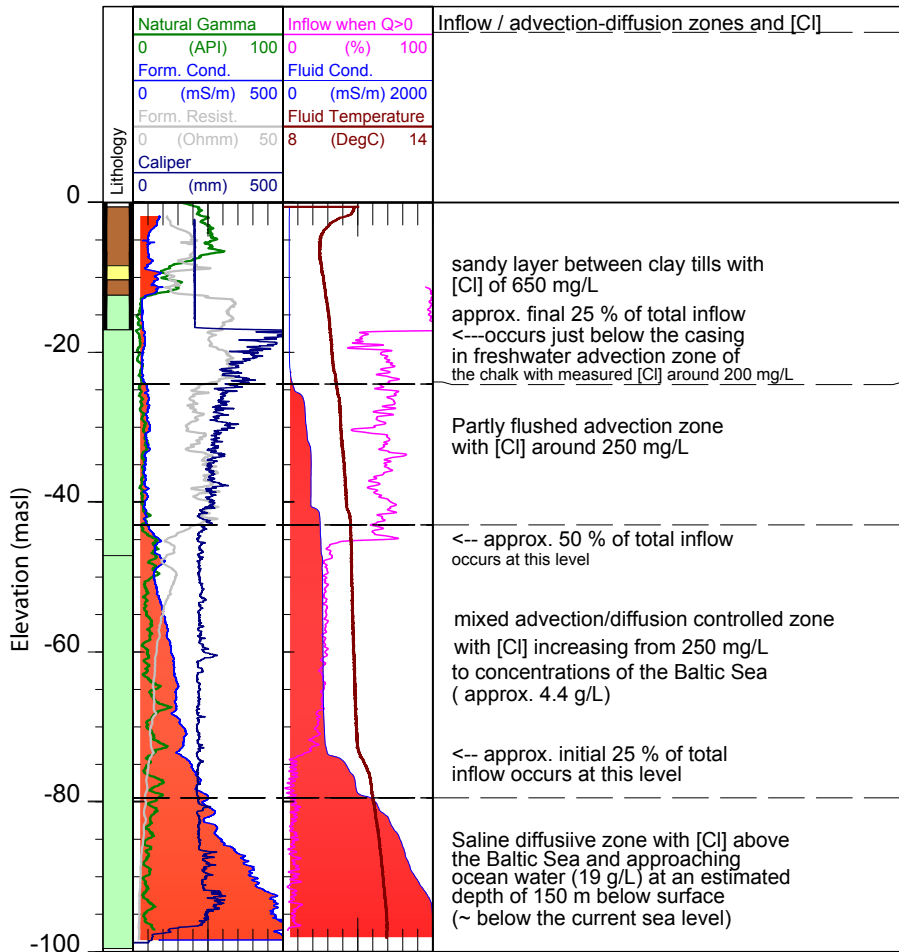


Fig. 8. Results of the geophysical borehole logs from the new deep investigation well (well no. 344).

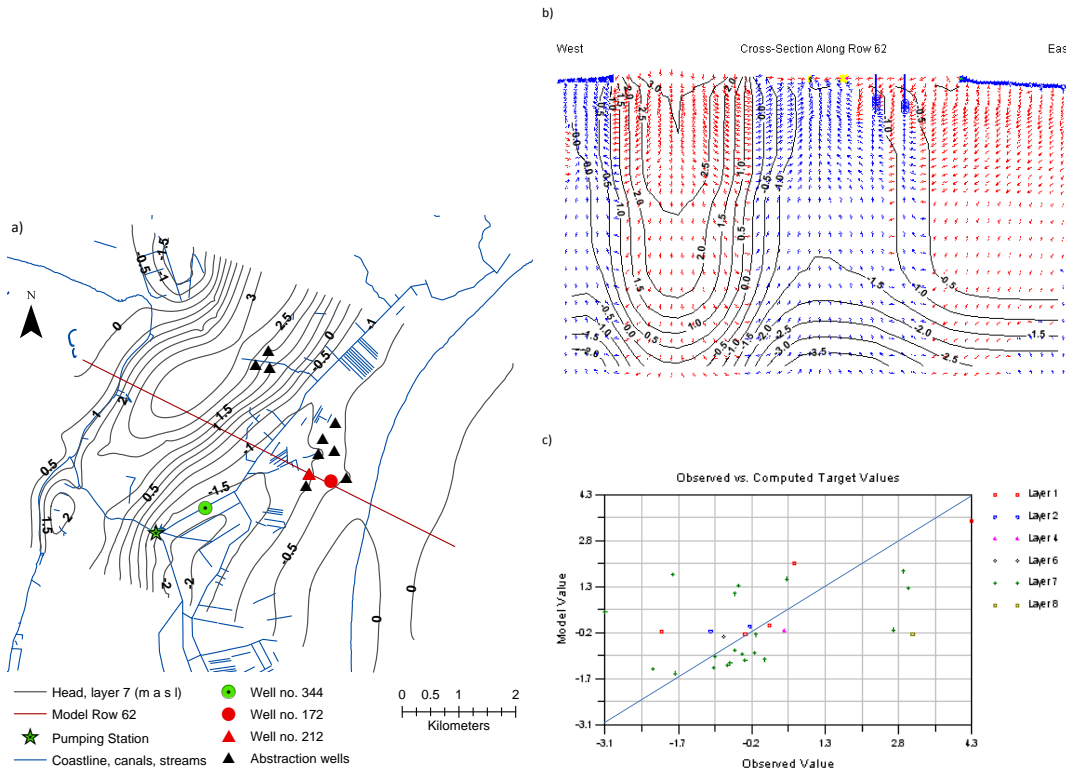


Fig. 9. (a) Groundwater head for main chalk aquifer 2010 situation, (b) flow velocity vectors for cross section model row 62 (see a), (c) measured groundwater head versus modeled head values.

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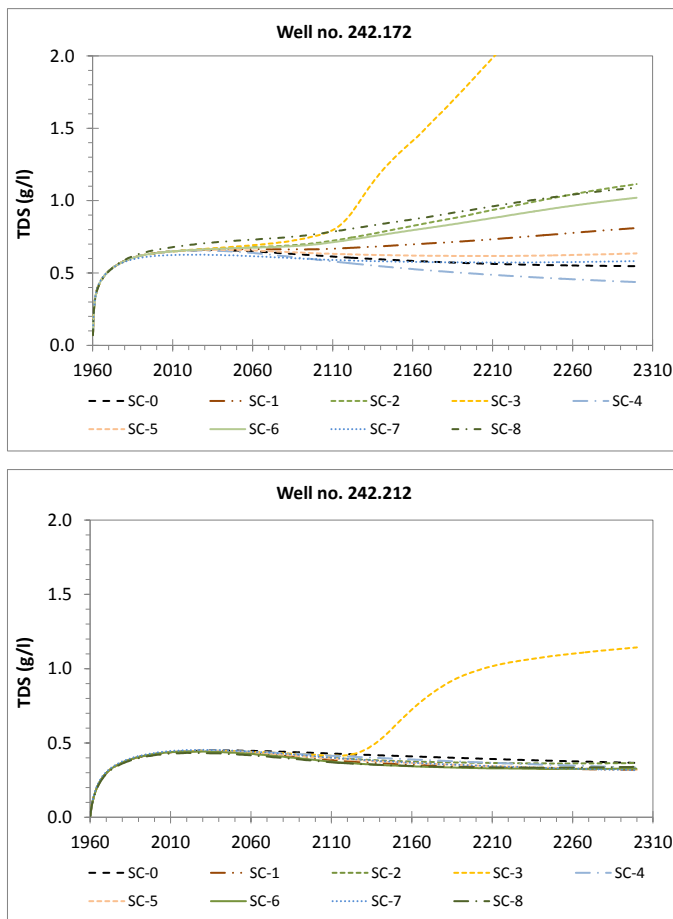


Fig. 10. Model simulation of TDS concentrations (g l^{-1}) in two groundwater abstraction wells for 9 scenarios (Table 2).

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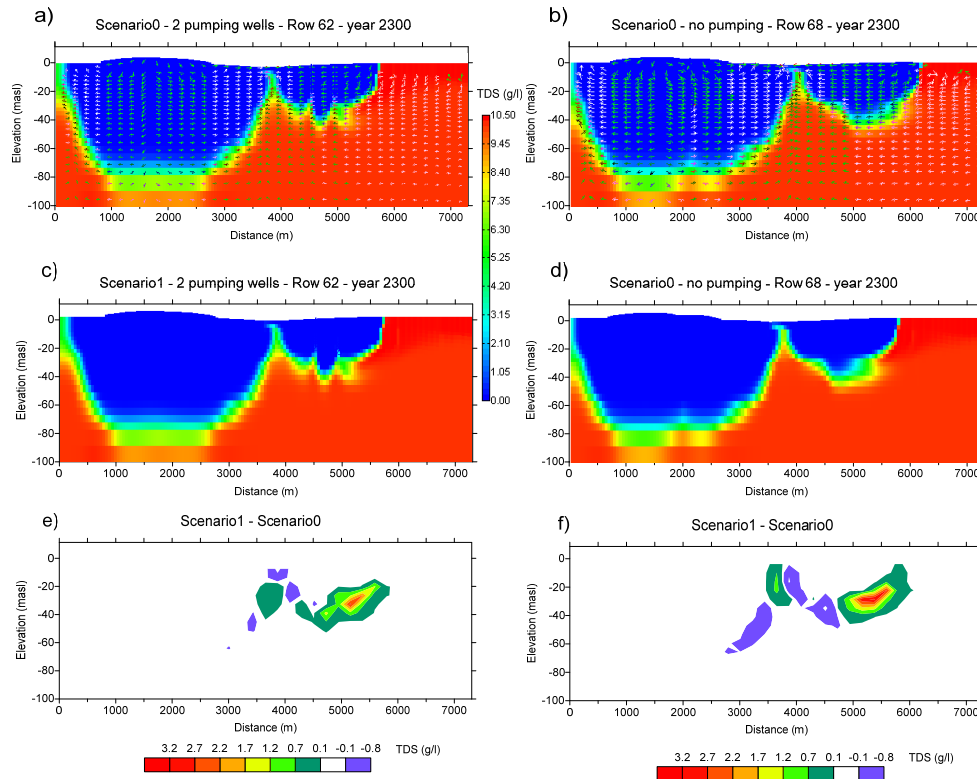


Fig. 11. Simulated freshwater-saltwater distribution in 2300 (scale TDS (g l^{-1})), **(a)** Basic scenario 0, cross section with pumping wells and flow velocity vectors (row 62), **(b)** basic scenario 0, cross section with no pumping and flow velocity vectors (row 68), **(c)** reference scenario 1, cross section with pumping wells (row 62), **(d)** reference scenario 1, cross section with no pumping (row 62), **(e)** scenario 1 – scenario 0, difference in TDS (mg l^{-1}), cross section with pumping wells (row 62), **(f)** scenario 1 – scenario 0, difference in TDS (mg l^{-1}), cross section with no pumping (row 68).

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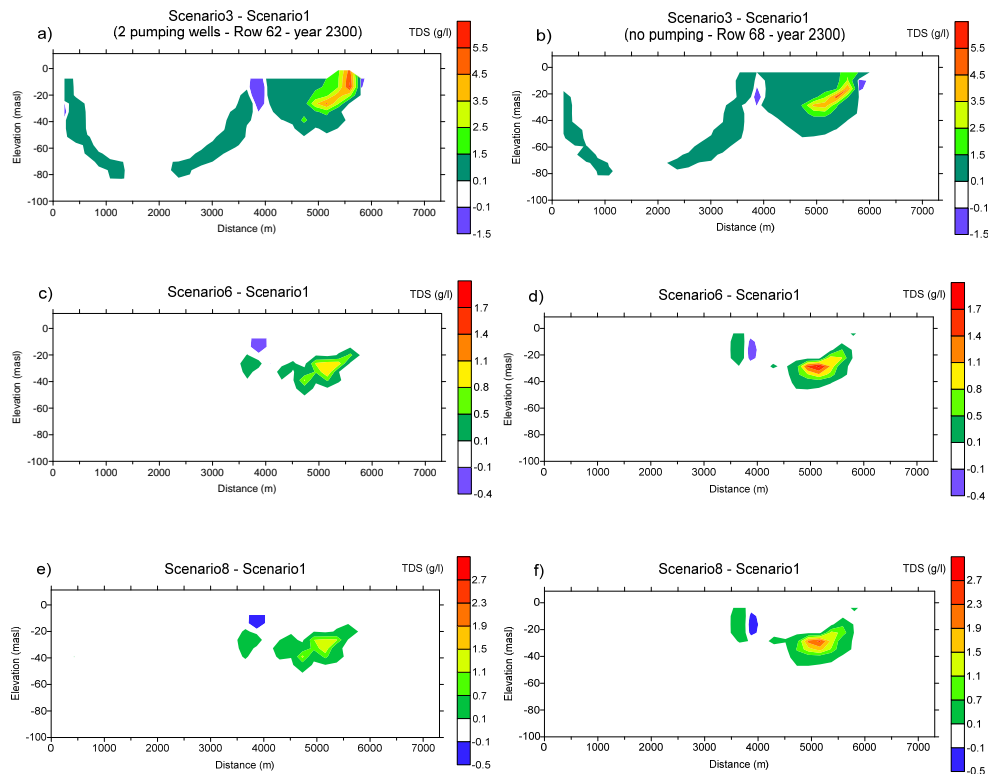


Fig. 12. Difference in simulated freshwater-saltwater distribution in 2300 (scale TDS, g l^{-1}), **(a)** scenario 3 – scenario 1, cross section with pumping wells (row 62), **(b)** scenario 3 – scenario 1, cross section with no pumping (row 68), **(c)** scenario 6 – scenario 1, cross section with pumping wells (row 62), **(d)** scenario 6 – scenario 1, cross section with no pumping (row 68), **(e)** scenario 8 – scenario 1, cross section with pumping wells (row 62), **(f)** scenario 8 – scenario 1, cross section with no pumping (row 68).

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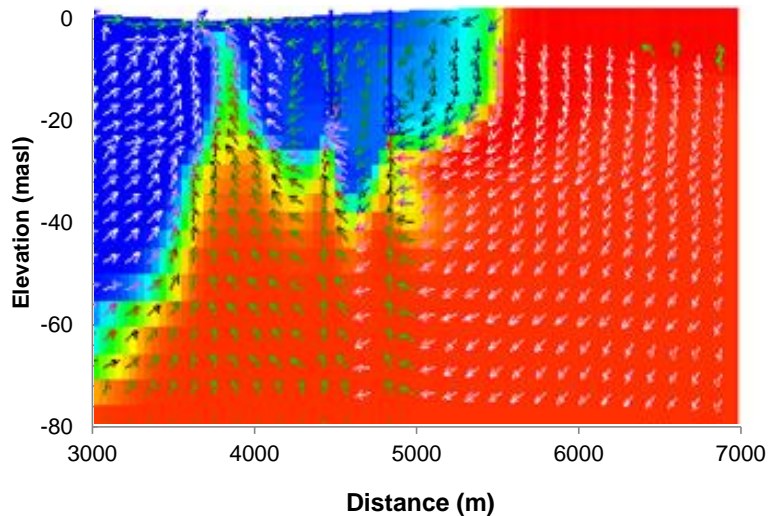


Fig. 13. Flow vectors for scenario 3 in year 2300, model row 62 with two pumping wells. Zoom in on the eastern freshwater lens. Logarithmic flow vector scale and exaggerate vertical velocity flow vectors are used.

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