



CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O dynamics and fluxes in the brackish Lake Grevelingen (The Netherlands)

Alberto V. Borges (1), Filip Meysman (2), and Jérôme Harlay (1)

(1) University of Liège, Institut de Physique (B5), Chemical Oceanography Unit, Liège, Belgium (alberto.borges@ulg.ac.be),
(2) Department of Ecosystem Studies, Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, Yerseke, The Netherlands

Lake Grevelingen in the South West Netherlands is a former estuary locked off from the sea by two dikes and a brackish lake since 1971 (salinities from 29 to 33 during our sampling). It is connected with the North Sea by sluices, has a surface area of 108 km², a mean depth of 5.3 m, a maximum depth of 48 m, and about 60% of the area the depth is less than 5 m. In summer, anoxia occurs in bottom waters. From January 2012 to December 2012 a biogeochemical survey was conducted at monthly interval at a fixed station (35 m depth) at Den Osse. Here, we focus on the analysis of partial pressure of CO₂, and concentrations of CH₄ and N₂O obtained throughout the water column. pCO₂ followed a typical seasonal cycle for temperate coastal environments shifting from CO₂ over-saturation in winter to spring CO₂ under-saturation due to the spring phytoplankton bloom, and shifting back to over-saturation in fall. Unlike the adjacent Southern Bight of the North Sea and the adjacent Oosterschelde, CO₂ under-saturation prevailed in summer in Lake Grevelingen. CH₄ values were minimal in winter (~20 nM) and as stratification developed during spring and summer a distinct maximum of CH₄ (up to 730 nM) developed at the pycnocline (5 to 10 m). N₂O showed little seasonal variations and only a very faint increase with depth, except in August when bottom waters became anoxic. At this time, N₂O shown a maximum (~22 nM) at the oxycline (probably related to enhanced N₂O production by nitrification at low O₂ concentrations), and decreased in the anoxic layer (~3 nM) (probably related to denitrification).