

Multi-level Groundwater Flows near Rivers

Eawag researchers and specialists of the Canton of Thurgau revealed the existence of multi-level groundwater flows of varying origins below and alongside the river Thur. In simple terms: The deeper the water flow, the longer it has remained in the underground. This is important for drinking water catchment, as the legal provisions prescribe that water must remain in the underground for at least ten days before it can be tapped to prevent contamination of drinking water. The situation at the Thur is typical for many sites where drinking water is conveyed from gravel-sandy valley soils. However, the ten-day flow time cannot be observed in all catchment areas. During flood events, this situation is further aggravated due to shorter flow paths and increased infiltration. Even if rivers are given more space by flood protection and revitalization measures, they could move closer to the drinking water catchment areas. Eawag researchers therefore suggest a concept of new measuring and simulation methods to obtain differentiated solutions to the respective problems.



Tracking Down Whitefish Decline in Lake Brienz

In the project "Changes in the Ecosystem of Lake Brienz", EAWAG jointly with other partners aim at determining the reasons for the massive collapse (approx. 90%) of whitefish yields in 1999. Preliminary results from the seven subprojects were presented at the symposium "Lake Brienz – Between Hydroelectric Power Use and Nutrient Reduction" at the University of Berne on 23 September. The subprojects study for instance the effects of the power station in the catchment of Lake Brienz as well as the input of nutrients and suspended particles to the lake. The study revealed, inter alia, a far smaller but seasonally different input of suspended particles than observed prior to construction of the power plant. In addition, the water pollution control measures, which led to a marked nutrient decrease in Lake Brienz and significant decline in algae production, limited the number of Daphnia (water fleas) available as fish food. On completion of the project in summer of 2006, the different pieces of the subproject puzzle will be assembled to obtain an overview and provide an objective assessment of the conflicting questions.



Further information: www.eawag.ch/research_e/apec >Brienzersee and www.eawag.ch/events/brienzersee

Personnel



Jukka Jokela

is head of the Department of Limnology and Professor for aquatic ecology at ETH Zurich since 1 June 2005. He is particularly interested in evolutionary ecology.



Juliane Hollender

joined the Eawag on 1 September 2005. The chemist heads the new Department of Environmental

Chemistry created by the merged departments of Water and Agriculture and Chemical Pollutants.

Agenda

9 December	«Blyb gkund» in Dar es Salaam Brigit Obrist van Eeuwijk, Swiss Tropical Institute, Basel Seminar, EAWAG Dübendorf, 11:00–12:00
13 January	Policy Principles and Implementation Guidelines for Public-Private Partnership in Water Supply and Sanitation: Improving Performance through Transparency and Participation Dieter Rothenberger, SECO; François Münger, SDC Seminar, EAWAG Dübendorf, 11:00–12:00
20 January	Entwicklung von sozialen Techniken für die Verbreitung von SODIS Hansi Mosler, EAWAG Seminar, EAWAG Dübendorf, 11:00–12:00
27 January	From SODIS to Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage Martin Wegelin, EAWAG Seminar, EAWAG Dübendorf, 11:00–12:00
3 February	The Challenge of Fluoride Removal in Drinking Water Annette Johnson and Kim Müller, EAWAG Seminar, EAWAG Dübendorf, 11:00–12:00
10 February	Simplified Sewerage: An Option for Low- and Middle-Income Countries Duncan Mara, University of Leeds UK Seminar, EAWAG Dübendorf, 11:00–12:00