

Eawag Seminar Invitation

How relevant are toxicants for freshwater ecosystems?

Speakers **Prof. Dr. Ralf Bernhard Schäfer**, *University of Koblenz-Landau, Germany*

When **May 6, 16.00 – 17.00**

Where **Online via Zoom**, contact seminars@eawag.ch for access details.

Abstract The loss of biodiversity is widely debated and freshwater biodiversity is considered at particular risk. Several stressors, occurring in mixtures and acting at different spatial scales, impact freshwater biota. I briefly discuss the evidence for a general decline in freshwater insect biodiversity. Subsequently, based on recent results and publications, I present an overview of the occurrence of chemicals in streams at the regional and national scale. Moreover, I provide insights on the relevance of toxicants in comparison to other stressors and demonstrate the relevance of considering the spatial dimension when assessing the risks to populations. I end with a discussion of how to improve our capacity to predict chemical effects on communities, where I present a novel framework integrating different theoretical ecotoxicological perspectives.