

1 Dear Editor

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3 Find below our detailed answers to all reviewer's comments together with the marked-up MS.

4

5 Kind regards

6 Fred Guérin, on behalf of all co-authors

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12 ANSWER TO REVIEWER #1

13

14 All co-author thank the reviewer for its thorough review

15

16 **1-REVIEWER** : In general, the structure of the manuscript is well organized and flows in a
17 logical order. However, some important facts are revealed later in the text, and therefore the
18 manuscript would benefit from rearranging the text. For example, it is not clear for the reader
19 that RES1-8 seem to behave rather similarly and RES9 is an exception. This could be solved
20 by more clearly separating these two in the text, maybe even dividing them into their own
21 chapters. Also, the reservoir should be described more precisely in 2.1. At least reservoir
22 depth should be described and coordinates given.

23 **ANSWER:** The difference between RES1-8 and RES9 in terms of CH₄ concentrations will
24 be stated more clearly than it is in the section 3.2 by adding: "The concentrations at RES9
25 were up to 10 times lower than the maximum bottom concentrations at the other stations for a
26 given season. Since the station RES9 behaved differently from the other stations, results from
27 this station will be treated separately." The two groups of stations are already described and
28 discussed in separate sections in the sections 3.5 and 3.6 (Results) and 4.2 and 4.3
29 (Discussion) and already fulfil the reviewer's requirements. The required reservoir
30 characteristics were added. The reservoir description was not extended since all information
31 necessary for the understanding of the article is included in the site description and the
32 reservoir was described in details in several publications (Chanudet et al., 2015; Chanudet et
33 al., 2014; Descloux et al., 2015; Deshmukh et al., 2015; Deshmukh et al., 2014; Descloux et al.,
34 2014)

35

36 **2-REVIEWER** : Many topics are mentioned in the introduction in a way that suggests that
37 the authors will return to these points. Therefore, it seems surprising that these themes are not
38 discussed in the Discussion or Conclusions. In the first paragraph of the Introduction, it is
39 mentioned that rivers downstream of dams and CH₄ ebullition are not considered in the
40 estimates of CH₄ effluxes from hydroelectric reservoirs, and that these are a large source of
41 discrepancy. And yet, only diffusive fluxes from the reservoir are considered in this
42 manuscript. In the next paragraph, spatial heterogeneity of CH₄ emissions is attributed mostly
43 to ebullition. Seems that this study contradicts that statement, but this is not clearly discussed.

44 **ANSWER:** We agree with the reviewer on the current lack of connections between the
45 beginning of the introduction and the content of the manuscript. We added a few sentences to
46 mention that ebullition and downstream emissions from the Nam Theun 2 Reservoir were
47 quantified (see Deshmukh et al, 2014, Biogeosciences and Deshmukh et al., 2015,
48 Biogeosciences Discussion, companion paper) and that the current manuscript focus on
49 emission by diffusive fluxes at the reservoir surface. The spatial and temporal variations at the
50 stations RES1-8 and the temporal variations at the station RES9 are discussed in details in

51 the sections 4.2 and 4.3, respectively and are also clearly stated in the conclusion. In order to
52 summarize our results on the complex seasonal and spatial variations at the stations RES1-8, a
53 few sentences were added in the section 4.2.
54

55 **3-REVIEWER** : Methods section needs some improvement. Were the measurements taken
56 from a fixed platform? If not, was the boat anchored? The time of the day, or time range,
57 should be given when the measurements were taken in general. It has been shown that gas
58 fluxes depend on wind speed and heat flux (e.g. MacIntyre et al., 2010), and these vary along
59 the course of the day. It can cause bias to the results if the measurements were taken always at
60 the same time. This is not to say that the study should have been conducted some other way,
61 as this approach is typical in these studies with manual sampling, but just that the reader is
62 aware of this. The possible bias should also be discussed in the text.

63 **ANSWER**: The following sentence was added to the Sampling strategy section (2.2): All
64 samples and in situ measurements were taken in the morning or early afternoon from an
65 anchored boat. Most of the time, the boat is attached to buoy at the station. When no buoy is
66 present, an anchor is used, with care in order not to resuspend surface sediments. As the
67 sampling started from the surface, the bottom water was sampled almost an hour later and
68 should not be influenced by the perturbation generated by the anchor. In contrast with the
69 results of (MacIntyre et al., 2010), Sahlé et al (2014), we show in Deshmukh et al (2014,
70 biogeosciences) at this site during several field campaigns between 2009 and 2011 that there
71 was no enhancement of the diffusive fluxes (or a negligible enhancement) during continuous
72 measurements of CH₄ emissions by eddy covariance. Only ebullition had a semi-diurnal
73 pattern. We therefore believe that this potential bias is negligible in our case.
74

75 Minor comments:

76 **4-REVIEWER** : Page 11354, line 18: “physico-chemical parameters” seem to refer only to
77 temperature and dissolved oxygen. For making it easier for the reader to follow, I suggest to
78 write “. . . the vertical profiles of temperature and dissolved oxygen in the water column. . .”

79 **ANSWER**: Physico-chemical is replaced by temperature and oxygen concentration
80

81 **5-REVIEWER** : Page 11355, section 2.3.2. “Surface and deep-water samples for CH₄. . .”. I
82 read this as only two samples of CH₄ concentration were taken, one from the surface and one
83 from the bottom. However, e.g. in Fig. 2 many other sampling depths between these two are
84 presented. Please clarify the sampling strategy more clearly.

85 **ANSWER**: In the revised version, this will be rewritten as follow: Surface samples were
86 taken with a surface water sampler (Abril et al., 2007) and other samples from the water
87 column were taken with a Uwitec water sampler.
88

89 **6-REVIEWER** : Page 11356, line 18. “. . .water and air CH₄ concentrations were applied...”.
90 Previously, there has been no mention of measurements of atmospheric CH₄ concentrations.
91 How were these obtained?

92 **ANSWER**: No atmospheric air was sampled. We used an average atmospheric con-
93 centration of 2 ppm, well in line with the concentration measured with the Los Gatos CH₄
94 analyzer we deployed for eddy covariance measurements. This was rewritten as follow: The
95 CH₄ concentrations in water and the average CH₄ concentration in air (2 ppmv) obtained
96 during eddy covariance deployments (Deshmukh et al., 2014) were applied in equation (1) to
97 calculate diffusive flux.
98

99 7-**REVIEWER** : Page 11357, line 6-7. “For the determination of k600, we used the
100 formulations of. . . MacIntyre et al. (2010)”. Please specify which formulation was used. They
101 present more than one in their article.

102 **ANSWER**: We used the equation (7) from Guérin et al (2007) which includes the com- bined
103 effect of wind and rain on the gas transfer velocity. From MacIntyre et al. (2010), we used the
104 average equation which included the dependency of k600 to wind speed whatever the
105 buoyancy fluxes ($k600 = 2.25 U10 + 0.16$). This now specified in the revised version
106

107 8-**REVIEWER** : Page 11357, line 13. “. . .the boat drifted quickly. . .”. Which boat are the
108 authors re- ferring to? There is no mention of a boat before. Please describe more precise how
109 the measurements were conducted. Using word “station” leads the reader to think of a fixed
110 mast or platform or such.

111 **ANSWER**: As mentioned in our answer to your second general comments, sampling was
112 performed from a boat and this is stated in the manuscript. The word “station” is commonly
113 used in limnology.
114

115 9-**REVIEWER** : Page 11357, line 19. “. . . and buoyancy flux from. . .”. How buoyancy flux
116 was defined or calculated? There is no mention of measurements of heat budget components.

117 **ANSWER**: The buoyancy flux cannot be calculated with the dataset included in this
118 manuscript. Therefore, saying that we calculated the fluxes taking into account was
119 misleading since only one equation from MacIntyre et al (2010) was used whatever the heat
120 fluxes. So the mention to buoyancy flux is removed.
121

122 10-**REVIEWER** : Page 11357, lines 21-22. “In the regulating dam where we observed the
123 same vortexes as in RES9,. . .”. Please clarify what is meant with this sentence. By ‘same’ is
124 meant ‘similar’? Is this based on visual observation?

125 **ANSWER**: The sentences: “The k600 was determined in the regulating dam (Desh- mukh et
126 al., 2015) located downstream of the turbine where we observed vortexes similar to those
127 observed at RES9. In the regulating dam where we observed the same vortexes as in RES9,
128 the k600 was 19cmh^{-1} on average for 4 measurements” are rewritten as follow: “The k600
129 was determined in the regulating dam (Deshmukh et al., 2015) located downstream of the
130 turbine where we visually observed vortexes similar to those observed at RES9. In the
131 regulating dam, the k600 was 19 cm h^{-1} on average for 4 measurements”
132

133 11-**REVIEWER** : Section 2.6. k is a critical component when calculating the fluxes. Some
134 kind of error estimate should be provided when k is estimated from equations. It seems that
135 the residence times are very short in this reservoir, giving reason to believe that there are
136 significant currents. Gas transfer equations have no parameter for currents, even though they
137 produce turbulence at the surface, as was noted also by the authors (page 11357, lines 14-17).
138 For this reason, more justification would be in order to convince the reader that these
139 equations can be used for this reservoir and for different parts of the reservoir.

140 **ANSWER**: The average residence time is 6 months ranging from 1.5 to 12 months as
141 depicted in Figure 3 and the maximum water current velocity that was measured in the
142 reservoir is 0.2 m s^{-1} (Chanudet et al, 2012) as mentioned in the manuscript. Such water
143 current velocities were only measured around the station RES9, anywhere else in the reservoir
144 they were below 0.01 m s^{-1} . Therefore, the water current is unlikely to be a significant
145 controlling factor of the k600 except at RES9 where it can increase it by a maximum of 2 cm
146 h^{-1} as mentioned in the manuscript. In addition, as mentioned in the section, TBL calculations
147 were well in line with fluxes measured by floating chambers and eddy covariance (Deshmukh
148 et al, 2014). We believe we already provided all justifications asked by the reviewer.

149 However, the average water current velocity was added to the manuscript and the paragraph
150 was improved by adding more details. We consider that the use of two different relationships
151 for the k600 determination give a wide range of emissions and could be considered as the
152 uncertainty of the fluxes.

153

154 **12-REVIEWER** : Section 2.8. There are no references and this is the first time I have seen
155 this kind of approach to assess spatial and temporal variations of CH₄ concen- trations and
156 fluxes. Since this is not a standard procedure in limnological literature, more description
157 might prove useful for other scientists to assess spatial and temporal variability of CH₄ in
158 their studies.

159 **ANSWER**: Based on Kruskal-Wallis and Mann-Whitney tests, no significant differences
160 were found between the seasons and/or the stations. These test results were attributed to the
161 very large range of surface concentrations due to the sporadic occurrence of ex- treme values
162 (over 4 orders of magnitude). In order to reduce this range, the log of the concentrations was
163 used. The resampling at a 15 days time-step was done for com- paring time series with the
164 same number of observations and avoiding issues related to oversampling. The main
165 differences between the seasons and stations were the occurrence of fluxes higher than 5
166 mmol m⁻² d⁻¹. Therefore we used the frequency distribution and the skewness in order to
167 discriminate the seasons and the stations. These two parameters and the correlation functions
168 are common tools in statistical software. Based on the comments of Reviewer 1 and 2, the
169 paragraph was rewritten as follow: “Since all tests indicated that the distribution of the data
170 were neither normal nor lognormal at the stations RES1-8, Kruskal-Wallis and Mann-
171 Whitney tests were performed with GraphPad Prism (GraphPad Software, Inc., v5.04). No
172 significant dif- ferences were found between the seasons and/or the stations. These test results
173 were attributed to the very large range of surface concentrations due to the sporadic occur-
174 rence of extreme values (over 4 orders of magnitude). In order to reduce this range, the log of
175 the concentrations was used. For each station, the time series of the log of the CH₄ surface
176 concentrations were linearly interpolated and re-sampled every 15 days in order to compare
177 time series with the same number of observations. The log of the concentrations was used to
178 determine the frequency distribution, the skewness of the dataset (third order moment), the
179 auto-correlation of each time series and the correlation between the different stations. All
180 analyses were performed using Matlab.”

181

182 **13-REVIEWER** : Page 11360, lines 13-18. During WD and WW, the overall water column
183 CH₄ concentrations seem to be rather high compared to other sampling sites, especially since
184 the oxidation rate of CH₄ and k are estimated high at this location. Could the authors provide
185 a reason or guess why the concentrations keep up so high?

186 **ANSWER**: The concentrations at RES9 from the surface to the bottom are always lower than
187 the maximum concentration in the hypolimnion at other stations. This fol- lowing sentence
188 was added: “The concentrations at RES9 are up to 10 times lower than the maximum bottom
189 concentrations at the other stations for a given season.”

190

191 **14- REVIEWER** : Page 11361, lines 12-13. “In the dry year 2012, the reservoir bottom CH₄
192 concentration and storage was almost twice higher than in wet year 2011.” Could the authors
193 provide any explanation for this?

194 **ANSWER** : This section is the result section and expla- nation requires taking into account
195 aerobic oxidation, hydrology and water residence time so explanation are all given in the
196 discussion. See from L23 P11365 to L7 P11364 of the submitted manuscript and the answer
197 to the comment 16.

198

199 15-**REVIEWER** : Page 11362, lines 14-16. “The surface concentrations were not sta-
200 tistically different. . .”. I read this so that the surface water CH₄ concentrations and fluxes
201 varied independent of the season. However, there is, per visual observation, an evident pattern
202 in both CH₄ concentrations and fluxes in Fig. S2. Also, later in Dis- cussion, 4.1., the
203 significance of stratification and overturn to gas concentrations and fluxes are described.
204 Could the authors elaborate this paradox?

205 **ANSWER:** We agree that the baseline of the temporal evolution of diffusive fluxes and
206 concentration depict a pattern with higher fluxes in the WD season. However, due to the
207 occurrence of high fluxes and concentrations without clear seasonal patterns at all stations,
208 there was no statistical difference between the seasons while using classical statistical tests as
209 now explicitly mentioned in the MS (see answer to comment 12). The occurrence of extreme
210 values precludes statistical tests to give the “expected results” based on visual observations of
211 the graphs. In the section 4.1, there is a description of the seasonal dynamic in the water
212 column, mostly based on bottom concentration and storage, not on the surface concentrations
213 and fluxes. The surface concentrations and fluxes are described in the section 4.2 and in the
214 figure 7 and it is said that high fluxes occur mostly in the WW season in the inflow zone and
215 mostly in the CD in the rest of the reservoir.
216
217

218 16-**REVIEWER** : Page 11366, lines 6-7. “It therefore suggests that the residence time.”. I
219 think the authors have a nice idea here, but the statement is perhaps too simplified. The reason
220 seems to be that higher water inflow and outflow rates (with appropriate characteristics, like
221 colder T than in the reservoir) affect the stratification behavior in the reservoir, which results
222 in changes in methane oxidation rate. Residence time itself gives no information of how the
223 water body stratifies or not.

224 **ANSWER:** We agree with the reviewer that we should focus more on the destratification due
225 to high water inputs. The text was modified as follow: “In wet years like 2011, the thermal
226 stratification is weaker than in dry years since the warming of surface water is less efficient
227 and the high water inputs alters the stability of the reservoir thermal stratification as shown by
228 the sharper decrease and the larger range of ΔT in 2011 than in 2012 (Figure 3a). As a
229 consequence, the oxygen diffusion to the hypolimnion was higher in 2011 than in 2012
230 (Figure 3b) and it enhanced aerobic methane oxidation by 20% in the water column in the
231 WW season in 2011 as compared to 2012 (Figure 4). It therefore suggests that the hydrology
232 affects both the thermal stratification and the hypolimnic storage of CH₄ in reservoirs,
233 indirectly controls aerobic methane oxidation and ultimately emissions.”
234

235 17-**REVIEWER** : Page 11366, lines 10-12. Could the authors provide a reason why sites
236 RES1,3,7 and 8 were chosen? In general, the choice of which sites are discussed seems
237 arbitrary.

238 **ANSWER:** These stations were not selected arbitrary. RES1 was chosen because of its
239 highest skewness indicating that extreme events are more frequent at this station than at all
240 other stations in the reservoir; they occur in both the CD and WW season. RES3 was chosen
241 because overturn occurs mostly in the CD season during lake over- turn. RES7 and RES8
242 were selected as they are located in the inflow zone with high and intermediate skewness,
243 respectively. The following sentence was added: “These four stations were selected for their
244 contrasting skewness (Figure S3) which gives an indication on the occurrence of extreme
245 events and the facts that they are representa- tive for all station characteristics (Table 1).”
246

247 18-**REVIEWER** : Page 11366, lines 19-22. Could the authors clarify these lines. Do they
248 suggest that during WD season at RES3,7 and 8 the reason for these high fluxes were

249 overturn, as in CD season? What would be the cause for destratification during this season?
250 Also, if there would be data available to validate these causes, it would be interesting to see.
251 **ANSWER:** Actually, these high emissions in the WD seasons were associated with early
252 rains and associated high winds that occur sometimes in the last fifteen days of May. Due to
253 the very high hypolimnic CH₄ concentrations at this period of the year, a sporadic
254 destratification due to wind and rain enhance vertical transport of CH₄ toward the surface and
255 diffusive fluxes. This was added in the manuscript.

256
257 **19-REVIEWER :** Page 11368, lines 24-25. “This design enhances. . .”. This is a good
258 finding. I would assume that it also increases lateral transport of hypolimnic waters, which in
259 turn bring more CH₄ to the area of strong vertical mixing. Therefore, this spot has even larger
260 spatial impact causing outgassing of CH₄ from large area.

261 **ANSWER:** It increases lateral and vertical transport and the concentration at this site is close
262 to the average of the concentration in the whole reservoir. The physical modelling and the
263 measurements of vertical and horizontal water current (Chanudet et al, 2012) show that this is
264 restricted to an area of 3 km², as stated in the manuscript. Therefore, we are confident with
265 the extension of the area under influence of the water intake.

266
267 **20-REVIEWER :** Page 11369, lines 20-24. The authors state that these hot moments only
268 occur a few days in a year. On the same page, lines 26-27, they also say that based on
269 fortnightly measurements, 1 month sampling frequency is sufficient. In my opinion, this
270 conclusion needs more explanation. If this is based on sampling interval of 2 weeks, how the
271 authors can be confident that a significant amount of these hot moments, lasting only few
272 days, were not missed during the study? Especially, since the full CH₄ mass balance was not
273 conducted and there are unclear components in CH₄ cycle, like possible lateral transport of
274 CH₄ (page 11368, lines 6-11).

275 **ANSWER:** We obviously cannot be 100% sure that no hot moment was missed, be sure that
276 the peak of emissions was not missed and be sure on the duration of the sporadic events.
277 However, we never observed extreme emissions lasting more than three consecutive
278 samplings, which corresponds to a duration of 1.5-2 months at a single station as it is visible
279 on Figure 7. The text was modified has follow: “The quantification of emissions thus requires
280 the highest spatial and temporal resolutions in order to capture as many hot moments as
281 possible. At a single station, extreme emission events never lasted more than 2 months (3
282 consecutive sampling dates) and probably lasted less than 15 days most of the time (Figure 7).
283 The auto-correlation function of the concentration time series indicate that a minimum
284 sampling frequency of 1 month is required in this monomictic reservoirs for an accurate
285 description of the change in the surface concentrations and estimation of the emissions
286 (Figure S1).”

287
288 **21-REVIEWER :** Page 11370, lines 8-10. “The high frequency. . .”. Seems quite bold to say
289 that one measurement per two weeks is not discrete and that it is high frequency, when it has
290 been shown that e.g. wind speed is a major driving force of gas exchange, and wind speed has
291 ample variation in much shorter time scale than 2 weeks. I suggest to rephrase this sentence
292 since this manuscript actually deals more with the seasonal methane fluxes and discrete
293 sampling and not so much with the actual gas exchange dynamics and high frequency
294 sampling.

295 **ANSWER:** Our fortnightly monitoring (over more than 3 years) is “high frequency” as
296 compared to most of the studies on lakes and reservoirs, which are based on “seasonal
297 sampling” (2-4 sampling per year). We removed any mention to high frequency and discrete
298 sampling in the first sentence which was modified as follow:” The fortnightly monitoring of

299 CH4 diffusive emissions at nine stations revealed complex temporal and spatial variations that
300 could hardly been characterized by seasonal sampling.”

301
302 22-**REVIEWER** : Figure 2. The panels and axis fonts are way too small. Maybe less
303 measurement sites could be shown and the ones that are shown are larger?

304 **ANSWER**: The size of the graphs and fonts was increased but all stations are kept

305
306 23- **REVIEWER** : Figure 3. (c) is missing.
307 **ANSWER**: Added

308
309 24-**REVIEWER** : Figure 7. Check the letters in the panels. (g) is missing and (m) is excess.
310 Also this figure suffers from being very small. The axis labels tick marks are unreadable.
311 **ANSWER**: Labelling of the graphs was be corrected and the readability of the figures is
312 improved

313
314
315 ANSWER TO REVIEWER #2

316 **R#2** : Due to the great variability in time, the authors remark in the conclusion that temporal
317 sampling might be at least monthly. This reviewer, however, recommend to the authors to
318 avoid taking data only under the light of nonparametric analysis due to non-normal
319 distribution.

320 **ANSWER**: Parametric tests are based on the normal distribution and cannot be used when the
321 dataset follow other distributions

322
323 **R#2** : Instead, authors should better explore the intrinsic nonlinearities in the underlying CH4
324 dynamics in hydroelectric reservoirs. Are these distributions power laws, Pareto, log-normal?

325 **ANSWER**: As now mentioned in the manuscript (section 3.5) and show in the supplementary
326 material (Figure S3), the dataset (both surface concentrations and calculated diffusive fluxes)
327 follows a loglogistic distribution.

328
329 **R#2** : If so, what kind of process would lead this sort of distribution outcomes in space and
330 time? Are there literature considering these other kinds of distributions?

331 **ANSWER**: Fitting a distribution is only possible with large datasets which are unfortunately
332 rare. Only a few studies consider the statistical distribution of their data and all distributions
333 are heavy-tailed (lognormal or Generalized Pareto Disstribution), indicating that high episodic
334 fluxes are very common for CH4. It confirms that CH4 emissions occur through hotspots and
335 hot moments but it cannot provide any information on the importance of these rare and
336 intense fluxes on the global CH4 budget of the studied ecosystems

337
338 **R#2** : I do not presume that only intensifying the sampling monitoring would bring novel
339 information, as the distributions maybe the same, nonGaussians. I recommend to the authors
340 to go further on dynamical analysis (complexity) in order to find differential equations or
341 statistical models that come out with those distributions, and might be applicable to any water
342 body. That would be a great advance in CH4 studies and application to hydroelectric
343 reservoirs.

344 **ANSWER**: As explained in the section 4.4 and in the answer to the previous comment,
345 defining the type of distribution of a dataset for a given ecosystem requires intense monitoring
346 for at least a year in order to have a dataset with a sufficient number of data encompassing hot
347 moments and the hotspots of emissions to be able to find a statistical distribution. The rare but
348 significant events “shape” the distribution and make them differ from the Gaussian

349 distribution. Even if we find a general distribution fitting the data of most inland, the
350 parameters of the distribution are unlikely to be constant over all sites and climatic region.
351 Therefore, it will not exclude intense monitoring for adjusting the parameters of the
352 distribution. For reservoir, it is even more complicated since distribution (and their
353 parameters) might change significantly over time with the decrease of emissions with age of
354 the reservoirs since these systems are not at steady state.

355
356

357 ANSWER TO REVIEWER #3

358 The authors thanks the reviewer for his positive comments on the manuscript

359

360 **R#3 comment** : "I still have some minor concern about the MS in its discussion section.

361 Firstly, authors did not compare their results comprehensively with other studies all over the
362 world. E.g., the diffusive emission from the surface was high or low? Did your results were
363 fallen in the range of emission rates from other studies? The possible reason?"

364 **Answer** : At the beginning of the section 4.4, we added a few lines where we compared
365 emissions from the NT2 Reservoir with some other reservoirs in the tropics as follow :

366 "Yearly integrated at the whole reservoir surface, these emissions correspond to diffusive
367 fluxes of 1.5 to 4 mmol m⁻² d⁻¹. These emissions are significantly lower than diffusive fluxes
368 measured at the Petit Saut Reservoir during the first two years after flooding but similar to
369 those determined in the following years (Abril et al., 2005) and values reported for diffusive
370 fluxes from tropical reservoirs in Barros et al. (2011). In absence of the extreme emissions
371 (both hotspots and hot moments), diffusive emissions from NT2R would have been one order
372 of magnitude lower than emissions from tropical reservoirs as expected from the lower
373 flooded biomass compare to Amazonian reservoirs (Descloux et al., 2011). Due to the specific
374 dynamic of diffusive fluxes at NT2R, diffusion at the reservoir surface contribute 18 to 27%
375 of total emissions (Table 3) that is significantly higher than at other reservoirs tropical
376 reservoirs where it was measured (See Deshmukh et al., 2015 for a detailed discussion)".

377

378

379 **R#3** Secondly, for the hotspots, as we know, turbine and water-logged drawdown areas are
380 regarded as the hotspots of hydroelectric reservoirs. Please give some com- parisons with
381 their contribution to the total emission with inflow waters' and highlight how important about
382 this hotspot from the inflow water.

383 **Answer** : In order to fulfil the reviewer comment we added the table 3 and the section 4.4 was
384 slightly modified as follow : " Although the area under the influence of the water intake is less
385 than 1% of the total area of the reservoir, emissions at the water intake contributed between
386 13 and 25% of total diffusive emissions and 4 to 10 % if considering both ebullition and
387 diffusion (Table 3). It is worth to note that emissions at this site are only significant within 3-5
388 month per year at the end of the WD season-beginning of the WW season when the storage of
389 CH₄ reach its maximum in the reservoir (Figure 8b). This new hotspot equals 20 to 40% of
390 downstream emissions and contributes between 4 and 7% of total emissions from the NT2
391 reservoir surface when including ebullition and downstream emissions (Table 3 and
392 Deshmukh et al. (2015))."

393

394 We also determined emissions from the drawdown area during this study but they are not
395 included in the new table. The results are reported in another manuscript under review.
396 Basically, despite a very large surface area the emissions from the drawdown area are less
397 than 3% of the total emissions from this reservoir.

398

399 **Effect of sporadic destratification, seasonal overturn and**
400 **artificial mixing on CH₄ emissions at the surface of a**
401 **subtropical hydroelectric reservoir (Nam Theun 2**
402 **Reservoir, Lao PDR)**

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425 **Abstract**

426 Inland waters in general and specifically freshwater reservoirs are recognized as source of
427 CH₄ to the atmosphere. Although the diffusion at the air-water interface is the most studied
428 pathway, its spatial and temporal variations are poorly documented.

429 We measured fortnightly CH₄ concentrations and physico-chemical parameters at nine
430 stations in a subtropical monomictic reservoir which was flooded in 2008 (Nam Theun 2
431 Reservoir, Lao PDR). Based on these results, we quantified CH₄ storage in the water column
432 and diffusive fluxes from June 2009 to December 2012. We compared [diffusive emissions](#)
433 with [ebullition from](#) Deshmukh et al. (2014) [and](#) aerobic methane oxidation [and downstream](#)
434 [emissions](#) from Deshmukh et al. (2015).

435 In this monomictic reservoir, the seasonal variations of CH₄ concentration and storage were
436 highly dependant of the thermal stratification. Hypolimnic CH₄ concentration and CH₄
437 storage reached their maximum in the warm dry season (WD) when the reservoir was
438 stratified. They decreased during the warm wet (WW) season and reached its minimum after
439 the reservoir overturned in the cool dry season (CD). The sharp decreases of the CH₄ storage
440 were concomitant with sporadic extreme diffusive fluxes (up to 200 mmol m⁻² d⁻¹). These hot
441 moments of emissions occurred mostly in the inflow region in the WW season and during the
442 overturn in the CD season in the area of the reservoir that has the highest CH₄ storage.
443 Although they corresponded to less than 10% of the observations, these CH₄ extreme
444 emissions (>5 mmol m⁻² d⁻¹) contributed up to 50% of total annual emissions by diffusion.

445 During the transition between the WD and WW seasons, a new hotspot of emissions was
446 identified upstream of the water intake where diffusive fluxes peaked at 600 mmol m⁻² d⁻¹ in
447 2010 down to 200 mmol m⁻² d⁻¹ in 2012. In the CD season, diffusive fluxes from this area
448 were the lowest observed at the reservoir surface. Emissions from this area contributed 15-
449 25% to total annual emissions although they occur on a surface area representative of less
450 than 1% of the total reservoir surface. We highly recommend measurements of diffusive
451 fluxes around water intakes in order to evaluate if such results can be generalized.

452 1. Introduction

453 Since the 1990s, hydroelectric reservoirs are known to be source of methane (CH₄) to the
454 atmosphere. Their contribution to total CH₄ emissions still needs refinement since the
455 discrepancies among estimates is large, ranging from 1 to 12% of total CH₄ emissions (St
456 Louis et al., 2000; Barros et al., 2011). These two estimates are mostly based on diffusive

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463 fluxes at the air-water interface and they overlook emissions from the rivers downstream of
464 the dams (Abril et al., 2005;Guerin et al., 2006;Kemenes et al., 2007;Teodoru et al.,
465 2012;Maeck et al., 2013;Deshmukh et al., 2015), CH₄ ebullition (DelSontro et al.,
466 2010;Deshmukh et al., 2014) and emissions from the drawdown area of reservoirs (Chen et
467 al., 2009;Chen et al., 2011) although these pathways could largely dominate diffusion at the
468 surface of the reservoirs.

469 Even if CH₄ diffusion at the surface of reservoir is the best-documented emission pathway,
470 little information is available on spatial and temporal [variability](#) of CH₄ emissions by
471 diffusive fluxes. In tropical amictic reservoirs, the highest diffusive fluxes are usually
472 observed during dry periods and when the stratification weaken at the beginning of the rainy
473 season (Guerin and Abril, 2007). A study of CH₄ emissions from a dimictic reservoir suggests
474 a potential large outgassing of CH₄ during the reservoir overturns (Utsumi et al., 1998b) as it
475 is the case in natural monomictic and dimictic lakes (Kankaala et al., 2007;López Bellido et
476 al., 2009;Schubert et al., 2010;Schubert et al., 2012;Fernández et al., 2014). Such hot
477 moments of emissions (McClain et al., 2003) could contribute 45-80% of CH₄ annual
478 emissions by diffusion (Schubert et al., 2012;Fernández et al., 2014). They are rarely taken
479 into account in carbon budgets since they can only be captured by high frequency monitoring.
480 Spatial heterogeneity of CH₄ emissions at the surface of reservoirs is also very high. It mostly
481 depends on the spatial variations of ebullition that is controlled by sedimentation (DelSontro
482 et al., 2011;Sobek et al., 2012;Maeck et al., 2013). The spatial variation of diffusion appears
483 to be low with emissions being slightly higher (1) in area where dense forest is flooded as
484 compare to the former riverbed (Abril et al., 2005), (2) at shallow sites than at deeper ones
485 (Zheng et al., 2011;Sturm et al., 2014) and (3) in inflow zones of reservoirs compare to the
486 main body (Musenze et al., 2014). However, as it was shown for CO₂ emissions from a
487 tropical hydroelectric reservoir, taking into account both spatial and temporal variability of
488 emissions significantly affect carbon budgets and emission factors (Pacheco et al., 2015).

489 [The spatial and temporal variability of CH₄ ebullitive fluxes were intensively studied at the](#)
490 [newly flooded subtropical Nam Theun 2 Reservoir \(NT2R\)](#) (Deshmukh et al., 2014) [and](#)
491 [downstream as well as total CH₄ emissions are described in](#) Deshmukh et al. (2015). The
492 objective of the [present](#) study is to quantify the CH₄ diffusive fluxes at the surface of NT2R.
493 The CH₄ emissions were quantified fortnightly during three and a half year (May 2010 to
494 December 2012) based on a monitoring of CH₄ concentrations that started in June 2009. This
495 was performed at nine stations flooding different types of ecosystems. On the basis of these

496 results, we discuss the spatial and temporal variations of the CH₄ emissions by diffusive
497 fluxes and the significance of hotspots and hot moments in the total emissions from the
498 surface of the reservoir.

499 2. Material and methods

500 2.1. Study area

501 The NT2 hydroelectric reservoir ([17° 59' 49" N, 104° 57' 08" E](#)) was built on the Nam Theun
502 River located in the subtropical region of Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) on
503 the Nakai Plateau. A detailed description of the study site is given in Descloux et al. (2014).
504 The filling of the reservoir began in April 2008, the full water level was first reached in
505 October 2009 and the power plant was commissioned in April 2010. Annually, the NT2
506 Reservoir receives around 7527 Mm³ of water from the Nam Theun watershed, which is more
507 than twice the volume of the reservoir (3908 Mm³). A continuous flow of 2 m³ s⁻¹ (and
508 occasionally spillway release) is discharged from the Nakai Dam (ND in Fig 1) to the Nam
509 Theun River. The water used for electricity production is delivered from water intake (WI in
510 Fig 1) to the powerhouse (PH in Fig 1). The powerhouse is located in the valley 200 m below
511 the plateau.

512 Typical meteorological years are characterized by three seasons: warm wet (WW) (mid June-
513 mid October), cool dry (CD) (mid October-mid February) and warm dry (WD) (mid
514 February-mid June). Daily air temperature varies between 14°C (CD season) to 30°C (WD
515 season). The mean annual rainfall is about 2400 mm and occurs mainly (80%) in the WW
516 season.

517 During the filling of the reservoir, 489 km² of soils and different types of vegetation
518 (Descloux et al., 2011) were flooded by the end of October 2008. The water level in the
519 reservoir was nearly constant from October 2008 to April 2010. After the commissioning,
520 during the studied period (June 2009 to December 2012) the reservoir surface varied
521 seasonally and reached its maxima (489 km²) and minima (168 to 176 km² depending on the
522 years) during the WW and WD seasons, respectively. [According to these water level](#)
523 [variations, the average depth is 8 m for a maximum depth of 39 m.](#)

524 2.2. Sampling strategy

525 A total of nine stations (RES1-9, Figure 1) located in the reservoir were monitored fortnightly
526 in order to determine the vertical profiles of physico-chemical parameters of the water column
527 and the CH₄ concentrations. The characteristics of the stations are given in the Table 1.
528 Basically, three stations are located on the thalweg of the former Nam Theun River (RES2,
529 RES4, RES6) whereas four other stations are located in a small embayment in the flooded
530 dense forest (RES3), flooded degraded forest (RES5), flooded swamp area (RES7) and
531 flooded agricultural land (RES8). The RES1 station is located 100 m upstream of the Nakai
532 Dam, and RES9 station is located ~1 km upstream of the water intake delivering the water to
533 the powerhouse. All samples and in situ measurements were taken in the morning or early
534 afternoon from an anchored boat. Most of the time, the boat was attached to a buoy at the
535 sampling station. When no buoy was present, an anchor was used with care in order not to re-
536 suspend surface sediments. As the sampling started from the surface, the bottom water was
537 sampled almost an hour later and should not be influenced by the perturbation generated by
538 the anchor.

539 2.3. Experimental methods

540 2.3.1. Vertical profiles of oxygen and temperature

541 Vertical profiles of O₂ and temperature were measured in situ at all sampling stations with a
542 multi-parameter probe Quanta[®] (Hydrolab, Austin, Texas) since January 2009. In the
543 reservoir, the vertical resolution was 0.5 m above the oxic–anoxic limit and 1 to 5 m in the
544 hypolimnion.

545 2.3.2. Methane concentration in water

546 The evolution of CH₄ concentrations has been monitored from May 2009 to December 2012
547 on a fortnightly basis. Surface samples were taken with a surface water sampler (Abril et al.,
548 2007) and other samples from the water column were taken with an UwitecTM water sampler.
549 (Abril et al., 2007). Water samples were stored in serum glass vials, capped with butyl
550 stoppers, sealed with aluminium crimps and poisoned (Guerin and Abril, 2007). Before gas
551 chromatography analysis for CH₄ concentration, a N₂ headspace was created and the vials
552 were vigorously shaken to ensure an equilibration between the liquid and gas phases. The

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Supprimé: and a Uwitec water sampler, respectively.

559 concentration in the water was calculated using the solubility coefficient of Yamamoto et al.
560 (1976).

561 2.3.3. Gas chromatography

562 Analysis of CH₄ concentrations were performed by gas chromatography (SRI 8610C gas
563 chromatograph, Torrance, CA, USA) equipped with a flame ionization detector. A subsample
564 of 0.5 ml from the headspace of water sample vials was injected. Commercial gas standards
565 (10, 100 and 1010 ppmv, Air Liquid "crystal" standards) were injected after analysis of every
566 10 samples for calibration. Duplicate injection of samples showed reproducibility better than
567 5%.

568 2.4. Water column CH₄ storage

569 Between two sampling depth of the vertical profiles of CH₄ concentrations, the CH₄
570 concentrations were assumed to change linearly in order to calculate the concentration in each
571 1-m layer of water. The volume of water in each layer was calculated using the volume-
572 capacity curve (NTPC, 2005). The CH₄ storage was calculated by multiplying the average
573 CH₄ concentrations of each layer by the volume of the layer and summing-up the amount of
574 CH₄ for all depth intervals.

575 2.5. Aerobic CH₄ oxidation

576 The depth-integrated CH₄ oxidation rates at each station were calculated on the basis of the
577 specific oxidation rates (d⁻¹) determined at NT2 (Deshmukh et al., 2015) and the vertical
578 profiles of CH₄ and O₂ concentrations in the water column as already described in (Guerin
579 and Abril, 2007). The depth-integrated CH₄ oxidation rates at each station were estimated
580 only from January 2010 since the vertical resolution of the vertical profiles of O₂ and CH₄
581 was not high enough in 2009.

582 2.6. Estimation of diffusive fluxes from surface concentrations

583 The diffusive CH₄ fluxes were calculated from the fortnightly monitoring of surface
584 concentrations with the thin boundary layer (TBL) equation at all stations in the reservoir
585 (RES1-9). The [CH₄ surface concentrations in water and the average CH₄ concentration in air](#)
586 [\(1.9 ppmv\) obtained during eddy covariance deployments](#) (Deshmukh et al., 2014) were
587 applied in equation (1) to calculate diffusive flux:

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590
$$F = k_T \times \Delta C \quad (1)$$

591 where F, the diffusive flux at water-air interface; k_T , the gas transfer velocity at a given
592 temperature (T); $\Delta C = C_w - C_a$, the concentration gradient between the water (C_w) and the
593 concentration at equilibrium with the overlying atmosphere (C_a). Afterward, the k_T was
594 computed from k_{600} with the following equation:

595
$$k_T = k_{600} \times (600/Sc_T)^n \quad (2)$$

596 with Sc_T , the Schmidt number of CH_4 at a given temperature (T) (Wanninkhof, 1992); n, a
597 number that is either 2/3 for low wind speed ($< 3.7 \text{ m s}^{-1}$) or 1/2 for higher wind speed and
598 turbulent water (Jahne et al., 1987).

599 For the determination of k_{600} at the stations RES1-8, we used both the formulations from
600 Guerin et al. (2007) which includes the cumulative effect of wind (U_{10}) and rain (R) on k_{600}
601 ($k_{600} = 1.66e^{0.26U_{10}} + 0.66R$) and the average formulation of MacIntyre et al. (2010) ($k_{600} =$
602 $2.25 U_{10} + 0.16$) whatever the buoyancy fluxes. As shown by (Deshmukh et al., 2014), the
603 average of the fluxes obtained from these two relationships compared well with fluxes
604 measured by floating chambers at the reservoir surface and no enhancement of the CH_4 fluxes
605 could have been attributed to the variations of buoyancy fluxes when the eddy covariance
606 system was deployed. Since the water current velocities were lower than 1 cm s^{-1} in most of
607 the reservoir (Chanudet et al., 2012), the effect of water current on k_{600} was not included. For
608 calculation purpose, wind speed (at 10 m height) and rainfall from two adjacent
609 meteorological stations located at Nakai Village (close to RES9 station) and at the Ban
610 Thalang Bridge (close to RES4 station, Figure 1) were used. At these stations, the average
611 k_{600} was 6.5 cm h^{-1} over the course of the year.

612 At the water intake (RES9) where the hydrology and hydrodynamics is different from the
613 other stations, it was impossible to quantify the k_{600} since the boat drifted quickly to the
614 shoreline because of water currents in the narrow channel. According to Chanudet et al.
615 (2012), water current velocity in this area of the reservoir is about 0.2 m s^{-1} . After Borges et
616 al. (2004), the contribution of such water currents in a water body with depth ranging from 9
617 to 20 m is $2.0 \pm 0.5 \text{ cm h}^{-1}$ which should be summed up with the contribution of wind and
618 rainfall from Guerin et al. (2007) and MacIntyre et al. (2010). It gives an average of 9 cm h^{-1} .
619 The k_{600} was determined in the regulating dam (Deshmukh et al., 2014) located downstream
620 of the turbine where we visually observed vortexes similar to those observed at RES9. In the

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623 | [regulating dam, the \$k_{600}\$ was \$19 \text{ cm h}^{-1}\$ on average for 4 measurements \(not show\)](#), In order to
624 | be conservative for the estimation of emissions from the water intake, we considered a
625 | constant value of k_{600} (10 cm h^{-1}) which is in the lower range of (1) the k_{600} calculated from
626 | (Guerin et al., 2007), MacIntyre et al. (2010) and Borges et al. (2004), and (2) k_{600} [values](#)
627 | determined in area with comparable hydrology/hydrodynamics.

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Supprimé: The k_{600} was determined in the regulating dam (Deshmukh et al., 2015) located downstream of the turbine where we observed vortexes similar to those observed at RES9. In the regulating dam where we observed the same vortexes as in RES9, the k_{600} was 19 cm h^{-1} on average for 4 measurements

628 | 2.7. Extrapolation of fluxes for the estimation of the NT2 total emissions

629 | Based on physical modelling (Chanudet et al., 2012), it has been showed that the station
630 | RES9 located at the water intake is representative of an area of $\sim 3 \text{ km}^2$ (i.e. 0.6% of reservoir
631 | water surface), whatever the season. This 3- km^2 area was used to extrapolate specific
632 | diffusive fluxes from RES9. The embayment where RES3 is located represents a surface area
633 | of 5-6% of the total surface area of the reservoir whatever the season (maximum 28 km^2), to
634 | which were attributed the specific diffusive fluxes from RES3. The diffusive fluxes calculated
635 | for RES1, RES2, RES4, RES5, RES6, RES7 and RES8 stations were attributed to the water
636 | surface area representative for each station, taking into account the seasonal variation of the
637 | reservoir water surface from the surface-capacity curve (NTPC, 2005).

638 | 2.8. Statistical and correlation analysis

639 | Statistical tests were performed to assess the spatial and temporal variations in the surface
640 | CH_4 concentrations and diffusive fluxes at all stations in the reservoir. [Normality of the](#)
641 | [concentration and diffusive datasets was tested with R software](#) (R Development Core Team,
642 | 2008) [and the Nortest package](#) (Gross and Ligges, 2015). [The data distribution was tested](#)
643 | [with the Fitdistrplus package](#) (Delignette-Muller et al., 2015).

644 | Since [all tests](#) indicated [that the distribution of the data were neither normal nor lognormal](#),
645 | [Kruskal-Wallis and Mann-Whitney tests](#) were performed with GraphPad Prism (GraphPad
646 | Software, Inc., v5.04). [No significant differences were found between the seasons and/or the](#)
647 | [stations. These test results were attributed to the very large range of surface concentrations](#)
648 | [due to the sporadic occurrence of extreme values \(over 4 orders of magnitude\). In order to](#)
649 | [reduce this range, the log of the concentrations was used.](#) For each station, the time series of
650 | the log of the CH_4 surface concentrations were linearly interpolated and re-sampled every 15
651 | days [in order to compare time series with the same number of observations](#). The log of the
652 | concentrations [was](#) used to determine the frequency distribution, the skewness of the dataset

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665 (third order moment), the auto-correlation of each time series and the correlation between the
666 different stations. All analyses were performed using Matlab.

667 3. Results

668 3.1. Temperature and O₂ dynamics in the reservoir water column

669 During the three and half year of monitoring at the stations RES1-8, the NT2R was thermally
670 stratified with a thermocline at 4.5 ± 2.6 m depth in the WD (Feb-Jun) season as revealed by
671 the vertical profiles of temperature (Figure 2). In the WW season, the temperature vertical
672 profiles at the stations RES1-8 either showed a thermocline (RES7 and RES8 in 2010 and
673 2011, Figure 2) whereas in some occasions, the temperature decreased regularly from the
674 surface to the bottom during sporadic destratification (RES1-3, Figure 2). On average during
675 the WW season, a thermocline was located at 5.8 ± 4.8 m depth. During the CD season, the
676 reservoir overturned as already mentioned by Chanudet et al. (2012) and the temperature was
677 constant from the surface to the bottom (Figure 2) in the different years. In order to illustrate
678 the destratification, a stratification index (ΔT) which corresponds to the difference between
679 the surface and bottom water temperature was defined. During the periods of stratification in
680 the WD seasons, ΔT was up to 10°C higher than during reservoir overturn in the CD season
681 with ΔT close to zero (Figure 3a). During the WW season, the ΔT decreased gradually.

682 During the WD season at the stations RES1-8, an oxicleine was most of the time located at a
683 depth concomitant with the depth of the thermocline whereas oxygen penetrated deeper in the
684 WW season (Figure 2). During these two seasons, the epilimnion was always well oxygenated
685 with O₂ concentrations higher than 200 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$. In the WD season, the hypolimnion was
686 completely anoxic whereas O₂ reached occasionally the hypolimnion during the sporadic
687 destratification events in the WW season ($29 \pm 54 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$, Figure 2 and 3b). During the CD
688 season (reservoir overturn), the water column was often oxygenated from the top to the
689 bottom of the reservoir (Figure 2). On average over the whole reservoir, the lowest
690 hypolimnic oxygen concentration was observed in 2010 before the reservoir was
691 commissioned (Figure 3b).

692 After the commissioning of the reservoir (April 2010), the water column located near the
693 water intake (RES9) got totally mixed as revealed by the homogeneous temperature and
694 oxygen profiles from the surface to the bottom whatever the season (Figure 2). The water
695 column at RES9 was always well oxygenated ($163 \pm 62 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$, Figure 2).

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698 **3.2. Seasonal dynamics of the CH₄ concentration and storage in the reservoir water**
699 **column**

700 At the station RES1-8, when the water column is thermally stratified with a steep oxicleine in
701 the WD and often in the WW seasons, CH₄ concentrations are in average ~150 times higher in
702 the reservoir hypolimnion ($246 \pm 234 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$) than in the epilimnion ($1.6 \pm 7.7 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$)
703 (Figure 2). The gradient of CH₄ concentration at the thermocline/oxicleine was steeper during
704 the WD season than during the WW season (Figure 2). During the CD season, the average
705 CH₄ concentration in the reservoir bottom water lowered by a factor of three compare to the
706 WD and the WW seasons. However, the reservoir overturn increased the average CH₄
707 concentrations in the epilimnion by a factor of two ($3.4 \pm 14.8 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$) in comparison with
708 the WD and WW seasons. After the commissioning, the CH₄ vertical profiles of concentration
709 before turbine intake (RES9) were homogeneous from the surface to the bottom. The average
710 CH₄ concentration from the surface to the bottom peaked up to $215 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ with averages of
711 39.8 ± 48.8 , 29.9 ± 55.4 and $1.9 \pm 4.3 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ during the WD, WW and CD seasons,
712 respectively (Figure 2). The concentrations at RES9 were up to 10 times lower than the
713 maximum bottom concentrations at the other stations for a given season. Since the station
714 RES9 behaved differently from the other stations, results from this station will be treated
715 separately.

716 The overall bottom CH₄ concentration (Figure 3c) and dissolved CH₄ stock in the reservoir
717 (Figure 3d) increased at the beginning of the WD season. The higher bottom CH₄
718 concentration and storage in the reservoir are concomitant with both the establishment of
719 anoxia in the hypolimnion and the reservoir thermal stratification (Figure 3). Hypolimnic CH₄
720 concentration and storage reached their maxima (up to $508 \pm 254 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ and 4.7 ± 0.5
721 $\text{Gg}(\text{CH}_4)$, Figure 3c,d) at the end of the WD-beginning of the WW season when the residence
722 time of water in the reservoir was the lowest (40 days, Figure 3d). Along the WW season, the
723 thermal stratification weakened (Figure 3a) and the CH₄ concentration and dissolved CH₄
724 stock decreased (Figure 3c,d) while the residence time of water increased (Figure 3d). In the
725 CD season, the reservoir overturns as evidenced by the low ΔT and the penetration of O₂ to
726 the hypolimnion (Figure 3a,b). During CD season, the bottom CH₄ concentration and the
727 storage reached their minima (down to $1.3 \pm 4.5 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ and $0.01 \pm 0.001 \text{Gg}(\text{CH}_4)$, Figure
728 3c,d) when the residence time of water was the longest (Figure 3d). The sharp decrease of
729 CH₄ storage and concentration in the transition from the WW to the CD seasons is

730 concomitant with a sharp increase of O₂ concentration at the bottom (up to 160 ± 89 μmol L⁻¹,
731 Figure 3).

732 3.3. Interannual variations of the CH₄ concentrations and storage in the reservoir 733 water column

734 During the three and a half years of monitoring, the same seasonal pattern is observed
735 although the annual CH₄ bottom concentration and storage was threefold higher in 2009 and
736 2010 than in the year 2011 (Figure 3c,d). In the dry year 2012, the reservoir bottom CH₄
737 concentration and storage was almost twice higher than in wet year 2011.

738 3.4. Aerobic CH₄ oxidation in the reservoir

739 Between 2010 and 2012, the depth integrated aerobic CH₄ oxidation rates ranged between
740 0.05 and 380 mmol m⁻² d⁻¹ at the stations RES1-RES8 (Figure 4). On average, aerobic
741 oxidation was higher in the WW season (55±63 mmol m⁻² d⁻¹) than in the CD (30±46 mmol
742 m⁻² d⁻¹) and WD (36±32 mmol m⁻² d⁻¹) seasons and it was not statistically different for the
743 three years. In the WD season, aerobic CH₄ oxidation was on average twice higher in 2010
744 than for the two following years whereas in the CD season, the highest aerobic oxidation rate
745 was observed in 2012.

746 3.5. Spatial and seasonal variability of surface CH₄ concentration and diffusive fluxes 747 at the reservoir surface (RES1-RES8)

748 The surface concentrations at the stations RES1-8 ranged from 0.02 to 150 μmol L⁻¹ and were
749 2.0±10.5 μmol L⁻¹ (median = 0.9), 1.5±5.5 μmol L⁻¹ (median = 0.4) and 3.4±14.7 μmol L⁻¹
750 (median = 0.2) on average for the CD, WD and WW season, respectively. The surface
751 concentration followed a loglogistic distribution, which indicates the existence of extremely
752 high values. This is confirmed by the fact that the skewness of the time series of the log of the
753 CH₄ concentrations for all stations is positive (Figure S3), especially at the stations RES1,
754 RES3 and RES7 for which the skewness is >1. Over the course of the three and a half year of
755 survey, the surface concentrations were not statistically different between all stations and no
756 statistically significant seasonal variations were observed because of the occurrence of
757 sporadic events at all season (Figure S2a). The normalized distribution of concentrations (in
758 log) according to seasons (Figure 5) indicates that these high concentrations were observed
759 without any clear seasonal trend at the station RES1, RES5 and RES6 (<1 up to 150 μmol L⁻¹

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Supprimé: The statistical analysis of the time series of the log of the surface CH₄ concentrations at the stations RES1-8 with the auto-correlation function indicated that at all stations (except RES1) have a memory effect of 30 to 40 days (Figure S1) which implies that with a sampling frequency of 15 days we capture most of the changes in the surface CH₄ concentrations. At the station RES1, the changes in CH₄ concentrations are faster than at other stations and would have deserved a monitoring with a frequency higher than 15 days.

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Supprimé: The skewness of the time series of the log of the CH₄ concentrations for all stations is positive (Figure S3) indicating the existence of extremely high values, especially at the stations RES1, RES3 and RES7 for which the skewness is >1.

782 ¹). At the stations RES2 and RES3, the concentrations up to 128 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ were mostly
783 observed in the CD season when the reservoir overturns. At the station RES4 located at the
784 Nam Xot and Nam Theun confluence and at the stations RES7 and RES8 both located in the
785 inflow region of the Nam Theun River, the high surface concentrations (up to 64.60 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$)
786 were mostly observed during the WW season when the reservoir undergoes sporadic
787 destratification. The auto-correlation function of the time series of the log of the surface CH₄
788 concentrations and diffusive fluxes at the stations RES1-8 indicated that at all stations (except
789 RES1) have a memory effect of 30 to 40 days (Figure S1). This implies that with a sampling
790 frequency of 15 days, we captured most of the changes in the surface CH₄ concentrations. At
791 the station RES1, the changes in CH₄ concentrations are faster than at other stations and
792 would have deserved a monitoring with a frequency higher than 15 days.

793 During the monitoring at RES1-RES8 stations, the average diffusive flux was 2.8 ± 12.2
794 $\text{mmol m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$ ranging from 0.01 to 201.86 $\text{mmol m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$ without any clear interannual and
795 seasonal trends (Figure S2b). As for the concentrations, flux data followed a loglogistic
796 distribution. The median flux in the WD season is 40 to 80% higher than the median in the
797 WW and CD season, respectively. However, the average fluxes in the WW and CD season are
798 30% higher than in the WD season (Table 2). This confirms the presence of extremely high
799 values during WD and CD seasons, as expected from the surface concentrations. All seasons
800 together, around 7% of the diffusive fluxes that we observed were higher than 5 $\text{mmol m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$
801 which corresponds to extremely high diffusive fluxes in comparison with data from the
802 literature for reservoirs and lakes (Bastviken et al., 2008;Barros et al., 2011). The median and
803 average of these extreme fluxes higher than 5 $\text{mmol m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$ were 2 times higher in the WW
804 and CD seasons than in the WD season (Table 2).

805 At NT2, diffusive CH₄ fluxes covered the whole range of fluxes reported for tropical
806 reservoirs, depending on the season. Most of the fluxes at the NT2R Reservoir were around
807 one order of magnitude lower than the ones at Petit Saut Reservoir (French Guiana) just after
808 the impoundment (Galy-Lacaux et al., 1997), and in the same order of magnitude as reported
809 for reservoirs older by 10 to 18 years (Abril et al., 2005;Guerin et al., 2006;Kemenes et al.,
810 2007;Chanudet et al., 2011). However, some diffusive fluxes at the stations RES1-8 in the
811 WW and the CD seasons (up to 202 $\text{mmol m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$) are among the highest ever reported at the
812 surface of a hydroelectric reservoir or a lake (Bastviken et al., 2011;Barros et al., 2011) and
813 rivers downstream of dams (Abril et al., 2005;Guerin et al., 2006;Deshmukh et al., 2015).

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819 **3.6. Surface methane concentrations and diffusive fluxes at the water intake (RES9)**

820 After the commissioning of the reservoir (Julian day 450), the concentrations at the stations
821 RES9 (Figure 6a) located at the water intake were up to 30 times higher than at any other
822 stations that is $36.6 \pm 35.8 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ (median = 24.3), $37.6 \pm 67.0 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ (median = 0.9) and
823 $1.0 \pm 1.7 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ (median = 0.3) in the WD, WW and CD season, respectively. The surface
824 concentrations at RES9 were significantly higher in the WD and WW seasons than in the WW
825 and CD seasons ($p = 0.0002$ and Figure 6a). The highest concentration was observed each
826 year at the end of the WD season-beginning of the WW season in between June and August.
827 These maxima decreased from $215 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ in August 2010 to $87 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ in June 2012.

828 The diffusive fluxes ranged between 0.03 and $605.38 \text{ mmol m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$ (Figure 6b and Table 2).
829 On average, the CH_4 diffusive fluxes at RES9 were two to forty times higher than at the other
830 stations in the CD, WD and WW season. Diffusive fluxes at this station are usually higher
831 than $10 \text{ mmol m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$ from April to July that corresponds to the WD season and the very
832 beginning of the WW season. In 2010, diffusive fluxes were on average 241 ± 219 and $239 \pm$
833 $228 \text{ mmol m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$ respectively for the WD and WW seasons. In 2011 and 2012, the fluxes
834 dropped down by a factor of two in the WD season ($112 \pm 110 \text{ mmol m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$) and almost by a
835 factor of forty in the WW season ($6.8 \pm 14.4 \text{ mmol m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$). Overall, emissions at RES9
836 decreased by a factor of two between 2010 and 2012.

837 At the water intake, CH_4 diffusive fluxes during the transition between the WD and WW
838 seasons (up to $600 \text{ mmol m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$) are the highest reported at the surface of an aquatic
839 ecosystem (Abril et al., 2005;Guerin et al., 2006;Bastviken et al., 2011;Barros et al.,
840 2011;Deshmukh et al., 2015).

841 **4. Discussion**

842 **4.1. CH_4 dynamic in the reservoir water column**

843 The gradual decrease of the CH_4 concentration from the anoxic bottom water column to the
844 metalimnion and the sharp decrease around the oxicleine in the metalimnion (Figure 2) is
845 typical in reservoirs and lakes where CH_4 is produced in anoxic sediments and flooded soils
846 (Guerin et al., 2008;Sobek et al., 2012;Maeck et al., 2013), and where most of it is oxidized at
847 the oxic-anoxic interface (Bedard and Knowles, 1997;Bastviken et al., 2002;Guerin and Abril,
848 2007;Deshmukh et al., 2015).

849 CH₄ concentrations and storage increase concomitantly with the surface water temperature
850 and the establishment of the thermal stratification during the WD season and peak at the end
851 of the WD season-beginning of the WW season (Figure 2 and 3). During the WW season,
852 CH₄ concentrations and storage decrease slowly (Figure 3) while aerobic methane oxidation
853 reaches its maximum (Figure 4). When the reservoir overturns at the beginning of the CD
854 season, the CH₄ hypolimnic concentrations and storage reach their minima (Figure 3). The
855 overturn favours the penetration of oxygen down to the bottom (Figure 2 and 3b). The sharp
856 decrease of the CH₄ concentrations and CH₄ storage during this period is expected to result
857 from sudden outgassing (Section 4.2) together with an enhancement of the aerobic CH₄
858 oxidation as already observed in lakes that overturn (Utsumi et al., 1998b;Utsumi et al.,
859 1998a;Kankaala et al., 2007;López Bellido et al., 2009;Schubert et al., 2010;Schubert et al.,
860 2012;Fernández et al., 2014). A large increase of the aerobic methane oxidation was only
861 observed in the CD season in the dry year 2012 (Figure 4) because the amount of hypolimnic
862 CH₄ to be oxidized at the beginning of the CD season was still high in the water column
863 (Figure 3c,d).

864 As the reservoir overturns during the period over which the water residence time is the longest
865 in the reservoir, the temporal evolution of the concentrations is anti-correlated with the
866 residence time (Figure 3c,d). The seasonal dynamics of the CH₄ in the monomictic NT2R
867 differs from permanently stratified reservoirs like Petit Saut Reservoir where CH₄
868 concentration increased with retention time (Abril et al., 2005). However, at the annual scale
869 the water residence time has a strong influence on CH₄ concentration and storage in the
870 reservoir. Before the reservoir was commissioned (April 2010), the water residence time was
871 up to 4 years and the CH₄ storage was up to four times higher than in 2011 and 2012 (Figure
872 3d). Although a decrease of concentration and storage with the age of the reservoir was
873 expected (Abril et al., 2005), the storage in the dry year 2012 was twice higher than in the wet
874 year 2011 due to an increase of the water residence time by 25% between 2011 and 2012. In
875 wet years like 2011, the thermal stratification is weaker than in dry years, since the warming of
876 surface water is less efficient and the high water inputs, alters the stability of the reservoir
877 thermal stratification as shown by the sharper decrease and the larger range of ΔT in 2011
878 than in 2012 (Figure 3a). As a consequence, the oxygen diffusion to the hypolimnion was
879 higher in 2011 than in 2012 (Figure 3b) and it enhanced aerobic methane oxidation by 20% in
880 the water column in the WW season in 2011 as compared to 2012 (Figure 4). It therefore
881 suggests that the hydrology affects both the thermal stratification and the hypolimnic storage

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889 | of CH₄ in reservoirs, indirectly controls aerobic methane oxidation, and ultimately influences
890 | emissions.

891 | 4.2. Hot moments of emissions during sporadic destratification and reservoir overturn

892 | The figure 7 illustrates the evolution of the diffusive fluxes, the stratification index (ΔT), the
893 | CH₄ storage and the aerobic CH₄ oxidation at the stations RES1, RES3, RES7 and RES8.
894 | [These four stations were selected for their contrasting skewness \(Figure S3\) which gives an](#)
895 | [indication on the occurrence of extreme events and the facts that they are representative for all](#)
896 | [station characteristics \(Table 1\).](#) It shows that the large bursts of CH₄ (from 5 up to 200 mmol
897 | m⁻² d⁻¹) always occurred when ΔT decreased sharply (>4°C, Figure 7a,d,g,j) and are usually
898 | followed by a sharp decrease of the CH₄ storage in the water column (Figure 7b,e,h,k). These
899 | hot moments of emissions occurred mostly in the CD at the stations RES1 and RES3 whereas
900 | it was in the WW season at the stations RES7 and RES8 (Figure 7). In the WD season,
901 | diffusive fluxes gradually increased together with the CH₄ storage in the water column
902 | (Figure 7a,d,g,j) and they remained always lower than 20 mmol m⁻² d⁻¹. These sporadic high
903 | fluxes occurred in the WD season at RES3, RES7 and RES8 (Figure 7d,g,j). They are usually
904 | associated with ΔT variations lower than 2°C and the CH₄ storage decrease that is associated
905 | with these fluxes is not as sharp as the one observed in the CD and WW season (Figure
906 | 7e,h,k).

907 | We therefore confirm the occurrence of hot moments of emissions during the reservoir
908 | overturn in the CD season as already observed in lakes that overturn [in temperate regions](#)
909 | (Kankaala et al., 2007;López Bellido et al., 2009;Schubert et al., 2010;Schubert et al.,
910 | 2012;Fernández et al., 2014). The highest emissions determined at NT2R are one order of
911 | magnitude higher than previously reported outgassing during overturn and they occur mostly
912 | in the section of the reservoir that has the longest water residence time (RES1-3, Table 1) and
913 | the largest CH₄ storage (Figure 7b,e,h,k). This suggests that the impact of reservoir overturn
914 | can be very critical for the whole-reservoir CH₄ budget in tropical hydroelectric reservoirs and
915 | especially in young ones where hypolimnic concentration could reach up to 1000 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$.
916 | Hot moments of emissions also occur during sporadic destratifications in the WW season in
917 | the inflow region (RES4 and RES6-8) where the inflow of cool water from the watershed
918 | might disrupt the thermal stratification in reservoirs. [This is contrasting with the observations](#)
919 | [in older reservoir than NT2R where](#), high emissions from the inflow region were recently
920 | attributed to an enhancement of CH₄ production fuelled by the sedimentation of organic

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925 matter from the watershed (Musenze et al., 2014). The high emissions in the WD seasons
926 were associated with early rains and associated high winds that occur sometimes in the last
927 fifteen days of May. This shows that a moderate erosion of the stratification when hypolimnic
928 CH₄ concentrations are high could enhance vertical transport of CH₄ toward the surface and
929 emissions to the atmosphere. Basically, this intense monitoring shows that spatial and
930 temporal variations of CH₄ emissions are largely controlled by the hydrodynamics of the
931 reservoir with extreme emissions occurring mostly in the inflow region during the wet season
932 and mostly in area remotely located from the inflow zone and the riverbed during reservoir
933 overturns in the CD season. Even if less frequent, moderate erosion of the stable and steep
934 thermal stratification during warm seasons, could also lead to high emissions.

935 The evolution of depth-integrated aerobic CH₄ oxidation is not clearly related with the
936 reservoir overturns and the CH₄ burst (Figure 7). Significant increases in the aerobic CH₄
937 oxidation occurred mostly during the first half of the WD season when the stratification was
938 unstable and at the very beginning of the destratification in the WW, when ΔT started to
939 decrease. The oxidation could reach high values (up to 380 mmol m⁻² d⁻¹) during these two
940 periods since the yield of CH₄ in the water column to sustain the activity of methanotrophs is
941 higher than in the CD season when the reservoir overturns. It shows that in reservoirs or lakes
942 like NT2R that destratify progressively before the overturn, there is no substantial increase of
943 the CH₄ oxidation when the water body overturns as it could be observed in lakes that
944 overturn within a few days (Kankaala et al., 2007). In addition, the contribution of CH₄
945 oxidation to the total loss of CH₄ (sum of diffusion and oxidation) in the WD and WW
946 seasons was 90-95% during the entire monitoring whereas it was 85% in the CD season.
947 During overturns, a significant amount of CH₄ is oxidized (Utsumi et al., 1998a; Utsumi et al.,
948 1998b; Kankaala et al., 2007; Schubert et al., 2012) but it also indicates that the removal of
949 CH₄ during overturn is not as efficient as during seasons with a well established thermal
950 stratification.

951 During the periods with major loss in the CH₄ storage with concomitant CH₄ burst, we
952 compared the change in the yield of CH₄ with the sum of emissions and oxidation. Most of
953 the time, the emissions alone and/or the sum of emissions and oxidation were significantly
954 higher than the amount of CH₄ that was lost from the water column. At the Pääjärvi Lake in
955 Finland (López Bellido et al., 2009), the fact that measured or calculated emissions exceed the
956 loss of CH₄ in the water column was attributed to a probable underestimation of the CH₄

957 storage in the lake by under-sampling the shallow area of the lake. In this study, emissions,
958 storage and oxidation were estimated at the same stations, avoiding such sampling artefacts.
959 Therefore, it suggests that CH₄ is provided by lateral transport or by production in the flooded
960 soil and biomass (Guerin et al., 2008) at a higher rate than the total loss of CH₄ from the water
961 column by emissions and oxidation. This hypothesis could only be verified by a full CH₄
962 mass balance including production and total emissions from the reservoir, which is beyond
963 the scope of this article.

964 4.3. Hot spot of emissions at the water intake (RES9)

965 After the commissioning of the reservoir, the temperature and the oxygen and CH₄
966 concentrations were constant from the surface to the bottom of the reservoir at the vicinity of
967 the water intake. On the basis of physical modelling and measurements of water current
968 velocities (Chanudet et al., 2012), the vertical mixing at this station was attributed to the water
969 withdrawal at the intake generating turbulence and water currents over a surface area of 3
970 km². At this station, CH₄-rich water from the reservoir hypolimnion reached the surface and
971 led to diffusive fluxes up to 600 mmol m⁻² d⁻¹ in the WD-WW seasons (Figure 6b) whereas
972 fluxes are 3 orders of magnitude lower in the CD season. To the best of our knowledge, this is
973 the first time that a hotspot of emissions is reported upstream of a dam or an intake bringing
974 water to the turbines. At NT2, the intake is located at the bottom of a narrow and shallow
975 channel (depth =9-20 m) on the side of the reservoir. This design enhances [horizontal](#) water
976 current velocities, the vertical mixing and therefore the emissions. The existence of such a
977 [hotspot](#) at other reservoirs might be highly dependant on the design of the water intake (depth
978 among other parameters) and its effect on the hydrodynamics of the reservoir water column.

979 4.4. Estimation of total diffusive fluxes from the reservoir

980 Yearly emissions by diffusive fluxes peaked at more than 9 Gg(CH₄) in 2010 when the
981 reservoir was commissioned and they decreased down to ≈ 5 Gg(CH₄) in 2011 and 2012
982 (Figure 8a and Table 3). [Yearly integrated at the whole reservoir surface, these emissions](#)
983 [correspond to diffusive fluxes of 1.5 to 4 mmol m⁻² d⁻¹. These emissions are significantly](#)
984 [lower than diffusive fluxes measured at the Petit Saut Reservoir during the first two years](#)
985 [after flooding but similar to those determined in the following years](#) (Abril et al., 2005) and
986 [values reported for diffusive fluxes from tropical reservoirs in Barros et al. \(2011\). In absence](#)
987 [of the extreme emissions \(both hotspots and hot moments\), diffusive emissions from NT2R](#)

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989 [would have been one order of magnitude lower than emissions from tropical reservoirs as](#)
990 [expected from the lower flooded biomass compare to amazonian reservoirs](#) (Descloux et al.,
991 2011). [Due to the specific dynamic of diffusive fluxes at NT2R, diffusion at the reservoir](#)
992 [surface contribute 18 to 27% of total emissions \(Table 3\) that is significantly higher than at](#)
993 [other reservoirs tropical reservoirs where it was measured \(See Deshmukh et al., 2015 for a](#)
994 [detailed discussion\).](#)

995 Most of the increase of CH₄ emissions by diffusive fluxes from 4 to 9 Gg(CH₄) between 2009
996 and 2010 is due to very significant emissions of 2-3 Gg(CH₄) at the water intake (Figure 8a).
997 This outgassing of CH₄ was triggered by the vertical mixing generated by the withdrawal of
998 water from the reservoir to the turbines. Although the area under the influence of the water
999 intake is less than 1% of the total area of the reservoir, emissions at the water intake
1000 contributed between 13 and 25% of total diffusive emissions [and 4 to 10 % if considering](#)
1001 [both ebullition and diffusion \(Table 3\)](#). It is worth to note that emissions at this site are only
1002 significant within 3-5 month per year at the end of the WD season-beginning of the WW
1003 season when the storage of CH₄ reach its maximum in the reservoir (Figure 8b). [This new](#)
1004 [hotspot equals 20 to 40% of downstream emissions and contributes between 4 and 7% of total](#)
1005 [emissions from the NT2 reservoir surface when including ebullition and downstream](#)
1006 [emissions \(Table 3 and Deshmukh et al. \(2015\)\).](#) Very localized perturbation of the
1007 hydrodynamics, especially in lakes or reservoirs with CH₄-rich hypolimnion, can generate
1008 hotspots of emissions contributing significantly to the total emissions from a given ecosystem.
1009 These hotspots [could](#) be found upstream of dams and water intake in reservoirs but also
1010 around aeration stations based on air injection or artificial mixing that could be used for
1011 improving water quality in water bodies (Wüest et al., 1992).

1012 The contribution of extreme diffusive fluxes (> 5 up to 200 mmol m⁻² d⁻¹) to total emission by
1013 diffusion range from 30 to 50% on a yearly basis (Figure 8a) and from 40 up to 70% on a
1014 monthly basis (Figure 8b) although these hot moments represent less than 10% of the
1015 observations during the monitoring. [In the literature, the statistical distribution of CH₄](#)
1016 [emissions dataset always follows heavy-tailed and right skewed distribution like the log-](#)
1017 [normal, the Generalized Pareto Distribution](#) (Windsor et al., 1992;Czepiel et al., 1993;Ramos
1018 et al., 2006;DelSontro et al., 2011) [or loglogistic \(this study\) which indicates that CH₄](#)
1019 [emissions are always characterized by high episodic fluxes.](#) [The quantification of emissions](#)
1020 thus requires the highest spatial and temporal resolutions in order to capture as many hot
1021 moments as possible. [At a single station, extreme emission events never lasted more than 2](#)

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Supprimé: they only occur a few days in a year during sporadic destratification and reservoir overturn. This study shows that diffusive fluxes can be as sporadic as ebullition.

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Supprimé: The use of such distributions could be a powerful tool to assess precise estimation of emissions from inland waters when only moderate sampling frequency monitoring is available. Still, very intense monitoring is needed during at least one year in order to encompass all environmental conditions, to define the range of the emissions and ultimately to attribute a statistical distribution to the dataset. However, this approach is probably applicable for lakes, rivers and old reservoirs with stabilized emissions but not for young hydroelectric reservoirs for which the decrease of emissions with the age imposes intense monitoring. This study suggests that diffusive fluxes could be as sporadic as ebullition.

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1047 [months \(3 consecutive sampling dates\) and probably lasted less than 15 days most of the time](#)
1048 [\(Figure 7\). The auto-correlation function of the concentration time series indicate that a](#)
1049 [minimum sampling frequency of 1 month is required in this monomictic reservoirs for an](#)
1050 [accurate description of the change in the surface concentrations and](#) estimation of the
1051 emissions (Figure S1). A lower temporal resolution can significantly affect (positively or
1052 negatively) the emissions factors of non-permanently stratified freshwater reservoirs. This is
1053 particularly critical in the inflow regions when water inputs from the watershed increase in the
1054 rainy season in all reservoirs and at the beginning of the overturn in regions of the world
1055 where reservoirs are not permanently stratified like in Asia (Chanudet et al., 2011) which
1056 concentrate 60% of the worldwide hydroelectric reservoirs (Kumar et al., 2011).

1057 **5. Conclusion**

1058 The [fortnightly](#) monitoring of CH₄ diffusive emissions at nine stations revealed complex
1059 [temporal and spatial](#) variations that could hardly been characterized by [seasonal](#) sampling.
1060 The highest emissions occur sporadically during hot moments in the rainy season and when
1061 the reservoir overturns. In the rainy season, they mostly occur in the inflow region because the
1062 increase of the discharge of cool water from the reservoir tributaries contributes to sporadic
1063 thermal destratification. During the reservoir overturn, extreme emissions occur mostly in
1064 area remotely located from the inflows and outflows that are supposed to have the highest
1065 water residence time. It shows that diffusive emissions can be sporadically as high as
1066 ebullition and that these hot moments could contribute very significantly to the total emissions
1067 from natural aquatic ecosystems and reservoirs. Our results showing that a monthly [frequency](#)
1068 monitoring is the minimum required to capture all emissions [js](#) probably not applicable to
1069 every aquatic [ecosystem](#). However, it suggests that quantification of emissions based on 2-4
1070 campaigns in a year might significantly affect emissions factors and carbon budgets of
1071 ecosystems under study.

1072 We also identified a new hotspot of emissions upstream of the water intake resulting from the
1073 artificial destratification of the water column due to [horizontal and](#) vertical [mixing](#) generated
1074 by the water withdrawal. In the case of the NT2R, emissions from this site contribute up to
1075 25% of total diffusive emissions over less than 1% of the total reservoir area. We highly
1076 recommend measurements of diffusive fluxes around water intakes (immediately upstream of
1077 dams, typically) in order to evaluate if such results can be generalized.

1078 **Acknowledgements**

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1096

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Table 1: Characteristics of the nine monitoring stations in the Nam Theun 2 Reservoir

Station	Flooded ecosystem ¹	Hydrology	Water residence time ²
RES1	Dense forest	100 m upstream of the Nakai Dam	**
RES2	Dense forest	Thalweg of the Nam Theun River	**
RES3	Dense forest	Embayment	***
RES4	Degraded forest	Confluence Nam Theun-Nam Xot Rivers	**
RES5	Degraded forest	Aside from the main stream	**
RES6	Degraded forest	Thalweg of the Nam Theun River	*
RES7	Swamp	Between inflows and water intake	*
RES8	Agricultural soils	Between inflows and water intake	*
RES9	Civil construction	Water intake	*

1265 ¹Descoux et al. (2011)

1266 ²Water residence time in arbitrary units, (***) stands for long residence time, [\(**\) for](#)
1267 [intermediate residence times](#) and (*) for short residence times

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Table 2 : Median, average, ranges and proportion of diffusive fluxes (F_{CH_4}) < 1 and > 5 mmol $m^{-1} d^{-1}$ for three seasons

Station		Warm Dry (WD)	Warm Wet (WW)	Cool Dry (CD)
RES1-RES8	n	212	252	217
	range	0.01-102.59	0.01-201.86	0.01-94.64
	median	1.08	0.64	0.20
	Average \pm SD	2.23 \pm 7.37	3.12 \pm 14.58	3.04 \pm 12.89
	% $F_{CH_4} < 1$	48%	63%	86%
	% $F_{CH_4} > 5$	6.6%	7.5%	7.4%
	Mediane $F > 5$	10.67	13.80	23.75
	Average $F > 5$	16.69 \pm 25.04	30.23 \pm 45.99	36.45 \pm 33.19
RES9	n	39	45	36
	range	0.24-342.00	0.03-605.38	0.07-17.62
	median	40.81	1.23	0.48
	average \pm SD	83.33 \pm 15.57	78.58 \pm 24.73	2.21 \pm 0.69

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Supprimé: mmol $m^{-2} d^{-1}$

1276 | Table 3: Methane emissions from the Nam Theun 2 Reservoir between 2009 and 2012.

<u>Gg(CH₄) year⁻¹</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
<u>Emission from reservoir</u>				
<u>Diffusion at RES9 only</u>	<u>0.02±0.01</u>	<u>2.33±0.21</u>	<u>0.86±0.12</u>	<u>0.66±0.11</u>
<u>Total diffusion</u>	<u>4.45±1.01</u>	<u>9.34±2.32</u>	<u>3.71±0.81</u>	<u>4.95±1.09</u>
<u>Contribution of RES9 to diffusion (%)</u>	<u>0.4</u>	<u>24.9</u>	<u>23.2</u>	<u>13.3</u>
<u>Ebullition¹</u>	<u>11.21±0.16</u>	<u>14.39±0.11</u>	<u>14.68±0.10</u>	<u>12.29±0.09</u>
<u>Total emissions from reservoir</u>	<u>15.66±1.02</u>	<u>23.73±2.32</u>	<u>18.39±0.82</u>	<u>17.25±1.09</u>
<u>Contribution of RES9 (%)</u>	<u>0.1</u>	<u>9.8</u>	<u>4.7</u>	<u>3.8</u>
<u>Total downstream emissions²</u>	<u>7.79±0.90</u>	<u>10.73±0.83</u>	<u>2.29±0.41</u>	<u>2.00±0.32</u>
<u>Total emissions (reservoir + downstream)</u>	<u>23.45±1.36</u>	<u>34.46±2.46</u>	<u>20.67±0.92</u>	<u>19.24±1.14</u>
<u>Contribution of diffusion to total emission</u>	<u>19%</u>	<u>27%</u>	<u>18%</u>	<u>26%</u>
<u>Contribution of RES9 to total (%)</u>	<u><0.1</u>	<u>6.8</u>	<u>4.2</u>	<u>3.4</u>

1277 | ¹Deshmukh et al. (2014)

1278 | ²Deshmukh et al. (2015)

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Figure captions

Figure 1: Map of the sampling stations and civil structures at the Nam Theun 2 Reservoir (Lao PDR).

Figure 2: Vertical profiles of temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$), oxygen ($\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$) and methane ($\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$) at the stations RES1, RES3, RES7, RES8 and RES9 in the Nam Theun 2 Reservoir. Representative profile of the years 2010 (circle), 2011 (square) and 2012 (triangle) are given for each seasons: cool dry in blue, warm dry in red, and warm wet in grey.

Figure 3: (a) Stratification index (ΔT , see text), (b) O_2 concentration in the hypolimnion ($\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$), (c) CH_4 concentration in the hypolimnion ($\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$) and (d) CH_4 storage in the water column ($\text{Gg}(\text{CH}_4) \text{ month}^{-1}$, bars) and water residence time (days, black line with circles) in the Nam Theun 2 Reservoir (Lao PDR) between 2009 and 2012. The red, grey and blue colours indicate the warm dry (WD), warm wet (WW) and cool dry (CD) seasons, respectively. For the panels (a), (b) and (c), the boxes show the median and the interquartile range, the whiskers denote the full range of values and the plus sign (+) denotes the mean.

Figure 4: Seasonal variations between 2010 and 2012 of the depth-integrated aerobic CH_4 oxidation ($\text{mmol m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$) at the stations RES1-RES8 calculated from the aerobic oxidation rates determined by Deshmukh et al. (2015). WD stands for warm dry (in red), WW for warm wet (in grey) and CD for cool dry (in blue). The boxes show the median and the interquartile range, the whiskers denote the full range of values and the plus sign (+) denotes the mean.

Figure 5: Frequency distribution of the log of CH_4 concentrations ($\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$) at the nine monitoring stations of the Nam Theun 2 Reservoir. The red, grey and blue colours indicate the warm dry (WD), warm wet (WW) and cool dry (CD) seasons, respectively.

Figure 6: (a) Surface concentrations and (b) diffusive fluxes between June 2009 and December 2012 at the station RES9 located at the water intake. Julian day 0 is 1st of January, 2009. The red, grey and blue colours indicate the warm dry (WD), warm wet (WW) and cool dry (CD) seasons, respectively.

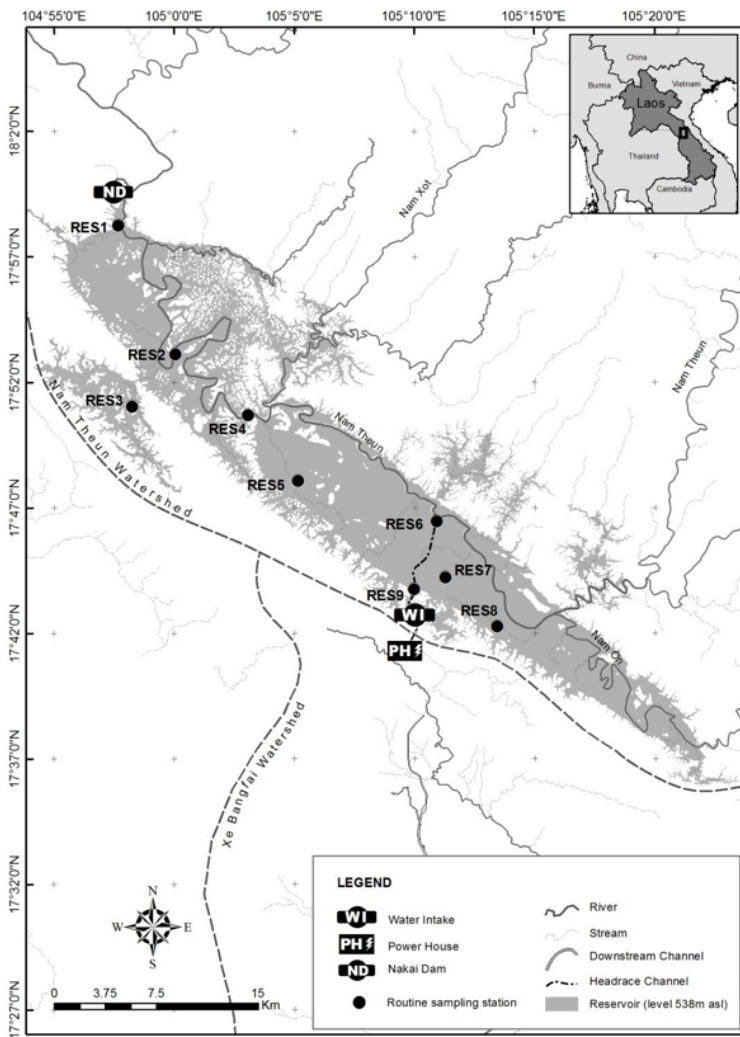
1315 | Figure 7: (a, d, g, j) stratification index (ΔT , red line, see text) and diffusive fluxes, (b,e,h,k)
1316 | CH_4 storage and (c,f,i,l) depth-integrated aerobic CH_4 oxidation ($\text{mmol m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$, black line)
1317 | calculated from the aerobic oxidation rates determined by Deshmukh et al. (2015) and ΔT (red
1318 | line) between June 2009 and December 2012 at the stations RES1, RES3, RES7 and RES8 at
1319 | the Nam Theun 2 Reservoir. Julian day 0 is 1st of January, 2009. The red, grey and blue
1320 | colour dots indicate the warm dry (WD), warm wet (WW) and cold dry (CD) seasons,
1321 | respectively.

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1323 | Figure 8: (a) Total emissions by diffusive fluxes in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, and (b)
1324 | monthly emissions by diffusive fluxes between May 2009 and December 2012. Emissions
1325 | from RES9 (water intake) are shown in black, emissions resulting from diffusive fluxes lower
1326 | than $5 \text{ mmol m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$ from the stations RES1 to RES8 are shown in white and emissions
1327 | resulting from diffusive fluxes higher than $5 \text{ mmol m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$ from the stations RES1-RES8 are
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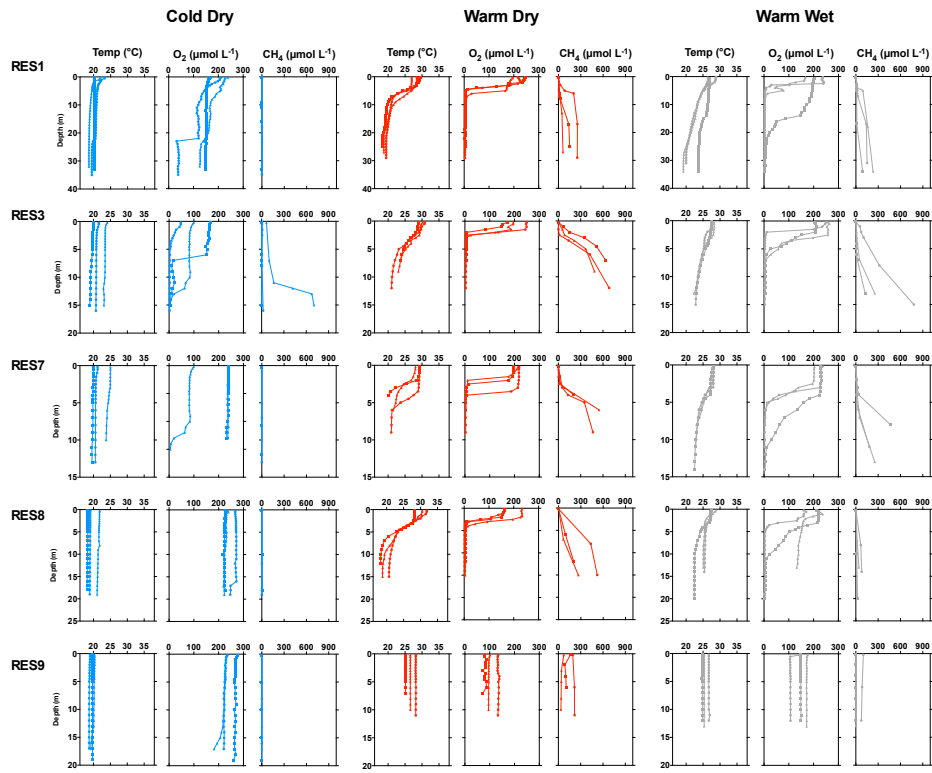
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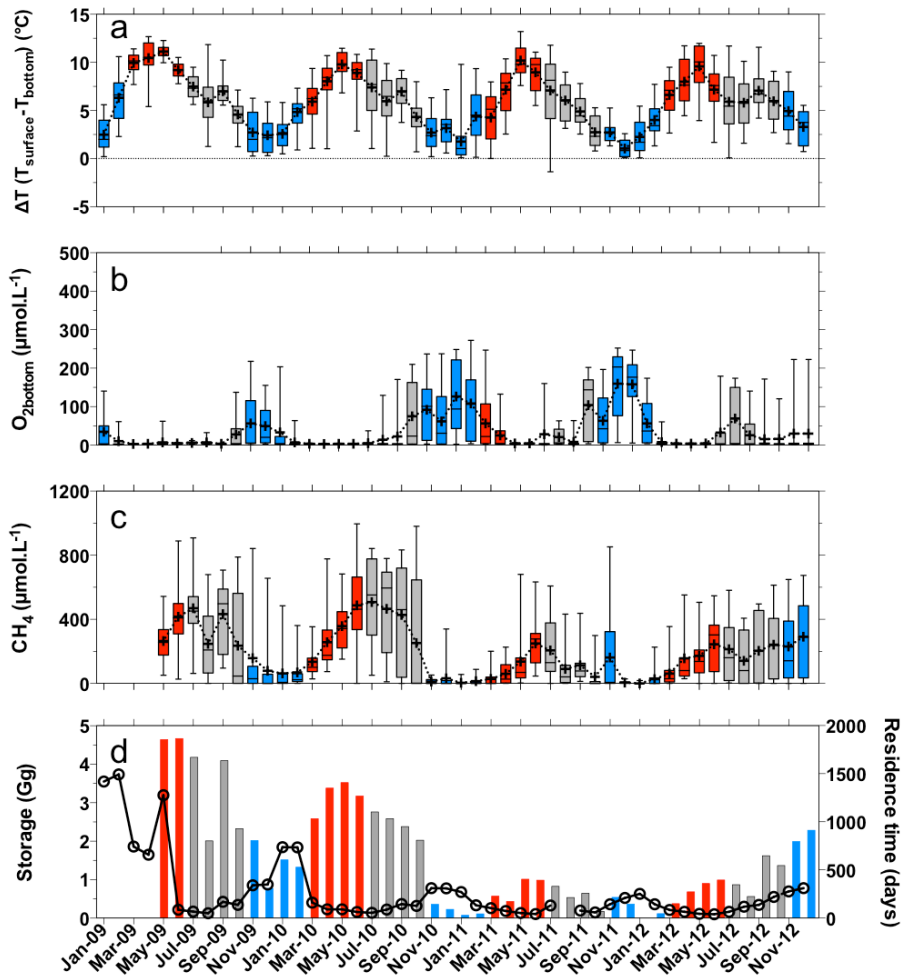
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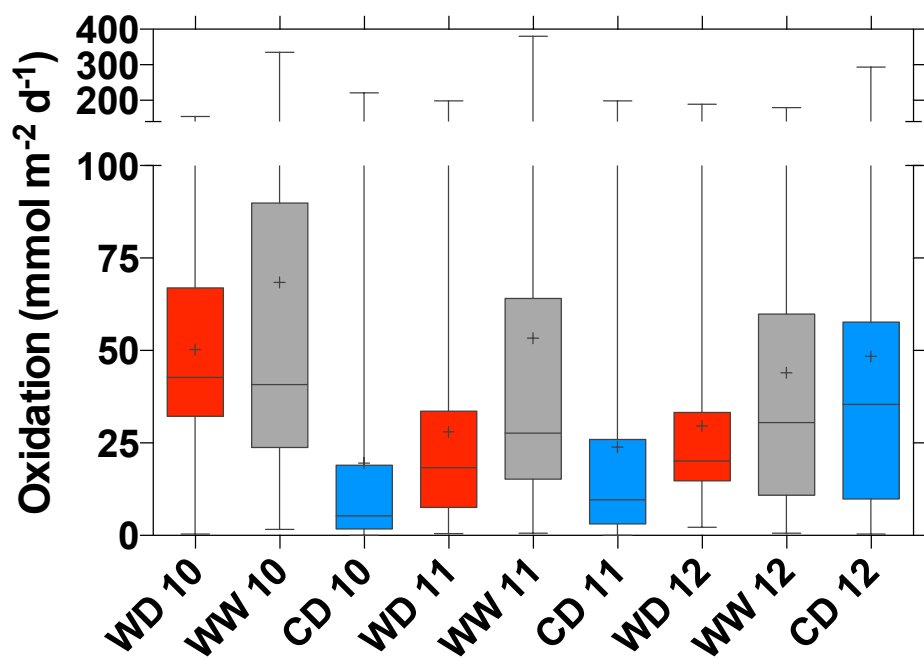
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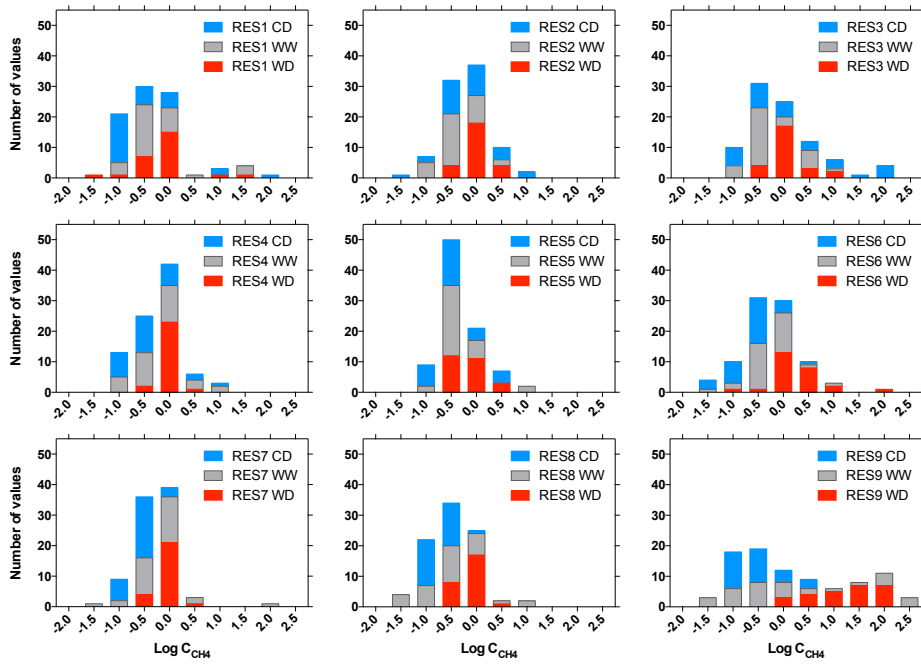
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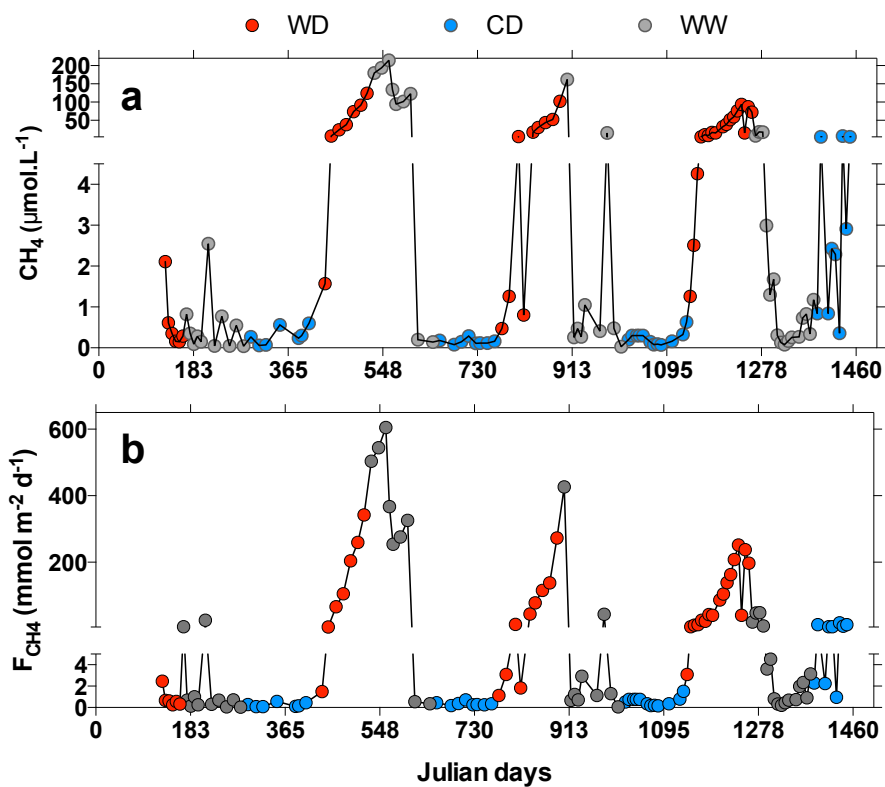
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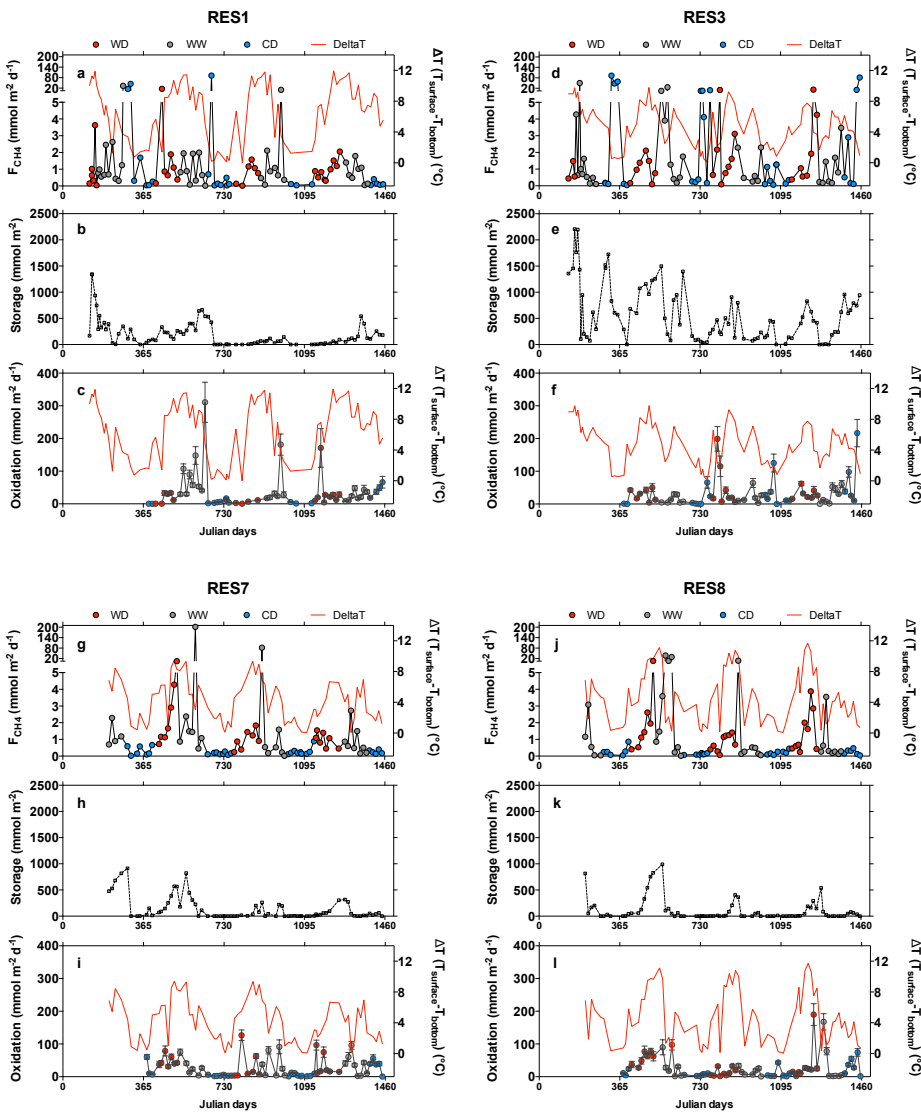


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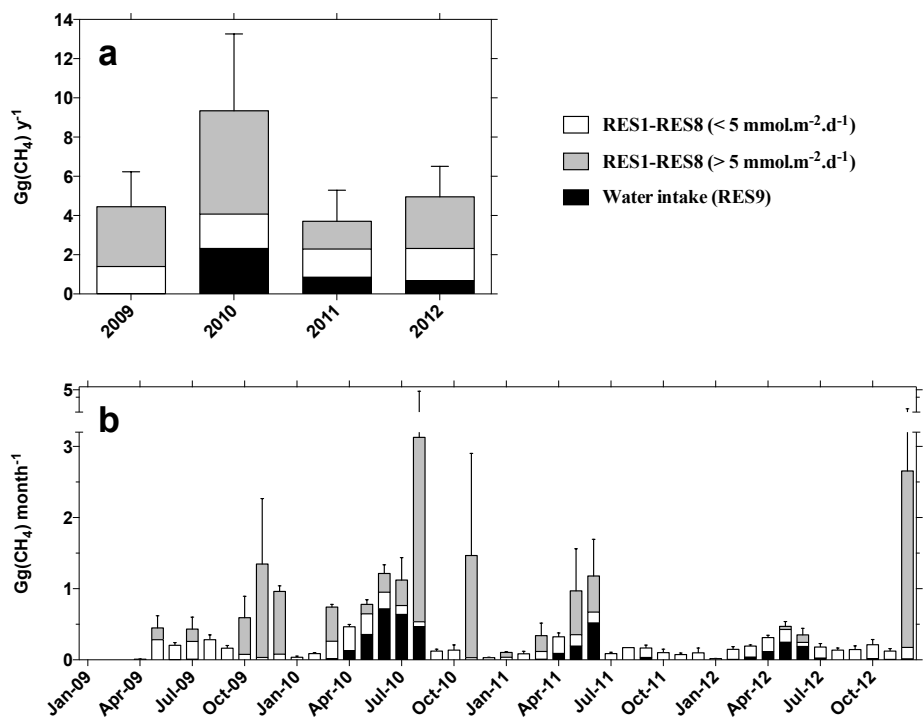
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