

1 **Temporary stratification promotes large greenhouse gas emissions in a shallow eutrophic lake**

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16 **Abstract**

17 Shallow lakes and ponds undergo frequent temporary thermal stratification. How this affects greenhouse  
18 gas (GHG) emissions is moot, with both increased and reduced GHG emissions hypothesised. Here,  
19 weekly estimation of GHG emissions, over growing season from May to September, were combined with  
20 temperature and oxygen profiles of an 11 hectare temperate shallow lake to investigate how thermal  
21 stratification shapes GHG emissions. There were three main stratification periods with profound anoxia  
22 occurring in the bottom waters upon isolation from the atmosphere. Average diffusive emissions of  
23 methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) were larger and more variable in the stratified phase, whereas  
24 carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) was on average lower, though these differences were not statistically significant. In  
25 contrast, there was a significant, order of magnitude, increase in CH<sub>4</sub> ebullition in the stratified phase.  
26 Furthermore, at the end of the period of stratification, there was a large efflux of CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> as the lake  
27 mixed. Two relatively isolated turnover events were estimated to have released the majority of the CH<sub>4</sub>  
28 emitted between May and September. These results demonstrate how stratification patterns can shape  
29 GHG emissions and highlight the role of turnover emissions and the need for high frequency  
30 measurements of GHG emission which are required to accurately characterise emissions, particularly  
31 from temporarily stratifying lakes.

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34 Keywords: Climate change; lake stratification; methane; carbon dioxide; nitrous oxide; climate  
35 feedbacks

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## 37 **1. Introduction**

38 Fresh waters are key sites for the processing of greenhouse gases (GHG), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), carbon dioxide  
39 (CO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O). Shallow lakes, in particular, have been identified as hot spots of CH<sub>4</sub>  
40 release, particularly when ebullition is taken into account (Davidson et al., 2018; Aben et al., 2017). The  
41 certainty that fresh waters are large emitters of GHGs contrasts with the uncertainties associated with the  
42 quantities emitted and this is in large part due to historical paucity of measurements (Cole, 2013). A  
43 recent study identified the highly variable emissions from lakes and ponds (Rosentreter et al., 2021).  
44 Whilst different morphometric features and chlorophyll-a explained some of the emission patterns  
45 (Deemer and Holgerson, 2021), it is also clear that a dearth of measurement combined with these highly  
46 variable emissions makes determining the drivers and controls of those emissions a challenge, which in  
47 turn makes predicting future emissions difficult.

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49 The current and future effects of climate change on lakes in general and on their GHG emissions are  
50 relevant questions as there is potential for positive feedbacks and synergies with other human impacts  
51 such as eutrophication (Davidson et al., 2018; Beaulieu et al., 2019; Delsontro et al., 2016; Meerhoff et  
52 al., 2022). Taking a broad metabolic theory of ecology approach, temperature increases should promote  
53 methanogenesis and shift the balance from primary production to respiration increasing CO<sub>2</sub> emission at  
54 cellular and ecosystem scale (Yvon-Durocher et al., 2010). However, empirical and experimental data  
55 indicate that temperature is not the sole control of primary production and methanogenesis. In particular,  
56 eutrophication, and the promotion of large algal crop, has been associated with increased emissions of  
57 CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O (Delsontro et al., 2016) both by diffusion and ebullition (Zhou et al., 2019). Furthermore, in  
58 what is globally the most abundant lake type, small shallow lakes, where macrophytes can colonise large  
59 areas of the lake bed, trophic state and the dominance of submerged plants or algae may be more  
60 important than temperature in shaping GHG dynamics (Davidson et al., 2015; Davidson et al., 2018;  
61 Bastviken et al., 2023).

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63 Climate change effects on lakes are not limited to increases in average temperatures and lengthening of  
64 the growing season. Increases in both the frequency and intensity of heat waves are predicted, which will  
65 promote the warming of surface waters and in turn make permanent and temporary thermal stratification  
66 of lakes more likely (Woolway and Merchant, 2019), even in lakes typically classified as non-stratifying  
67 (Kirillin and Shatwell, 2016). A recent study Holgerson et al. (2022) identified stratification and mixing  
68 patterns in small water bodies, with permanent summer stratification common and frequent mixing  
69 occurring in larger standing waters (>4 ha) lakes. Such periods of stratification and mixing events are  
70 likely to have profound effects on GHG dynamics. Emissions of gases, in particular CH<sub>4</sub>, that accumulate  
71 in the isolated bottom waters of a stratified lake, occurs upon mixing and can make very significant  
72 contributions to cumulative emissions (Schubert et al., 2012). High-resolution studies of sites that  
73 undergo temporary stratification are rare. Though Søndergaard et al. (2023b), recently showed how  
74 stratification shapes patterns and processes across the entire ecosystem, including short term effects on  
75 dissolved GHG concentration in bottom and surface waters. In terms of its effects on GHG dynamics,  
76 there are potentially antagonistic processes at work in a stratified lake. On the one hand the ‘shield effect’  
77 results in lower temperatures at the sediment surface slowing down metabolic processes that scale with  
78 temperature, i.e. methanogenesis and mineralization of organic carbon (C), reducing emission and  
79 promoting C burial. On the other hand, anoxia at the sediment surface may shift processes towards  
80 fermentation, increasing the proportion and total amount of CH<sub>4</sub> produced and perhaps reducing C burial  
81 (Bartosiewicz et al., 2019). Recent work combining empirical observations and models has suggested that  
82 shielding effects are larger than the anoxia effects and that stratification, in general, increases C burial and  
83 reduces GHG emissions (Bartosiewicz et al., 2015). The stratification induced isolation of bottom waters  
84 was reported to lead to reduced ebullition of CH<sub>4</sub> and a shift to diffusive pathways (Bartosiewicz et al.,  
85 2015). It might, however, be predicted that in shallow lakes stratification would lead to much larger CH<sub>4</sub>  
86 release as anoxic conditions would limit CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation by CH<sub>4</sub> oxidizing bacteria (MOBs) (Bastviken et  
87 al., 2008). There may also be other factors with the potential to increase GHG emission, such as sediment

88 organic content and lake trophic status (Delsontro et al., 2016), which may interact with stratification  
89 patterns in shaping GHG emissions.

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91 In this study, we used data from a shallow lake with high frequency measurements of temperature profiles  
92 combined with weekly measurements of dissolved gas concentrations in the surface and bottom waters  
93 and continuous measurement of ebullitive emissions of CH<sub>4</sub> to track the effects of lake stratification on  
94 GHG emissions. The key question was how ebullitive and diffusive fluxes of the key GHGs: CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>  
95 and N<sub>2</sub>O respond to temporary thermal stratification.

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## 97 **2. Materials and methods.**

### 98 **2.1 Study site**

99 Ormstrup lake, located in Denmark (lat 56.326°, lon 9.639°) (Fig.1) (depth map with GHG sampling  
100 locations), is an 11 ha, shallow lake (average depth 3.4 m), with a maximum depth of 5.5 m, and with a  
101 relatively long hydraulic retention time (> 1 year). The lake is eutrophic with high TP and chlorophyll-a  
102 (Table 1; Søndergaard et al., 2022) with very sparse occurrence of submerged plants.

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### 104 **2.2 Depth profiling and high frequency measurements**

105 In June 2020, a Nexsens (NexSens Technology, Fairborn, OH, USA) CB-450 data buoy system  
106 ([https://www.nexsens.com/pdf/CB450\\_datasheet.pdf](https://www.nexsens.com/pdf/CB450_datasheet.pdf)) was deployed at the deepest point of the lake  
107 equipped with a Nexsens TS210 thermistor string [https://www.nexsens.com/pdf/TS210\\_datasheet.pdf](https://www.nexsens.com/pdf/TS210_datasheet.pdf)  
108 with temperature nodes measuring at 4 levels; one sensor “in air”, ca. 5 cm above the water surface, (but  
109 shielded from direct light), and three sensors at -1, -2, -3 meters, respectively relative to the water surface.  
110 In addition two Aqua TROLL 500 (In-Situ, Fort Collins, CO, USA) multi-sondes were mounted near the  
111 surface (-1.0 meters) and at deeper water depth (-3.8 meters). The near surface and deeper water sonde

112 were configured with sensors to measure dissolved oxygen (DO) and water temperature (Tw). The optical  
113 sensors were calibrated according to manufacture guidelines and checked on a weekly basis.

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115 The optical sensors of the Aqua TROLL 500 have a built-in wiper mechanism to clean sensor heads to  
116 hamper bio-fouling. The wiper function was enabled to perform cleaning in sync with sensor  
117 measurements, hence every 15 minutes. In addition, manual cleaning of sensor heads was done every  
118 week, while routine manual field monitoring was carried out at the lake. Prior to the deployment of the  
119 buoy, and as a validation exercise for the buoy data, weekly manual profiles of DO and Tw were collected  
120 at the deepest point.

121  
122 Periods of stratification and depth of the thermocline were defined using the r package rlakeanalyzer  
123 (Winslow et al., 2019) based on the density gradient of the water column from the weekly manual  
124 profiling of the system. During periods of defined as stratified, there were partial mixing events where the  
125 depth of the thermocline changed and there was some mixing of the sub epilimnetic water and the surface  
126 waters, whilst the bottom waters below 3.5 metres remained undisturbed.

127

### 128 **2.3 Water chemistry**

129 Water samples for the analysis of Chlorophyll-a were collected weekly from the 20. April 2020 from  
130 surface (-0.5 m) water at station 3 (Fig. (Søndergaard et al., 2005)). A volume of water ranging from (0.2  
131 to 1 litre) was filtered and the GFC papers preserved for chlorophyll-a analysis, which were determined  
132 spectrophotometrically after ethanol extraction (Jespersen and Christoffersen, 1987) and alkalinity was  
133 measured weekly by gran titration (Søndergaard et al., 2005). Depth profiles of temperature, electrical  
134 conductivity (EC) and dissolved oxygen (DO) were measured manually with an Aqua TROLL 500 probe  
135 from every -0.5 or -1 m down to -5 m depth).

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## 137 **2.4 Greenhouse gas sampling**

### 138 2.4.1 Dissolved concentration

139 Samples of dissolved concentrations of CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O were collected weekly from the 20. April 2020  
140 from surface waters and weekly from surface and bottom water from the 26. May 2020 to the 13. October  
141 2020. The samples were taken using head-space equilibration after (Mcauliffe, 1971), where 20 ml of  
142 water was collected from just below the water surface and 20 ml of N<sub>2</sub> was introduced as a headspace in a  
143 60-ml syringe and then shaken vigorously for one minute. The 20 ml headspace was then transferred to a  
144 12-ml pre evacuated glass vial.

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146 Gas concentrations in the headspace were determined on a dual-inlet Agilent 7890 GC system interfaced  
147 with a CTC CombiPal autosampler (Agilent, Nærum, Denmark) (Petersen et al., 2012). For the GC,  
148 certified CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O standards were used for calibration and validation. Aqueous concentrations in  
149 N<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> were calculated from the headspace gas concentrations according to Henry's law and  
150 using Henry's constant corrected for temperature and salinity (Weiss, 1974; Weiss and Price, 1980;  
151 Wiesenburg and Guinasso, 1979). A recent study (Koschorreck et al., 2021) identified significant bias in  
152 the estimate of CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations using headspace equilibration at lower concentrations. We applied their  
153 correction using separately measured alkalinity as described in Koschorreck et al. (2021).

154 The fluxes of N<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> between the water and the overlying atmosphere were estimated as

$$155 f_g = k_g(C_{wat,g} - C_{eq,g})$$

156 Where  $f_g$  is the flux of a specific gas  $g$ ,  $k_g$  is the piston velocity of the gas and  $C_{wat,g} - C_{eq,g}$  is the  
157 gradient of concentration between the concentration of gas dissolved in the water ( $C_{wat,g}$ ) and the  
158 concentration of gas the water would have at equilibrium with the atmosphere ( $C_{eq,g}$ ).

159 We calculated a gas transfer velocity  $k_{600}$  for each sampling occasion using the relationship based on  
160 windspeed described in (Cole and Caraco, 1998).

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$$k_{600} = 2.07 + 0.215U_{10}^{1.7}$$

$U_{10}$  is the mean daily windspeed at 10m ( $m s^{-1}$ ) obtained from the Danish meteorological institute (DMI;20x20 km grid data)

$$k_g = k_{600} \left( \frac{Sc_g}{600} \right)^x$$

$Sc_g$  is the Schmidt number(Wanninkhof, 1992) of the specific gas  $g$ . We chose  $x = -2/3$  as this factor is used for smooth liquid surface (Deacon, 1981).

Daily flux rates were calculated using linear interpolation of the weekly surface measurements from each of the sampling points. The diffusive surface water fluxes were calculated by taking an average of the daily flux rate from the 12. May 2020 to the 13. October 2020 for each location. Then an average of the 3 locations was multiplied by the area of the lake and the number of days covered by the study, here 126 days was chosen to match the period over which ebullition was measured.

The total content of the gases in the lake's bottom waters were calculated from the dissolved concentration of the gases multiplied by an estimate of the volume of the water in the hypolimnion. The volume of water in the hypolimnion was estimated from the lake profiles manually conducted on the day of sampling. The top of the hypolimnion was determined by the depth below which oxygen was less than  $0.5 mg l^{-1}$ . A detailed bathymetry of the lake allows the calculation of the area and therefore volume of water that lies below a given depth.

During the study period two major turnover events occurred, the process of lake turnover and full mixing can take a number of days, and the outgassing even longer. The oxygen data, from the buoy, indicated



186 that it can take up to four days and this provides time for CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation to occur (Søndergaard et al.,  
187 2023b). In order to estimate the amount of CH<sub>4</sub> oxidised over the course of the multiple days of degassing  
188 we directly measured CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation rates in the surface waters of the lake. This was done in June 2023 in  
189 five locations in this lake using methods outlined in (Thottathil et al., 2019) where five water samples  
190 from five different locations and each was incubated over 4 days with and the change in CH<sub>4</sub>  
191 concentration used to calculate oxidation rates. We used the minimum (0.267 μg CH<sub>4</sub>-C l<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>), mean  
192 (0.44 μg CH<sub>4</sub>-C l<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>) and maximum (0.58 μg CH<sub>4</sub>-C l<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>) oxidation rates to estimate the range of CH<sub>4</sub>  
193 oxidation likely to have occurred over the course of the two main turnover events. Assuming that the  
194 degassing took four days, these rates would consume between 2 and 8% of the CH<sub>4</sub> contained in the  
195 hypolimnion. Using the mean oxidation value the turnover fluxes were reduced by 4.1% on the 30<sup>th</sup> of  
196 June 2020 and by 6% for the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

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#### 198 2.4.2 Ebullition

199 The ebullitive flux of CH<sub>4</sub> was estimated using a total of 40 floating chambers placed on 4 transects of 10  
200 chambers each (Fig. 1). The chambers have a volume of 8 litre and a surface area of 0.075 m<sup>2</sup>, similar to  
201 those used by (Bastviken et al., 2015). As the existing literature indicated that ebullition is lower as water  
202 depth increases (Wik et al., 2013) the transects were placed to maximise the measurement of the low end  
203 of the depth gradient on the shallower slopes of the western end of the lake (Fig. 1). The average and  
204 maximum depth of each transect was T1: 293 cm and 472 cm; T2: 181 cm and 267, T3: 223 cm and 300  
205 cm and T4 166 cm and 220 cm. The chambers were set on the 14. May 2020 and sampled every two  
206 weeks from that date, and on one occasion after one week until September 17<sup>th</sup>, which is a period of 127  
207 days. Twenty ml of sample was taken from the floating chamber and injected into a pre-evacuated 12 ml  
208 vial (exetainer, Labco). Gas concentrations were determined on the same GC than described above  
209 (Petersen et al., 2012)

210 Ebullitive flux of CH<sub>4</sub> was estimated as:

211 
$$\frac{p_{gas} \times Vol_{bub}}{t \times A}$$

212 Where  $p_{gas}$  is the concentration of CH<sub>4</sub> in the gas that was trapped,  $Vol_{bub}$  is the volume of the chamber  
213 (i.e. 7L),  $t$  is the time during which the samples was collected and  $A$  is the area of chamber (i.e. 0.075 m<sup>2</sup>).  
214 A portion of the CH<sub>4</sub> released via ebullition in the chamber will have re-dissolved in the water or might  
215 leak through the chamber walls, thus underestimating the ebullitive flux. We have made a number of  
216 measurements to constrain this error and to compare estimates based on static chambers with other  
217 approaches. The result show that whilst static chambers underestimate ebullition, given the temporal  
218 variability of ebullition, static chambers continually deployed provide a better estimate of average ebullition  
219 than short term (24-48 hours) deployment using portable gas monitors or flushing chambers.

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221 Therefore, whilst static chambers method cannot be said to accurately quantify CH<sub>4</sub> emissions, they can be  
222 relied upon to compare differences in ebullition between time periods, with the caveat that they are always  
223 an underestimate of actual ebullitive flux.

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225 Total ebullitive flux from the lake was calculated by taking a mean of the emissions from each transect over  
226 the 126 day period. Then taking an average of the means of four transects and multiplying this by the time  
227 of deployment of the chambers in days, which was 126 days, and by the area of the lake. This gives a total  
228 ebullitive flux of CH<sub>4</sub> for the lake over the period of measurement from May to mid-September.

229  
230 The three different flux types, surface diffusion, ebullition and turnover emission were then converted in  
231 comparable units of total lakes emissions (as g or kg of gas) over the studied period and also converted into  
232 CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalents using a conversion factor related to their 100 year global warming potential (GWP) of 28  
233 for CH<sub>4</sub> and 265 for N<sub>2</sub>O.

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235 **2.5 Statistical methods**

236 To test for a significant difference among the emissions from the stratified and mixed phase we used  
237 generalised least squares (GLS) with a variance function to account for heterogeneity of variance between  
238 the phases. In the case of the ebullitive flux, as the collected phase often covered periods including both  
239 mixed and stratified phases there were three categories, mixed, stratified and both mixed and stratified.  
240 All analysis was carried out in R version 4.2.1 (R Development Core Team, 2022) and the GLS used the  
241 package nlme (Pinheiro et al., 2014).

242

## 243 **3.0 Results**

### 244 **3.1 Lake physical and chemical characteristics**

245 Depth profiles measured weekly from April show that stratification was initiated by the 26. May 2020 this  
246 may have broken down briefly and established again, visible in the temperature sensors for the buoy on  
247 the 5. June 2020 (Fig. 2). There were then 12 days of mixing followed by stable period of stratification  
248 with onset the 14. June 2020 and a duration of 16 days until a mixing event around the 30. June 2020. The  
249 following two weeks had cooler water and a mixed water column, hereafter a ca. 6 day period of  
250 stratification from the 15. to 21. July 2020. A mixed phase of two weeks then followed until stratification  
251 reestablished on 4. August 2020 and persisted until the end of August, partial mixing is indicated by the  
252 buoy data from the 21. August 2020, but the weekly manual profile to deeper water indicate that full  
253 mixing did not occur until after the 25. August 2020. The effects of the stratification and mixing events on  
254 the high frequency DO data measured at -3.8 m are clear, with rapid deoxygenation occurring after the  
255 onset of stratification and oxic bottom waters returning when the lake mixed (Fig. 2). The pattern in  
256 chlorophyll-a also follow, to some degree, those of stratification, with the exception of early spring.  
257 Chlorophyll-a values were extremely high in spring peaking at the start of June 2020 and falling gradually  
258 (Fig. 2). (Søndergaard et al., 2023b) During the periods of stratification chlorophyll biomass was lower,

259 and when a mixing event occurred the values increased, which is particularly evident in the July mixing  
260 periods (Fig. 2).

261

### 262 **3.2 Concentrations of dissolved gases and fluxes from the surface waters.**

263 The concentrations of the dissolved gases showed great variation from near or below atmospheric  
264 concentrations in some cases and up to an extremely high concentration (over 5 mg CH<sub>4</sub> C l<sup>-1</sup>) in the  
265 bottom waters on the 30. June 2020. There was some spatial heterogeneity in the surface waters, with the  
266 more littoral locations showing the greatest variation and the highest values (Figs. 3,4,5). In particular the  
267 most littoral zone, where the water was shallower around 1 m in depth, showed the highest values just  
268 prior to, or coincident with, the stratification turnover. Table 2 shows the mean diffusive flux of each gas  
269 over the sampling period along with the mean flux in mixed and stratified phases. For CO<sub>2</sub> there was a lot  
270 of temporal variation in flux dynamics, though not a large difference between mixed and stratified phases  
271 in terms of mean values (Table 2). There were some periods of CO<sub>2</sub> influx in spring and later summer and  
272 these tended to coincide with the end of a mixed phase and the start of the stratification phase. Nitrous  
273 oxide concentrations were generally low (Figs 4 & 5) with the lake being a source of N<sub>2</sub>O in the spring  
274 period and a sink or a very small source thereafter. The CH<sub>4</sub> concentration in the surface waters (Fig. 3)  
275 and the calculated diffusive emissions are relatively low, but did increase in the stratification periods with  
276 higher average values (Table 2 & Fig. 6). There was also some spatial variation with higher CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub>  
277 diffusive emissions in the shallower sampling locations, both in stratified and mixed conditions (Fig. 6).

278

279 The most marked patterns in GHG concentration were evident in the bottom waters sampled at -4.5 m,  
280 which accumulated to very large concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> but particularly CH<sub>4</sub> in the periods of  
281 stratification (Fig. 3 & 4). The ratio of CO<sub>2</sub> to CH<sub>4</sub> is illustrative in highlighting how stratification has  
282 altered the biogeochemical processes in the hypolimnion with CH<sub>4</sub> production becoming more prevalent. .

283 For example on 30. June 2020 after 16 days of stratification the the ratio  $\text{CO}_2:\text{CH}_4$  in the bottom waters  
284 was 0.8, whereas 7 days later after the mixing event it was 187 at the same depth.

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### 286 **3.3 Ebullitive fluxes**

287 The  $\text{CH}_4$  bubble flux, presented here as mean values for each of the 4 transects, ranged from 0.303 to 81.1  
288  $\text{mg CH}_4 \text{ C m}^2 \text{ d}^{-1}$  for the individual transect over the growing season measurement. There is a very clear,  
289 statistically significant impact of stratification on the ebullitive efflux of  $\text{CH}_4$  with stratified periods  
290 showing significantly markedly higher levels of emission (Fig. 7 and Table 2). In addition, there was a  
291 difference in average emissions among the different transects, with those with lower average water depth  
292 (T2 & T4) having lower emission than the transects with chambers over deeper water (T1 & T3) (Fig. 7).

293 The samples collected from the chambers reflect two weeks of bubble and diffusion collection and the  
294 quantification of the flux is therefore an average of the period of chamber deployment, which was two  
295 weeks, or in one case a single week (Fig. 7). This two week period on occasion covered both stratified  
296 and mixed phases and on these occasions efflux was intermediate between purely mixed and stratified  
297 periods (Table 2 and Fig. 7).

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### 299 **3.4 Total lake fluxes**

300 Scaling up the results to total flux of gases from the whole lake over the period of study and including the  
301 estimated emissions from two turnover events show a very different effect of stratification on the balance  
302 of types of emissions for the three gases. The majority of  $\text{CH}_4$  emission (56%) result from the two short-  
303 lived turnover events (Fig. 8), whereas their contribution to  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  emission was 5% and 1%  
304 respectively.

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306 Fluxes of  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  were mostly diffusive, which represented 95% of emissions of both gases.

307 Methane diffusive flux was 14% of total emission, whereas  $\text{CH}_4$  ebullition was more than twice as much at

308 29% of total CH<sub>4</sub> emission. In terms of global warming potential CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> emission were  
309 comparable, but the contribution of the turnover efflux was the dominant factor for CH<sub>4</sub> emissions.

310

## 311 **4. Discussion**

312 This study set out to assess the role of thermal stratification on the GHG dynamics in a lake undergoing  
313 frequent but temporary stratification. We found that the emission of the three GHGs showed different  
314 degrees of variation between the mixed and stratified phases. The largest and most significant variation  
315 was in CH<sub>4</sub> ebullition (Table 2), whilst the difference in diffusive fluxes, though marked for CH<sub>4</sub> was not  
316 significant. The mean of the total emissions from Ormstrup in the stratified phase (59.9 mg CH<sub>4</sub>-C m<sup>-2</sup>  
317 day<sup>-1</sup>) corresponds relatively closely to the mean of the total emissions (ebullition plus diffusion) reported  
318 for lakes in this size range (47 mg CH<sub>4</sub>-C m<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup>) from a paper synthesising multiple studies  
319 (Rosentreter et al., 2021). The mean emissions for the whole period (26.6 CH<sub>4</sub> -C m<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup>) were lower  
320 than Rosentreter et al. (2021) but similar to other studies with mean emissions of 30.9, 20.7 and 22.7 CH<sub>4</sub>  
321 -C m<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup> and were reported by Peacock et al. (2021), Sørensen et al. (2023) and Peacock et al. (2019)  
322 respectively. Whereas the average CO<sub>2</sub> (504 mg CO<sub>2</sub>-C m<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup>) at Ormstrup was lower than 993.5 mg  
323 CO<sub>2</sub>-C m<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup> measured by Peacock et al. (2021) but higher than the 264.6 and 205.1 mg CO<sub>2</sub>-C m<sup>-2</sup>  
324 day<sup>-1</sup> measured by Sørensen et al. (2023) and Peacock et al. (2019) respectively. The different temporal  
325 resolution and duration of these studies, eleven single day sampling from April to December (Peacock et  
326 al., 2021), five days continuous sampling on one occasion in late September (Sørensen et al., 2023) and a single  
327 early summer snapshot (Peacock et al., 2019) make direct comparison difficult. The data here do,  
328 however, provide a clear answer to the question of how thermal stratification affects GHG dynamics in  
329 shallow eutrophic lakes with an increase in total emissions (diffusion, ebullition and turnover) during the  
330 stratified period (Table 2, Fig 9). Previous work, combining observations and modelling suggested the  
331 opposite patterns (Bartosiewicz et al., 2019) as the shielding effect of the stratification results in cooler  
332 bottom waters which reduces CH<sub>4</sub> production due to the process being temperature dependent

333 (Bartosiewicz et al., 2016). This strong shielding effect may apply in deeper lakes experiencing more  
334 stable stratification, or less eutrophic lakes. The result here from a relatively shallow eutrophic lake,  
335 indicate that temporary stratification causes increases in GHG emissions. **4.1 Diffusive fluxes** Diffusive  
336 emissions did not, on average, show a strong stratification effect (Table 2). In particular variation in N<sub>2</sub>O  
337 emissions did not match patterns of stratification, with emissions more directly related to nitrate  
338 concentrations (Audet et al., 2020), as reflected by the fact the lake is a sink of N<sub>2</sub>O in late summer when  
339 nitrate was below detection limits for several weeks. There were peaks in emission of CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> at the  
340 end of stratification periods, particularly in the shallower water sampling points (Fig. 6). There were  
341 periods of influx of CO<sub>2</sub>, which coincided somewhat with periods of stratification, but the pattern was not  
342 consistent as other factors, for example, chlorophyll-a concentration also play a role.

343  
344 Littoral zones can have markedly different GHG dynamics to deeper zones due to shallower water having  
345 lower pressure (Wik et al., 2013), less time for CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation (Bastviken et al., 2008) or abundant plants  
346 which influence a range of biogeochemical processes (Davidson et al., 2018; Esposito et al., 2023). It is  
347 therefore possible that littoral zone dynamics could cause these differences. However, the increase  
348 occurred at all three sampling points at the end of June 2020, which indicates a lake-wide driver and the  
349 peak may represent the start of mixing after stratification. Strong winds were measured on the 29<sup>th</sup> and  
350 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (Søndergaard et al., 2023b) coincident with these increased littoral emissions. These  
351 winds would have caused lateral movement of the surface water causing an upwelling of bottom water,  
352 rich in CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>, in the littoral margins at the opposite end of the lake. Thus, whilst we do not have  
353 direct evidence it seems more likely that these increased emissions in the littoral zone were driven, at least  
354 in part, by the upwelling of GHG rich bottom waters.

355

356

357 **4.2 Ebullitive fluxes**

358 In contrast to the diffusive flux, the ebullitive emission of CH<sub>4</sub> shows a very clear response to  
359 stratification with an order of magnitude difference in emissions between periods where the sampling  
360 reflected purely mixed or stratified periods (Table 2 & Fig. 7). The two-week resolution of the sampling  
361 meant that some samples covered both stratified and mixed phases and these samples had intermediate  
362 fluxes, as they cover both low (mixed) and high emission (stratified) periods. The spatial variation in  
363 ebullition is also illustrative of the impacts of stratification and the role of anoxia in shaping CH<sub>4</sub> fluxes.  
364 The two transects with the largest mean and maximum depths (T1 and T3) had the largest emissions, with  
365 the deeper of the two (T1) having the highest emissions and showing the largest relative increase during  
366 the stratification phases. This pattern is different to that found some other studies where bubble emissions  
367 were larger in shallower water (Wik et al., 2013), although in this, and another study (Sø et al., 2023),  
368 there was an increase in bubble flux in deeper water in late summer. The deeper water at Ormstrup  
369 experienced anoxia early in season resulting in locations with deeper water having higher ebullition rates  
370 than shallower areas. This is at odds with ideas stemming from the metabolic theory of ecology stating  
371 that temperature (Yvon-Durocher et al., 2014) in particular at the sediment surface (Bartosiewicz et al.,  
372 2019) can be used to predict CH<sub>4</sub> efflux. Whilst CH<sub>4</sub> production is temperature dependent at the cellular  
373 level, CH<sub>4</sub> emissions were rather independent of the sediment temperature, for example in the first two  
374 weeks of July 2020 emissions were low and the sediment surface temperature was relatively high. Thus,  
375 temperature alone is a poor predictor of ecosystem scale CH<sub>4</sub> emissions.

376  
377 It should be noted that the methods used to estimate bubble flux here, where floating chambers are  
378 sampled every two weeks is a “less than perfect method”, which in nearly all cases will underestimate  
379 ebullitive flux. Logistical and financial constraints make continual sampling difficult and here we  
380 balanced these constraints against the greater time required to apply more accurate methods, such as  
381 bubble traps (Wik et al., 2013), automatic flushing chambers (Bastviken et al., 2015). Such is the  
382 variability of bubble flux in space and time that using measurement from a shorter period of 1-2 days can  
383 result in a larger error in estimation of emissions than results from the longer term deployment of a static



384 chamber (see supplementary materials 1 and 2). The results in figure 7 show that sampling a single week  
385 a year or even more regular monthly sampling of a shorter duration would be unlikely to accurately  
386 characterise ebullition. Bubble traps have been used on longer terms but in eutrophic systems they can  
387 suffer extensive biofouling which can impede their use. Thus, the continuous monitoring of ebullition  
388 using static chamber with known biases was deemed the least worst method available, but we  
389 acknowledge that ebullitive emissions are underestimated. We further acknowledge that this approach of  
390 static chambers should, where possible, be replaced by other methods to estimate ebullition, such as  
391 automatic flushing chambers. It is difficult to compare the mean values of emission with other studies as  
392 there are different scales of measurement both in space and time. However, comparing the values for  
393 ebullition recorded here with other longer-term studies carried out in lakes using bubble traps (Burke et  
394 al., 2019; Delsontro et al., 2016), shows higher values recorded at Ormstrup lake compared with other  
395 lakes, but lower values that have been measured in ponds (Ray and Holgerson, 2023; Delsontro et al.,  
396 2016), the latter being known to have higher emissions of CH<sub>4</sub> (Holgerson and Raymond, 2016).

397

### 398 **4.3 Turnover fluxes**

399 In addition to the diffusive and ebullitive emissions, the turnover flux, which consists of the gases  
400 accumulated in the hypolimnion being released on turnover, was also estimated, with a correction of CH<sub>4</sub>  
401 oxidation applied. There were two major turnover events at the end of June and in late in August 2020,  
402 which were preceded by 16 and 22 days of stratification, respectively. It was not possible to directly-  
403 measure turnover flux, as they are relatively discrete events where the efflux likely occurs over the course  
404 of a few hours, or a few days (Søndergaard et al., 2023b). Thus, the efflux estimation is based on a series  
405 of assumptions and thus must be treated with caution. Notwithstanding this uncertainty, we can be  
406 confident the turnover flux represents a very large proportion of the total emission of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from  
407 Ormstrup Lake over the growing season. We estimate it contributed more than 50 % of growing season  
408 CH<sub>4</sub> emissions and 5 % of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This highlights a very significant, and difficult to measure,

409 contribution to GHG emissions from lakes undergoing temporary stratification, which are among the  
410 most common lake type in Denmark (Søndergaard et al., 2023a).

411

#### 412 **4.1 Stratification effects**

413 The results here suggest that GHG dynamics were driven both directly and indirectly by the stratification  
414 patterns and the anoxia it induced in the bottom waters. At Ormstrup Lake the thermal stratification of the  
415 water column quickly led to anoxia, with only a matter of hours to days for the oxygen to be consumed  
416 once the bottom waters were isolated (Fig. 2). The ratios of CO<sub>2</sub>:CH<sub>4</sub> evidence how this promotes CH<sub>4</sub>  
417 over CO<sub>2</sub> production in the stratification phase (see Fig 9). In addition to promoting CH<sub>4</sub> production such  
418 conditions would preclude, or severely limit, oxic CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation, which has the potential to consume a  
419 large proportion of CH<sub>4</sub> produced in the anoxic sediments (Bastviken et al., 2008), though anoxic  
420 consumption of CH<sub>4</sub> can still occur (Blees et al., 2014). The raw emission data do not provide any direct  
421 information on the balance of production versus oxidation, but the CO<sub>2</sub>:CH<sub>4</sub> suggest there was marked  
422 shift to conditions where methanogenesis was the dominant process and there was reduced CO<sub>2</sub>  
423 production. Studies have shown that CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation can consume large proportions of the CH<sub>4</sub> produced  
424 under hypoxia (Saarela et al., 2019) and it is possible that there is intense CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation occurring at the  
425 thermocline during the periods of stratification at Ormstrup lake , but this was not directly measured at the  
426 lake. In addition to the more direct effects of anoxia there may be some indirect effects of the patterns of  
427 stratification and mixing that promote greater GHG emissions. Søndergaard et al. (2023b) recently  
428 reported how nutrient dynamics at Ormstrup Lake were altered by the lake stratification and full details  
429 can be found there, of relevance here is the impact on chlorophyll-a which saw a large spring peak after  
430 which the abundance tracked the stratification and mixing regime, with a lag time. There was a general  
431 reduction, or at least no increase as the stratification period progressed, perhaps due to nutrient limitation  
432 in the epilimnion. Upon mixing there was generally an increase in chlorophyll-a, though the weekly  
433 sampling resolution makes this difficult to assess. Chlorophyll-a and the labile dissolved organic carbon

434 (DOC) that result from abundant chlorophyll-a have been shown to be associated with higher diffusive  
435 and ebullitive CH<sub>4</sub> emissions (Davidson et al., 2015; Beaulieu et al., 2019; West et al., 2012; Zhou et al.,  
436 2019). It is not possible to say here whether a stable summer long stratification would have led to  
437 decreased chlorophyll-a as nutrients became limiting due to their isolation in the bottom waters and  
438 reliable high frequency chlorophyll-a data are required to convincingly demonstrate this phenomenon.  
439 Notwithstanding these uncertainties it may be the case that the temporary stratification, interspersed with  
440 mixing events, observed here represents a ‘sweet spot’ providing both the resources, i.e. chlorophyll-a and  
441 the labile DOC it produces, and optimal conditions (anoxia) for CH<sub>4</sub> production.

442

443 Predicting climate change effects on GHG emissions in a future warmer world is not straightforward, as  
444 there are multiple interacting drivers which combine to shape the GHG emissions of lakes. However, this  
445 study suggests that temporary stratification, which is increasingly recognised as prevalent in ponds and  
446 shallow lakes (Holgerson et al., 2022) and is likely to become more common with continued climate  
447 change impacts (Woolway and Merchant, 2019) is likely to increase GHG emissions. This will be  
448 particularly the case in more eutrophic systems where abundance algal derived dissolved organic matter  
449 can fuel CH<sub>4</sub> production (Zhou et al., 2019).

450

451 The combination of high frequency data on water temperature and dissolved oxygen combined with  
452 weekly measurements of GHGs increase the reliability of the findings presented here. Up until relatively  
453 recently it has been assumed that for shallow lakes, such as Ormstrup lake, stratification is not an  
454 important feature. Sampling has therefore focused on the surface layers of water bodies, using dissolved  
455 concentrations of gases or floating chambers to characterise flux, e.g. (Davidson et al., 2015; Audet et al.,  
456 2020; Peacock et al., 2021). Thus, most studies have overlooked bottom waters and do not have the  
457 temporal resolution required to capture turnover flux emissions from surface measurements. Furthermore,  
458 whilst many studies now include estimates of bubble emissions of CH<sub>4</sub> e.g. (Bergen et al., 2019), the  
459 necessary temporal resolution to accurately characterise ebullitive emission is not well established. The

460 finding here indicated that in such dynamic systems near continuous measurement is desirable and that  
461 short term collection over one or two days could provide massive, over or underestimate of CH<sub>4</sub>  
462 ebullition.

463  
464 Our results show very large temporal variation in emissions of all three gases, but in particular CO<sub>2</sub> and  
465 CH<sub>4</sub>, and this highlights the need for high frequency measurements to accurately characterize emissions  
466 from lakes. Even the weekly frequency of the sampling in this study was not sufficient to directly measure  
467 all the emission pathways and turnover flux had to be inferred from bottom water calculations. These data  
468 show that to capture the extent of GHG emissions from lakes it is vital we include all forms of flux,  
469 including ebullition and turnover flux. Recent work has highlighted the fact that most emissions of CH<sub>4</sub>  
470 (over 50%) from fresh waters come from highly variable systems (Rosentreter et al., 2021), with the mean  
471 and median emission rates of CH<sub>4</sub> differing greatly, indicating a few large emitters are responsible for a  
472 large proportion of emissions. The sampling frequency applied here is rare, if a more standard resolution  
473 of monthly measurements was applied the emissions estimate of all the gases, but in particular CH<sub>4</sub>,  
474 would be highly dependent on what phase of the stratification was captured. As an example, a monthly  
475 sampling frequency could potentially miss all the stratification peaks - consequently massively  
476 underestimating emissions, whereas a different sampling frequency could catch a number of peaks and  
477 give a much higher estimate. Thus, the same sampling frequency on the same lake, but timed differently  
478 could lead to conclusions of highly variable emissions. Consequently, in these highly dynamic systems  
479 where temporary stratification occur in summer, high frequency measurements are required to accurately  
480 estimate emissions. This is possible through eddy covariance approaches capable of capturing short term  
481 changes and covering a large area (Erkkilä et al., 2018) but the cost of these systems means they are not  
482 scalable to many sites. An increasingly accessible alternative is the use of automatic flushing chambers  
483 using low cost sensors (Bastviken et al., 2020), which provide the potential for affordable high spatial and  
484 temporal resolution measurement of GHG dynamics. This is a requisite for understanding the drivers of

485 GHG dynamic, which is required for being able to predict how they will respond in a range of scenarios  
486 related to land use, climate change and management interventions.

487

#### 488 **Code/data availability**

489 The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are not publicly available as they  
490 form part of ongoing research projects but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable  
491 request and will be made publicly available later in the research project.

492

#### 493 **Author contributions**

494 MS secured the funding for the wider lake restoration research project supplying the data. TAD, MS and  
495 JA conceptualized the gas study. TAD and AN established the buoy and sensor system. EL, CE, TAD,  
496 TB and JA collected and analysed the data. TAD wrote the paper and all authors commented on earlier  
497 versions and read and approved the final draft.

#### 498 **Competing interests**

499 The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

500

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502 We thank our splendid technician team of Lene Vigh, Malene Kragh, Dorte Nedergaard and Dennis  
503 Hansen for their extreme competence on the lab and the field. We acknowledge Theis Kragh for the depth  
504 map of the lake already published in Søndergaard et al. 2023. We are very grateful to the Poul Due Jensen  
505 Foundation for providing great support for this work and the Ormstrup project generally. TAD and CE  
506 were also supported by GREENLAKES (No. 9040-00195B) and The European Union’s Horizon 2020  
507 research and innovation programmes under grant agreement No 869296—The PONDERFUL Project.

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513 Table 1. Summary lake information, summer mean values and (standard deviation) of a range of  
514 variables

<b>Variable</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>Year</b> <b>2020</b>
Secchi depth (m)	22	0.86 (0.28)
Chlorophyll a ( $\mu\text{g/l}$ )	20	53.4 (28.9)
pH	22	8.04 (0.77)
Total phosphorus (mg/l)	22	0.58 (0.11)
Total nitrogen (mg/l)	22	1.50 (0.41)

515

516 Table 2. Mean greenhouse gas flux (units  $\text{CO}_2$ :  $\text{mg CO}_2\text{-C m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$ ,  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ :  $\text{mg N}_2\text{O -N m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$ ,  $\text{CH}_4$  both  
517 diffusive and ebullitive in  $\text{mg CH}_4\text{-C m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$ ) from the lake from spring to Autumn 2020. The emissions  
518 are divided in diffusive, ebullitive emissions. The mean values for all the surface water stations and all  
519 four transects of chambers are given. Emissions area separated into mixed versus stratified phases and  
520 there SD are also given. Ebullition was collected for a period covering two weeks so on a number of  
521 occasion covered both mixed and stratified periods thus ebullition has a third category where both  
522 mixed and stratified conditions occurred is given. Ebullition was significantly different across the three  
523 phases, diffusive fluxes were not significantly different for  $p$  values of 0.05.

524

525

526

Emission type	gas	mean	mixed	Stratified	Strat and mixed
Diffusive	CO <sub>2</sub>	493.7 <i>(529.6)</i>	559.6 <i>(433.1)</i>	449.8 <i>(587.6)</i>	
	CH <sub>4</sub>	9.47 <i>(16.0)</i>	5.9 <i>(4.1)</i>	12.7 <i>(20.2)</i>	
	N <sub>2</sub> O	0.11 <i>(0.09)</i>	0.09 <i>(0.08)</i>	0.12 <i>(0.11)</i>	
Ebullition	CH <sub>4</sub>	17.28 <i>(19.62)</i>	<b>4.84</b> <b><i>(3.44)</i></b>	<b>47.29</b> <b><i>(21.95)</i></b>	<b>12.74</b> <b><i>(10.34)</i></b>

527

528



529 Figure legends

530 Figure 1. Ormstrup lake bathymetry and sampling stations for surface water greenhouse gas sampling  
531 (St1, St2, St3) bottom waters were sampled at S3. Transects of 10 bubble traps were placed on T1- T4.

532 Adapted from the Søndergaard et al. 2023.

533 Figure 2 Temperature profile from June 2020 when the buoy was deployed and surface and bottom water  
534 oxygen from June to the end of September 2020. Manual chlorophyll-a ( $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ) values are also given in  
535 the top panel.

536 Figure 3. Dissolved  $\text{CH}_4$  concentrations from surface and bottom waters – thermal stratification periods  
537 highlighted in grey and the white background indicate mixed waters

538 Figure 4 . Dissolved  $\text{CO}_2$  concentrations from surface and bottom waters–thermal stratification periods  
539 highlighted in grey and the white background indicate mixed waters

540 Figure 5 Dissolved  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  gas concentrations surface and bottom thermal stratification periods highlighted  
541 in grey and the white background indicate mixed waters

542 Figure 6. Ormstrup lake surface fluxes of the  $\text{CH}_4$ ,  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  gases based on dissolved concentration ,  
543 thermal stratification periods highlighted in grey and the white background indicate mixed waters

544 Figure 7. Plot of  $\text{CH}_4$  ebullition averaged for each transect (10 chambers per transect), data collected from  
545 40 traps every two weeks. Thermal stratification periods highlighted in grey and the white background  
546 indicate mixed waters.

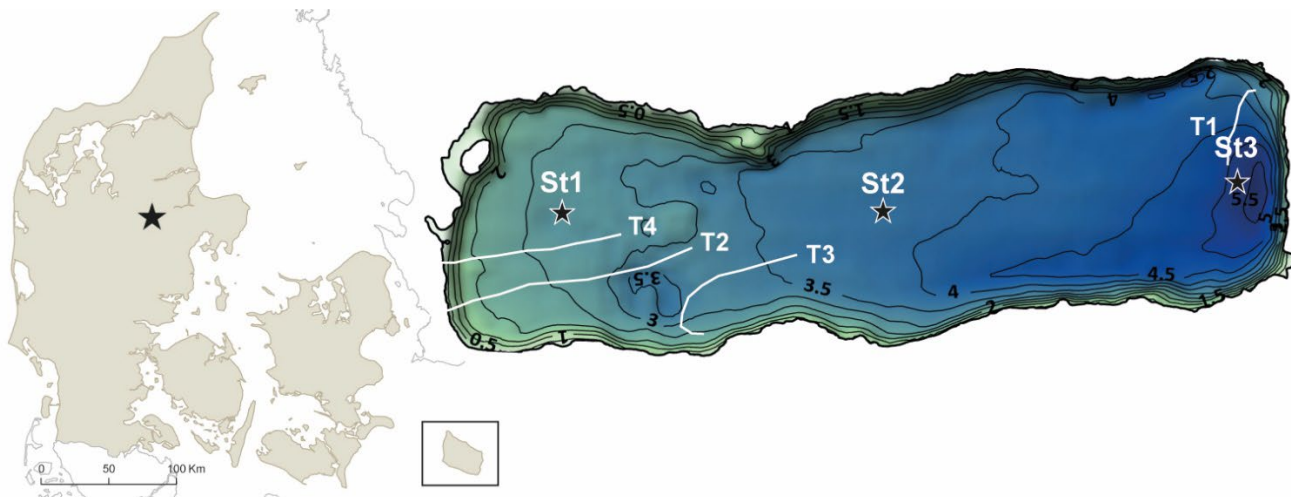
547 Figure 8 – Total lake emissions per gas over the growing season in  $\text{CO}_2$  equivalents. The emissions are  
548 divided different emission modes: Diffusive, ebullitive and turnover flux. All estimates contain some  
549 uncertainty, in particular ebullitive flux is an underestimate and the turnover flux also contains a great deal  
550 of uncertainty.

551 Figure 9. Summary of the quantities of the gases present in the water and the volumes emitted from the  
552 different pathways. The size of the arrow is proportional to the emissions from each pathway and with the  
553 stratified state on the left and the mixed state on the right, with the turnover flux in the centre.

554

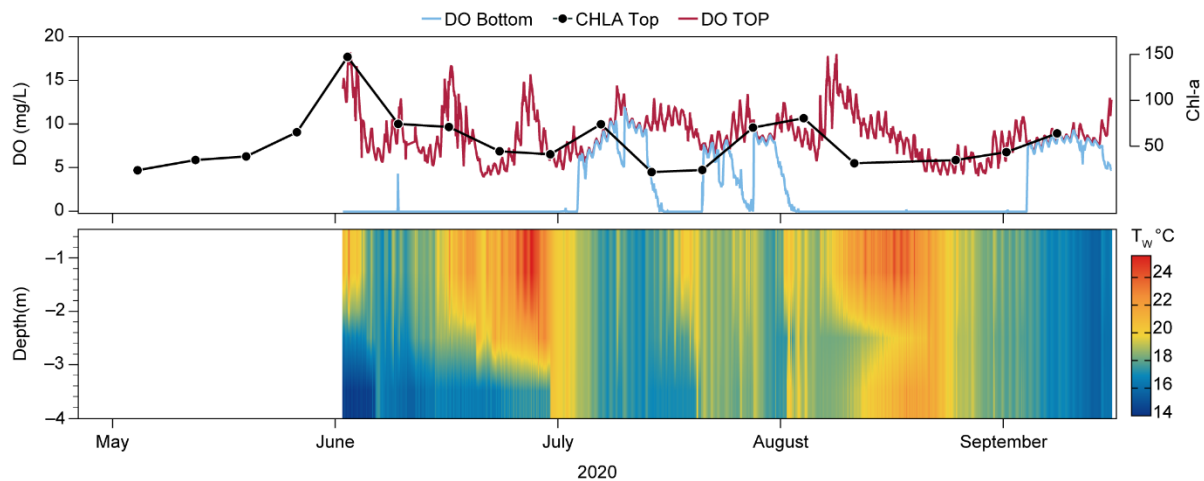
555 Figures and legends

556 Figure 1.



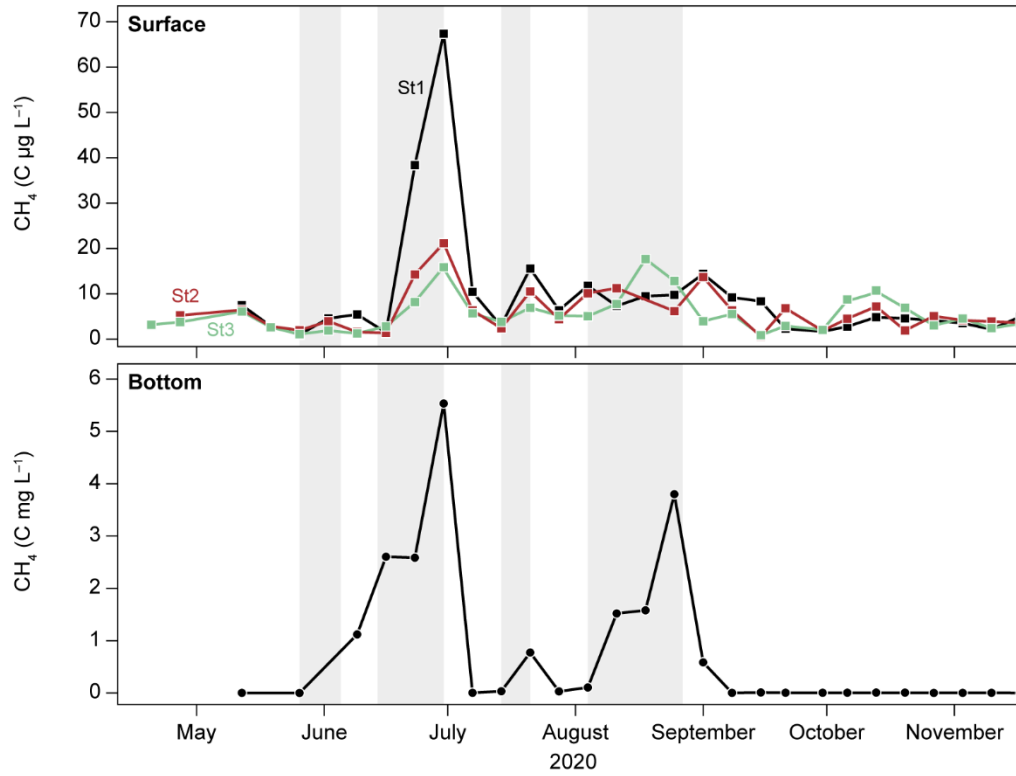
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560 from the Søndergaard et al. 2023.

561



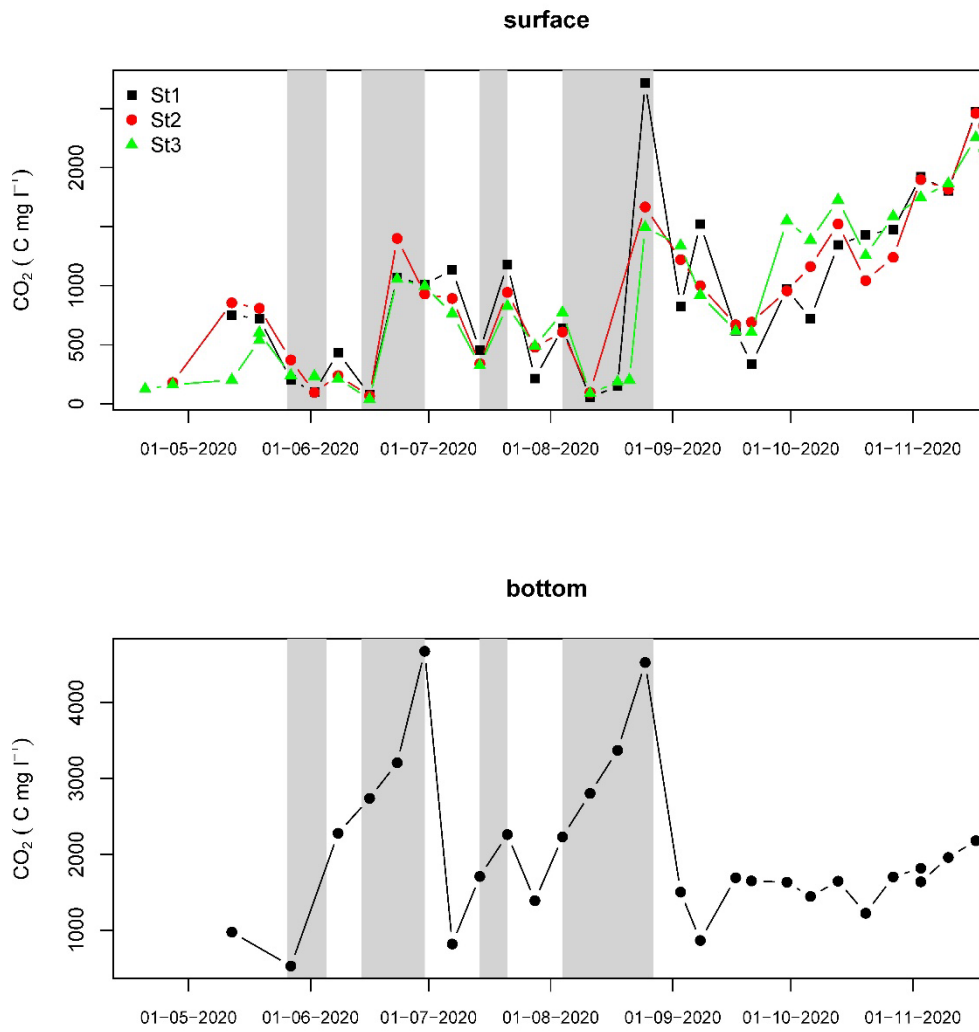
562  
563 Figure 2 Temperature profile from June when the buoy was deployed and surface and bottom water  
564 oxygen from June to the end of September. Chlorophyll-a ( $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ) values are also given in the top panel  
565 and surface (DO TOP) and bottom (DO Bottom) dissolved oxygen ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ ) are also given

566



567

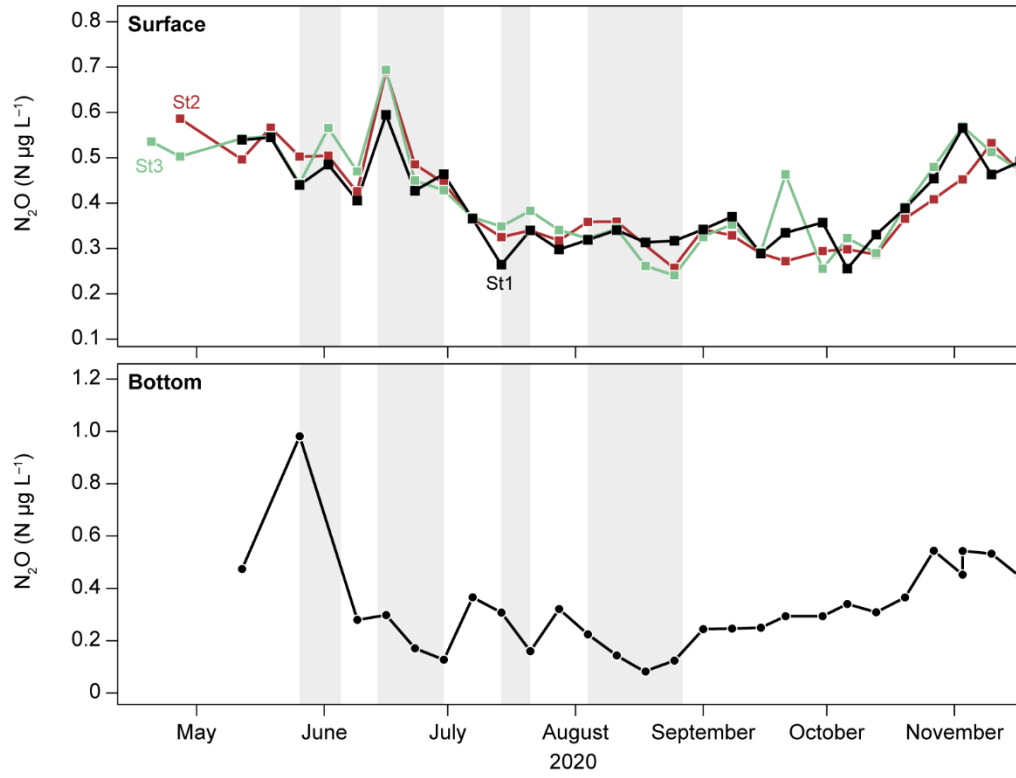
568 Figure 3. Dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations from surface and bottom waters – thermal stratification periods  
 569 highlighted in grey; white background indicate mixed waters. Note different y axis scales



570

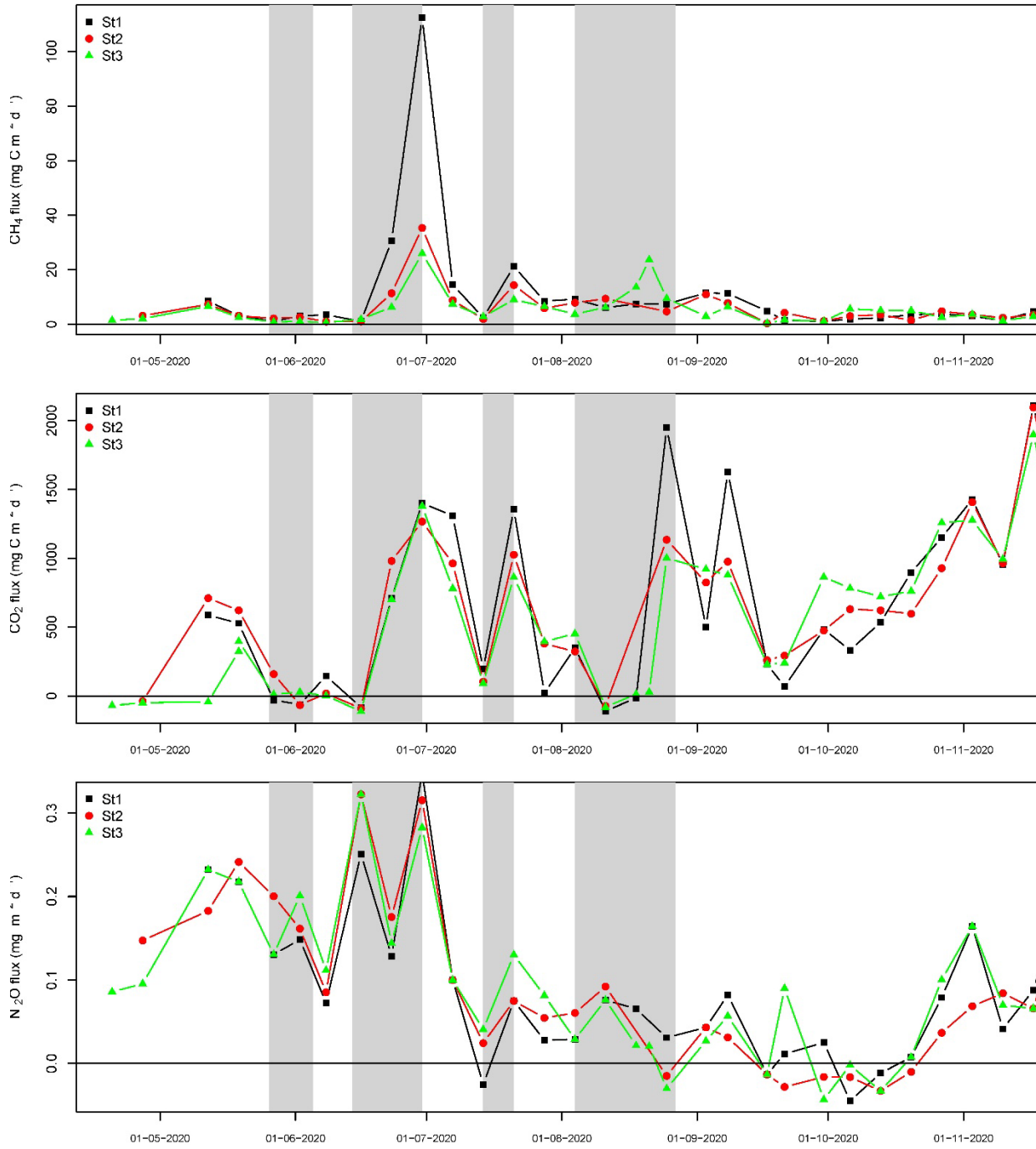
571 Figure 4 . Dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations from surface and bottom waters–

572 thermal stratification periods highlighted in grey; white background indicate mixed waters



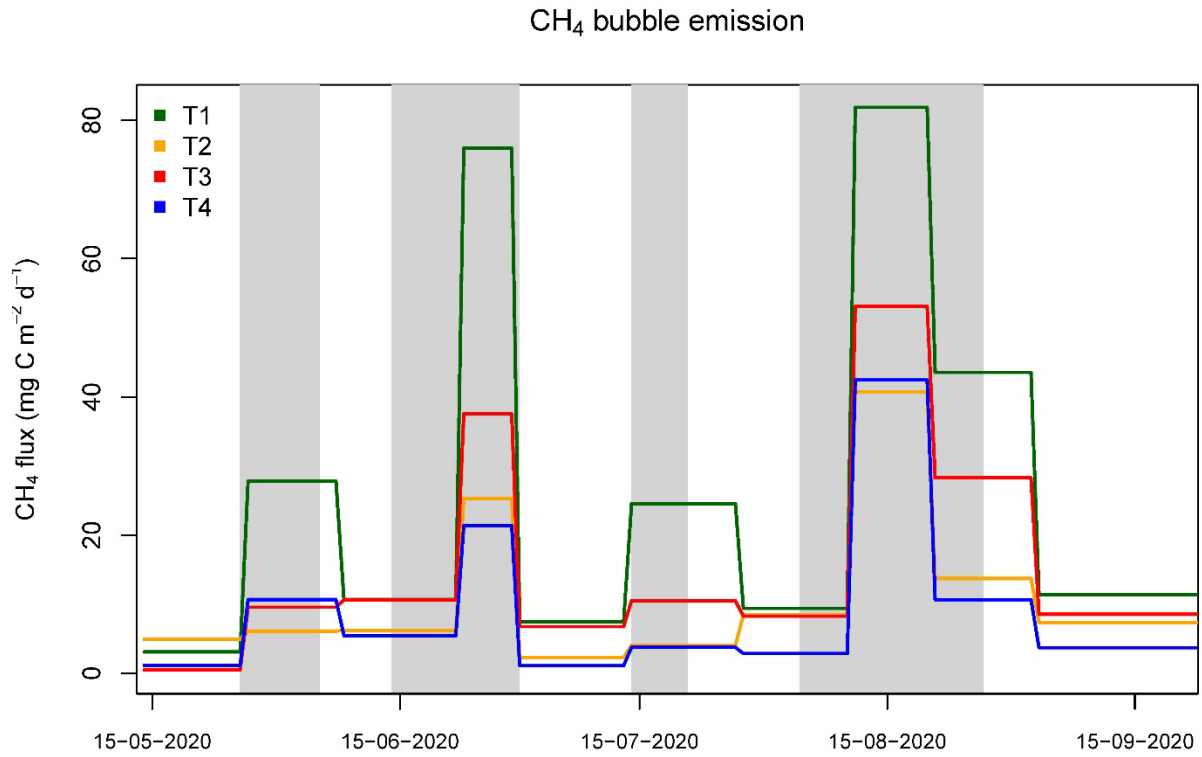
573

574 Figure 5 Dissolved  $N_2O$  gas concentrations surface and bottom thermal stratification periods highlighted  
 575 in grey; white background indicate mixed waters



576  
 577 Figure 6. Omstrup lakesurface fluxes of the CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O gases based on dissolved concentration ,  
 578 thermal stratification periods highlighted in grey; white background indicate mixed waters  
 579

580

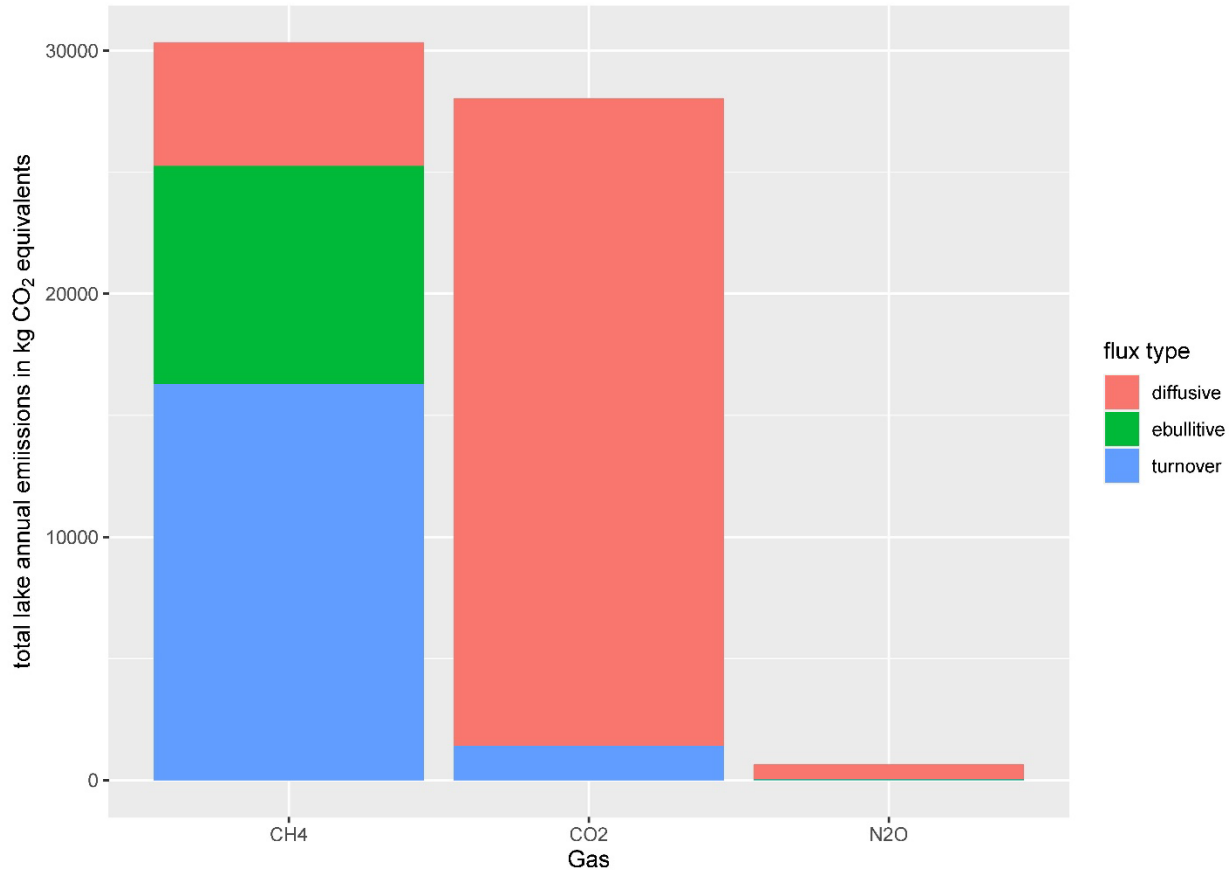


581

582 Figure 7. Plot of CH<sub>4</sub> ebullition averaged for each transect (10 chambers per transect), data collected from  
583 40 traps every two weeks. thermal stratification periods highlighted in grey; white background indicate  
584 mixed waters.

585



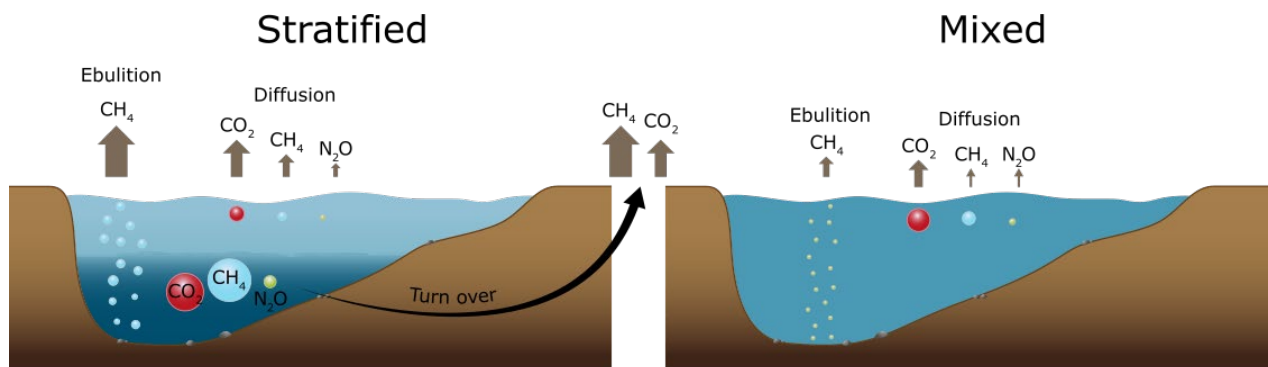


586

587 Figure 8 – Total lake emissions per gas over the growing season in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents. The emissions are  
 588 divided different emission pathways: Diffusive, ebullitive and turnover flux.

589

590



591

592 Figure 9 Summary of different flux types (bubble, diffusive and turnover) for the main greenhouse gases  
 593 (CH<sub>4</sub> CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O) observed between the stratified and mixed phases at Ormstrup lake patterns in the  
 594 stratified and mixed phase. The turnover flux of CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> is also represented. The size of the arrow

595 represents the relative amount of emission and the size of the circle in the lake represents the  
596 concentration of dissolved gases in stratified or mixed water column.

597

598

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