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Enabling Delta Life 

How to determine a 'reliable' 3D fresh-brackish-saline distribution in data-rich coastal groundwater systems

Gualbert Oude Essink
E. Van Baaren, M. Faneca, P. De Louw



Why?

- Groundwater and solute transport are coupled, the density influences groundwater velocities
- To proper estimate the effect of global and climate change (salt loads, fresh water resources, etc.)

A good initial density distribution is essential


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Context

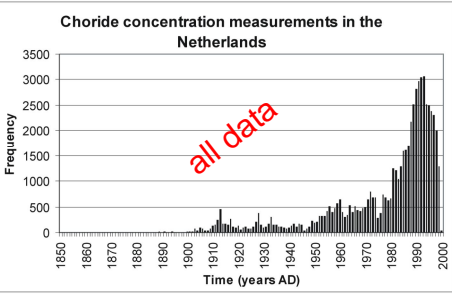
- We have an enormous amount of conc. data
- Still, not enough for a proper initial 3D chloride concentration
- At SWIM22: preliminary results..., only qualitative comparison
- Approach not yet scientifically sound enough but promising!

- We want feedback

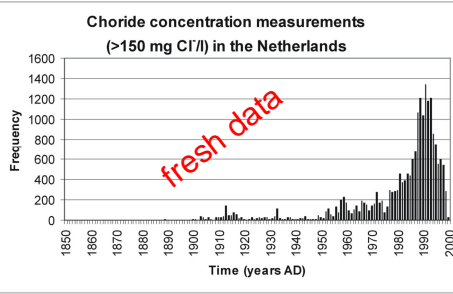


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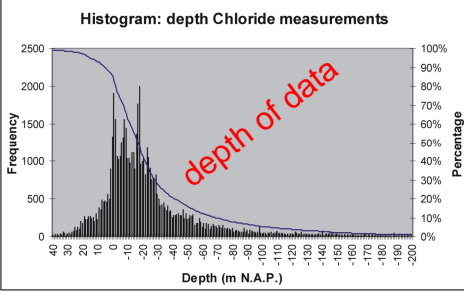
chloride samples per years/per depth




Chloride concentration measurements in the Netherlands



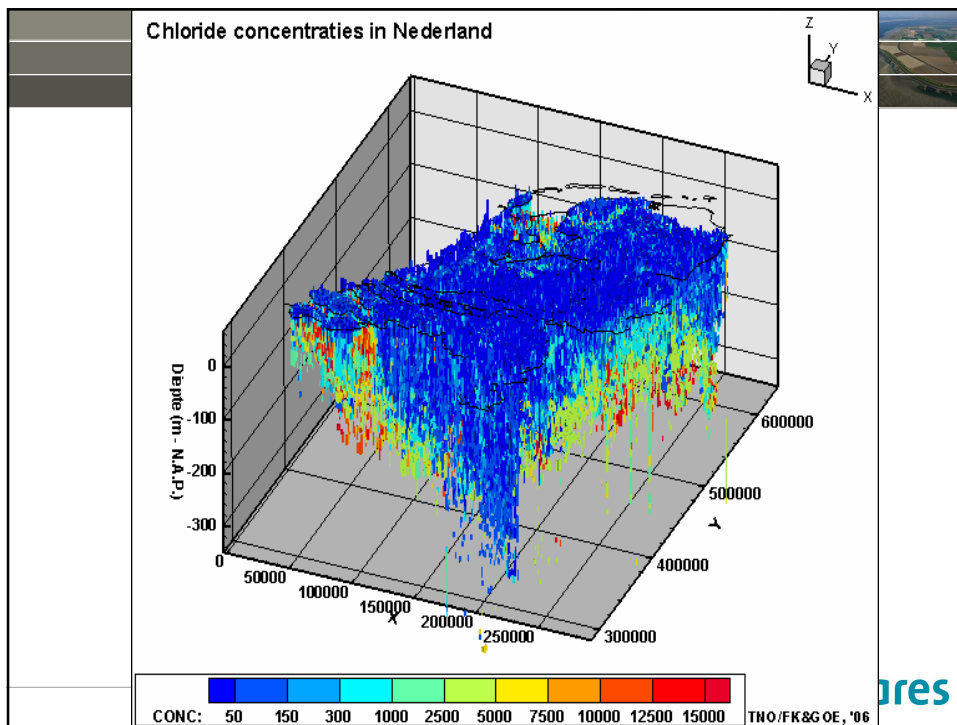
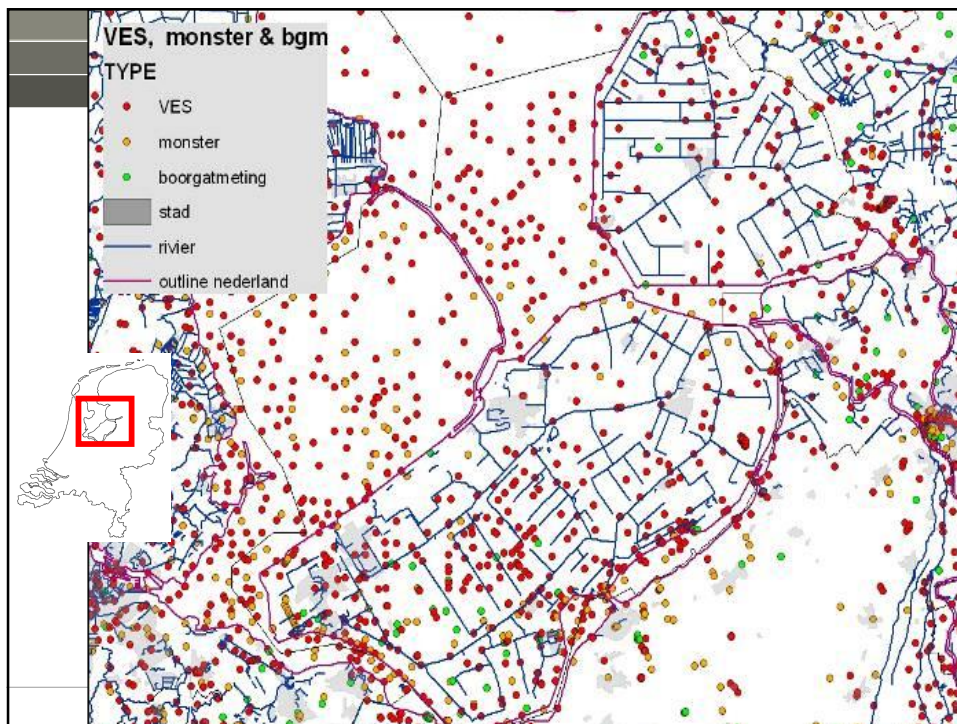
Chloride concentration measurements (>150 mg Cl/l) in the Netherlands



Histogram: depth Chloride measurements



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Methods to determine 3D fresh-saline distribution

Basically, two methods:

1. Use present measurements and inter- and extrapolation
 - Present values are seldom consistent
 - > Different qualities (sample versus VES versus Borehole)
 - > Different measurement dates
 - Never enough data
2. Initial everything is saline (or fresh) and simulate long enough
 - What is 'long' enough?
 - Long computation times
 - Difficult/impossible to implement historical stresses

So, we use a hybride form!

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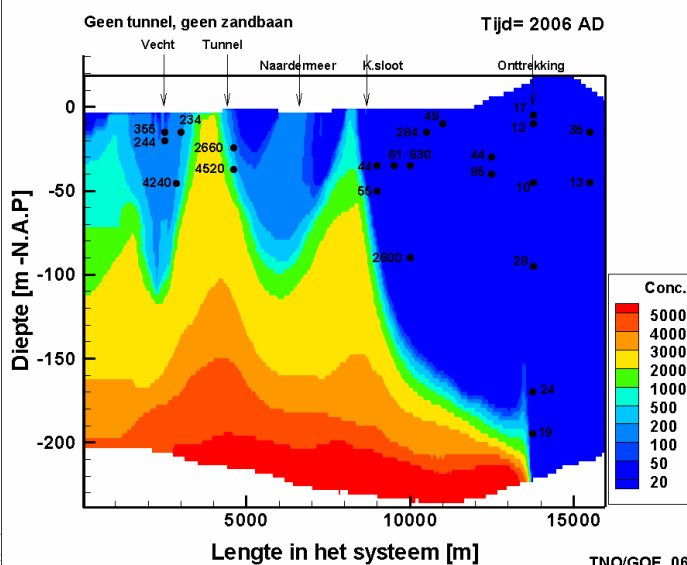
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Example Method 1: Case Naardermeer

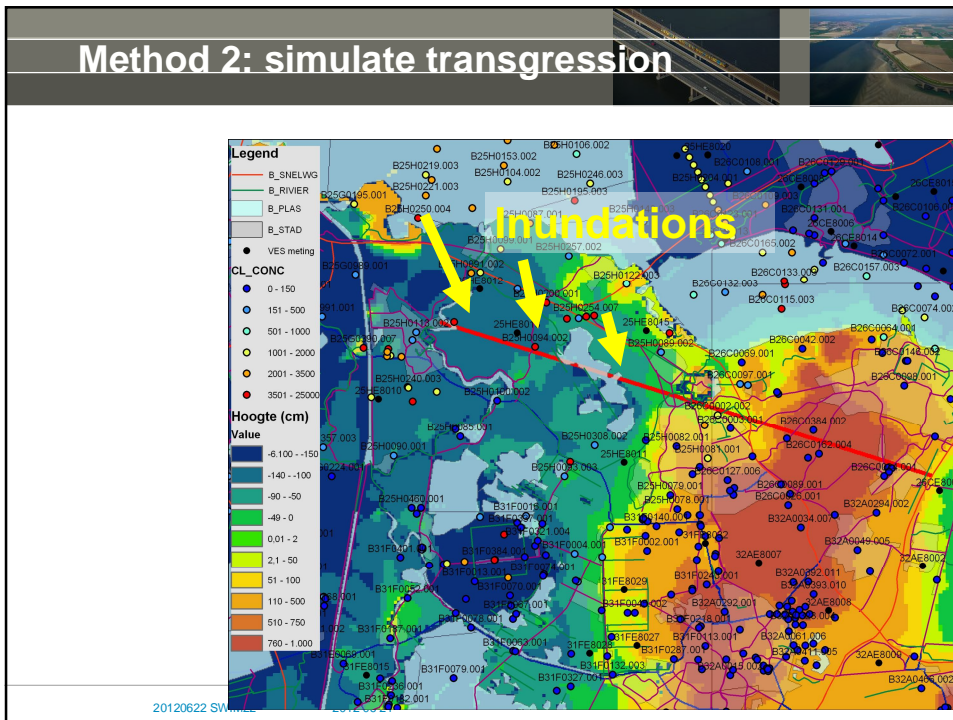


Result
Method 1:
present
measurements
and
inter- and
extrapolation

MER Planstudie Almere-A'dam-Schiphol



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Method 2: simulate transgression

Various inundations

Co-authors:
Dagmar Mooi, Paul Schot

50 AD

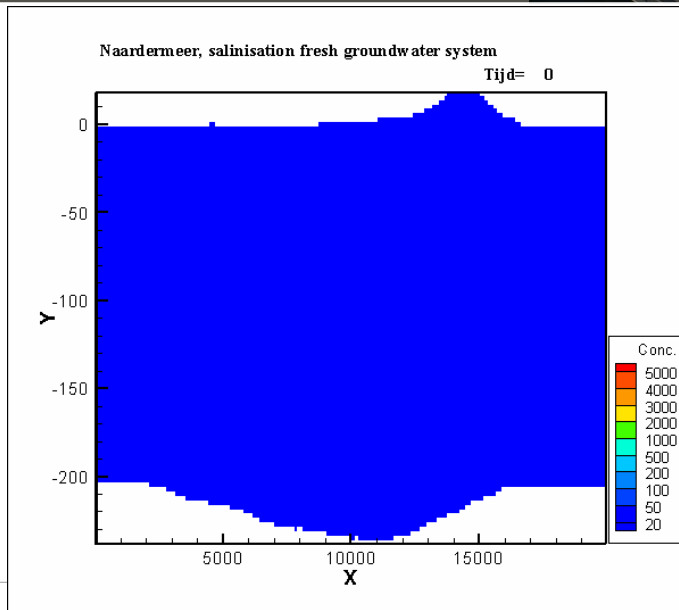
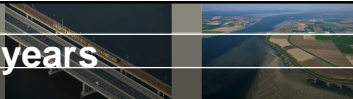
800 AD

1200 AD

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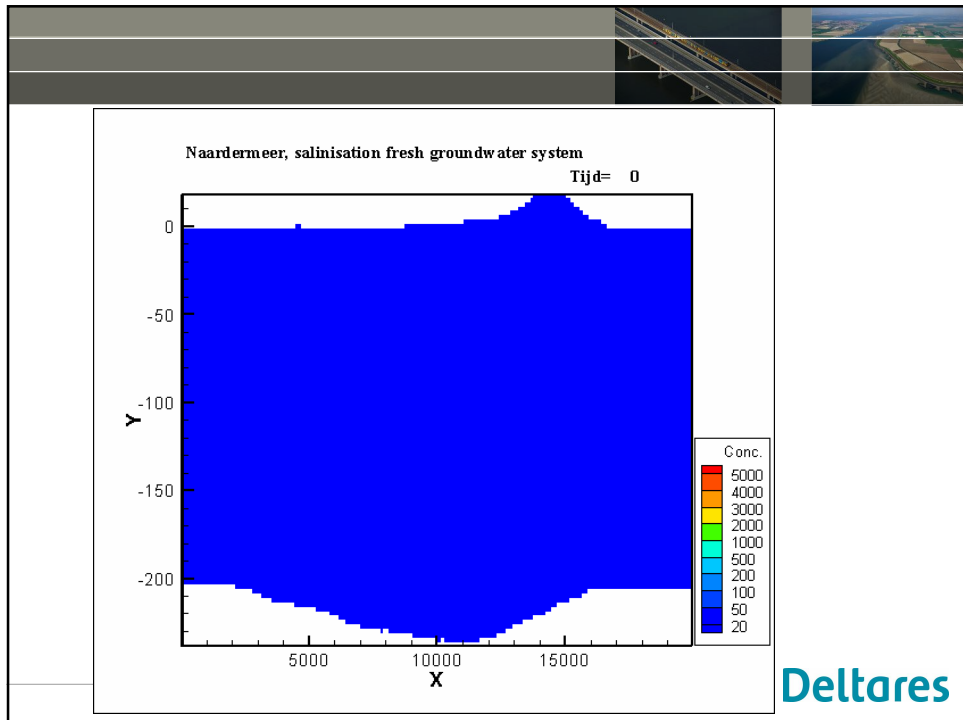
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Various inundations over 600 years

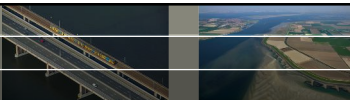


First results

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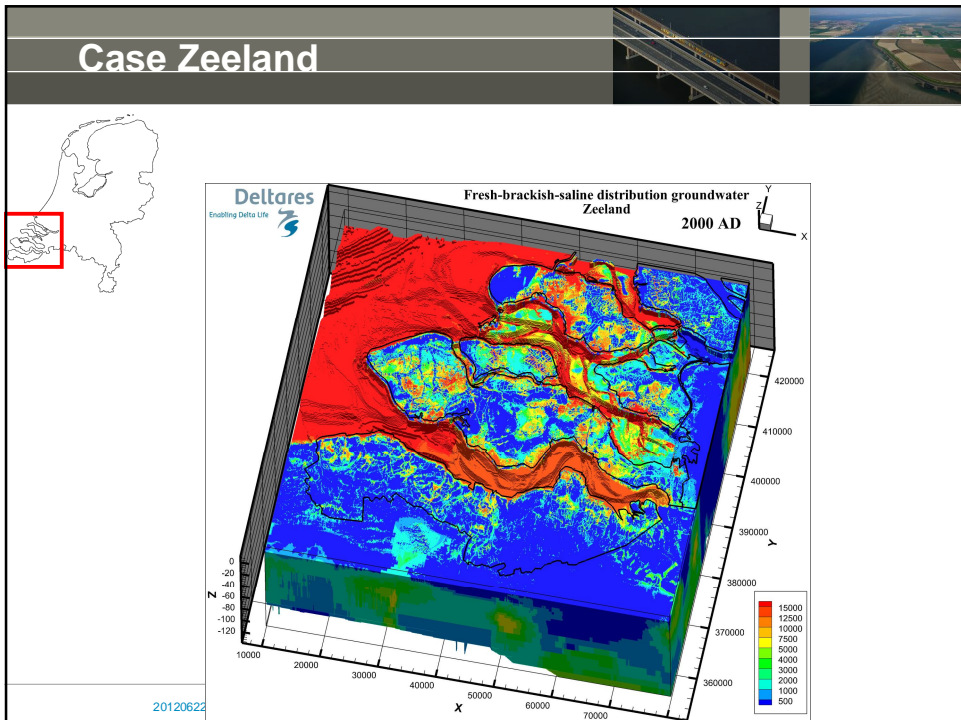


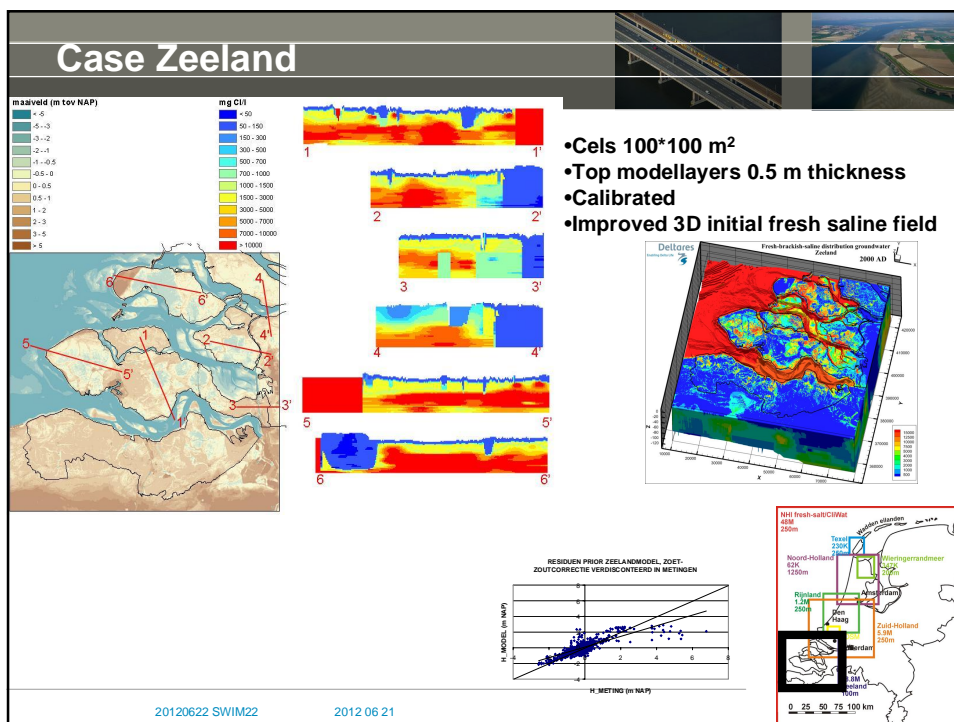
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Procedure to derive initial 3D chloride distribution

- Step 1: interpolation all values of analyses, VES and BGM via geostatistical procedure (weighted spatial interpolation, Inverse Distance)
 - > Rule 1: Better old data then nothing
 - > Rule 2: Better VES then nothing
- Step 2: implement base knowledge
 - Sea = salt, unless submarine groundwater discharge
 - Inland = fresh
- Step 3: mapping brackish-saline interface (1000mg Cl-/l)

Goes, Oude Essink, Vernes, Sergi, 2009, *Estimating the depth of fresh and brackish groundwater in a predominantly saline region using geophysical and hydrological data, Zeeland, the Netherlands*. NSG 401-412
- Step 4: using density-dependent flow model to smooth out artifacts

verification iteration

Later:

- Step 5: implementing knowledge and data from local studies
 - rainwaterlenses via empirical relation (data Perry de Louw)
 - Coastal laboratory (Esther van Baaren)
 - Scaldwin (Dieter van der Velde, Luc Lebe)
- Step 6: implementing AEM HEM data and compare

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Procedure to derive initial 3D chloride distribution

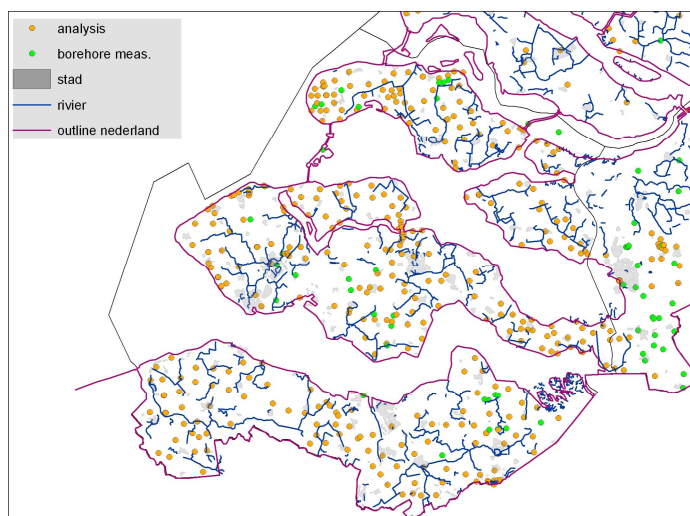
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Step 1: interpolated values analyses, BGM



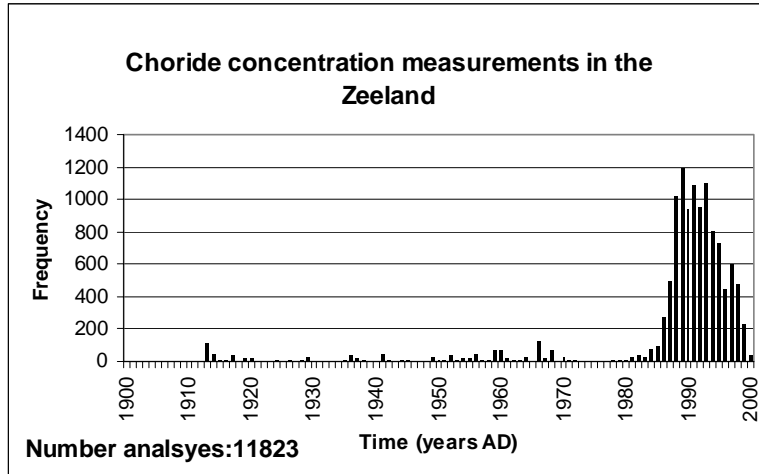
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Step 1: interpolated values analyses, VES, BGM

When measured? Recently!



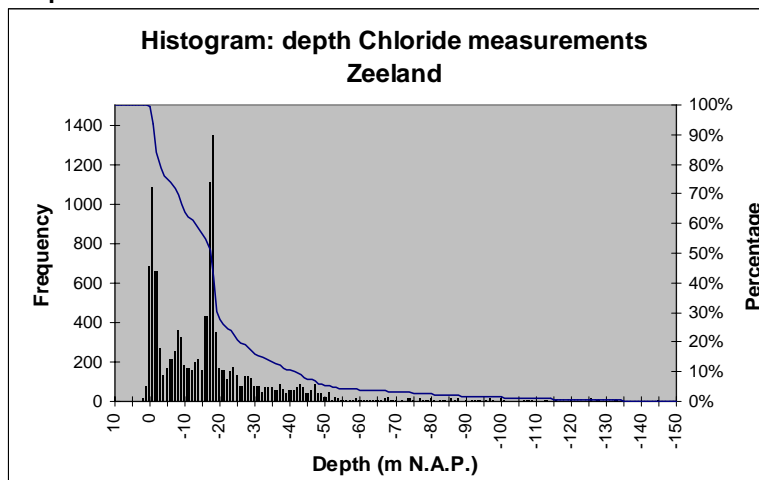
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Step 1: interpolated values analyses, VES, BGM

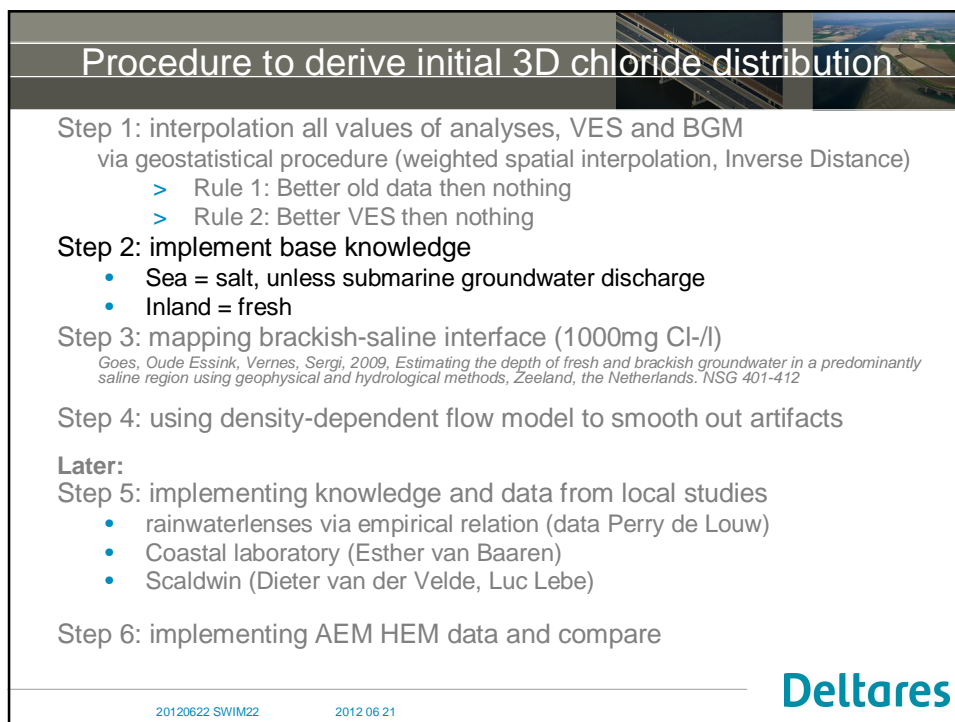
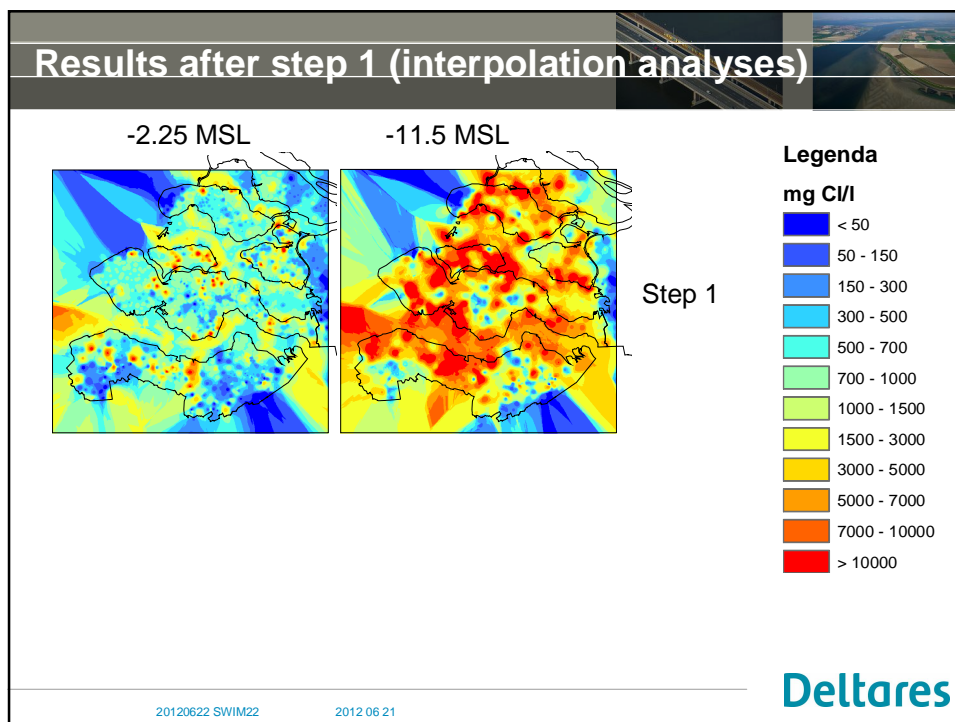
Depth of measurements? Shallow!



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Step 3: Mapping brackish-saline interface

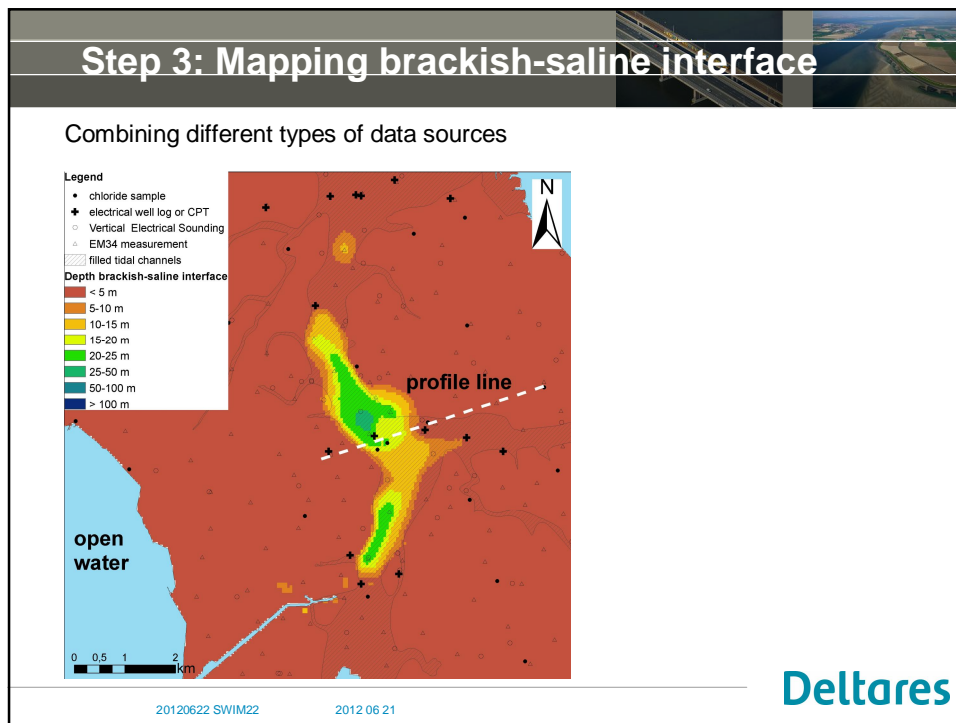
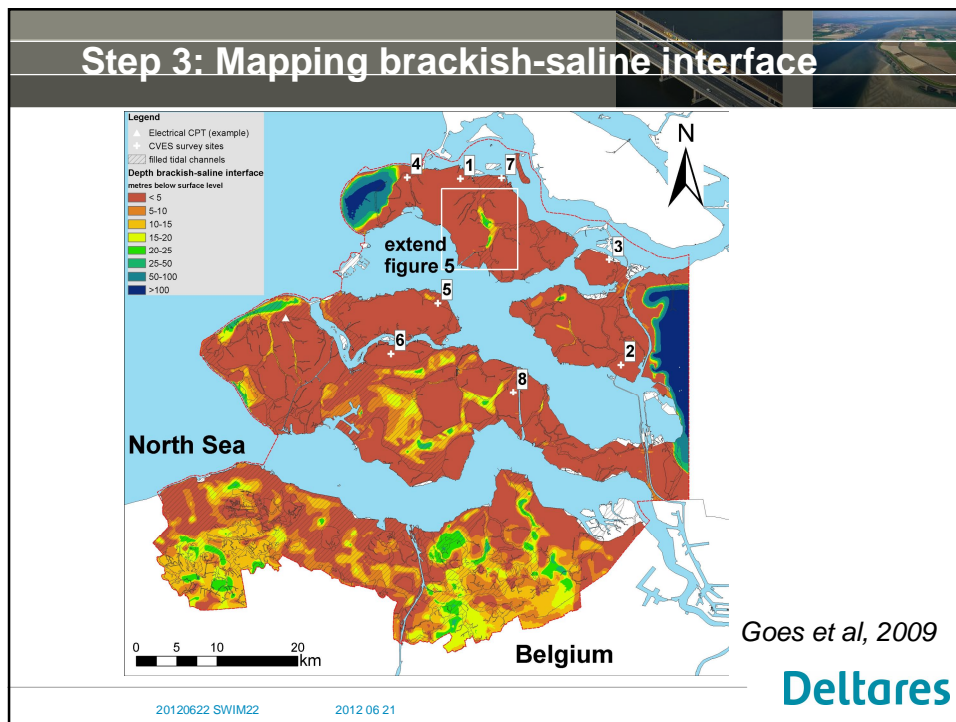
Combining different types of data sources:

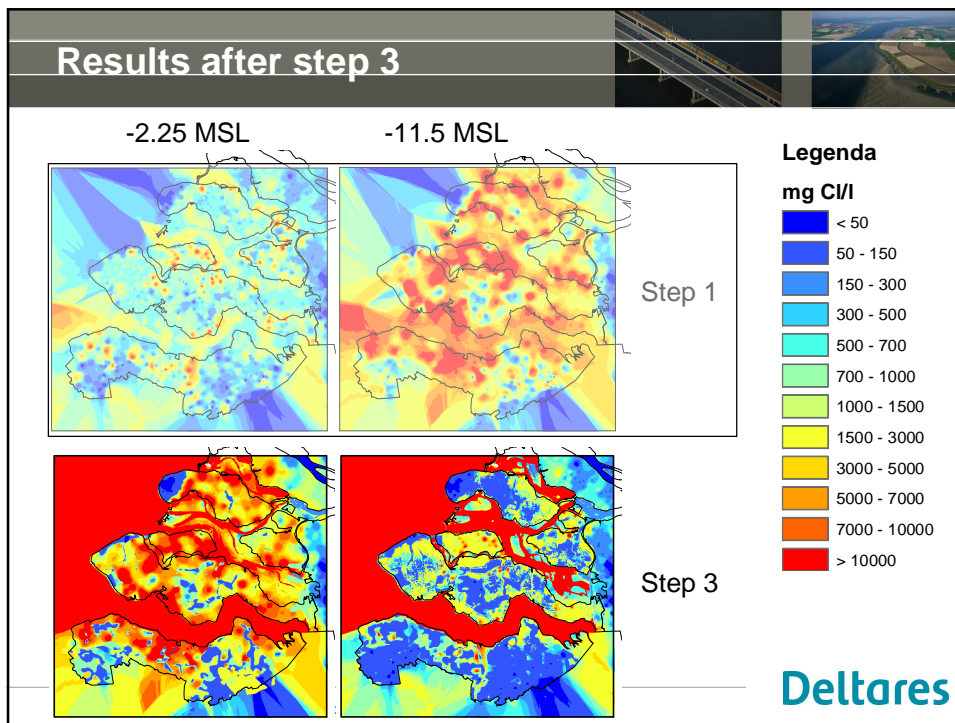
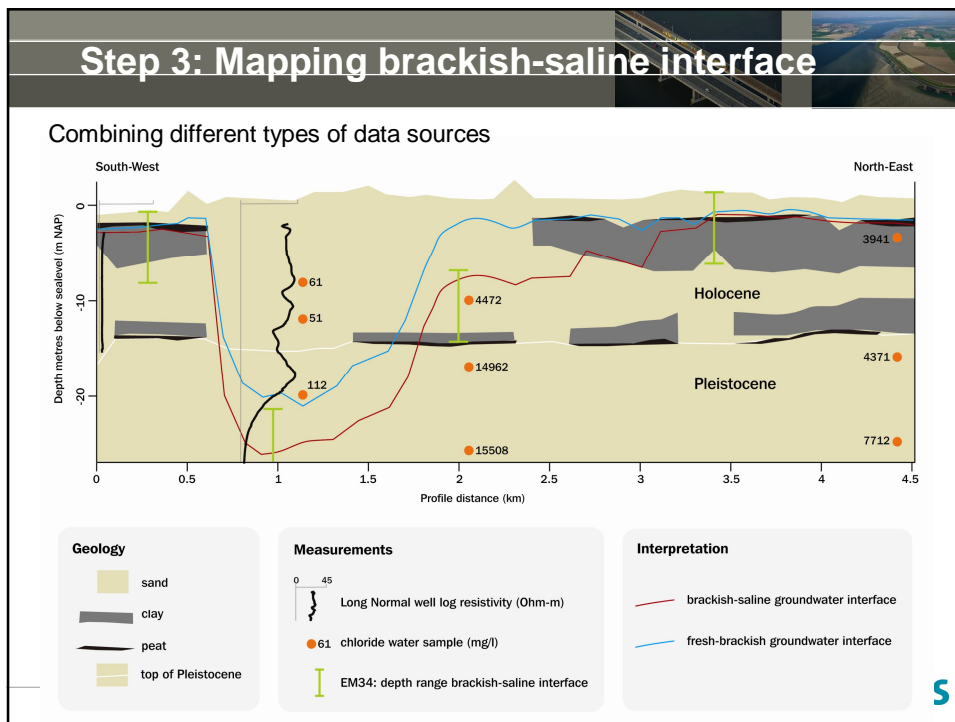
Data type	Characteristics of measurement	# Data	Determined	Accuracy depth of interfaces
Groundwater Samples	0D in situ	721	Chloride concentration	Depends on positions of screens
Geo-electrical borehole logs	1D in situ	149	1D chloride profile, Depth fresh-brackish and brackish-saline interface, Inversions.	±1 m
Electrical CPT	1D in situ (max. depth 50 m)	71	Borehole log	±1 m
VES	1D from surface	1113	Depth brackish-saline interface, Major inversions, (1D chloride profile).	±20% of depth
EM34	1D from surface	3251	Depth brackish-saline interface	ranges of 7.5, 15 or 30 m (accuracy decreases with depth)
Groundwater Abstractions	0D in situ	716	Depth brackish-saline interface	a range depending on screen depth
Unique locations		6021		

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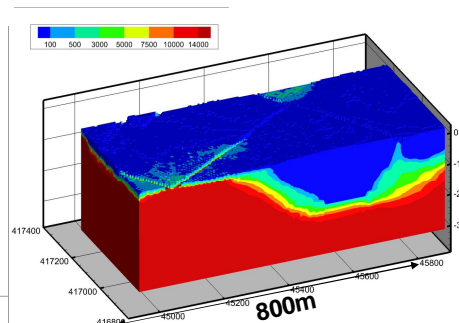
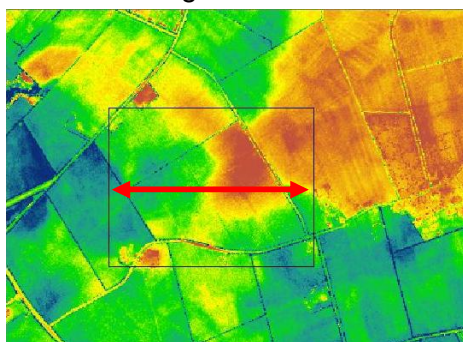
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Step 4 density-dependent flow modelling

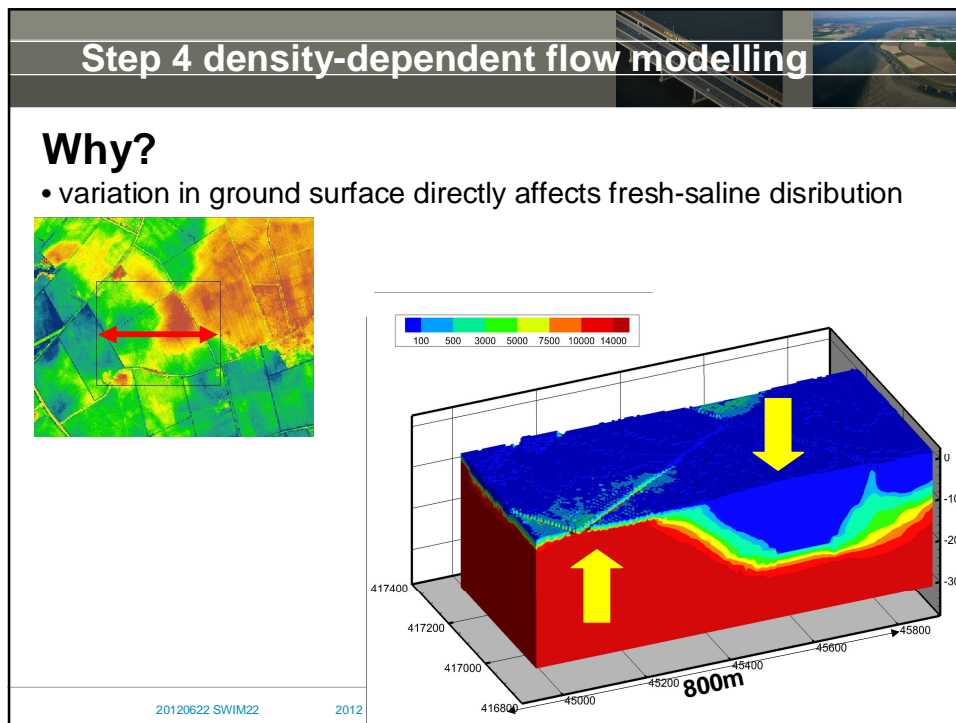
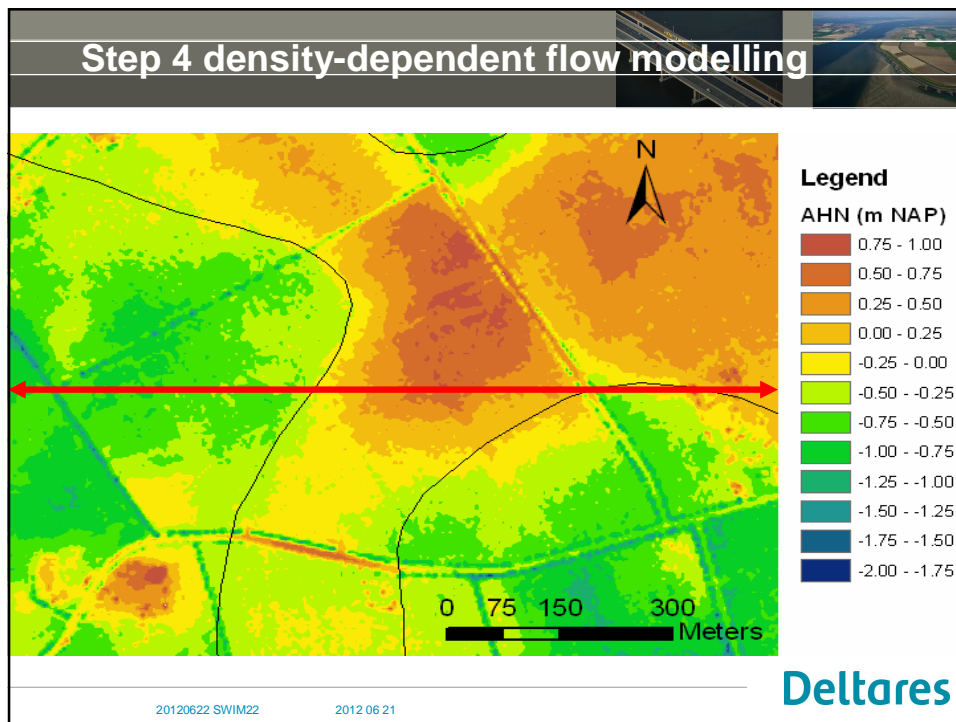
Why?

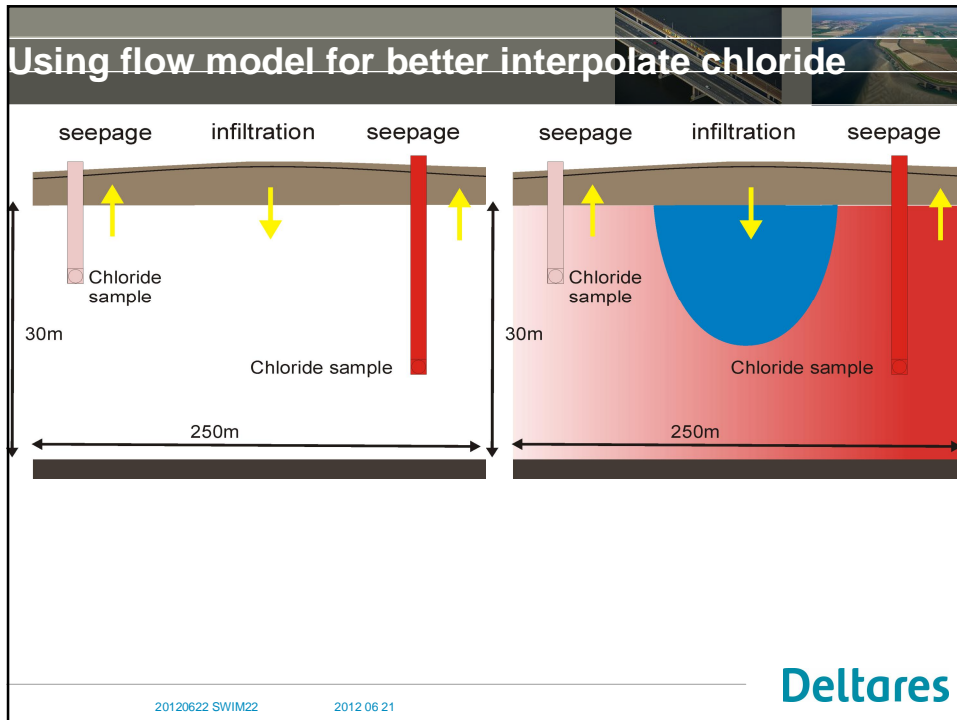
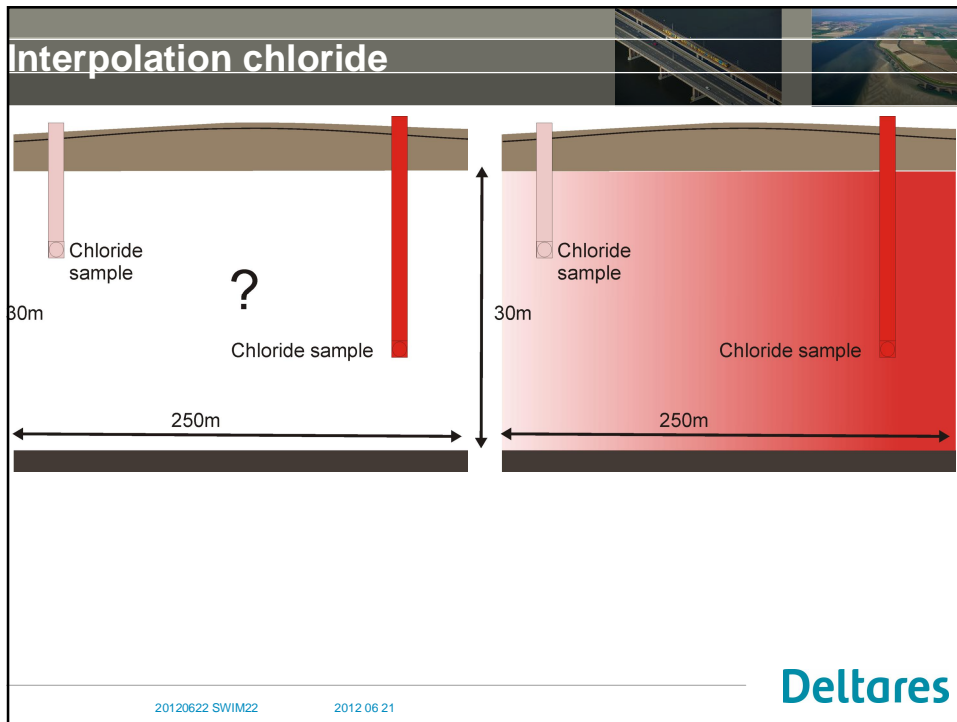
- variation in ground surface directly affects fresh-saline distribution



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Take home messages

Take home messages

- Numerous measurements are necessary to get an acceptable 3D density matrix
- Hydride method looks promising, but scientifically not sound yet

Next activities:

- Step 5: implementing knowledge and data from local studies
- Step 6: Implementing AEM data and quantification result
- Other areas, o.a. area Rijnland/Waternet
- PhD on paleohydrogeography and density distributions

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Thank you for your time

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