The <u>thermal</u> response of small and shallow lakes to climate change: new insights from <u>3D</u> hindcast modelling.

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Abstract. Small and shallow water bodies are a dominant portion of inland freshwaterslakes represent the majority of inland freshwater bodies. However, the effects of climate change on such ecosystems have rarely been quantitatively adressed addressed. We propose a methodology to evaluate the thermal response of a small and shallow lake-lakes to long-term changes in the meteorological conditions, through model simulations. To do so, a 3D hydrodynamic-thermal-hydrodynamic model is forced with

- 5 meteorological data and used to hindcast the evolution of a an urban lake in the Paris region between 1960 and 2017. Its thermal response is analyzed through the definition of assessed through a series of indices describing its thermal regime in terms of water temperature, thermal stratification and tendency to biomass production. Model results and potential cyanobacteria production. These indices and the meteorological forcing are analyzed first analysed over time to test the presence of monotonic trends. 3D simulations are then exploited to highlight spatial patterns in the dynamics of
- 10 stratification. The the presence of spatial heterogeneity. The analyses show that climate change has strongly impacted the thermal regime of the study siteunderwent significant changes. Its response was is highly correlated with three meteorological variables: air temperature, solar radiation and wind speed. Mean annual water temperature showed shows a considerable warming trend of 0.6°C/dee.dec⁻¹, accompanied by longer stratification and by an increase of thermal energy available for biomass production. Water warming was significant during all four seasons, with maxima in Spring and Summerfayourable to
- 15 cyanobacteria proliferation. The strengthening of thermal conditions favourable for cyanobacteria is particularly strong during spring and summer, while stratification and energy for phytoplankton growth increased especially during Spring and Autumn. Stratification only established in the deeper areas of the water body, possibly inducing heterogeneity in the release of nutrient from the sediment and in the development of harmful algal blooms. Numerous similar ecosystems might be experiencing analogous changes, and appropriate management policies are needed to preserve their ecological value. increases especially
- 20 during spring and autumn. The 3D analysis allows to detect a sharp separation between deeper and shallower portions of the basin in terms of stratification dynamics and potential cyanobacteria production. This leads to the development over time of certain areas in the study site that are particularly favourable to cyanobacteria growth and bloom initiation.

1 Introduction

Lakes and reservoirs represent 3.7% of the Earth's non-glaciated continental area (Verpoorter et al., 2014), and often act as

- 25 "sentinels" of climate change (Adrian R. et al., 2009). They have experienced considerable warming along the past decades (O'Reilly et al., 2015; Schmid et al., 2014; Schneider and Hook, 2010; Piccolroaz et al., 2020), sometimes even accelerated in respect to the surrounding areas (Schneider et al., 2009). Climate change is expected to further deteriorate the ecological status of a number of lakes worldwide that already suffer from eutrophication. In particular, changes in water temperature and in the patterns of thermal stratification could have a strong influence on the development of harmful algal blooms. Warmer water
- 30 temperatures might favor the dominance of certain algal groupsphytoplankton species, such as cyanobacteria, whose increasing occurrence is a great concern in the management of water resources (Paerl and Huisman, 2008; Paerl and Paul, 2012; Wagner and Erickson, 2017). Furthermore, changes in the stratification and mixing regime could alter nutrients and light availability, sedimentation rates, and enhance the risk of hypolimnetic oxygen depletion (Song et al., 2013; Wilhelm and Adrian, 2008; Jankowski et al., 2006; Winder and Sommer, 2012).
- The global areal extent of lakes and impoundments is dominated by millions of water bodies smaller than 1 km² (Downing et al., 2006). However, their role in climate change studies has often been overlooked. On the first hand, they might be relevant on a global scale in These small lakes have therefore to be taken into account in large-scale climate change analysis (Downing et al., 2006) and elemental budgets, such as the carbon budget (Mendonça et al., 2017), and should be taken into account in large-scale climate change analysis (Downing et al., 2006). On the other hand, the impact of climate change on
- 40 small and shallow water bodies has rarely been quantitatively assessed, even though they play an important role for biodiversity and are prone to harmful algal blooms (Biggs et al., 2016; Wilkinson et al., 2020). Furthermore, with the . With the advance of urbanization, the presence of aquatic environments has become a key feature for the improvement of life quality in the urban landscape (Frumkin et al., 2017; van den Bosch and Sang, 2017). Often small and shallow , (i.e. surface < 1 km², with light potentially penetrating to the bottom (Meerhoff and Jeppesen, 2009)), urban lakes grant valuable ecosystem services and con-
- 45 tribute to the preservation of biodiversity (Frumkin et al., 2017; Hill et al., 2017; Hassall, 2014; Higgins et al., 2019). They often are prone to ecological deterioration and harmful algal blooms (Biggs et al., 2016; Wilkinson et al., 2020). For these reasons, in recent years small polymictic lakes are gaining greater attention in scientific studies. However, to our best knowledge, only very a few studies can be found on the effect of climate change on such small and shallow water bodies (Biggs et al., 2016; Giggs et al., 2016; Tan et al., 2018; Shatwell et al., 2019), whereas deeper monomictic or dimictic water bodies have received
- 50 more attention. This lack of scientific studies is mirrored in a general lack of long term long-term *in situ* data, making it impossible to directly analyze how these environments respond to climate change solely through observations. Conversely, long term long-term meteorological data are available for most regions of the globe (e.g. global or regional reanalysis), as a result of a network of systematic observations that developed consistently since the beginning of the 20th century. These meteorological data can be used as external forcings in models, whose results will enable to fill in gaps in sporadic series of observation or to gain
- 55 knowledge outside of the observation period (Magee and Wu, 2017; Vincon-Leite et al., 2014; Kerimoglu and Rinke, 2013; Hadley et al., 2

. For a number of small and shallow lakes, this would enable to compensate the lack of observation data, making it possible to evaluate their response to climate change.

Hydrodynamic models have been vastly used to simulate lake and reservoir <u>thermal</u> dynamics over both short and long periods in order to test changes in systems subject to given meteorological and border conditions, often through one-dimensional

- 60 simulations. Model results can be used to fill in gaps in sporadic series of observation or to gain knowledge outside of the observation period (Magee and Wu, 2017; Vinçon-Leite et al., 2014; Kerimoglu and Rinke, 2013; Hadley et al., 2014). However, most water bodies present a complex morphology, whose effects on the hydrodynamics can only be taken into account by three-dimensional models. This is crucial to study the presence of local patterns and spatial heterogeneity, and to reconstruct the lake dynamics not only in time but in space as well. The hydrodynamics In particular, the hydrodynamics and thermal regime
- 65 of small and shallow lakes is complex and strongly influenced by meteorological conditions. They are usually polymictic and cannot be simply considered as completely mixed reactors (McEnroe et al., 2013). In fact, they alternate periods of complete mixing to periods of stable thermal stratification that, depending on the local meteorological conditions, can last up to a few weeks (Soulignac et al., 2017).

In this context, the objective of this paper is to paper, we propose to use 3D thermo-hydrodynamic models to evaluate the

- 70 thermal response of a small and shallow lake-lakes to climate change, and. The objective is to characterize the evolution of its their thermal regime in relation to stratification phenology and tendency to biomass productiondynamics and potential primary production, focusing in particular on cyanobacteria. To do so, the hydrodynamics thermal dynamics of a small urban lake was reconstructed and analyzed along the past six decades (namely from 1960 to 2017) through a three-dimensional model, and the presence of long term trends and of spatial heterogeneity was tested. Furthermore, In addition to temperature values, a series
- of indices that thoroughly describe the are well-adapted to the specificities of the thermal regime of the water body, in terms of small and shallow lakes has been proposed to characterize the stratification dynamics and phytoplankton growthwas defined and analyzed. The the presence of long-term trends and the evolution of spatial heterogeneity of these indices were assessed. Although the proposed methodology was here applied to a study site located in the Paris region. However, it is generic and could be applied to other similar sites.

80 2 Materials and methods

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2.1 Study site and in situ measurements

Lake Champs-sur-Marne is a sand-pit lake located in the East side of the Great Paris region, next to the Marne River. It is a small and shallow water body with a surface of 0.12 km², mean depth of 2.5 m and maximum depth of 3.5 m. As shown in Fig. 1-b, the southern part of the lake is the deepest one, while depth decreases under 2 m around the island and in the northern part of the lake. Lake Champs-sur-Marne has no inflow or outflow and is fed primarily by groundwater and occasionally by rainfall runoff. Its water level varies weakly during the year, with monthly oscillations lower than 0.2 m on average.

The lake was originated in the 1940s by excavation and represents now a valuable and demanded recreational area. However, it suffers from strong eutrophic conditions and experiences severe harmful algal blooms, especially between late spring and



Figure 1. a) satellite picture of Lake Champs-sur-Marne (source: *géoportail.frgeoportail.fr*) and sketch of the measuring system at the two locations (A and B); b) bathymetry and horizontal mesh of the study site as used in Delft3D.

early autumn. In particular, cyanobacteria such as Microcystis and Aphanizomenon, capable to produce toxins, often proliferate

- 90 and become the dominant species in the lake. This leads regularly to bathing bans and to restrictions in the access to the lake. For these reasons, the lake is subject to a periodic monitoring. In order to provide a faster and more responsive survey of the main chemico-physical properties of the lake, a A high-frequency (every 10 minutes) *in situ* measuring system has been was installed at two different locations (A and B) during the spring 2015. Each measuring site is equipped with sensors at three depths: below the surface at 0.5 m depth, in the middle of the water column at 1.5 m and above the sediment at 2.5 m (Tran Khac
- 95 et al., 2018). Water temperature measurements are is recorded at the surface and bottom layers with a precision of 0.02 °C and a resolution of 0.05 °C through the thermal sensor SP2T10 (nke INSTRUMENT®), and through the MPx multi-parameter sensor (nke INSTRUMENT®) at the middle of the water column, with a precision and a resolution of 0.05°C (see Fig. 1-a). High-frequency water temperature observations are used here for the calibration and validation of the hydrodynamic model.
- Lake Champs-sur-Marne is polymictic and its thermal behavior is strongly influenced by meteorological conditions. Between 100 March and November periods of thermal stratification alternate with mixing and overturn of the water column. Depending on meteorological conditions, thermal stratification might form during the day and break up at night as well as last up to three or four two or three consecutive weeks.

2.2 The model

2.2.1 Presentation of Delft3D-FLOW

- 105 In order to simulate the thermal behavior of the lake and hindeast its evolution in the past decades, the FLOW module from The hydrodynamics of the study site were simulated with the FLOW module of the Delft3D modelling suite was used (Deltares, 2014). Delft3D-FLOW is a well known hydrodynamic model that has been applied in various contexts, from estuaries to rivers, lakes and reservoirs (Piccolroaz et al., 2019; Chanudet et al., 2012; Soulignac et al., 2017). It solves the Reynolds averaged Navier-Stokes equations for an incompressible fluid under the shallow water and the Boussinesq assumptions. The
- 110 time integration of the partial differential equations is done through an Alternate Direction Implicit method (Deltares, 2014; Leendertse, 1967). For the spatial discretization of the horizontal advection terms the Cyclic scheme was selected (Stelling and Leendertse, 1992).

The bathymetry and the two-dimensional mesh of the domain representing the study site are shown in Fig. 1-b. The surface of the lake is divided in 255 20 m \times 20 m cells. The Z-model was implemented for the discretization of the vertical axes, with

- 115 12 fixed parallel horizontal layers of 30 cm thickness. It is generally accepted that horizontal layers help avoiding artificial mixing, improving model results in terms of thermal stratification (Hodges, 2014). Turbulent eddy viscosity and diffusivity were computed through the k- ε turbulence closure model. Background values were set to zero $[m^2.s^{-1}]$ for vertical viscosity and diffusivity, while they were set to 0.01 m².s⁻¹, after Soulignac et al. (2017) and according to the grid size, for horizontal viscosity and diffusivity. Bottom roughness was computed through Chézy's formulation with the default value for the Chézy accepted to 100 m².s⁻¹
- 120 coefficient of 65 m^{1/2}.s⁻¹.

The computation of the heat exchange at the air-water interface is done through Murakami's model (Murakami et al., 1985). It requires as input time series of relative humidity [-], air temperature [°C], net solar radiation $[J.s^{-1}.m^{-2}]$, wind speed $[m.s^{-1}]$ and direction [°N], as well as constant values for sky cloudiness [-] and Secchi depth [m]. The heat flux model computes the heat budget at the air-water interface by taking into account the net incident solar radiation (Q_s) , the heat losses due to back radiation (long wave, Q_b) and evaporation (latent heat flux, Q_e), and the sensible convective heat flux (Q_c) . The total upward

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heat flux through the air-water interface (Q) is therefore:

$$Q = -Q_s + Q_b + Q_e + Q_c \tag{1}$$

Finally, evaporative mass flux is here neglected and water volume and depth are therefore considered as constant. This assumption makes it possible to analyze exclusively the impact of changes in the climatic forcing.

130 2.2.2 Meteorological input data

The meteorological forcing for this study comes from the spatialized SAFRAN (Système d'Analyse Fournissant des Renseignements Atmosphériques à la Neige) meteorological analysis system (Durand et al., 1993; Quintana-Seguí et al., 2008; Raimonet et al., 2017 (Durand et al., 1993). SAFRAN is part of the SAFRAN-ISBA-MODCOU chain of reanalysis that covers the hydrological cycle over France, from meteorology to snow and ice formation to hydrology, respectively (Habets et al., 2008). SAFRAN integrates

135 spatialized data from meteorological models with various sources of observations through data assimilation techniques, in order to create a consistent and spatially detailed record of meteorological data over the french territory. Its outcomes have been thoroughly validated against observed series (Quintana-Seguí et al., 2008), and tested as inputs to hydrological models (Raimonet et al., 2017). The data are spatialized on a regular square grid (8 km between each cell center) that covers the entire French Territory. The location of Lake Champs-sur-Marne falls midway on the axes-axis connecting the centers of SAFRAN

140 cells number 1457 (North of the lake) and 1566 (South of the lake). The average of these two cells was therefore considered representative of the conditions over the study site and used as input for the hydrodynamic model.

Data are available were downloaded from the SAFRAN suite in terms of: air temperature [°C], specific humidity [-], solar radiation (direct and diffused) $[W.m^{-1}]$ and wind speed $[m.s^{-1}]$. They All these variables are well reproduced by SAFRAN (Quintana-Seguí et al., 2008). Data were downloaded at a hourly time step, in order to accurately simulate the daily variability

145 of the thermal profile and improve the model performance. This is crucial in shallow water bodies, where thermal stratification and mixing can alternate between day and night. Specific humidity (SH) data had to be converted into relative humidity (RH) to match the input data set needed by Delft3D. This was done through the following formula:

$$RH = 100 \cdot \frac{w}{w_s} \approx 100 \cdot \frac{SH}{w_s} \tag{2}$$

where w is the mixing ratio of water with dry air $[kg.kg^{-1}]$, the subscript s stands for saturation conditions and SH is the specific humidity, numerically very close to the mixing ratio value. The saturation mixing ratio can be calculated as follows:

$$w_s = \frac{R_a}{R_v} \cdot \frac{e_s}{p_{atm} - e_s} \tag{3}$$

where the atmospheric pressure (p_{atm}) was considered to be constant and equal to the global average: $p_{atm} = 1013$ hPa. The ratio between the air and vapor ideal gas constants (R_a and R_v , respectively) is equal to 0.622. The partial vapor pressure at saturation (e_s) is temperature dependent and can be estimated (in hPa) through the Magnus equation:

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$$e_s = 6.1094 \cdot exp\left(\frac{17.625 \cdot T}{T + 243.04}\right)$$
 (4)

where T is air temperature [°C]. The numerical coefficients in Eq. (4) were issued from (Alduchov and Eskridge, 1997) Alduchov and Eskridge (1997). Finally, in order to complete the set of meteorological input for Dleft3DDelft3D, daily wind direction data were downloaded from the closest available MétéoFrance station (ID: 78621001 located in Trappes, roughly 40 km West of the study site), through the INRAE CLIMATIK platform (https://intranet.inrae.fr/climatik/, in French) managed by the AgroClim laboratory of Avignon, France.

2.2.3 Calibration and validation

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Delft3D-FLOW stands on a robust mathematical and physical structure and only few parameters have to be calibrated. Here, only those directly involved in the heat-flux model and in the wind module were calibrated: the Secchi depth [m], the mean cloud cover [-] and the wind drag coefficient [-]. The Secchi depth (H_S) is the parameter that defines water transparency. It

165 is correlated with the penetration of solar radiation in water through the light extinction coefficient ($\gamma = 1.7/H_S$ (Poole and Atkins, 1929)) and therefore has a strong influence on the stratification of the water column. In order to get a first estimate for the sky cloudiness parameter, cloud cover data from the MétéoFrance station in Trappes (ID: 78621001) were averaged over the calibration period. The wind drag coefficient was calibrated in order to take into account the presence of tall trees surrounding

the contour of the lake, locally reducing wind speed. The calibration was done through a trial and error procedure based on

170 high-frequency water temperature data at the surface, middle and bottom layers (0.5, 1.5 and 2.5 m depth, respectively) during the year 2016. The model was then run for validation over the whole period during which both meteorological data and *in situ* observations were available, i.e. from the 15th May 2015 to the 31st December 2017.

Model results were compared to water temperature data at three depths (surface, middle and bottom of the water column) and two different locations (A and B). Root The root mean square error (RMSE) and mean bias error (MBE) were was calculated to

175 evaluate model performances. For this purpose, high-frequency data were first averaged every hour to match the model output time step and cleaned from the outliers originated by periodic sensor maintenance. The latter were defined as sudden water temperature variations (> 1°C) over the 10 minutes separating two successive measurements, and consequently erased.

2.3 Indices for the characterization of the lake thermal regime

The thermal regime of the lake was is assessed directly through the analysis of model results in terms of water temperature **180**, as well as and through a series of indices that explore the phenology of stratification and highlight the relation between temperature and phytoplankton productioncyanobacteria production, which are described here-after. All indices are computed both on an annual and on a seasonal basis, according to the following definitions for the four seasons: (i) January, February and March (winter), (ii) April, May, June (spring), (iii) July, August, September (summer), (iv) October, November, December (autumn). The indices characterizing the thermal regime of the lake are described here-after.

185 2.3.1 Stratification indices

In order to thoroughly characterize the phenology of stratification in Lake Champs-sur-Marne, two indices for the stability of the water column have been calculated: the Schmidt stability index and an index based on temperature difference between surface and bottom layers. The Schmidt stability index is a well known parameter often used in limnological studies to estimate the resistance of a water body to mixing, and therefore its stability. It has been extensively used in scientific literature to describe
the strength of stratification in lakes and, more recently, to analyze its evolution over time in relation to climate change (Vinçon-Leite et al., 2014; Niedrist et al., 2018; Kraemer et al., 2015; Livingstone, 2003) and algal blooms (Wagner and Adrian, 2009). The Schmidt stability index (S) represents the amount of work per unit area that would be required to mix the lake water column at one time instant. It has been here calculated following Idso's formulation (Idso, 1973), in which the vertical axes axis z is considered positive downwards from the surface to the maximum lake depth z_M [m]:

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$$S = \frac{g}{A_0} \int_0^{z_M} (z_v - z)(\rho_i - \rho_v) A(z) dz \qquad [J.m^{-2}]$$
(5)

where:

$$z_v = \frac{1}{V} \int\limits_0^{z_M} zA(z)dz \tag{6}$$

is the depth of the center of volume of the lake, ρ_v [kg.m⁻³] is water density at the depth of the center of volume z_v , ρ_i is the mean uniform density, g [m.s⁻²] is the acceleration of gravity, V [m³] and A_0 [m²] are respectively the volume and the surface area of the lake, and A(z) is the surface of the horizontal section of the lake at depth z. Computed for each time step,

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the Schmidt stability can also be averaged over each year or season.

Water resistance to mixing as estimated by the Schmidt stability index is closely correlated to temperature stratification. However, universal thresholds for the onset and breakdown of stratification are difficult to define based on this index and cannot be found in the literature, especially for shallow polymictic lakes. For these reasons, a second index based on temperature

- 205 difference between surface and bottom layers (ΔT) is proposed. In order to assess the succession of stratification events in a polymictic water body, after Kerimoglu and Rinke (2013) and Magee and Wu (2017), the lake was considered to be stably stratified during one a day if the minimum of ΔT is greater than 1 °Cduring the whole day. This allows to identify all stably stratified days . The sum over a year of the stably stratified days (SSD) is called the annual number of SSD. The sum can also be evaluated on a seasonal basis (according to the definitions in section 2.4), leading to the seasonal number of SSD. and to
- 210 compute their total number over a year (annual SSD), or over a season (seasonal SSD), as defined in section 2.3.

2.3.2 Growing degree days (GDD) Growth rate and number of growing degree days(NGD)

In order to quantify how changes Changes in the thermal regime might impact biomass productionand in particular phytoplankton growth, we introduce two indices : the . Here, we make use of two indices as proxies of the potential growth of phytoplankton species: the thermal growth rate (GR) and the growing degree days (GDD)and the number of growing days (NGD). Growing degree days is

215 degree days is

Under the assumption of nutrient and light availability, phytoplankton growth rate can be modelled, for different species, as a function of temperature as follows (Bernard and Rémond, 2012) :

$$k(T) = k_{opt} \frac{(T - T_{max})(T - T_{min})^2}{(T_{opt} - T_{min})[(T_{opt} - T_{min})(T - T_{opt}) - (T_{opt} - T_{max}(T_{opt} + T_{min} - 2T))]}, \forall T \in [T_{min}, T_{max}]$$
(7)

where k_{opt} is the optimal growth rate, T_{min} the minimal temperature, T_{opt} the optimal temperature and T_{max} the maximal temperature. The model parameters were calibrated by You et al. (2018) through experimental data to describe the response to water temperature of *Microcystis aeruginosa*, a species of cyanobacteria present in Lake Champs-sur-Marne and often dominant in freshwater bodies globally. The same values are used in this work:

$$k_{opt} = 0.74 \mathrm{d}^{-1}, \ T_{min} = 0^{\circ}C, \ T_{opt} = 27.5^{\circ}C, \ T_{max} = 38.4^{\circ}C.$$
 (8)

Microcystis aeruginosa is thought to be favored by the warmer water temperatures induced by climate change. However,
 the curve obtained from eq. 7 and 8 (shown in figure 2), is here more generally intended to be representative of the typical thermal response of cyanobacteria with high optimum temperature. Mean annual and seasonal (according to 2.3) growth rates are calculated through eq. 7 using simulated surface water temperature, and analysed over space and time.



Figure 2. Thermal growth rate calculated after equation 7. The horizontal dashed line for GR= $0.2 d^{-1}$ meets the curve at the temperature limits for the calculation of the GDD (10°c and 37°C, respectively).

The growing degree days are a weather based indicator for biological growth, widely used in the field of agronomy. Based on air temperature, it gives an estimate of the rate of development and of the span of its phase the growing season for terrestrial plants and insectsduring the growing season. It is a useful indicator capable to link global warming and biology (Grigorieva et al., 2010; Schlenker et al., 2007). Approaches based on GDD have been increasingly applied to phytoplankton communities and fisheries (e.g. Gillooly, 2000; Neuheimer and Taggart, 2007; Ralston et al., 2014; Dupuis and Hann, 2009), in order to correlate water temperature and phytoplankton growth while taking into account interannual variability. After Dupuis and Hann (2009), GDD were calculated as follows:

$$235 \quad GDD(t) = \sum_{i=t_0}^{t} \underline{max} \underline{0}, \underline{a_i} \cdot (T_i - T_{base}) \cdot \Delta t, \quad \text{with } a_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } T_{base} < T_i < T_{sup} \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere} \end{cases}$$
(9)

where t is the time (here in days) with t_0 the reference day to start the calculation, Δt is the time step (equal to 1 day), $T_i T_i$ is the daily average of the modeled surface water temperature of day i and $T_{base} T_{base}$ (respectively T_{sup}) is a physiological threshold below which (respectively above which) growth does not occur. GDD can be calculated on an annual or a seasonal basis by

- adjusting the values of t_0 and t. Annual GDD are calculated starting from the first of January until the 31st of December, while seasonal GDD can be obtained by adjusting t_0 and t to the seasons defined in section 2.4. As in Dupuis and Hann (2009), the value of 4Compared to the formulation found in Dupuis and Hann (2009), an upper limit for growth was introduced here (T_{sup}) to take into account high temperature stress. Our focus here is, as for the GR, on cyanobacteria. After Thomas et al. (2016) and based on the latitude of the study site, we set the base temperature at 10°C was selected for T_{base} . Such value was chosen
- 245 to be a representative baseline for the growth of the whole phytoplankton community in Lake Champs-sur-Marne, generally composed of cyanobacteria, green algae and diatoms. This results in a succession of algal blooms that spans almost the whole year, usually starting in February when water temperature in the study sitesurpasses 4C and the upper limit for growth at 37°C,

until the end of Autumn. C. This results in considering, for the cacluation of the GDD, only temperatures that yield to a GR above $0.2 d^{-1}$ (see figure 2).

- 250 The number of growing days (NGD) at day t is defined as the number of days during which $(T_i T_{base}) > 0$ from day $i = t_0$ to i = t. It represents a proxy for the duration of the period favorable to growth for the phytoplankton community. Annual NGD and seasonal NGD-GDD can be calculated on an annual or a seasonal basis by adjusting the values of t_0 and tas for the GDD. However, in a warm temperate climate water temperature never drops under the threshold of 4°C during Spring and Summer. This impedes any variability in the counts of NGD during these two seasons, that were therefore not addressed. Annual GDD
- 255 are calculated from the first of January until the 31st of December. Seasonal GDD are obtained according to the definitions of section 2.3.

2.4 Long-term analysis

In the present paper we aim at hindcasting hindcast the long-term dynamics of a small and shallow urban lake between 1960 and 2017, in order to test the influence of climate change on such ecosystems. To do this we focus on 58 years, from 1960 to 2017, for which meteorological data are available from the SAFRAN reanalysis.

2.4.1 Long-term trends

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The long-term hydrodynamic simulation starts on the first of January 1960. No data were available to set the initial conditions of the model, neither in terms of water temperature, nor in terms of current velocities. However, the model is strongly driven by the meteorological data and the influence of the initial condition vanishes after only a few days (Piccolroaz et al., 2019). The effect on model results of Indeed, small perturbations in water temperature initial conditions ($\pm 2^{\circ}$ C) was were tested and

- The effect on model results of Indeed, small perturbations in water temperature initial conditions (\pm 2°C) was were tested and resulted to vanish in 5 to 7 days. The model was therefore initialized with water at rest and with a uniform water temperature of 7°C. This value was issued from, the average of the water temperature recorded on the lake on the first of January in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. Model results are stored at a hourly time step on every element of the mesh.
- Model results at measuring site A are analyzed analyzed on an annual and seasonal basis for long-term trends. They are exploited directly, in terms of water temperature (averaged over the water column) and to calculate through the indices defined in section 2.3. Site A is located in one of the deepest part of the lake and therefore considered as representative of the general behavior of the water body. This assumption will be further analyzed through a spatial analysis of the three-dimensional model results (see section 2.4.2). The presence of long term long-term trends is tested (with a threshold for significance $\alpha = 0.05\alpha = 0.05$) through the Mann-Kendall test (Mann, 1945; Kendall, 1975), a non-parametric test for the individuation
- 275 of overall monotonic trends performed here through the MATLAB softwere software (Burkey, 2020). The Mann-Kendall test is often preferred to simple linear regression in the analysis of meteorological and hydrological time series(Tímea et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2017, as it does not require any assumption on the distribution of the analyzed dataset dataset (Tímea et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2020)

. Once a trend is detected, its strength is evaluated through the Sen's slope estimator(Sen, 1968), that uses a linear model to evaluate the intensity of the trend . In order to analyze both annual and seasonal trends, the year was divided into four groups

280 of three months each: (i) January, February and March (Winter), (ii) April, May, June (Spring), (iii) July, August, September (Summer), (iv) October, November, December (Autumn). (Sen, 1968).

Meteorological forcing is crucial for this work, as it drives the hydrodynamic model and represents the only source of variability in our modelling configuration. The presence of long-term trends in the meteorological dataset was also evaluated by applying the Mann-Kendall test and the Sen's slope estimator to their annual averages.

285 2.4.2 Spatial analysisof stratification

The phenology of stratification in

The long-term evolution and the spatial variability of the thermal regime of Lake Champs-sur-Marne was further assessed analysed exploiting the three-dimensional model simulations. The analysis was extended to Mean annual surface water temperature, annual SSD, mean annual GR and annual GDD were computed on the whole computational domain, with the objective of in-

- 290 vestigating the relation between climate change , water depth and thermal structure in a shallow and polymictic water body. The annual number of stably stratified days (SSD) was therefore calculated for every computational cell and time evolution of the spatial distribution of these variables. For each variable x, the overall mean annual value x_m (averaged over the complete simulation period, using temperature values from the surface and local bottom layersdomain) and the deviation from the mean value $(x - x_m)$ have then been computed. In order to detect the presence of heterogeneity in the overall spatial distribution of
- 295 stratification, the annual SSD calculated for each computational cell were averaged over the 58 years of <u>quantify the spatial</u> heterogeneity of these variables, the probability distribution of the simulation to obtain a space-dependent (but time-averaged) representation of thermal stratification.

The evolution of stratification in different areas of the water body can also be evaluated over time. To do so, deviation from the mean value of each variable was finally calculated on the computational domain and fitted, for each year, with a

- 300 non-parametric Kernel probability distribution through the Matlab *pdf* function. The resulting probability density function (PDF) was plotted over time as a heat map and the mean value as a simple line plot. This allows to visualize both the time and the spatial evolution of the domain was divided into eight groups of cells depending on the local water depth, here considered constant in time. For instance, the first group includes the shallowest computational cells (depth between 1.2 and 1.5 m), the second one includes cells with depth between 1.2 and 1.5 m, and so forth until the last group of cells, with depth between 3.3
- 305 and 3.6 m. For each simulated year, the variable under consideration, by looking at the mean value and at the range of values characterized by a non-zero probability.

During stably stratified periods, cyanobacteria are favored over other algal groups because of their ability to move within the water column and possibly float towards the water surface (Humphries and Lyne, 1988; Wagner and Adrian, 2009; You et al., 2018). For this reason, the spatial analysis of the GR and GDD was completed, by calculating these two indices only on stable

310 stratified days during each year. The obtained GR were further averaged for each cell over the local number of stably stratified days. Cells that showed an annual number of SSDwas then averaged over each of the cell-groups, in order to represent the evolution over time of different areas of the lake with homogeneous depth<10 where discarded from this analysis. Finally, the

resulting modified indices were analysed over space and time as described above by using a non-parametric Kernel probability distribution as an approximation of the PDF for each simulated year.

315 3 Results

3.1 Model calibration and validation

The model was calibrated on the year 2016 and validated from May 2015 to the end of on two other periods: from May to December 2015, and during the whole year 2017. Records from field campaigns show that Field values for the Secchi depth in Lake Champs-sur-Marne varies vary between 0.5 and 3 m; using this rangeof values, it, the Secchi depth parameter was calibrated and finally set to 1.2 m. Sky cloudiness was calibrated and set to 80%, and a uniform wind drag coefficient was set to 0.005 [-].

During the calibration periods, the model tends to slightly overestimate water temperature during summer heat peaks (with residuals always lower than 2°C) and to slightly underestimate water temperature during winter (again, with residuals always lower than 2°CModel performance during calibration and validation is shown in figure 3 relatively to site A. Parity diagrams

- 325 between observed and simulated water temperature are plotted for the surface, middle and bottom layers (see panels a, b and c, respectively) and show an excellent agreement between observations and model results. A slight underestimation of surface water temperature can be noticed for the surface layer during the colder winter months, as well as a slight overestimation of the highest values of water temperature by the model, especially for the middle and surface layers (see also Fig. 3-d). However, overall model performances are satisfactory for all three layers, with RMSE values between simulated and observed water
- 330 temperature of 0.85°C, 0.78°C and 0.81°C at site A <u>during calibration</u>, respectively for the surface (0.5 m), middle (1.5 m) and bottom (2.5 m) layers. Model results are spatially robust and satisfactory also for the validation <u>periodperiods</u>, with similar RMSE values for sites A and B (ranging between (surface:1.0°C, middle:0.96and 1.00°C and bottom:0.96°C). Fig. 3-a shows simulation results and observations during the whole validation period at 1.5 m depth at site A, where the data series is the longest, together with the related residuals (Fig. 3-b); results were very similar for the two remaining sites. The model fits the
- 335 data very well, especially between spring and autumn. During summer (respectively, winter), similarly to what was observed during calibration, it tends to slightly overestimate (respectively, underestimate) water temperature, with residuals always lower in module than 2°C. Over the validation period the model has a low but non negligible bias (MBE) ranging between -0.2 and -0.3 B (surface:1.0°C, middle:0.96°C, bottom:0.99°C).

Furthermore, the observed (blue) and simulated (orange) temperature difference between the surface and bottom layers is

- 340 plotted in figure 3-e, with a dashed lined representing the 1°C for sites A and B. Eventually, the number of SSD was calculated threshold for the definition of the SSD. Panels f and g of figure 3 show the succession of stable stratification events as defined in section 2.3.1 during the whole validation period at sites A and B for both the observed and simulated dataset. In case of gaps in the observation series, also simulation output were discarded from the calculation. The number of SSD between 2015 and 2017 calculated using water temperature observations is 122 for site A and 128 for site B. Using Delft3D simulations we found
- 345 very similar results: 125 SSD for site A and 132 for site B.calculated through observations and model simulations, respectively.

Some discrepancy is present, notably in spring 2016, which can be explained by a slight overestimation of surface temperature, combined with the threshold effect of the definition of SSD. However, the model correctly captures the succession of stable stratification events both in terms of frequency and timing over the considered three-years period.

Overall, the model excellently reproduces results fit very well the high-frequency water temperature data, and accurately 350 reproduce the water temperature dynamic, including the diurnal cycle, at both measuring sites as well as the stratification regime.

3.2 Long-term trend analysis

3.2.1 Meteorological input data

Annual averages of the SAFRAN dataset used as input to the Delft3D model were calculated from 1960 to 2017 for the five

- 355 meteorological variables used as inputs to the hydrodynamic model and tested with the Mann-Kendall test. Strongly significant monotonic trends ($p \ll 0.05$) were found for the air temperature, solar radiation and wind speed, as shown in Fig. 4. The Sen's slope estimator was used to test the intensity of the significant monotonic trends. Air temperature displays a considerable warming trend of 0.3°Cper decade.dec⁻¹; solar radiation also shows a significant increasing trend, with an overall intensity of 3.5 W.m⁻²per decade.dec⁻¹. Wind speed decreases quite sharply over time, at an overall estimated rate of 0.2 m.s⁻¹per
- 360 decade..dec⁻¹. While the increase in air temperature appears extremely linear (see Fig. 4-a), a sharp shift in the behavior of both solar radiation and wind speed appears around the year 1989–1988 (Fig. 4-b and -c, respectively). Solar radiation and wind speed appear to be piecewise functions of time that can be roughly divided into two sections with sensibly different mean values, one until 1989 and the second one starting from 1990. Despite this non A change-point detection was therefore performed on the latter two series, and showed for both variables the existence of two significant sub-trends separated by
- 365 a drastic shift towards the end of the 1980s. Both variables are characterized by a mild increase until 1987 (1988 for solar radiation), followed by a considerable decrease until the end of the available series. However, despite this piecewise linear behavior, the presence of <u>overall</u> monotonic increasing (for solar radiation) or decreasing (for wind speed) trends is confirmed by the very low p-values obtained for these variables through the Mann-Kendall test.
- Finally, no significant trend was found for relative humidity and wind direction. The two variables appear to be stationary,
 the former fluctuating around an annual average of roughly 80% and the latter around an annual prevailing wind direction of 200°N (South-West). Three of the five meteorological variables forcing the hydrodynamic model were therefore characterized by strongly significant monotonic trends along the past six decades, corroborating the idea of a changing climate in conferming changes in the climate of the region around the study site.

3.2.2 Model results

375 Long-term monotonic trends have been researched at site A on an annual and seasonal basis for: mean water temperature (vertically averaged), number of stably stratified days (SSD), mean Schmidt stability , growing degree days (GDD) and number of growing days (NGDindex, mean growth rate (GR) and growing degree days (GDD). Figure 5 shows all the significant



Figure 3. Water temperature Model performance during the validation periodat site A. Panels a) Model output (black), b and high-frequency c: parity diagrams between simulations and observations (grey) for the surface, middle and bottom layers, respectively. Panel d: visual comparison of simulated and observed water temperature at the middle layer. Panel e: modeled (1.5 m depthorange) at measuring site A; bys. observed (blue) residuals temperature difference between model output surface and *in situ* databottom layer and relative comparison between the timing of observed and modeled stable stratification events (panels f and g, respectively).



Figure 4. Annual averages of the three meteorological variables input to Delft3D (solid lines) that showed which exhibit significant monotonic trends, and that is a) air temperature, b) solar radiation, c) wind speed. The relative overall trend intensity has been evaluated thorugh through Sen's slope estimator for air temperature (orange dashed lines). line, panel a) Air temperature; b) whereas a piecewise trend has been calculated after change-point detection for solar radiation ; e) and wind speed (black dashed lines, panels b and c).

monotonic trends found from this analysis. On an annual basis, the Mann-Kendall test highlighted the presence of strongly significant increasing trends ($p \ll 0.05$) for all variables.

- Mean annual water temperature shows a very sharp warming tendency of $0.6^{\circ}C_{per}$ decade_.dec⁻¹ (see Fig. 5-a), even greater than what was found for air temperature (0.3° C). The Pearson correlation coefficient (r) was calculated between water temperature and the five meteorological input variables in terms of annual averages in order to explain this behavior. Air temperature Modeled water temperature is strongly correlated with air temperature, solar radiation and wind speedwere all strongly correlated with modeled water temperature, with correlation coefficients of 0.8 for solar radiation and air temperature
- and -0.9 for wind speed. Water temperature showed shows significant increase during all seasons, with higher slopes during Spring and Summer spring and summer (0.8 and 0.7° Cper decade.dec⁻¹, respectively), and a lower yet considerable intensity during Autumn and Winter autumn and winter (respectively 0.4 and 0.5° Cper decade.dec⁻¹).

The warming trend is accompanied by reinforced stratification. An increase in water column stability was is highlighted on an annual basis by both stratification indices: the annual number of SSD increased on average of around three_two days per decade, while the Schmidt stability index increased of 0.9 J.m⁻²per decade.dec⁻¹ (Fig. 5-b and -c, respectively). Despite a warming trend being present in all seasons, both stratification related indices showed show significant increasing trends only during Winter-winter (1 d.dec⁻¹ and 0.4 J.m⁻²per decade) and Spring (2 d.dec⁻¹) and spring (sharper trends of 1.8 d.dec⁻¹ and 2.6 J.m⁻²per decade.dec⁻¹, for the seasonal SSD and the Schmidt index, respectively). The sharpest increase in stable stratification was therefore found during Spring. Furthermore, the number of stable stratification events (i.e. the count of the

395 slots of consecutive SSD during a year) was calculated to characterize the frequency of stable stratification. It did not show significant trends over time, varying between a minimum value of 8 to a maximum of 16 around an overall average of 12 stable stratification events. Similarly, the duration of the longest stable stratification event (i.e. the longest slot of consecutive SSD in a year) did not show significant trends, but a high interannual variability. It varies around an average value of 11 d, between a minimum value of 5 d and a maximum of 15 d.

- The analysis of the growing degree days and of the number of growing days mean growth rate shows the progressive improvement of conditions for biomass production. The black line in Fig. 5-d shows the evolution over time of annual GDD. Its pattern cyanobacteria. The pattern of the mean annual GR is highly correlated to that of water temperature and shows an a significant trend of $0.02 d^{-1}$ (black line in Fig. 5-d). However, the stronger intensity of the trend for the GR during spring (0.03 d^{-1}) indicates an amplified effect of water temperature on the potential growth of cyanobacteria during this season. Annual
- 405 <u>GDD (see figure 5-e) shows a considerable increasing rate of 190157</u>°C-dper decade.d.dec⁻¹, with a strong shift around the year 1989. <u>Even though this This</u> behavior cannot be regarded as linear and is highly influenced by the piece-wise behavior of mean annual solar radiation and wind speed. However, it corroborates the idea of a greater amount of thermal energy reaching the ecosystem. Furthermore, as shown by the increase in annual NGD (Fig. 5-e), this energy is spread over a wider period of time, now encompassing almost the whole year. The NGD increased by 10 days per decade on an annual basis, with significant
- 410 seasonal trends for Winter (5 d per decade) and Autumn (3 d per decade). However, the amount of thermal energy available for biomass production did grow during all, at different rates but consistently throughout the four seasons. Seasonal GDD show an estimated increase of: 24, 75, 67 and 27 °C - d per decade, going from Winter to Autumn.

The changes found-

The changes in the meteorological forcing clearly had an impact on the dynamics of the study site. The lake has sensi-

415 bly warmedand, its tendency to thermal stability has increased. Spring showed stratification has increased, and the thermal conditions for cyanobacterial growth have improved. Spring shows the sharpest trends in terms of water temperature, water column stability (Schmidt and SSD) and growing degree days, and for all indices, and might ultimately be the season suffering the strongest changes in terms of biomass production and algal blooms.

3.3 Spatial analysisof stratification

420 Lakes are not spatially homogeneous systems. Heterogeneity can be generated by the interplay between bathymetric and morphological features, or by particular meteorological conditions, especially in terms of wind direction.

In order to examine the presence of spatial patterns regarding water column stratification, the three-dimensional model results were exploited for each cell of the domain and as well as for different depth classes. Figure ??quantify the rate of spatial variability in the lake, the deviations between local annual values (calculated for each computational cell) and their

- 425 overall annual mean value (calculated on the complete domain) were calculated and fitted with a probability density function (PDF). As shown in figure 6-a displays a map of (top panel), mean annual surface water temperature is rather uniform over the study siterepresenting for each cell of the domain the average over time (from 1960 to 2017) of . The difference between the maximum and minimum values if of roughly 0.1°C (around 1% of variability relative to the overall mean) and does not vary substantially over time. During the first half of the simulation period, and in particular between the years 1967 and 1987,
- 430 the support for the PDFs (i.e. the domain on which PDFs are greater than 0) is narrower, reflecting a higher annual spatial uniformity than what can be observed after 1990. After 1990, the support of PDFs is indeed wider, with only a few exceptions where the PDFs are on the contrary quite sharp. This change in the spatial distribution of annual surface water temperature



Figure 5. Statistically significant climate change trends at monitoring site A for the five indices, both on an annual (black) and seasonal (other colors) basis. a) Water temperature (averaged on the water column); b) Number of stably stratified days (SSD); c) Schmidt stability. d) <u>Growth rate; e)</u> Growing degree days (GDD); e) Number of growing days (NGD). Blue lines represent the Winter winter season, green lines represent Springspring, red lines are for Summer trends and yellow lines for Autumnautumn; black lines represent annual values.

before and after 1990 is accompanied by a sharp increase in the overall mean value (bottom panel in Fig. 6-a), which is indeed greater (around 14.5°C) after 1990 than before (around 12°C).

- 435 The annual number of SSD shows greater spatial heterogeneity (see Fig. 6-b). The difference between the maximum and minimum values of SSD varies between approximately 45 and 90 days. The spatial heterogeneity is mainly induced by bathymetry. Stable stratification only occurs in the deeper portion of the basin, while the northern part of the study site, namely the portion with depth lower than 1.8 m (see Fig. 1-b), remains constantly mixed according to our definition of SSD. The PDF is dissymmetric, with the most probable value for the annual SSD higher than the overall annual mean, by 10 to 15 days. As
- 440 for the surface water temperature, the annual number of SSD, similarly to the spatial representation of sediment disturbance by waves found in Bachmann et al. (2000). The map shows a pronounced spatial pattern, with stratification developing only in some regions. The deeper areas were stratified on average for more than 60 daysa year, while the shallower northern part never significantly stratified. A strong linear correlation was found between water depth and number of stably stratified days, with a spatial heterogeneity of SSD is higher after 1990 than before. In fact, a rather high correlation is present between the
- 445 spatial distribution of mean annual surface water temperature and SSD. The correlation coefficient between these two variables of 0.98. the two variables in each simulated year varies between 0.4 and 0.8, with an overall mean of 0.62 and p-values always

lower than the threshold for significance (p=0.05). This suggests that surface water temperature tends to be slightly warmer in areas characterized by longer periods of stable stratification.

The evolution over time of the spatial pattern of stratification was also investigated. The computational domain was divided into eight disjointed groups of cells depending on local water depth, which varies between 1.2 m and 3.6 m. For each year in thermal growth rate and the GDD were analysed over the simulation, the annual number of SSD was then averaged over each of the eight cell-groups, in order to obtain the eight time series of annual SSD shown in Fig. ??-b. Figure ??domain during stably stratified days, which are particularly favourable to the growth of cyanobacteria.

The thermal GR shows a low spatial heterogeneity that does not vary over time, as confirmed both by the PDF in figure

- 455 7-a (top panel) and by the maps in figure 7-bshows that, for this study site, no thermal stratification ever develops in areas with a depth lower than 1.8 m.The depth of the thermocline therefore appears to be always greater than 1.8 m.Figure ??-b also shows an evolution over time of stratification. All cells groups with a depth greater than 1.8 m tend to experience a higher annual number of SSD towards the end of the simulated period, especially starting from 1995. In order to confirm this result, ... The difference between minimum and maximum values for the GR is around 0.03 d⁻¹ (around 5% of the overall mean value),
- 460 always rather centered around the overall mean. Calculated during stratification, the overall mean thermal GR takes high values (around $0.6 d^{-1}$), comparable to those found at site A for the summer season (see the bottom panel of fig. 7-a and fig. 5-d).

The overall mean annual GDD increases over time (bottom panel of Figure 7-c), from around 400 d.°C before 1980 to 650 d after. The PDF of the GDD displays a clear increase in spatial heterogeneity (Fig. 7-c). Its range increases substantially starting from the 1980s, roughly doubling: from 100 d.°C before 1980 to around 200 d.°C afterwards. This is due to the concurring

- 465 effects of warmer water temperature and higher number of stably stratified days in the calculation of the GDD as defined in section 2.3.2. In particular, part of the heterogeneity is induced by shallow areas of the water body that only account for a low number of SSD and therefore for low values of GDD. The corresponding computational cells, not affected by stable stratification during the 1960s, are evermore likely to show stable stratification in the time series of annual SSD calculated over each same-depth cellsgroup (shown in Fig. ??-b through the color chart) was analyzed with the Mann-Kendall test. All
- 470 cell-groups deeper than 1.8 m showed statistically significant (p < 0.05)increasing trends in terms of annual number of SSD, with intensity varying between 2 d per decades (for cells with 1.8 m water depths) to 4 days per decade (for cells in the deepest 2000s (see the maps in fig. 7-d). However, the maps for the years 2017 and 2005 also show a high heterogeneity in the deeper part of the lake)water body.</p>

4 Discussion

475 Long-term climate change trends were researched. In the present paper, the thermal regime of a shallow urban lake was reconstituted over six decades (between 1960 to and 2017through the Mann-Kendall test for both meteorological input variables and model results) with a 3D thermal-hydrodynamic model. Simulation results were analysed over time (for long-term monotonic trends), and space (for spatial heterogeneity), through a series of indices that characterize the stratification and highlight the relation between temperature and cyanobacteria production.



Figure 6. a) Map Top panels: Time evolution of the annual number probability density function of SSD calculated over every cell in the computational grid, and averaged over anomalies (i.e. the 58 years spatial deviations of a variable to its annual mean over the simulation; blake). Bottom panels: Time evolution over time of the annual number of mean calculated over the lake. a) Mean annual surface water temperature; b) annual SSDdivided by cell groups with homogeneous depth.

480 In terms of meteorological variables, air-

4.1 Meteorological forcing data

The model was forced with data from the SAFRAN meteorological reanalysis. Air temperature and solar radiation showed increasing monotonic trends ($0.3^{\circ}C.dec^{-1}$ and $3.5 W.m^{-2}$ per decade.dec⁻¹, respectively), while wind speed showed a decreasing monotonic trend of -0.2 m.s⁻¹per decade.A few studies already assessed climate.dec⁻¹. A shift was observed during

485 the studied period around 1987, especially in the data series of solar radiation and wind speed, and was confirmed by a change-point detection analysis. The existence of such shift in global climate during the 1980s has been highlighted by a number of studies using different data sources (Reid et al., 2016; Mariani et al., 2012; Gallagher et al., 2013).

Climate change in the Paris region , has been assessed in literature mainly in terms of air temperature (Perrier et al., 2005; Lemonsu et al., 2013). Compared to our result, a milder increasing trend of 0.1°C.dec⁻¹ was found based on ground measurements, between 1900 to 1987analyzing measurements, with a steeper increment of 0.7°C.dec⁻¹ later on until 2005 (Perrier et al., 2005). Similarly, we also find a steeper trend of 0.55 °C.dec⁻¹ if we limit our analysis on the years from 1987 to 2005. Less information can be found in literature for solar radiation and wind speed. A decrease in wind speed on land was found over Europe since 1980 (around -0.1 m.s⁻¹s-1.dec⁻¹) as part of a large-scale analysis of observations in the northern hemisphere (Vautard et al., 2010), as well as on . At a global scale, an overall decreasing trend in wind speed was found over land in the period 1985-2015 through meteorological reanalysis(Torralba et al., 2017). , principally over Europe, India and western Africa (Torralba et al., 2017). In South-East China, in the Lake Chaohu region, a strong decline in wind speed (China Meteorological station) was also found in the period 1980-2016 (Zhang et al., 2020). An overall increase in surface solar radiation was recently found for Europe between 1983 and 2015, specifically of 3 W.m⁻².dec⁻¹ for



Figure 7. Spatial analysis of stratification. a) Probability density function (PDF) for mean GR during stratification over the computational domain and over time; b) Four examples of spatial distribution for mean GR during stratification over the lake; c) PDF for GDD during stratification over the computational domain and over the years; d) Four examples of spatial distribution for annual GDD during stratification over the lake. Grey cells in panels b and d do not stratify longer than 10 days over a year.

western Europe (Pfeifroth et al., 2018). Solar radiation and wind speed showed here a piecewise non-linear behavior (Fig. 4), with a shift around the late 1980s. SAFRAN is a coherent and spatialized data set, that still partially depends on the surface observation network and might be influenced by changes in the instrumentation (Vidal et al., 2010). However, the existence of a shift in global climate in the 1980s has been highlighted by a number of studies using different data sources (Reid et al., 2016; Mariani et al., 2012; Gallagher et al., 2013).

505

Meteorological reanalyses usually cover multi-decadal periods and have the great benefit of being spatialized over vast portions of the globe. Even though their use in limnological studies is quite recent, they have already been used to simulate water temperature (Layden et al., 2016; Piccolroaz et al., 2020), stratification dynamics (Frassl et al., 2018) and phytoplankton distribution (Soulignac et al., 2018). As shown in this work, their use as external forcing to hydrodynamic thermal-hydrodynamic models can yield, provided that data observations are available for calibration and validation, to accurate simulations of the behavior of water bodies even in the absence of local meteorological observations. This could open to a great range of appli-

- 510 cations in the field of limnology and paleolimnology (e.g. Jenny et al., 2016) (Jenny et al., 2016; Maier et al., 2019). The proposed methodology allows to thoroughly reconstruct the behavior of a any water body both in time and space, independently of its proximity to meteorological stations. Furthermore, the use of biogeochemical modules could give additional insights on oxygen, nutrients and phytoplankton dynamics This is particularly interesting for small or remote water bodies that often lack long-term measurements.
- 515 The use of an extensive data set of high-frequency observations (recorded every 10 min, at three depths and two locations) allowed to test the ability of the model to reproduce not only the general seasonal water temperature pattern, but also daily and sub-daily dynamics. In this respect the model performed very well, with RMSE values always lower than 1°C and comparable to those obtained in other studies with similar applications (Kerimoglu and Rinke, 2013; Magee and Wu, 2017; Lee et al., 2018) through less frequent observations.

520 4.2 Water temperature and stratification

525

Based on the 3D model results found for Lake Champs-sur-Marne, long-term trends were analysed in detail at site A. Significant increasing trends were detected for water temperature both on an annual and seasonal basis. The highest seasonal warming was found during Spring and Summer spring and summer (0.8 and 0.7° C.dec⁻¹, respectively), while it was weaker during Autumn and Winter (around 0.4respectively). These trends are particularly intense and could have strong impacts on the ecosystem under examination. In particular, the intensity of these trends is greater than that suggested for summer water

- temperature in a large-scale analysis $(0.53^{\circ}\text{C.dec}^{-1})$ Overall for lakes with similar changes in the meteorological forcing (O'Reilly et al., 2015). Furthermore, mean annual water temperature depth-averaged water temperature also increased at a considerable rate of 0.6°Cper decade.dec⁻¹, greater than that of air temperature(0.3°C.dec⁻¹) the rate found for air temperature, a behavior also highlighted by other studies (Austin and Colman, 2007; Schneider et al., 2009). A large-scale analysis showed
- 530 how trends in summer surface lake water temperature are globally highly variable, comprised between -0.7 and 1.3°C per decade (O'Reilly et al., 2015). After this study, lakes subject to similar changes in the meteorological forcing to our study site, namely in terms of air temperature and solar radiation, display an average summer warming trend of 0.53°C per decade, only slightly smaller than the result of our work. Mean for other water bodies (Austin and Colman, 2007; Schneider et al., 2009). The piecewise linear behavior of mean annual water temperatureshowed a non-linear behavior (see Fig. 5-a), probably caused
- 535 , is induced by that of solar radiation and wind speed. In fact, similarly to what was found by Magee and Wu (2017), mean annual water temperature was highly correlated (i.e. $r \ge ||r| \ge 0.8|$) with air temperature, solar radiation and wind speed. This suggests that meteorological variables might have additive effects that concur to enhance the response of the dependent variable variables. These effects might be particularly intense for wind over small and shallow lakes, due to their low volume to surface ratio.
- Both stratification related indices (Sehmidt stability and SSDSSD and Schmidt stability) showed a significant mean annual increasing trend , mainly driven by an increase during Spring (respectively 2 dand 2.6 (3 d.dec⁻¹ and 1 J.m⁻²per decade.dec⁻¹, respectively). Similar values were recently found for shallow water bodies in other long-term studies (Magee and Wu, 2017; Moras et al., 2019). The alternation between stratification and mixing in polymictic water bodiesstrongly influences

the distribution and availability of nutrients-However, despite a strong augmentation in water temperature, stratification did

not show a significant increase during summer. In shallow polymictic lakes the water column is mixed frequently also during the warmer seasons. Summer surface and bottom water temperature increased at a very similar rate (0.7°C.dec⁻¹) in the study site, resulting in small changes in Schmidt stability and number of SSD. This result marks a strong difference with the behavior of deeper monomictic or dimictic lakes, where the summer Schmidt stability often shows an increasing trend (e.g. Niedrist et al., 2018; Flaim et al., 2016), but it is not uncommon for shallow water bodies, where Schmidt stability can even show decreasing summer trends (Fu et al., 2020).

Stratification induces a separation between the sediment and the surface layers, influencing the distribution of nutrients and biomass over the water column(Song et al., 2013). The length of stable stratification and the frequency of mixing events have effects on the dynamics of sedimentation and resuspension of both nutrients and organic matter. This in turn might have strong effects on phytoplankton productivity and on the occurrence of harmful algal blooms, with impacts on the ecological

- **state of**. During stratification, due to the desoxygenation of the lake bottom layers, nutrients (phosphate in particular) are released from the sediment. In polymictic water bodies, when mixing occurs, a replenishment of the whole water column with the nutrients released during previous stratification has been observed (Song et al., 2013; Wilhelm and Adrian, 2008). In Lake Champs-sur-Marne, neither the frequency nor the duration of the stable stratification events show a significant trend during the past decades. However, with a mean value of 12 annual separated stable stratification events, lasting up to two consecutive
- 560 weeks, the replenishment of the water column with nutrients is ensured. The multiple pulses associated with the alternation between mixing and stratification events are an important internal source of nutrients, especially in a lake such as the study site, whose water inflow is limited to underground waters.

The thermal regime was further characterized over the computational domain by analyzing the spatial distribution of surface water temperature. While annual averages of surface water temperature are rather uniform over the domain, with around 0.1°C

- 565 of difference between maximal and minimal values, the bathymetric variations induced greater variability in the distribution of SSD. The stratification regime drastically changes between the deeper portion of the water body and the water body. To address this issue, the GDD and the NGD were introduced to link the thermal regime to the biological productivity of shallower northern part. According to the study site. Both the annual GDD and the NGD showed a significant increasing trend. The seasonal GDD were found to significantly increase during all seasons, while the seasonal NGD increased significantly only during Autumn
- 570 and Winterdefinition of the SSD, stable stratification never occurs in cells with water depth lower than 1.8 m. In shallow water bodies, even small bathymetric variations can cause drastic differences in the thermal regime. Different regimes of mixing and stratification between shallower and deeper areas can result in considerable differences in the spatial distribution of nutrients, with effects on bloom initiation and phytoplankton growth, as well as on the resulting oxygen concentration. However, spatial heterogeneity of the mixing and stratification regime inside a water body is rarely addressed in scientific literature, especially
- 575 with regard to small and shallow lakes (e.g. Bachmann et al., 2000).

4.3 Indices for primary production

The thermal regime is a key factor in the regulation of the biogeochemical cycle and in the development of algal blooms. Small and shallow lakes react rapidly to climatic changes, partially due to their low volume and heat capacity. Changes in The worldwide intensification of harmful algal blooms over the past decades (Paerl and Huisman, 2008; Paerl and Paul, 2012; Wagner and Erick

580 is often associated with climate change and nutrient enrichment (Zou et al., 2020; Huisman et al., 2018). Due to their potential toxicity, cyanobacteria are of particular concern in freshwater management. Warmer water temperature can alter the composition of phytoplankton groups and their succession throughout the year. Warmer water temperatures favor

species with higher favor their growth because of their high optimal temperatures. However, they can proliferate under a wide range of temperatures (Lürling et al., 2013; Carey et al., 2012). The expression of the growth rate proposed by Bernard and Rémond (2012)

- (see eq. 7) accounts for this dependence from water temperature. Based on this expression, the mean annual thermal growth rate of cyanobacteria showed a significant increasing monotonic trend of $0.02 \, d^{-1}$. Compared to the initial annual value of roughly 0.3 d^{-1} at the beginning of the 1960s, this results in a considerable total rate of change of +40% at the end of the studied period. Significant trends were also found during the four seasons, the highest being during spring (0.03 d^{-1} , or +45% of the initial value). The growing degree days (GDD) of cyanobacteria were analysed here for a range of temperatures
- 590 comprised between 10°C and 37°C, corresponding to thermal growth rates higher than 0.2 d⁻¹. However, given the temperate climate of the region under examination, the upper limit for growth did not have any effect on the results, whilst it could be an important parameter for species with lower optimum temperatures such as evanobacteria, capable of producing toxins (Paerl and Huisman, 2008). Stratification induces a separation between the sediment and the surface layers, influencing the distribution of nutrients and biomass diatoms.
- 595 Whereas the growth rate gives an estimation of the mean value of cyanobacteria growth, that can be computed on a seasonal and an annual basis, the GDD is a cumulative index that gives a measure of the amount of time and degrees available during a year for photosynthetic growth. Originating from the field of agronomy and forestry, it represents a "thermal time" and is considered as a better descriptor of vegetal phenology than the simple Julian days (McMaster and Wilhelm, 1997). Under an appropriate temperature range, it can be considered as representative for organism developmental time (Dupuis and Hann, 2009)
- 600 . The highest trend for GDD was found on an annual basis (157 d. $^{\circ}$ C.dec⁻¹), denoting that the temperatures favourable to cyanobacteria growth are more and more frequently reached. Seasonal trends varied greatly in intensity. The highest was found for spring (73 d. $^{\circ}$ C.dec⁻¹) and represents, relative to the values in the early 1960s, a substantial increase of 90% during the six dacades under consideration. The trends found for winter and autumn are mild but denote an increased tendency to overpass the base temperature during these two seasons, and therefore a dilatation of the season favourable to cyanobacteria growth.
- 605 Harmful algal blooms and phytoplankton dynamics depend on factors such as the settling or buoyancy rate of phytoplankton, the availability of nutrients over the water column. Due to, which can be enhanced by the release from the sediment, and the resuspension of particulate organic matter. In polymictic water bodies, the processes of sedimentation and resuspension are strongly influenced by the alternation between mixing and stratification (Song et al., 2013). Because of their ability to migrate upwards towards the water surface, an increase in water column stability might also favor cyanobacteria over other species

- 610 (Dupuis and Hann, 2009). Furthermore, in polymictic water bodies, a mechanism of accumulation (during stratification) and release (during subsequent mixing) of nutrients from the sediment has been suggested, causing multiple pulses that act as an internal nutrient source (Song et al., 2013; Wilhelm and Adrian, 2008). within the water column, stratified environments are favorable to cyanobacteria (e.g. Carey et al., 2012; Aparicio Medrano et al., 2016). The increase of water temperature and of stable stratification could concur resulting in frequent cyanobacteria blooms. However, stratified conditions do not occur
- 615 uniformly. The calculation of the thermal GR and of the GDD quantifies the potential effect of water temperature on cyanobacteria growth, under the hypothesis of nutrient and light availability. Their calculation during stratification allows to address the combined effect of water temperature during a particularly favourable environmental conditions.

During stratification cyanobacteria GR was characterized by high values (around 0.6 d⁻¹), with a variability quite uniform over time of $\pm 5\%$ over the study site. These values are comparable, or even higher (until the 1990s) than those obtained

620 during the summer season. The GDD give a deeper insight on the interplay between temperature and stratification. The strong augmentation in the overall mean value of GDD during stratification confirms a concurring positive effect of the increase of water temperature and of the duration of stable stratification on the growth of cyanobacteria. Moreover, the greater spatial variability of GDD values during the second half of the simulation indicates that some parts of the lake will be more affected than others by the variation of water temperature and stratification. In particular we observe the development over time of

625 certain areas in the study site, especially the deeper part, with very high values of GDD under stratified conditions, and that are therefore particularly favourable to cyanobacteria dominance and bloom initiation.

The combination of increasing trends for water temperature, stable stratification and the widening of the growing season can favor-favour the occurrence of harmful algal blooms, further deteriorating ecosystems that are often already eutrophie (Winder and Sommer, 2012; Jones and Brett, 2014; Noble and Hassall, 2015). A number of small urban lakes similar to our

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0 study sitemight be undergoing similar changes as Lake Champs-sur-Marne. These changes might be especially sharp during Spring, that showed here the greatest increase for water temperature, GDD and SSD. The timing, composition and intensity of spring blooms are extremely important in determining the succession of blooms in the subsequent months (Townsend et al., 1994; Sommer and Sommer and

Stratification affects many aspects of lake productivity, including nutrient recycling, habitat conditions for microorganisms
 and their distribution over depth (Hanna, 1998; Wilhelm and Adrian, 2008; Song et al., 2013). The spatial analysis of stratification showed a strong linear correlation between the number of annual SSD and local water depth. The deeper part of the study site does experience considerable stable stratification throughout the year (up to around 60 days on average), even though for non-consecutive periods of time. The increase in the annual number of SSD found for site A is shared with all cell-groups with water depth greater than 1.8 m. However cyanobacterial blooms (Winder and Sommer, 2012; Jones and Brett, 2014; Noble and Hassall, 201

640 . If these trends are confirmed, during the decades to come cyanobacteria could become the dominant species in the study site, this is not the case in the shallower northern part of the basin, that never show stable stratification. Depending on the bathymetry, these spatial patterns might be strong in shallow water bodies, inducing heterogeneity in nutrients, phytoplankton and oxygen concentrations. Such heterogeneity might be even stronger in large water bodies, and can only be thoroughly inferred through three dimensional models (Gong et al., 2016; Frassl et al., 2018) seriously affecting the lake ecological network and its biodiversity

645 (Rasconi et al., 2017; Toporowska and Pawlik-Skowronska, 2014).

4.4 Model-based approach

Through our modelling approach it was possible to reconstruct the thermal dynamics of a small and shallow lake and to thoroughly analyze its evolution over time and space. The use of an extensive data set of high-frequency observations allowed to test the model not only against the general seasonal water temperature pattern, but also against daily and sub-daily dynamics

of stratification and mixing, at two locations. Other works have focused on the hindcast of lakes thermal regime, successfully reconstructing their dynamics in order to analyze their evolution over time (e.g. Magee and Wu, 2017; Moras et al., 2019; Zhang et al., 202). Most of these studies, however, make use of a 1D approach. By means of a 3D model it is possible to aggregate information on both time and space (horizontal and vertical) through the use of appropriate indices. Our work demonstrates that even on a small water body spatial variations can be important, and that their influence on the thermal and biological regime must be
considered. It provides additional evidence that supports the hypothesis of a positive effect of climate change over cyanobacteria blooms.

Hydro- and thermal dynamics are at the core of the biogeochemical cycle, influencing transport, sediment resuspension, organic matter mineralization in addition to primary production. In this work, we focus on water temperature, quantifying its impact for stratification and biological production. The proposed methodology allows to focus solely on the role of the

- 660 meteorological forcing, addressing their direct impact on the thermal regime and on primary production. However, other factors could have even a stronger impact: nutrient and light limitation or grazing could offset temperature-derived advantages (Elliott et al., 2006). These factors are not taken into account in this work, since it is focused on the impact of climate change from a thermal standpoint, all other factors being equal. This work opens to a wide range of additional analysis and further research. In particular, the coupling with a biogeochemical model could give further insight on the impact of climate change
- 665 on the ecological state of a water body. Such a study, however, would introduce additional sources of uncertainties, especially regarding the evolution of nutrient sources over time and could only be profitably if performed after a thorough analysis of the hydrodynamic and thermal regime.

5 Conclusions

In this work, the long-term hydrodynamics thermal regime of a shallow urban lake were profitably is reconstructed through model simulations from 1960 to 2017. A series of indices were are proposed with the objective of thoroughly describing the thermal regime of shallow water bodies, in relation with stratification dynamics and biological productivitycyanobacterial production. The meteorological data set was is derived from the SAFRAN reanalysis and showed shows a significant increase in air temperature and solar radiation and a significant decrease in wind speed, with a regime shift in the late 1980s. Simulation results show that small urban lakes react rapidly and strongly to external meteorological conditions, with only limited resilience

675 to climatic shifts. The increase in water temperature cannot be explained by air warming only. The additive effect of increasing

solar radiation and <u>air temperature and</u> decreasing wind speed acts on different terms of the heat budget at the lake surface, enhancing the changes found in the lake. Water warming (The mean water warming of 0.6°C/dee) is much quicker than .dec⁻¹ represents an increase of 32% in water temperature values between 1960 and 2017 and is much stronger than the air warming (0.3°C/dee), and especially intense in Spring, as is the lengthening of stratification. This could have favored early

- 680 phytoplankton blooms, the development of cyanobacteria and ultimately the degradation of the whole aquatic ecosystem. Furthermore, the heterogeneity found in the spatial distribution of thermal stratification might .dec⁻¹, i.e. an increase of 18% during the same period). The impact on stratification and cyanobacteria production is even more alarming, with an increase of over 30% of the stability indices and over 60% of the growing degree days during the six past decades. Spring shows the sharpest trends in terms of water temperature, water column stability (Schmidt and SSD) and growing degree days, and
- 685 might ultimately be the season suffering the strongest changes in terms of biomass production and algal blooms. The spatial heterogeneity found for thermal stratification and growing degree days might also concur to locally create favorable conditions for algal blooms, in terms of nutrient availability or warmer surface water temperature. The use of conditions particularly favourable for cyanobacteria blooms. These tendencies could favour early phytoplankton blooms (during late winter or spring) and contribute to the proliferation of cyanobacteria, and ultimately to the degradation of the whole aquatic ecosystem. Our
- 690 results highlight the importance of a three-dimensional models is needed approach to thoroughly infer the dynamics of a water body, including horizontal patterns ... Horizontal patterns can be particularly strong for shallow lakes due to the relative importance of bathymetric variations.

Small and shallow lakes are extremely widespread ecosystems, and a number of them might be experiencing analogous changes. Our results suggest the urgent need for appropriate management in order to preserve their ecological value(that such systems experience considerable thermal stress caused by climate change and that, in nutrient-enriched systems, cyanobacteria dominance could become a widespread issue in the future decades.

Code and data availability. The model set-up for long-term simulations, as well as the corresponding results at site A are available on Mendeley (https://data.mendeley.com/datasets/92kzf5t5xn/draft?a=11918779-ce63-4e72-aa69-9207e8445fdc). Model results were obtained using the Delft3D software package (Delft3D-flow, version 4.01.01.rc.03). Matlab codes used to obtain the datasets for this paper are available upon request from the corresponding author.

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Competing interests. The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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