

Reply to Bryhn and Håkanson: Models for the Baltic agree with our experiments and observations in lakes

As Bryhn and Håkanson state (1), their mass-balance modeling yields results that agree with our observations (2) based on a long-term lake experiment and a recovery in part of the Baltic resulting from phosphorus control (3). Other recent papers (4) also support our conclusion that phosphorus control deserves a second look in coastal systems, at least those containing brackish water. As the authors (1) point out, control of nitrogen in runoff could be costly enough to cripple agriculture in some areas. We agree with them that until ecosystem-scale evidence is obtained, “N abatement is a very ex-

pensive shot in the dark that may favor cyanobacteria instead of the water quality.”

D. W. Schindler^{a,1} and R. E. Hecky^b

^a*Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada T6G 2E9; and* ^b*Department of Biology, University of Minnesota, Duluth, MN 55812*

1. Bryhn AC, Håkanson L (2008) Coastal eutrophication: Whether N and/or P should be abated depends on the dynamic mass balance. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 106:E3.
2. Schindler DW, et al. (2008) Eutrophication of lakes cannot be controlled by reducing nitrogen input: Results of a 37-year whole-ecosystem experiment. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 105:11254–11258.
3. Brattberg G (1986) Decreased phosphorus loading changes phytoplankton composition and biomass in the Stockholm archipelago. *Vatten* 42:141–152.
4. Lips I, Lips U (2008) Abiotic factors influencing cyanobacterial bloom development in the Gulf of Finland (Baltic Sea). *Hydrobiologia* 614:133–140.

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The authors declare no conflict of interest.

¹To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: d.schindler@ualberta.ca.

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