ANDST PRIVATUNIVERSITÄT FÜR GESUNDHEITSWISSENSCHAFTEN

Contribution of ships to the faecal pollution of the Danube River: A novel approach for impact evaluation



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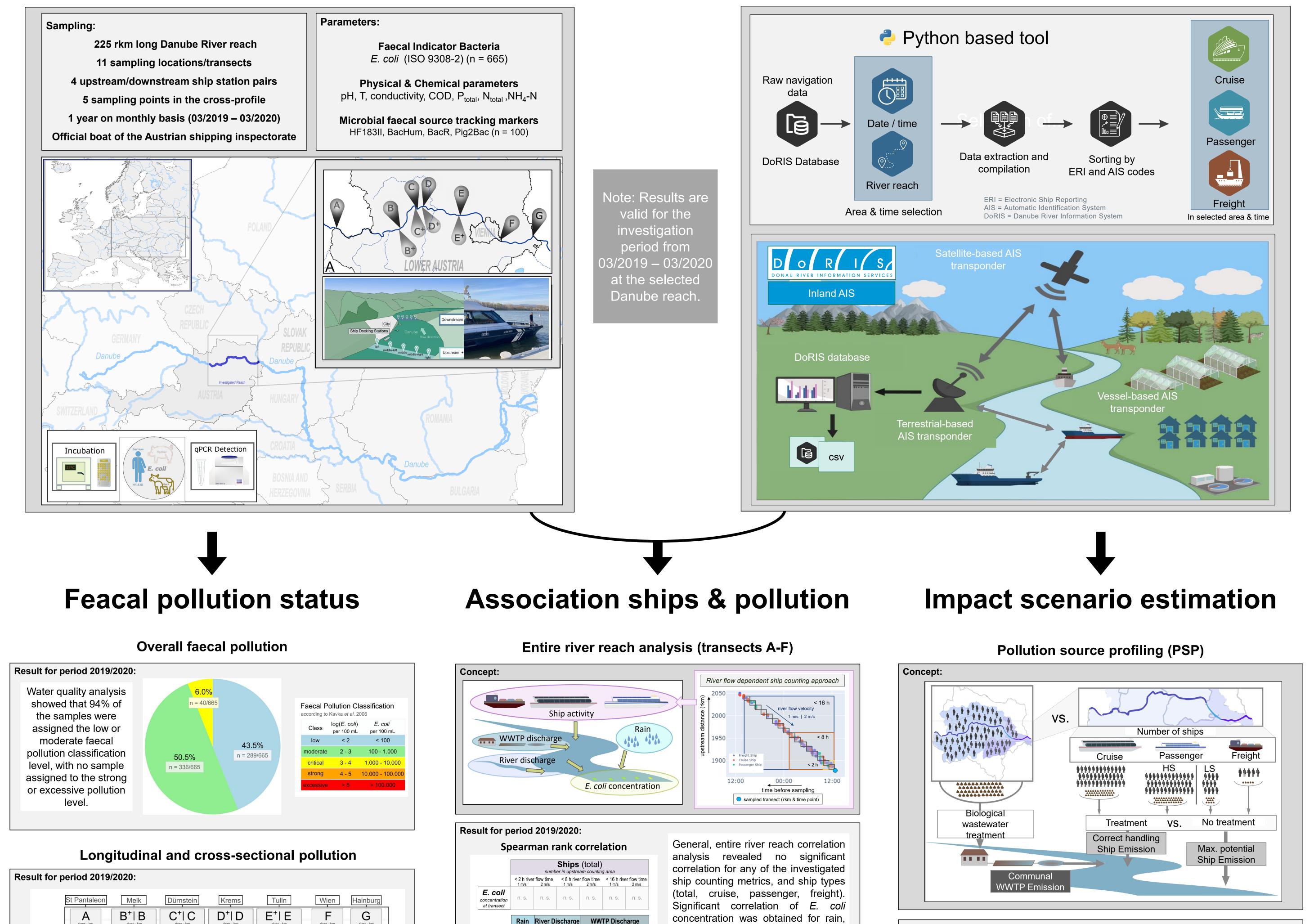
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The approach.

The contribution of ships to the faecal pollution status of large rivers is vastly unknown, but often the subject of public concern. Herewith, we present a novel data driven approach for comprehensive evaluation of the contribution of ships to the faecal pollution level of a large river section. The data-basis for the evaluation is a spatially and temporally highly resolved water-quality analysis, in combination with an adaptive ship data assessment tool. Both databases are used for performing three different steps for impact evaluation: 1) Faecal impact scenario estimation by pollution source profiling, 2) Status-quo on the faecal pollution level of the river section, 3) Associations between observed faecal pollution and ship activity. The approach was carried out for the first time at a large Danube River section in the region of Austria in Europe, showing high potential as a universal and a sensitive approach.

Water-quality analysis

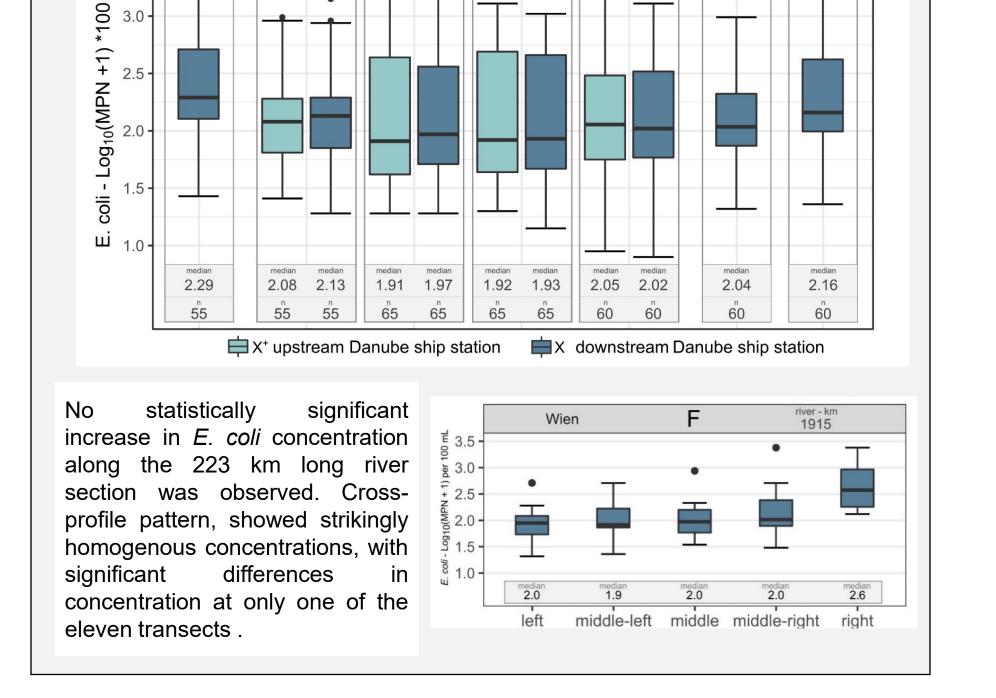
Ship data assessment



Result for period 2019/2020:

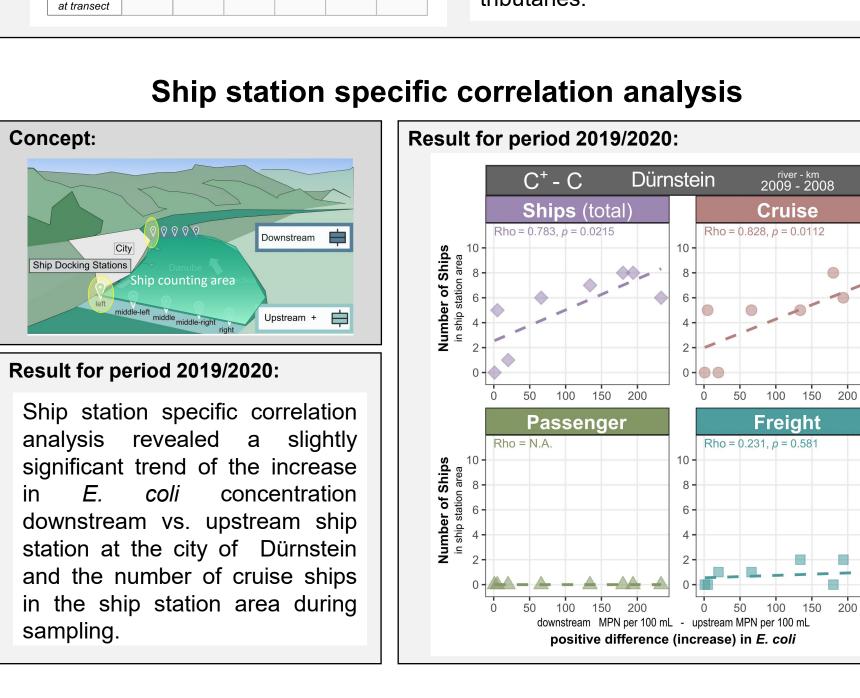
Ships - Danube reach

PSP - Danube reach



2003 | 2002

1964.4 | 1963.4



at Danube at tributary

< 36 km 36 - 90 km < 90 km

tributary

0.3

local

0.48

0.33

E. coli

oncentratior

discharge,

treatment plant discharge at the

river

tributaries.

and wastewater

river - km 2009 - 2008

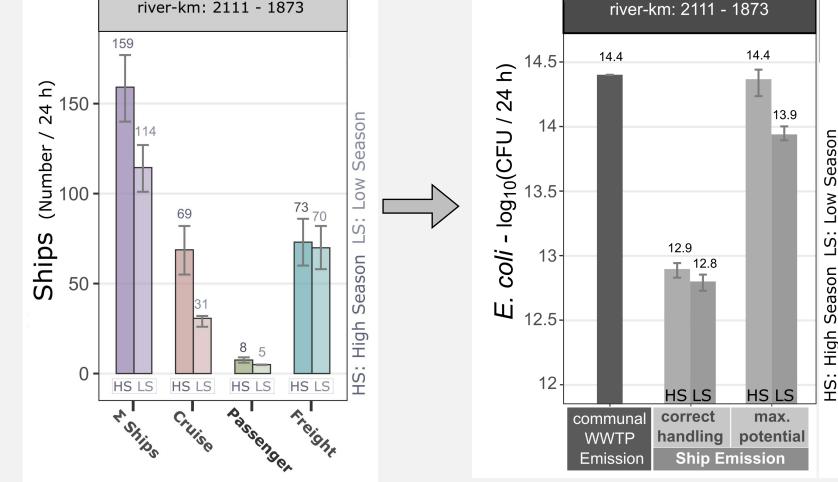
Cruise

Freight

100

50

150 200



Impact scenario estimates revealed a maximum pollution potential from the shipping industry in the same magnitude as input from biological treated communal wastewater. Hence, in case of incorrect treatment of ship wastewater, considerable proportion of faecal input from the shipping industry can arise.

Acknowledgements:

2108

E

2036.6 | 2035.5

2009 | 2008

This study was funded by GFF Niederösterreich mbH (LS19-016 Future Danube) and the Amt der Niederösterreichischen Landesregierung, Abteilung Wasserwirtschaft (WA2).

1883

1915

Great thanks to our collaboration partners from the government of Lower Austria and the Austrian shipping inspectorate.

We thank Günther Konheisner (WA2) and viadonau GmbH for data provision. We acknowledge the laboratory work of Simone Ixenmaier.

This study is a joint publication of the Interuniversity Cooperation Center Water & Health (https://www.waterandhealth.at).



