

# Sediment transport and morphology changes in river mouths and estuaries

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International Conference on the Dynamics of Coastal Zone of Non-Tidal Seas  
Baltiysk (Kaliningrad Oblast), 30 June – 5 July, 2008



An aerial photograph of a coastal landscape. The foreground shows a patchwork of green and yellow agricultural fields. A road or path runs through the fields towards the sea. The sea is a deep blue, and the sky is a lighter blue. A large, semi-transparent blue oval with a dark blue border is centered over the image, containing several lines of text in a dark blue, italicized serif font.

*transition between land and sea*

*mixing of fresh and salt water*

*abundant fine sediment*

*morphologically dynamic*

*environmentally rich*

*economically attractive*

# Scales of processes

Micro-scale - concerning small scale flow, sediment transport (grain-grain, sand-mud interactions), morphological processes (bed ripples)

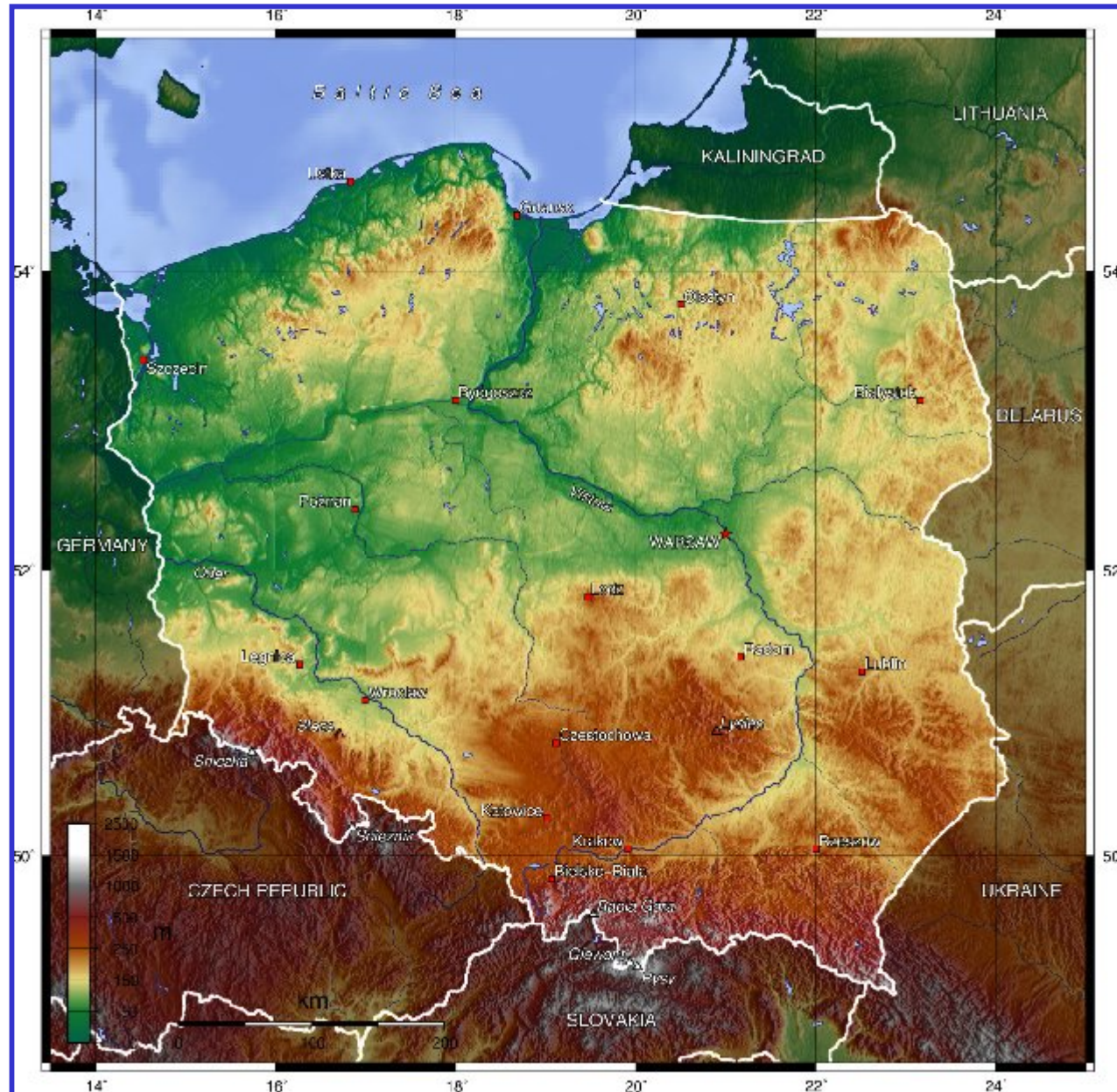
Meso-scale - sub-system elements (individual channels, shoals in one sub-basin of a coastal lagoon)

Macro-scale - sub-system as a whole (e.g. formation of channel patterns within an estuary)

Mega-scale - the system as a whole (e.g. behaviour of an entire lagoon system)



# Vistula River and its estuary



length - 1047 km

catchment - 194 000 km<sup>2</sup>

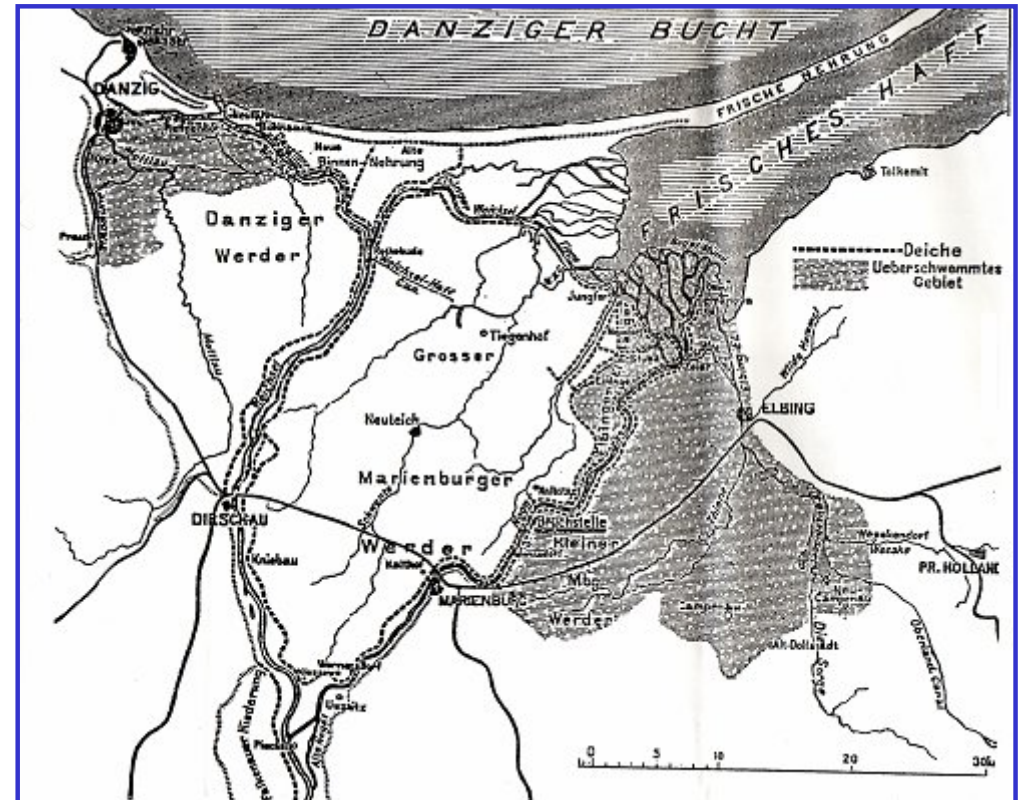
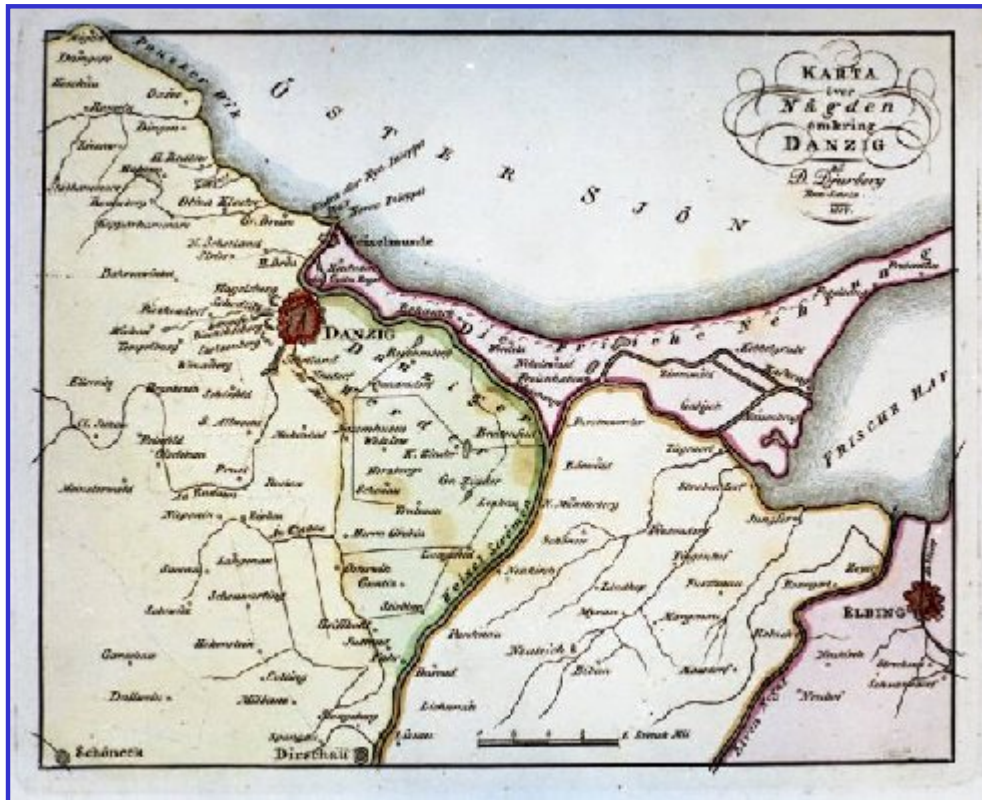
$Q_{\text{mean}}$  - 1080 m<sup>3</sup>/s

$Q_{\text{min}}$  - 253 m<sup>3</sup>/s

$Q_{\text{max}}$  - 7840 m<sup>3</sup>/s



# Vistula River mouth - history

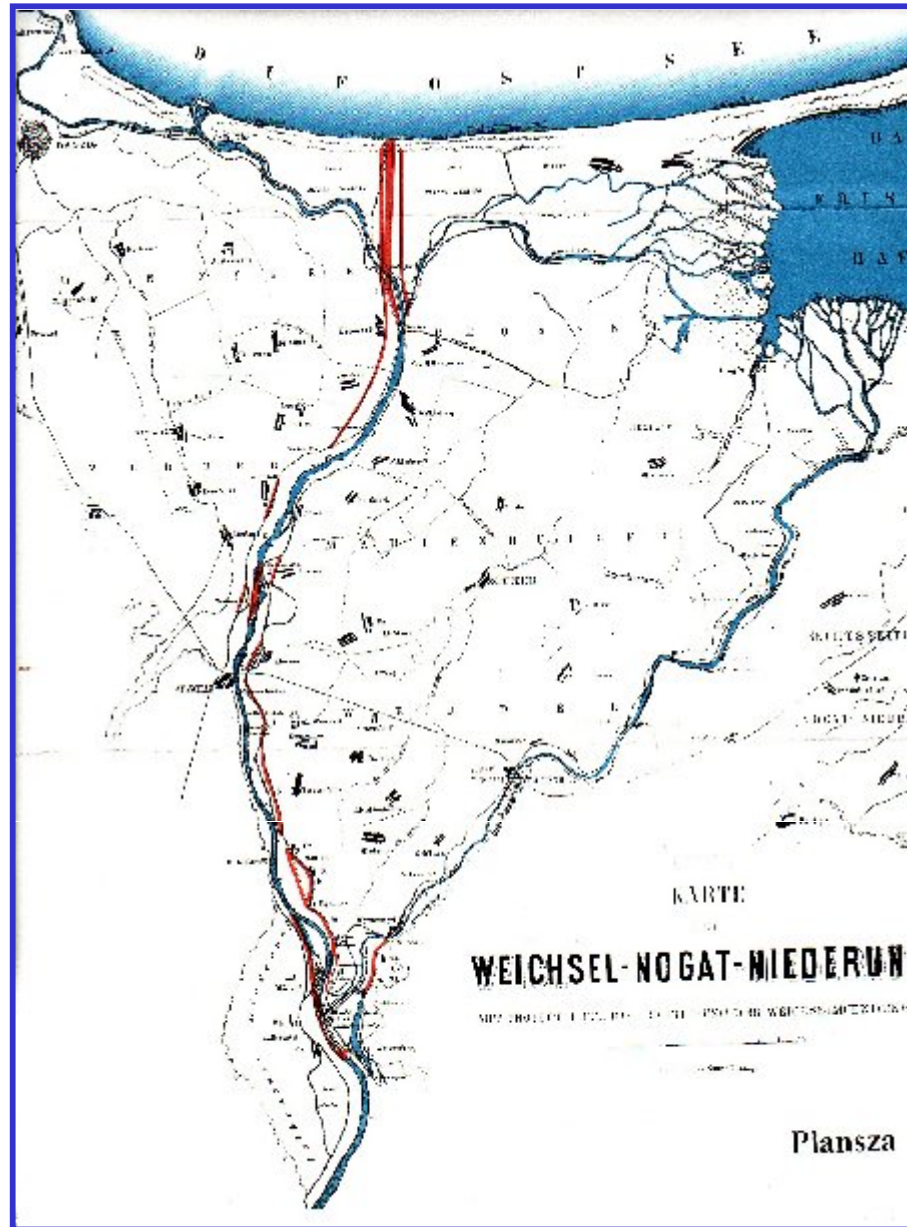
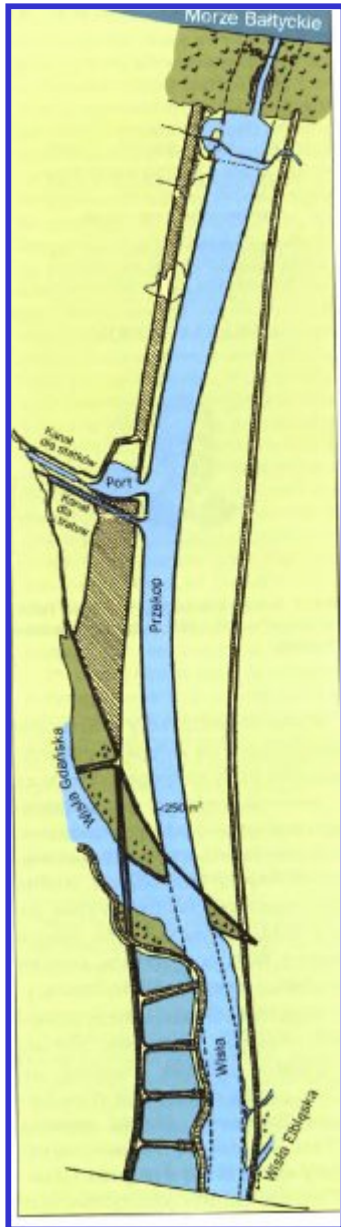


## *XVIII century*

1700, 1706, 1709, 1713, 1717-1721, 1736-1738,  
1742, 1744-1745, 1749, 1761, 1764-1765, 1780,  
1782, 1785, 1789, 1794, 1813, 1816, 1829, 1855

~10000 inhabitants lost houses  
cost of damage: 30 mln Preussian mark  
(~120 mln USD today)

# Regulation 1890 - 1895



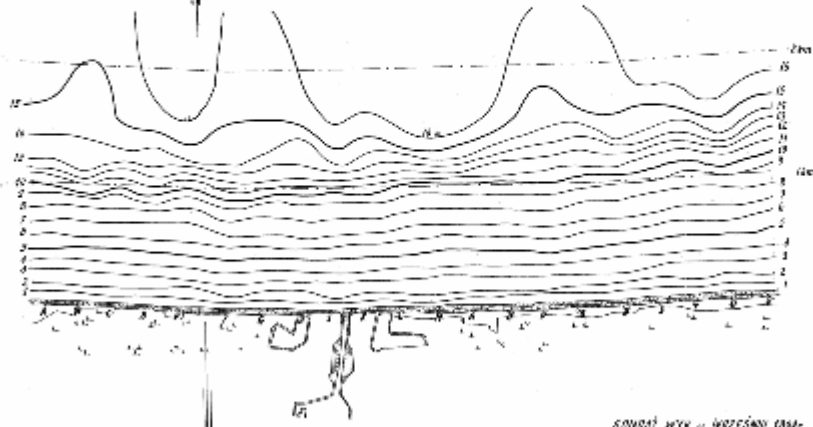
opening  
31.03.1895



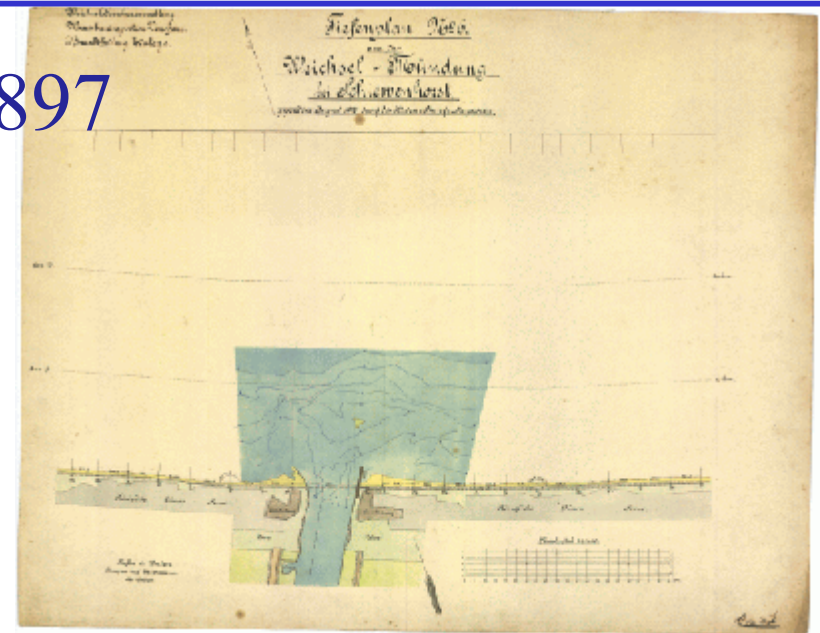


# Regulation – short term consequences

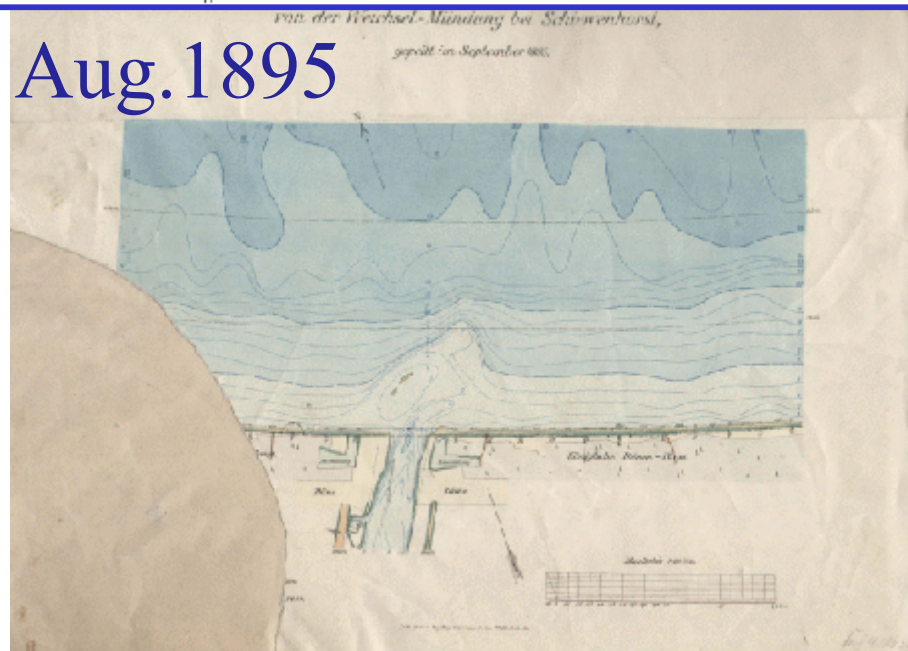
Sept. 1894



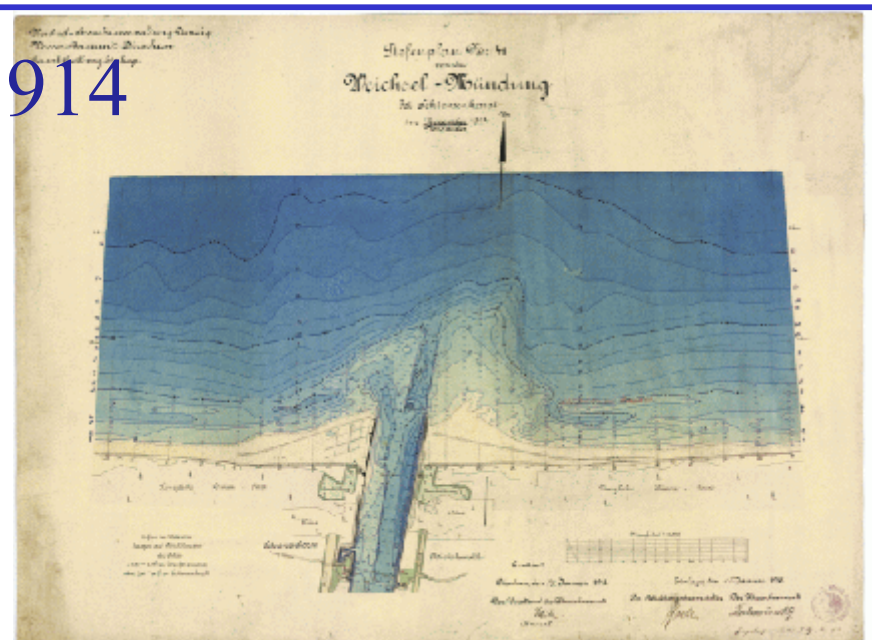
1897



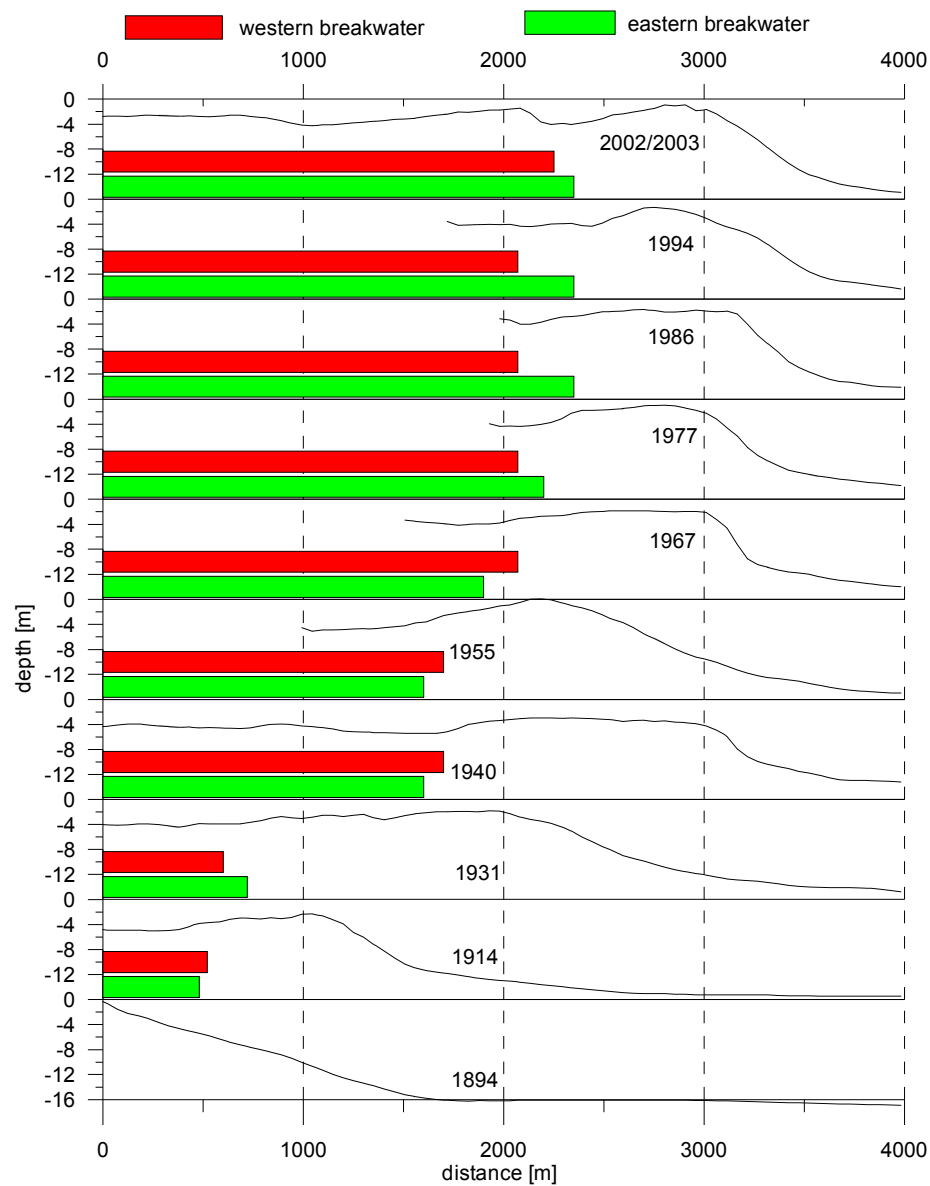
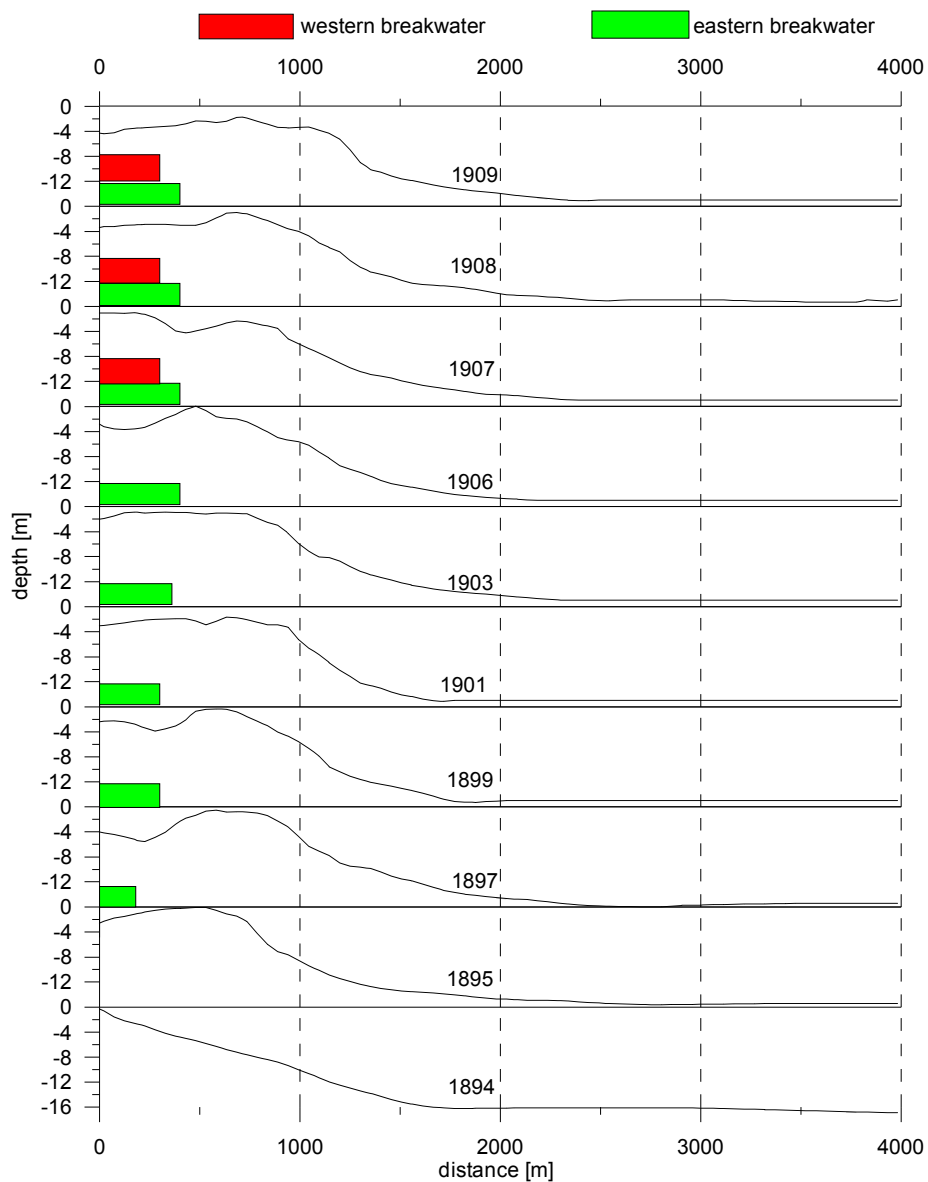
Aug. 1895



1914

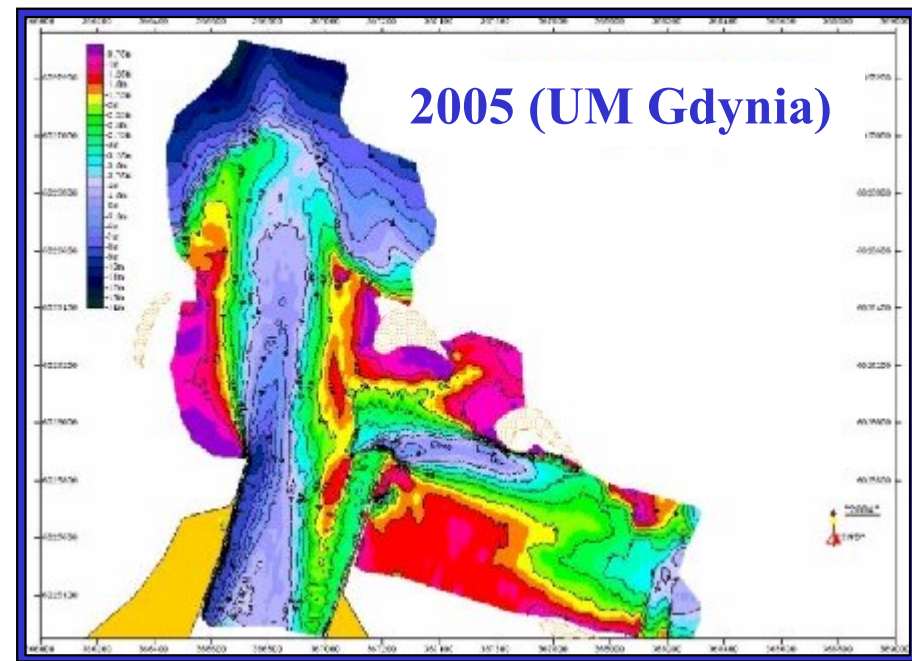
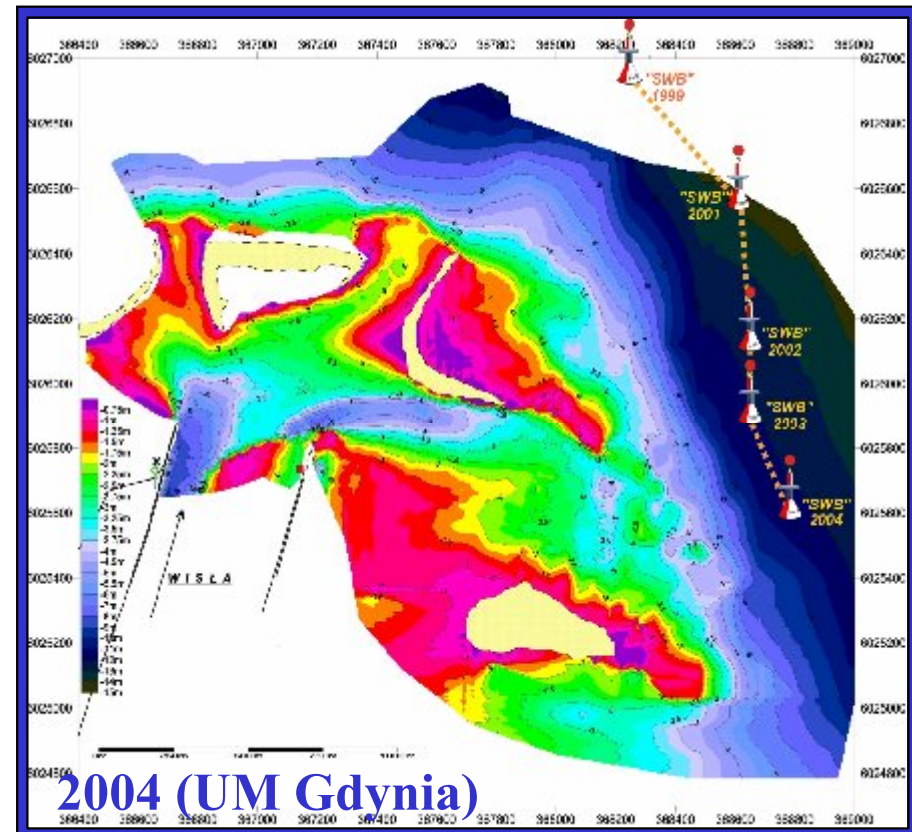
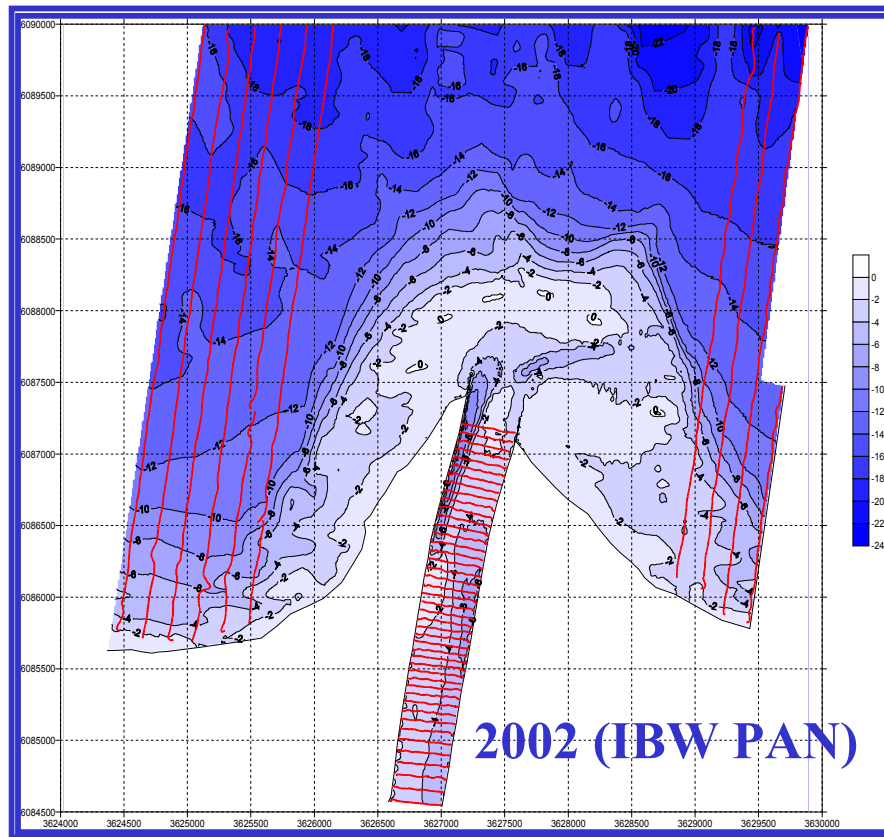


# Regulation – jetties elongation





# Bathymetry of the Vistula outlet



# Regulation – present status



1000 stop  
200 m

No prices (unslb)

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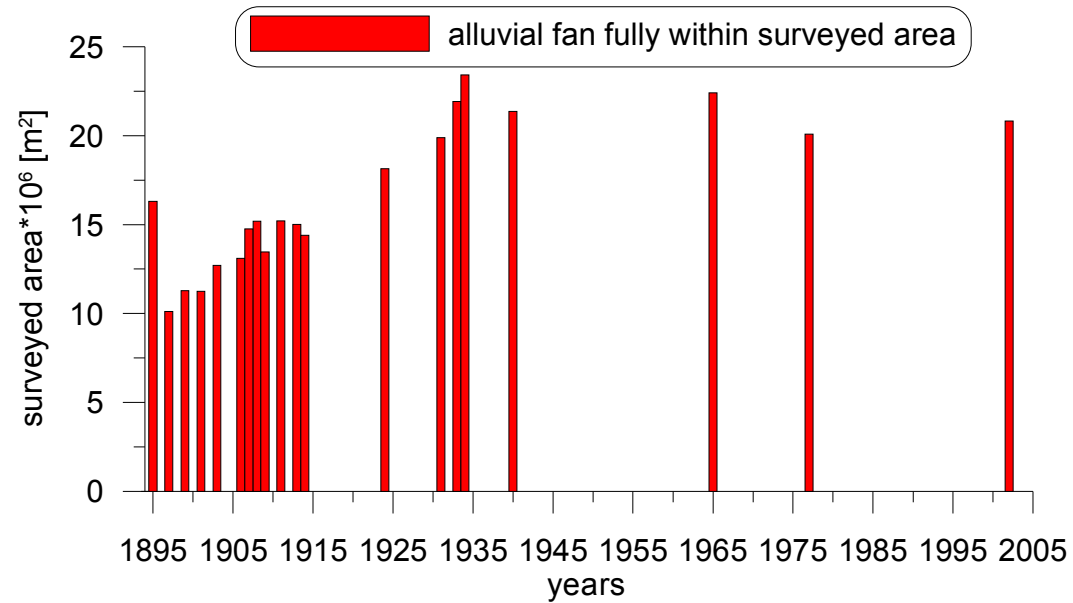


# Development of marine alluvial fan

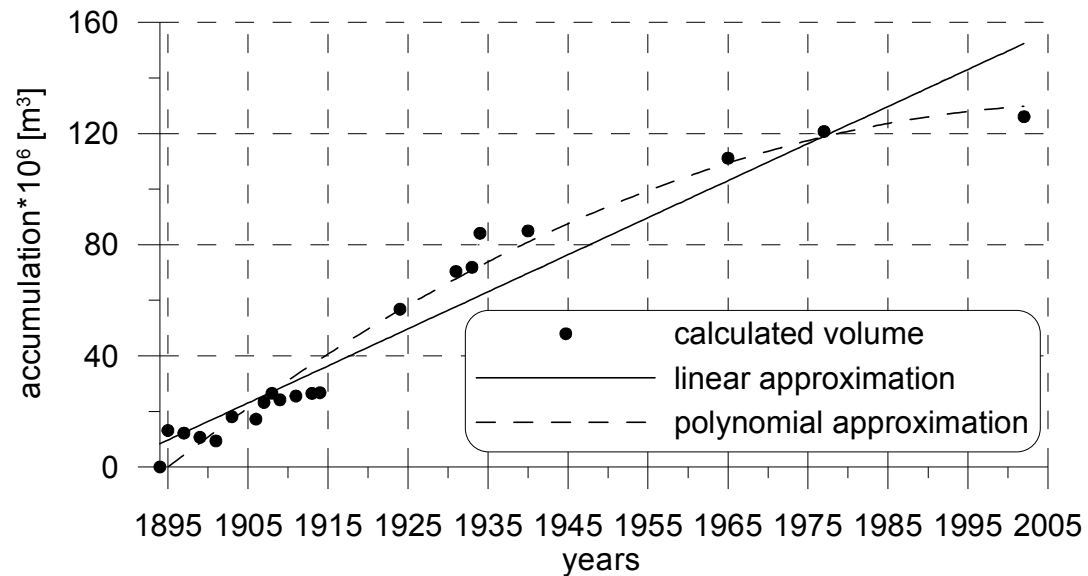
- *directly after cross-cut in 1895 (approx. 10mln m<sup>3</sup>)*
- *backward erosion of the river bed (ended in 30's)*
- *cut-off of the Nogat branch in 1915*

- sedimentation supply by the river (0.6-1.5 mln m<sup>3</sup>/year)
- sedimentation due to wave action
- erosion due to waves and local currents  
(100 000 –130 000 m<sup>3</sup>/year)

# Sedimentation of alluvial fan 1894-2003



period	mln m <sup>3</sup> /year
1896-1920	1.9
1920-1945	1.6
1945-1970	1.0
1970-1995	0.4-0.6



## sediment size ( $d_{50}$ )

0.55-1.0 mm - fan channels

0.25-1.0 mm - plateau of the fan

0.18-0.25 mm - coast adjacent to the fan



# Modelling of rivers and estuaries

## 1-D approach

used to simulate the large-scale morphological changes in rivers and estuaries;

analytical solutions - simple schematized cases

numerical solutions - more realistic cases

e.g non-uniformity of bed material – number of size classes

# Modelling of rivers and estuaries

## 2-DV approach

applied to predict transport rates, sedimentation and erosion in rivers, estuaries and coastal waters

in rivers – sedimentation in pipelines, tunnel trenches, settling traps for irrigation channels

## 2-DH approach

based on the depth-integrated equations of motion in combination with a sediment transport model

application: eg. bed evolution in a river bend



# Modelling of rivers and estuaries

3-D approach - used for a wide range of horizontal scales (estuaries, coastal sea)

## One-phase Models

- *passive scalar* hypothesis
- no fluid-particles interactions
- settling velocity of solid particles by empirics
- fluid-bed interaction by empirical formulas for deposit and erosion fluxes
- extra models for consolidation of solid particles

## Two-phase Models

- no *passive scalar* hypothesis
- fluid-particles interaction
- settling velocity of solid particles by the models
- fluid-bed interaction by the models
- consolidation process included in the models

# Modelling of Vistula estuary

## **The main goal:**

to support regional administration (Regional Water Board in Gdańsk) with the concept to improve the navigation conditions in the river mouth (also in winter conditions)

## **The main effort** focused on searching a solution which:

- enable concentration of the main channel into a relative narrow channel,
- make use of natural capacity of river to self cleaning.

# Vistula River in winter 2002/2003





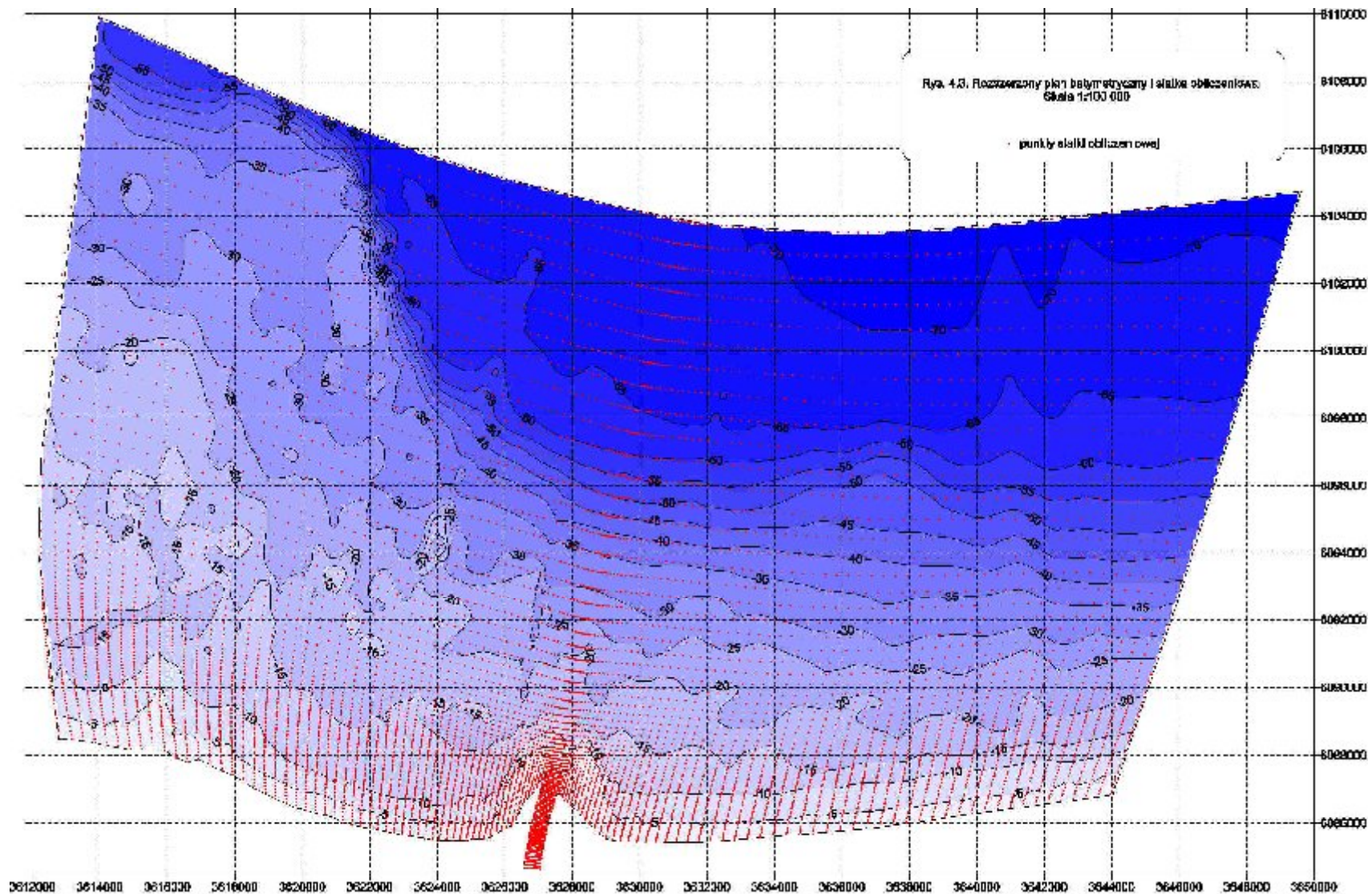


alluvial fun in  
winter



right river bank

# Modelling of Vistula estuary

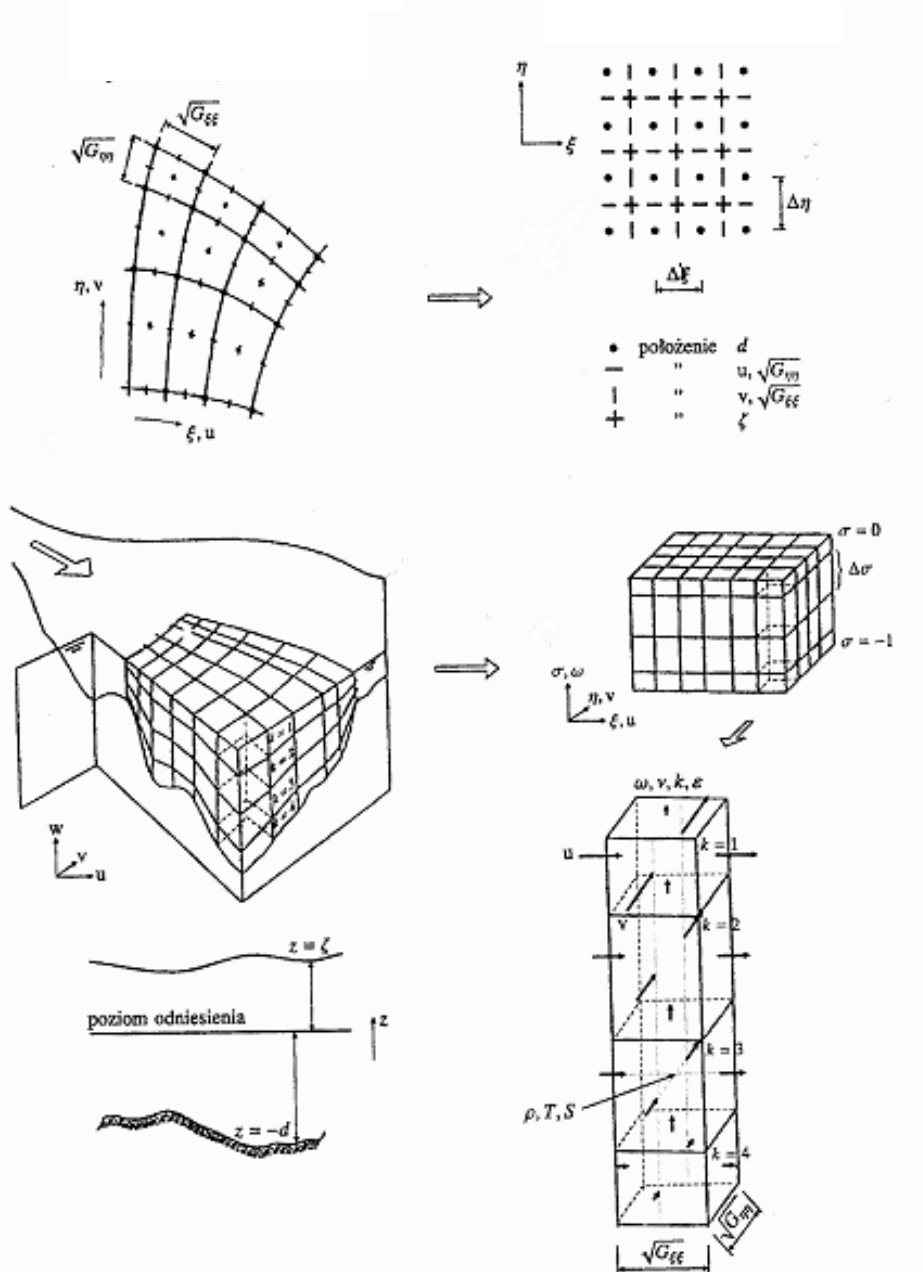




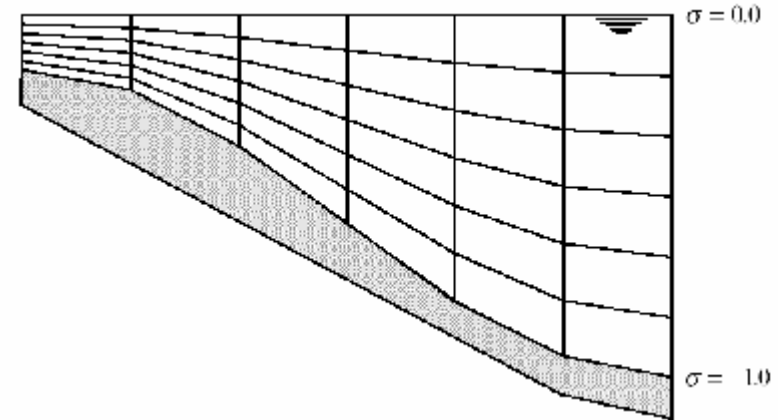
# Delft3D

Physical space

Space after transformation



- Curvilinear orthogonal grid
- $\sigma$  co-ordinates in vertical (Phillips, 1957)



$$\sigma = \frac{z - \zeta}{\zeta + d} = \frac{z - \zeta}{H}$$

$d$  - depth below the reference level;  
 $\zeta$  - free surface elevation above the reference level;  
 $H = d + \zeta$  - total depth;



Characteristic discharges (m<sup>3</sup>/s)  
in years 1951-1990

Characteristic discharges (m<sup>3</sup>/s)  
1.11.2001 – 31.10.2002

period	WWQ	SWQ	SSQ	SNQ	NNQ
XI	4460	1190	993	697	319
XII	3830	1470	968	649	253
I	4250	1450	1120	633	302
II	4530	1710	1520	725	324
III	6980	2620	1870	930	304
IV	7020	2690	1870	1170	489
V	4240	1860	1230	876	504
VI	7840	1670	1040	739	475
VII	5050	1470	919	651	335
VIII	6820	1530	887	619	300
IX	3390	1030	720	570	300
X	5500	1110	786	576	306
year	7840	3840	<b>1080</b>	419	253

period	WWQ	SSQ	NNQ
XI	1210	1070	932
XII	1140	927	660
I	3720	1300	764
II	4320	3220	2380
III	2920	2340	1820
IV	1820	1400	1070
V	1070	814	652
VI	1850	1290	770
VII	1170	816	643
VIII	1250	754	594
IX	730	541	483
X	1340	825	483
year		<b>1260</b>	

Average discharge with a given time of duration  
in years 1951-1990 [m<sup>3</sup>/s]

% of years	days in years	Discharge [m <sup>3</sup> /s]
<b>1</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3840</b>
3	11.0	2850
5	18.3	2420
10	36.5	1900
<b>15</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>1600</b>
25	91.3	1280
50	182.6	882
75	273.9	640
85	310.5	545
90	328.7	488
95	347.0	422
97	354.3	392
99	361.6	342

## Wave characteristics calculated based on wind conditions – depth 20 m

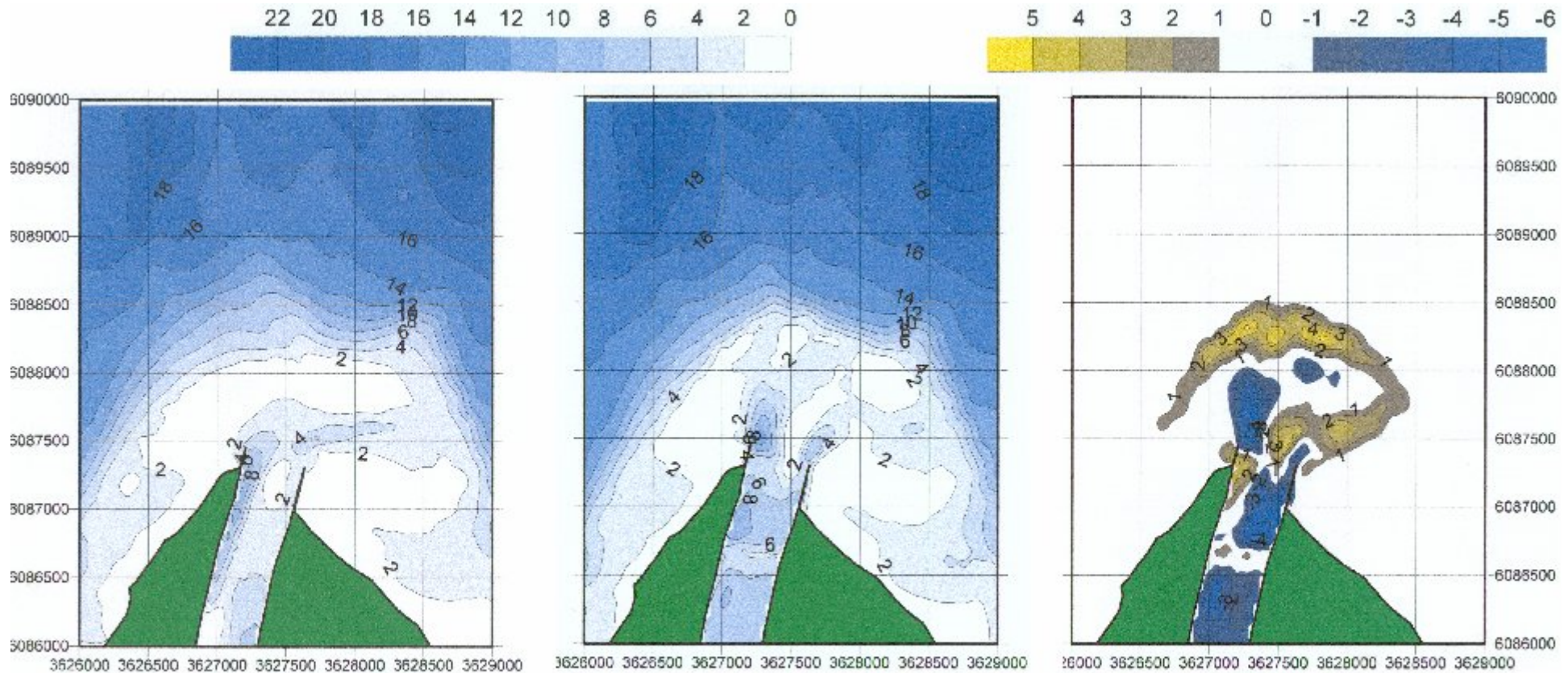
wind direction	wind speed [m/s]	frequency in year [%]	wave period [s]	wave height [m]
W	6	7.45	2.6	0.31
	10	3.12	3.5	0.59
	14	0.83	4.4	0.96
	18	0.06	5.1	1.03
NW	6	5.15	5.6	1.03
	10	1.95	5.8	1.10
	14	0.64	6.7	1.63
	18	0.012	7.5	2.18
	20	0.008	8.4	2.74
N	6	2.91	5.2	0.97
	10	0.91	5.6	1.21
	14	0.25	6.7	1.76
	18	0.012	7.4	2.31
	20	0.008	8.2	2.71
NE	6	3.33	3.5	0.46
	10	0.91	5.9	1.26
	14	0.22	4.7	1.70
E	6	5.34	3.2	0.42
	10	2.39	3.6	0.62
	14	0.30	4.6	0.83



# Modelling of Vistula estuary hydro- and lithodynamics

- I – zero option – present situation
- II – flushing
- III – execution of narrow deep channel
- IV – extension of two breakwaters as parallel constructions
- V – extension of two breakwaters as constructing constructions
- VI – construction of eastern breakwater

# I – present situation



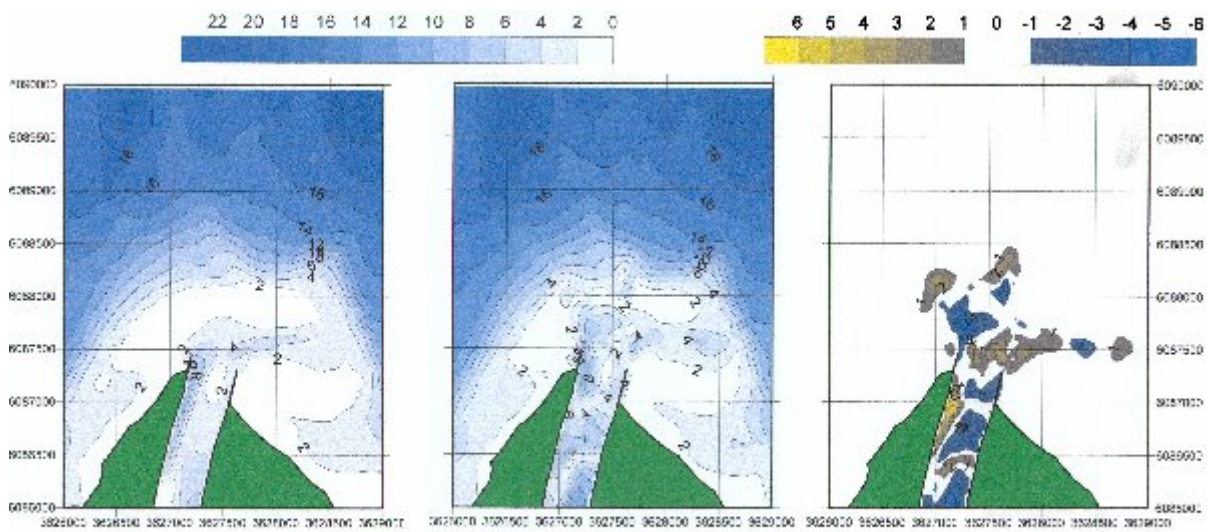
*initial bathymetry 2002/2003*

*calculated bathymetry*

*difference*

**Breakwaters – present situation**

**Mean annual discharge in 2002 – 1 year calculation**



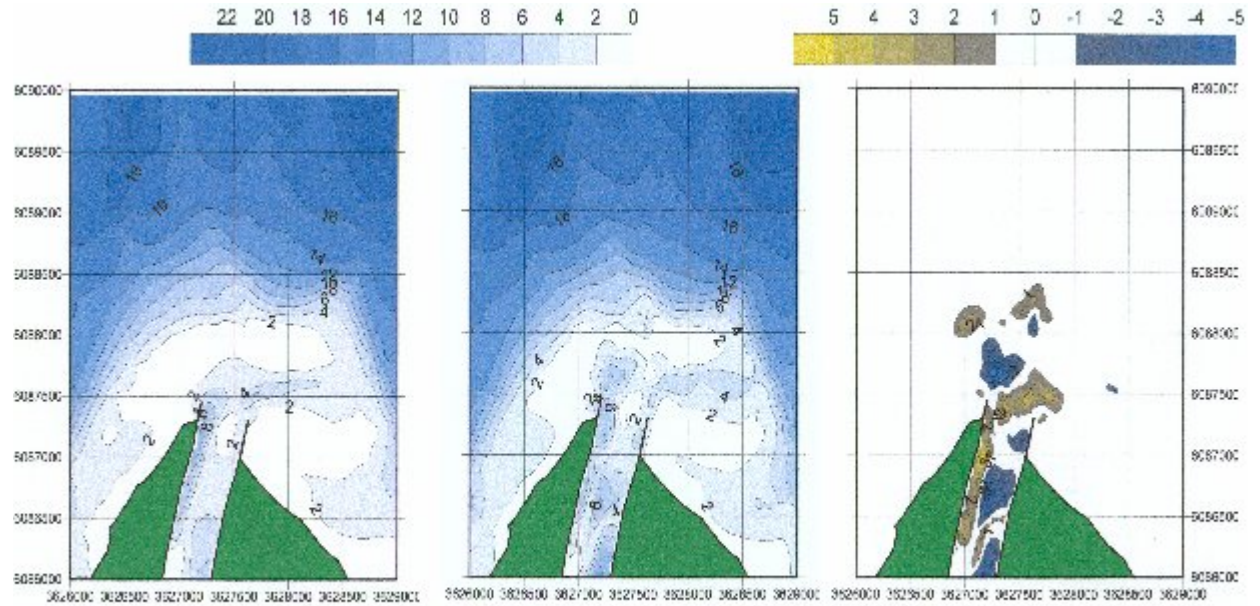
*initial bathymetry 2002/2003*

*calculated bathymetry*

*difference*

**Breakwaters – present situation**  
**Discharge of 1% probability  $Q = 3840\text{m}^3/\text{s}$**   
**Duration 3.6 days**

# II - flushing



*initial bathymetry 2002/2003*

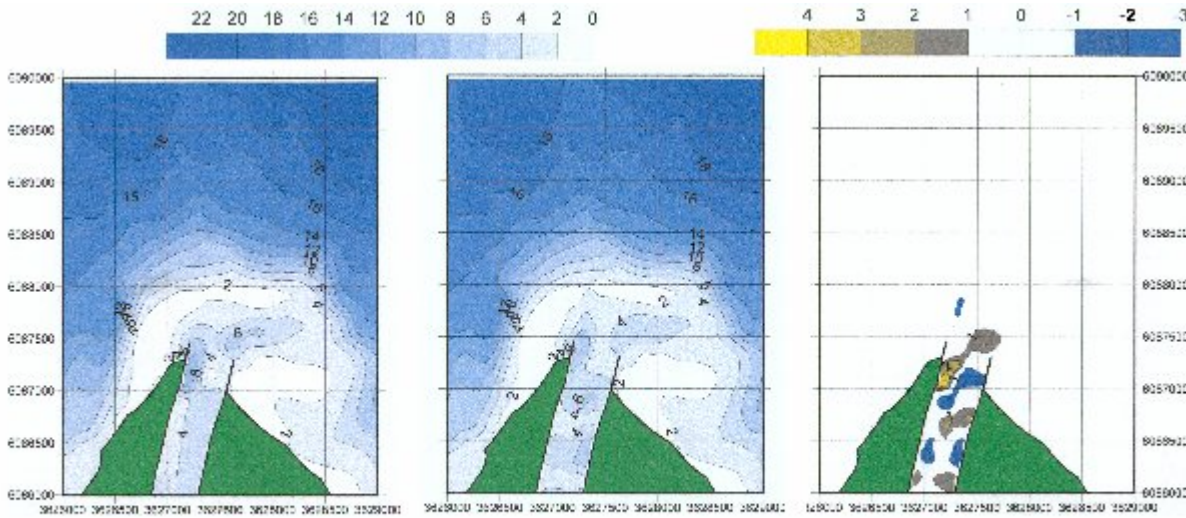
*calculated bathymetry*

*difference*

**Breakwaters – present situation**  
**Discharge of 1% probability  $Q = 3840\text{m}^3/\text{s}$  and mean  $Q = 1000\text{m}^3/\text{s}$**   
**Duration 3.6 days + 3 months**



# III - execution of narrow deep channel

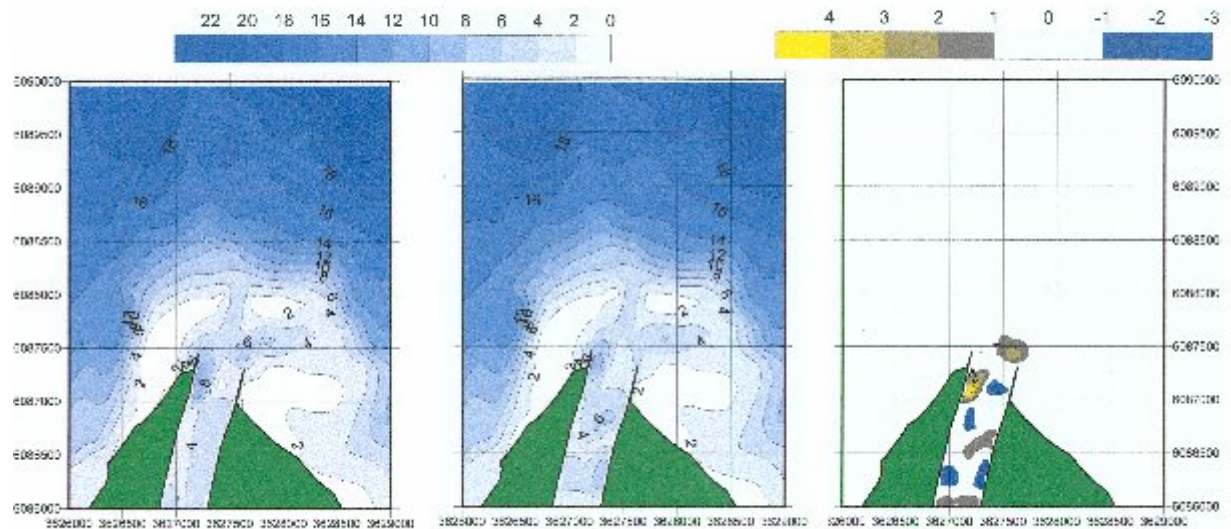


*initial bathymetry 2002/2003*

*calculated bathymetry*

*difference*

**Breakwaters – present situation**  
**Discharge of 15% probability  $Q = 1600\text{m}^3/\text{s}$**   
**Duration 3 months**



*initial bathymetry 2002/2003*

*calculated bathymetry*

*difference*

**Breakwaters – present situation and execution of narrow channel**  
**Discharge of 15% probability  $Q = 1600\text{m}^3/\text{s}$**   
**Duration 3 months**

# IV – two breakwaters

A – *short* breakwaters:

eastern - extended 480 m,

western - extended 310 m

B – *medium* breakwaters:

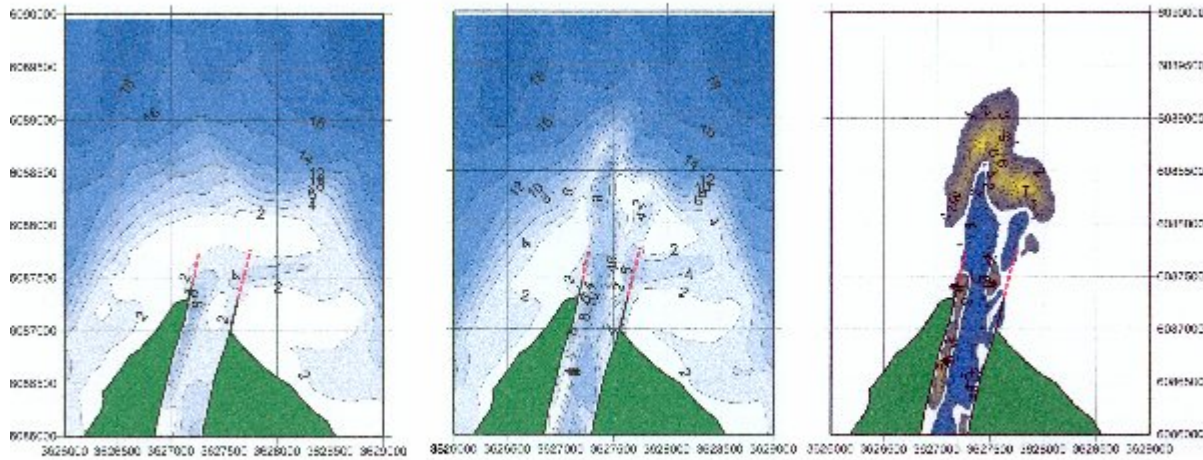
eastern - extended 760 m,

western - extended 560 m

C – *long* breakwaters:

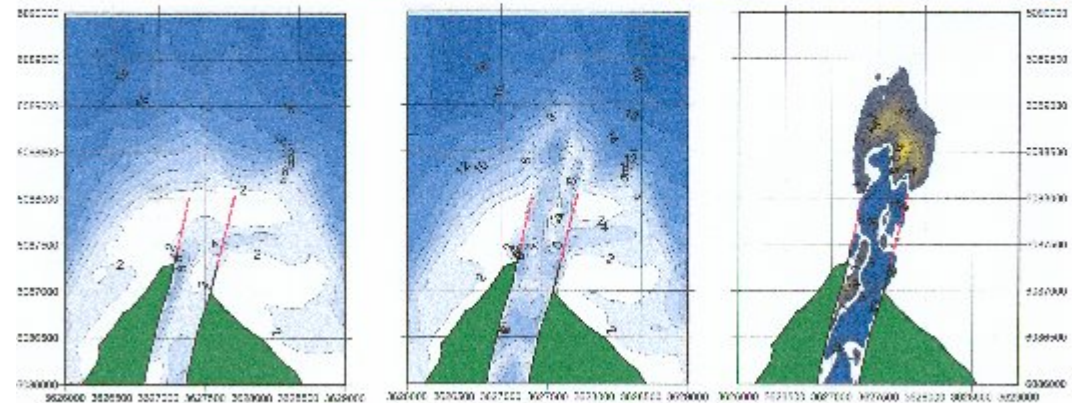
eastern - extended 900 m,

western - extended 690 m



*short*

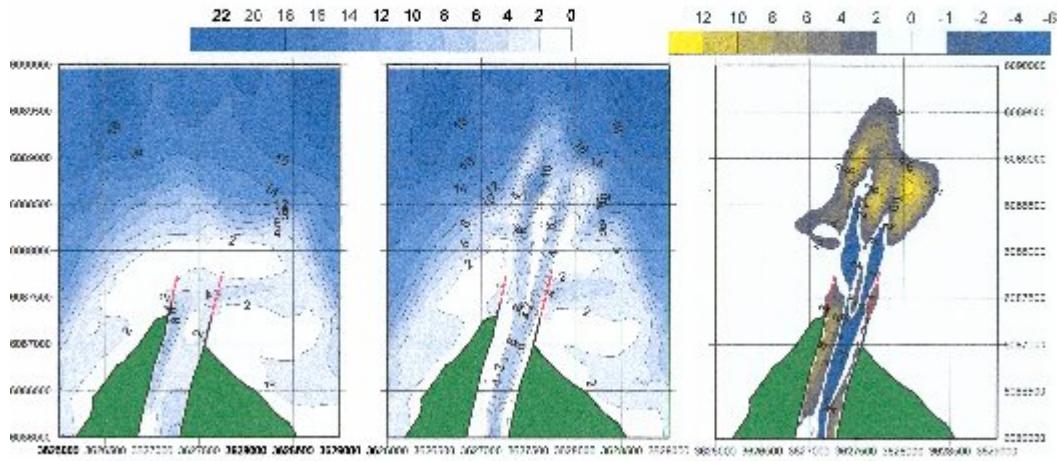
*initial bathymetry 2002/2003*      *calculated bathymetry*      *difference*  
**Breakwaters extended: eastern – 480 m, weastern – 310 m**  
**Mean annual discharge 2002 -  $Q = 1080\text{m}^3/\text{s}$**   
**Duration 1 year**



*medium*

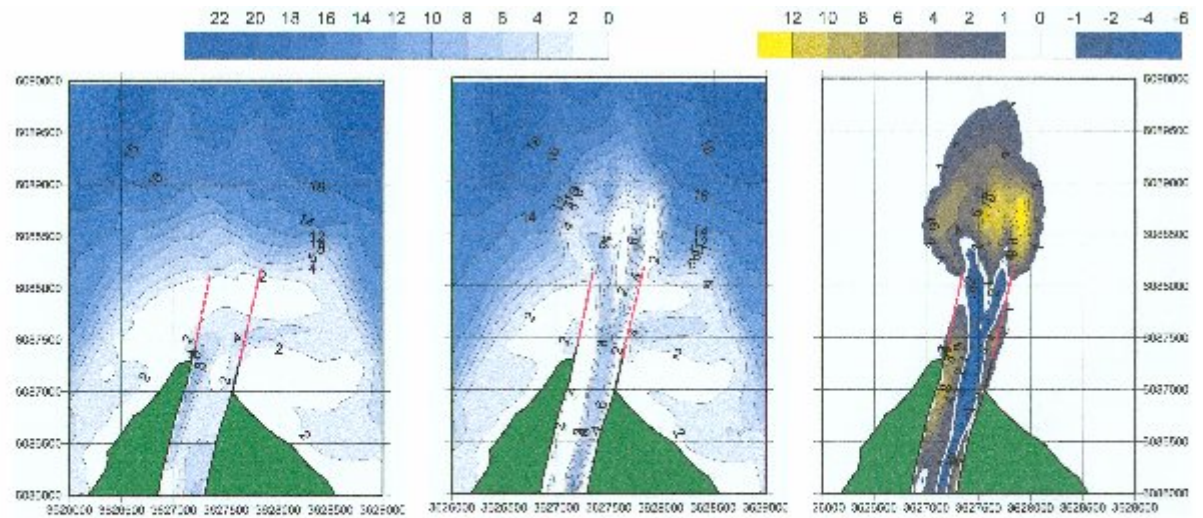
*initial bathymetry 2002/2003*      *calculated bathymetry*      *difference*  
**Breakwaters extended: eastern – 760 m, weastern – 560 m**  
**Mean annual discharge 2002 -  $Q = 1080\text{m}^3/\text{s}$**   
**Duration 1 year**





*short*

*initial bathymetry 2002/2003*      *calculated bathymetry*      *difference*  
**Breakwaters extended: eastern – 480 m, western – 310 m**  
**Mean annual discharge 2002 -  $Q = 1080 \text{m}^3/\text{s}$**   
**Duration 10 years**



*long*

*initial bathymetry 2002/2003*      *calculated bathymetry*      *difference*  
**Breakwaters extended: eastern – 900 m, western – 690 m**  
**Mean annual discharge 2002 -  $Q = 1080 \text{m}^3/\text{s}$**   
**Duration 10 years**

# V - extension of two breakwaters as contracting constructions

Extended as *medium* breakwaters:

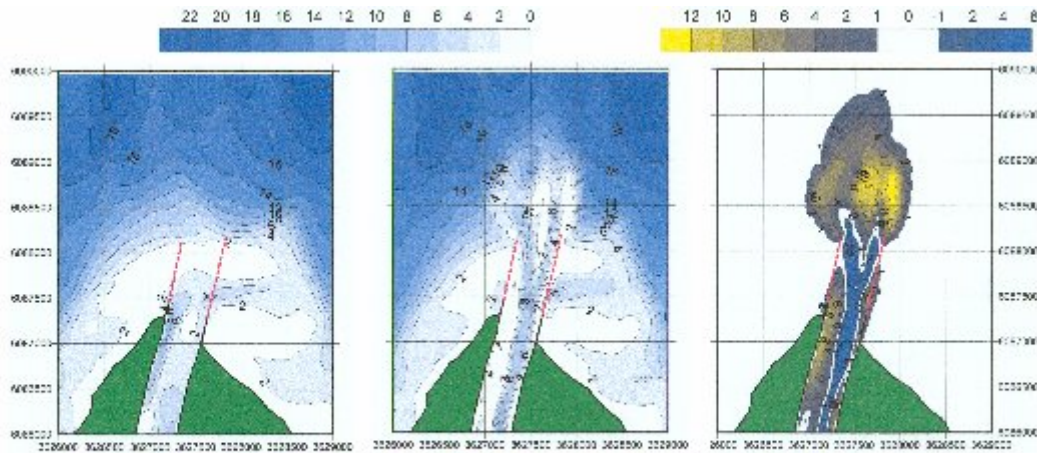
eastern - extended 720 m

western - extended 580 m

Distance between breakwaters:

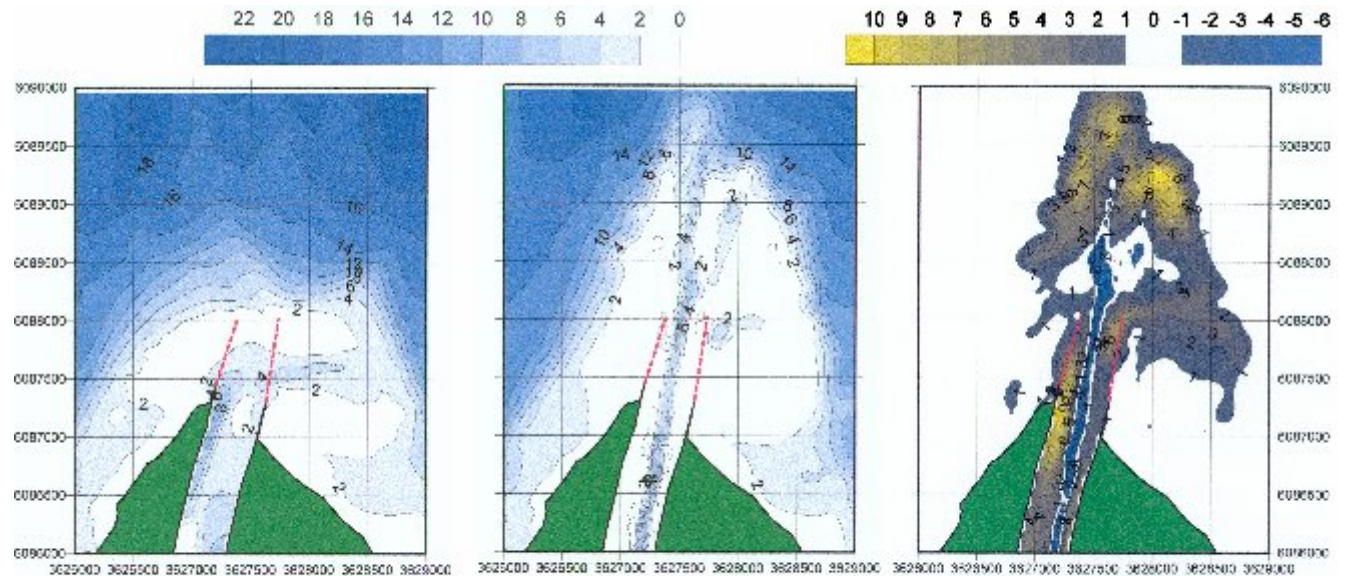
at the river mouth - 450 m

at the head of breakwater - 350 m



*initial bathymetry 2002/2003*      *calculated bathymetry*      *difference*  
**Breakwaters extended: eastern – 900 m, weastern – 690 m**  
**Mean annual discharge 2002 -  $Q = 1080\text{m}^3/\text{s}$**   
**Duration 10 years**

*narrowing*



*initial bathymetry 2002/2003*      *calculated bathymetry*      *difference*  
**Contracting breakwaters**  
**Breakwaters extended: eastern – 720 m, weastern – 580 m**  
**Mean annual discharge 2002 -  $Q = 1080\text{m}^3/\text{s}$**   
**Duration 10 years**

# VI – eastern breakwater extended

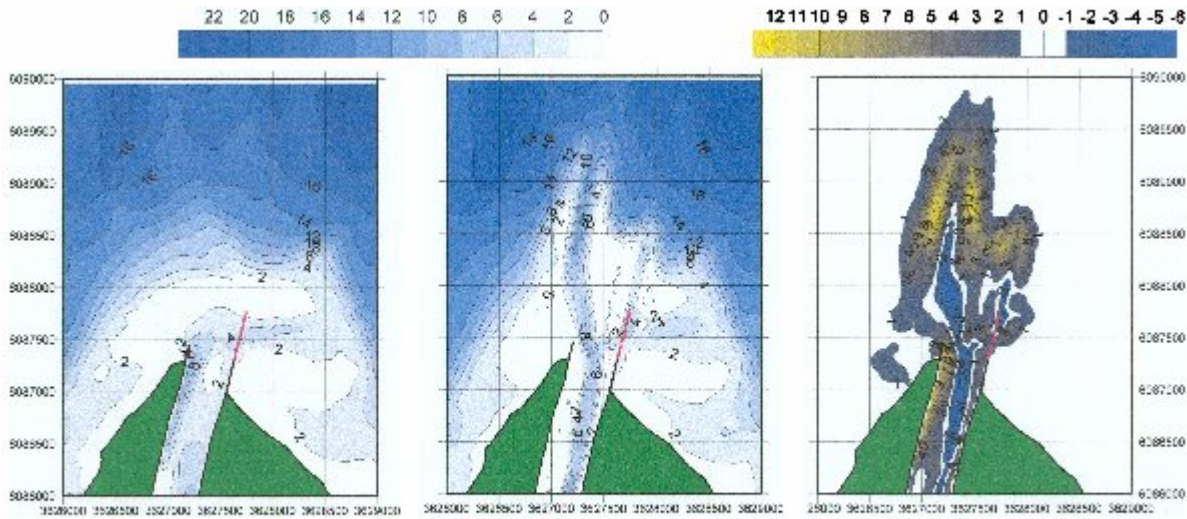
A - *short*

extended - 480 m

C - *long*

extended - 900 m





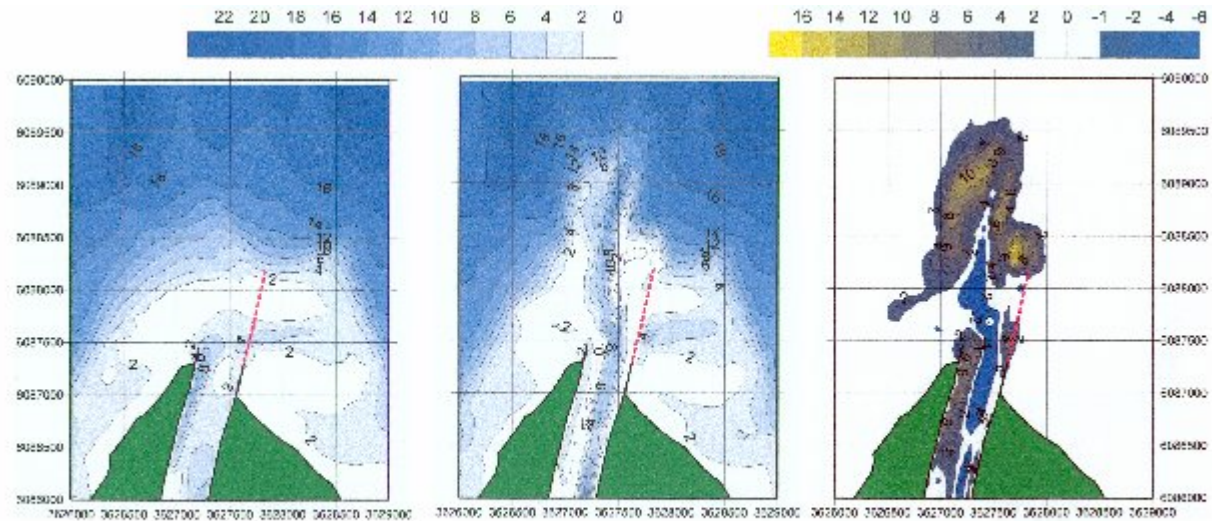
*short*

*initial bathymetry 2002/2003*

*calculated bathymetry*

*difference*

**Breakwater extended: eastern – 480 m**  
**Mean annual discharge 2002 -  $Q = 1080\text{m}^3/\text{s}$**   
**Duration 10 years**



*long*

*initial bathymetry 2002/2003*

*calculated bathymetry*

*difference*

**Breakwater extended: eastern – 900 m**  
**Mean annual discharge 2002 -  $Q = 1080\text{m}^3/\text{s}$**   
**Duration 10 years**

An aerial photograph of a coastal landscape. The foreground shows a patchwork of green and yellow agricultural fields. In the middle ground, a long, narrow strip of land, possibly a beach or a causeway, runs horizontally across the frame. The background is a vast, deep blue ocean under a clear sky. A large, semi-transparent blue oval with a dark blue border is centered over the image, containing the text "Thank you for your attention" in a dark blue, italicized serif font.

*Thank you for your attention*