

Spatial Distribution of Water Quality and Load Units in the Inashi River Basin, Shimane Prefecture, Japan

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Abstract: The spatial distributions of water quality and load units were determined for each small sub basin of the Inashi River basin as a first step in water environment management. In addition, a GIS database was established to comprehensively resolve the issue of water quality degradation. It was found the concentrations of water quality parameters in the Inashi River basin were relatively low at almost all sampling points. The average concentrations of each parameter are 1.86 mg·L⁻¹ of chemical oxygen demand, 0.73 mg·L⁻¹ of dissolved organic carbon, 18.5 % of biodegradation ability, 6.58 mg·L⁻¹ of silica, 519.8 µgN·L⁻¹ of total nitrogen, and 27.4 µgP·L⁻¹ of total phosphorus. In addition, the load units discharged from the small watersheds were obtained. The load units varied greatly regardless of similar land use in the basin. Moreover, discharged loads from observation point 1-31 in the Yamasa River basin were higher than those from observation point 1-5 in the upstream of the Inashi River basin regardless of high percentage of forest area (91.51%), low percentage of agricultural land (2.3%) and low population density (24 people·km⁻²). Finally, the discharged loads from observation point 1-3 were determined as 53.2 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of suspended solid, 45.4 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of chemical oxygen demand, 20.9 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of dissolved organic carbon, 8.1 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of particulate organic carbon, 16.3 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of total nitrogen, 5.0 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of dissolved organic nitrogen, 1.3 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of particulate organic nitrogen, and 0.3 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of total phosphorus.

Keywords: Water environment management, Lake Nakaumi, GIS, non-point sources.

1. INTRODUCTION

Integrated management of the water environment from river basins to downstream areas such as lakes is very important in conservation and the sustainable use of resources. In recent years, there has been an attempt to improve the water quality in lakes by establishing adequate sewage systems and creating legislation so that pollutant loading to lakes and rivers meets environmental standards. However, the water quality has not improved as much as expected. One of the reasons is considered to be pollutant loads discharging from non-point sources such as agricultural land.

Load units from non-point sources such as paddy fields, upland fields, forests and urban areas are important in that they are used to estimate the impact of currently considered conservation methods on downstream areas and lakes. However, these values are too difficult to determine with certainty because pollutant loads from non-point sources are affected by the conditions of sites and precipitation [1]. In addition, as a load unit is defined by one constant value or one equation for one land use, it is very difficult to consider a detailed plan for the protection of downstream and lake environments. Furthermore, few studies have been done on the load units of divided small watersheds. Thus, it is very important to present information on the load units for small watersheds flowing into a target site.

The water quality of Lake Shinji and Lake Nakaumi in Shimane Prefecture, Japan, has not improved greatly. Lake Shinji and Lake Nakaumi were designated as one of the Wetlands of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention in November 2005.

Many researchers have studied the water quality of Lake Shinji and Lake Nakaumi from several perspectives (e.g. [2-6]). In addition, there have been studies on the Hii River, which accounts for about 70% of the total catchment area of Lake Shinji (e.g. [7-8]). However, there have been few studies on the water environment of rivers flowing into Lake Nakaumi. One of the rivers is the Inashi River that accounts for about 30% of the total catchment area of Lake Nakaumi. When considering watershed management and the improvement of the water environment in lakes, information for both lakes and rivers is necessary. Thus, we attempt to produce a Geographic Information System (GIS) database for point and non-point sources and investigate the Inashi River basin to understand the spatial distribution of water quality and load units for small watersheds that make up the larger basin as a first step in water environment management.

2. STUDY AREA

The Inashi River basin is located in the eastern part of Shimane Prefecture, Japan (Fig. 1). The river flows from Mt. Tamamine. The catchment area is about 210 km² and the length of the river is about 40 km. The river flows through Yasugi City and then into Lake Nakaumi, which is a prominent brackish water lake. The river basin has two reservoirs: the Fube and Yamasa dams. The dams are sources of drink-

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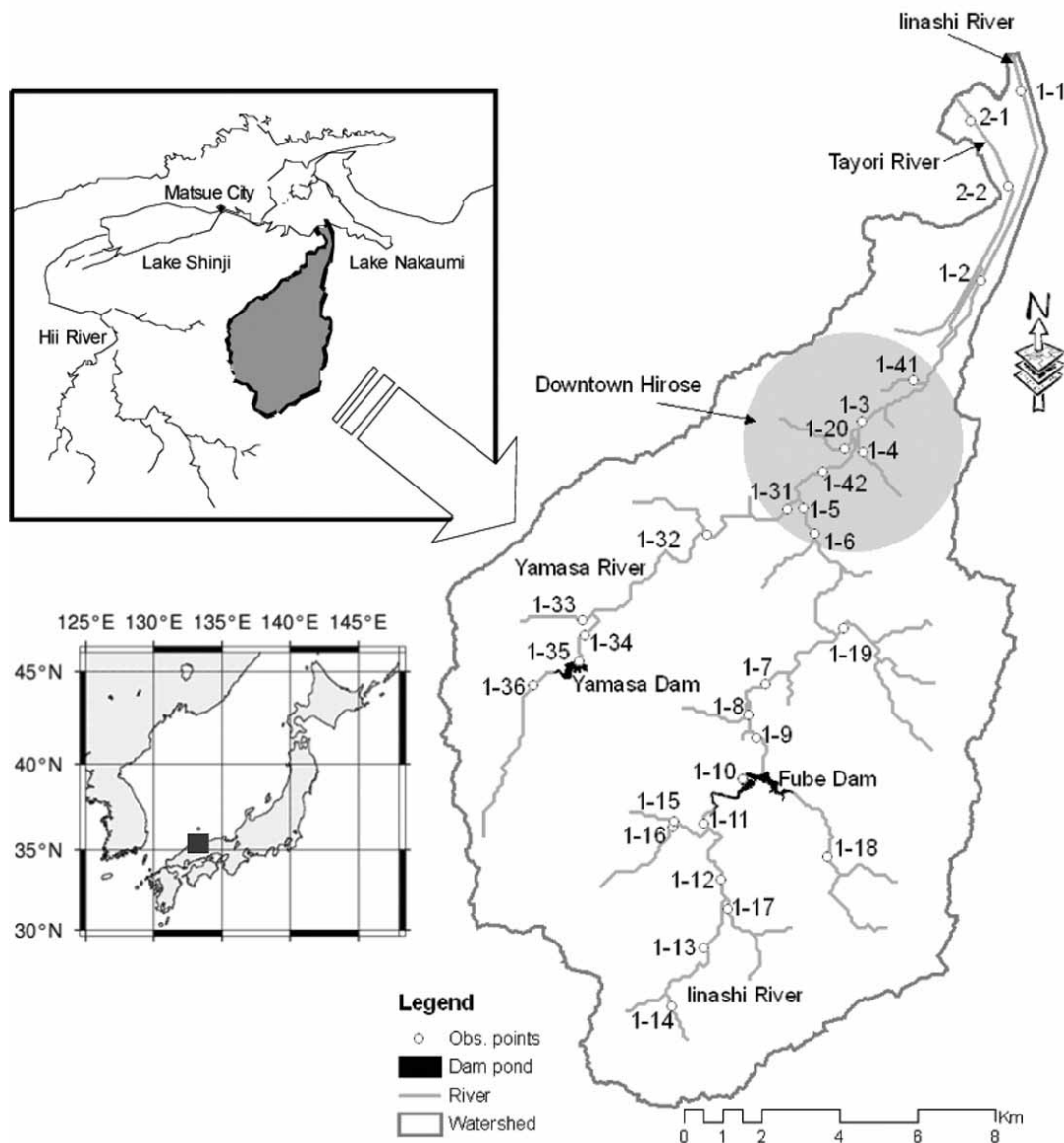


Fig. (1). Location of the Inashi River Basin.

ing water for the cities of Matsue and Yasugi and the town of Higashi Izumo. Forest is dominant in the area. Over 80% of the area is forest and only 6% is used for agriculture.

Along the downstream of the Inashi River, the Tayori River flows to Lake Nakaumi. Tayori River is an agricultural drainage river with a catchment area of about 12 km². It is very difficult to distinguish the Inashi River and Tayori River basins because of the complexity of their drainage, and thus the investigation was conducted for the rivers combined.

3. METHODS

3.1. Field Investigation and Water Quality Analyses

A field investigation was conducted on the 5th of August 2006 by three groups. The weather was fine but record heavy rain of about 250mm over two days had fallen on the investigation site two weeks previous. One group investigated the upper main stream, another group investigated the branch of

the river (Yamasa River basin), and the last group surveyed the downstream of the river. Flow velocities and river cross sections were measured to calculate water volume, and river water was sampled to analyze water quality. Water samples at dam reservoirs were collected with a Van Dorn type sampler of 3L capacity, at about 0.5m, 3m, and 10m from the surface. Multiple water quality sensors (Hydrolab MS4a, Hydrolab Quanta, Horiba U-21XD) were used to measure water temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO) concentration, and electrical conductivity (EC). There was a total of 30 observation points.

Water quality was analyzed immediately after the field investigation in laboratories. Suspended solid (SS) was immediately filtered through glass fiber-filters (Whatman GF/F) preignited at 450 °C. Particulate organic carbon (POC) and particulate organic nitrogen (PON) concentrations were determined using a YANACO MT-5 type CHN analyzer. The chlorophyll-a (Chl-a) concentration was determined by the SCOR/UNESCO method [9]. Alkalinity was

determined using a method presented in Limnological Analysis [10]. The dissolved organic carbon (DOC) concentration was determined using a total organic carbon analyzer (SHIMADZU TOC-V_{CSN}). Biodegradation ability (BD) was determined using the same method as for DOC with samples stored for 100 days in a constant condition (20 °C and shielded). The chemical oxygen demand (COD) was measured using the potassium permanganate method (JIS K 0102). The Ammonia (NH₄) concentration was determined using the indophenol method [11]. Nitrite (NO₂) and nitrate (NO₃) concentrations were determined using the methods of [12] and [13], respectively. The total nitrogen (TN) concentration was measured with a nitrogen analyzer (Mitsubishi Kagaku model TN-05). The phosphate (PO₄) concentration was determined by the method of [14]. The total phosphorus (TP) concentration was determined by the method of [15]. Dissolved organic nitrogen (DON) and dissolved organic phosphorus (DOP) concentrations were calculated from the relationship between dissolved organic and inorganic carbon. Colon bacillus was detected using a method of JIS K 0102. Cation concentrations such as those of iron (Fe), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), and manganese (Mn) were determined by inductively coupled plasma (ICP) emission spectrometry (SHIMADZU ICPS-2000). The silica (Si) concentration in the filtrate was determined by ICP emission spectrometry. Anion concentrations such as those of chlorine (Cl)

and sulfuric acid (SO₄) were determined by ion chromatography (DIONEX DX-120).

3.2. GIS Data Development

GIS data were found for the basin using existing statistical data and considering emission control measures from non-point sources. Details of the GIS data are shown in Table 1. To develop the GIS, national spatial data of the infrastructure of the river and reservoirs, population data, forest data, a topographical map and aerial photographs were prepared as the existing datasets. Using these datasets, the survey points, watershed, agricultural areas, residential areas and moorland areas were developed in the GIS. The Inashi River basin was divided into 31 sub-basins using the locations of observation points and the topographical map. Wherever it was difficult to determine the watershed, a sub basin was determined by terrain analysis. In addition, the forested area in each sub-basin was calculated using data from the Shimane forest information station. Moreover, agricultural, residential and moorland areas were tabulated for each sub basin after land use units were subediting using the aerial photographs. Population data for each sub basin was estimated from village data. Population data for the Tayori River basin could not be obtained at the time of this study. Thus, no data was prepared in the GIS database.

Table 1. GIS Data Information Established in the Basin

Used Data	Original Sources	Data Type				Possessors
		Line	Polygon	Point	Raster	
River	National Spatial Data Infrastructure	*				Geographical Survey Institute
Reservoir	National Spatial Data Infrastructure		*			Geographical Survey Institute
Population	Statistical Data Base			*		Shimane Prefecture Mountainous Region Research Center
Forest	Shimane Forest Information Station		*			Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in Shimane Prefecture
1/25000 Topographic Map	Digital Geographic Map				*	Geographical Survey Institute
Aerial Photograph	Aerial Photograph				*	Shimane Prefecture
Developed Data	Original Sources	Data Type				Manufacture Methods
		Line	Polygon	Point	Raster	
Survey Points	Original			*		Based on 1/25000 Topographic Map
Watershed	Original		*			Based on 1/25000 Topographic Map and Terrain Analysis
Agricultural Land	Original		*			Interpretation of an Aerial Photograph
Residential Area	Original		*			Interpretation of an Aerial Photograph
Moorland	Original		*			Interpretation of an Aerial Photograph

Table 2. Water Quality at Fube and Yamasa Dams

Dam Site	Depth (m)	Water Temp. (°C)	DO (mg·L ⁻¹)	pH	SS (mg·L ⁻¹)	Chl- <i>a</i> (µg·L ⁻¹)	BD (%)	COD (mg·L ⁻¹)	TN (µgN·L ⁻¹)	TP (µgP·L ⁻¹)
	0.5	27.8	9.9	9.0	2.0	4.9	32.8	1.3	473.9	15.7
Fube	3	24.7	9.8	9.6	2.7	6.9	23.9	1.4	516.9	19.2
	10	21.7	8.2	9.6	2.9	1.7	8.4	1.8	493.4	9.7
	0.5	26.5	8.2	7.9	1.5	2.7	38.3	1.5	397.1	6.5
Yamasa	3	29.4	8.8	8.5	2.1	7.3	18.1	1.9	465.6	6.9
	10	13.1	5.1	8.8	4.0	2.4	-0.4	1.4	639.7	5.7

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1. Water Quality at Dam Sites

The water quality in two artificial reservoirs at the Fube and Yamasa dam sites were measured at three depths Table 2. As the capacities of both reservoirs are less than 10 million m³, the reservoirs belong to the river category in Japan.

The maximum Chl-*a* concentration, 7.3 µg·L⁻¹, was recorded at a 3m depth at the Yamasa reservoir. The highest value recorded at the Fube reservoir (6.9 µg·L⁻¹) was also at a 3m depth. The lowest values were measured at 10m depths for both dam reservoirs, 1.7 µg·L⁻¹ at Fube and 2.4 µg·L⁻¹ at Yamasa, respectively. As average values of Chl-*a* concentrations were 4.5 µg·L⁻¹ at Fube and 4.1 at Yamasa, both reservoirs are considered to be mesotrophic [16].

As pH values for the Fube and Yamasa reservoirs exceeded 7 at all depths, the alkaline state of the water is confirmed. The alkaline state was stronger in the Fube reservoir than in the Yamasa reservoir. The pH values at a depth of 10 m in both reservoirs were higher than those at 0.5 m. No photosynthesis would occur at this depth. The pH values at a depth of 10 m were higher than those at a depth of 0.5 m because of vertical mixing. Vertical mixing due to heavy rain two weeks previous is considered to be the reason for the small vertical variation in pH values.

Water temperature and DO concentrations decreased with depth from 0.5 to 10 m in the Fube reservoir. In addition,

water temperature and DO concentration dramatically dropped to their lowest values at a 10 m depth in the Yamasa reservoir. The DO concentration is low when the pollution from organic matter is considerable. The SS concentration in both reservoirs increased with water depth. It is considered that SS in water began to settle gradually after heavy rain. This means that water quality characteristics at each depth in the reservoirs become complex in a transitional period.

Biodegradation ability was calculated using the DOC concentrations measured before and after the 100 day decomposition experiment. This value is an index of how much persistent organic matter in the water can be broken down under a given condition. The biodegradation ability for both dams decreased with depth from 0.5 to 10m. 32.8% in the Fube reservoir and 38.3% in the Yamasa reservoir were seen at a 0.5m depth and 8.4% in the Fube reservoir and -0.4% in the Yamasa reservoir were seen at a 10m depth. It seems there are relatively large amounts of easily decomposable organic matter in the upper layer and more persistent organic matter at depth.

As the average concentrations of TN were about 494.7 µg·L⁻¹ in the Fube reservoir and 500.8 µg·L⁻¹ in the Yamasa reservoir, it is possible for Lake Nakaumi to be eutrophic and have a TN concentration higher than the environmental standard of 0.4 mg·L⁻¹.

N/P ratios are an index of eutrophication and are shown in Table 3. Both the ratios of TIN/PO₄-P and TN/TP were

Table 3. N/P Ratios for Fube and Yamasa Dams

Dam site	Depth (m)	TIN/PO ₄ -P	TN/TP
	0.5	20.0	30.0
Fube	3	16.0	27.0
	10	44.0	51.0
	0.5	66.0	61.0
Yamasa	3	106.0	67.0
	10	165.0	112.0

Table 4. Average Water Quality in the Basin

COD (mg·L ⁻¹)	DOC (mg·L ⁻¹)	BD (%)	Si (mg·L ⁻¹)	TN (µgN·L ⁻¹)	NH ₄ -N (µgN·L ⁻¹)	NO ₂ -N (µgN·L ⁻¹)	NO ₃ -N (µgN·L ⁻¹)	TP (µgP·L ⁻¹)	PO ₄ -P (µgP·L ⁻¹)	Colon Bacteria (per 100ml)
1.86	0.73	18.5	6.58	519.8	26.0	1.0	214.7	27.4	15.2	910.0

largest at a 10 m depth in the dam reservoirs. It was thus clarified that phosphorus limits eutrophication in both dam reservoirs because the ratios were over 20, especially at depth.

4.2. Water Quality in the Basin

Average values for several water quality parameters are presented in Table 4. It is considered the concentrations of water quality parameters in the Inashi River basin were relatively low. However, even an average value of TN concentration exceeded the environmental standard for Lake Na-kaumi. The TN was on average 46% inorganic and 54% organic nitrogen. Phosphorus was about 56% inorganic and about 44% organic. By the way, NO₂-N concentration at some observed points showed under a detection limit (<1 µgN·L⁻¹). Thus, in this case, the value was treated as zero when the average NO₂-N concentration was calculated.

The composition of total nitrogen at each sampling point is shown in Fig. (2). The concentration in the basin did not differ greatly at each observation point except for the downstream of the basin. A high concentration of nitrogen was observed at the river mouth of the Tayori. TN concentrations of about 1263.6 µg·L⁻¹ and 1183.5 µg·L⁻¹ were detected at observation points 2-1 and 2-2, respectively. The TN concentration at the river mouth of the Tayori was about 2.5 times that of the Inashi. The inorganic nitrogen in the TN varied from about 26% at observation point 1-20 to 63% at observation point 1-18.

A high concentration of phosphorus was observed at not only the town of Hirose and in the downstream of the Tayori, but also in the upstream of the Yamasa (Fig. 3). The organic phosphorus percentage composition of TP was highest at observation point 1-36 in the upstream of the Yamasa, being

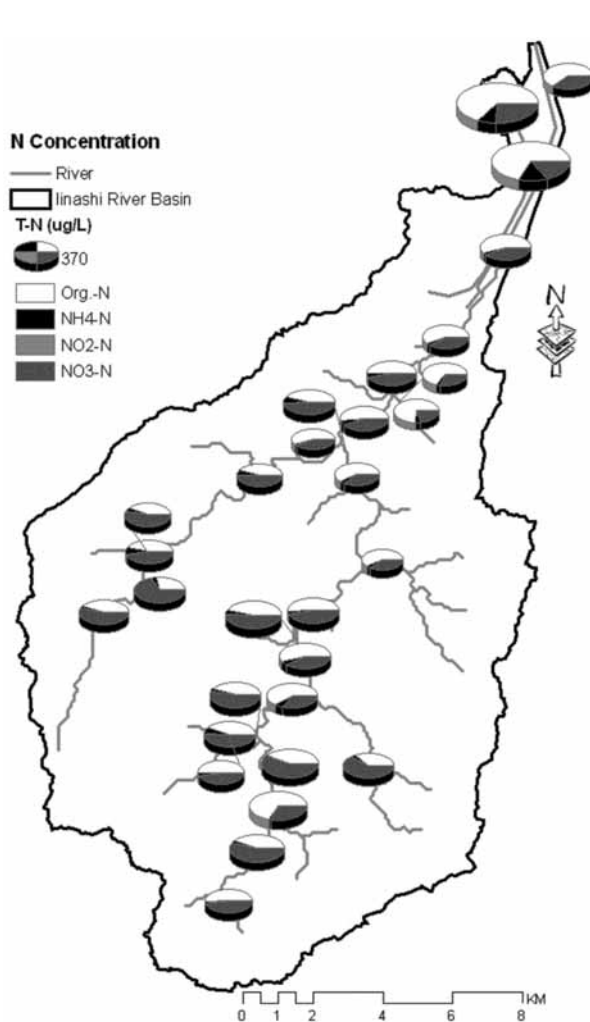


Fig. (2). Composition of total nitrogen at each sampling point.

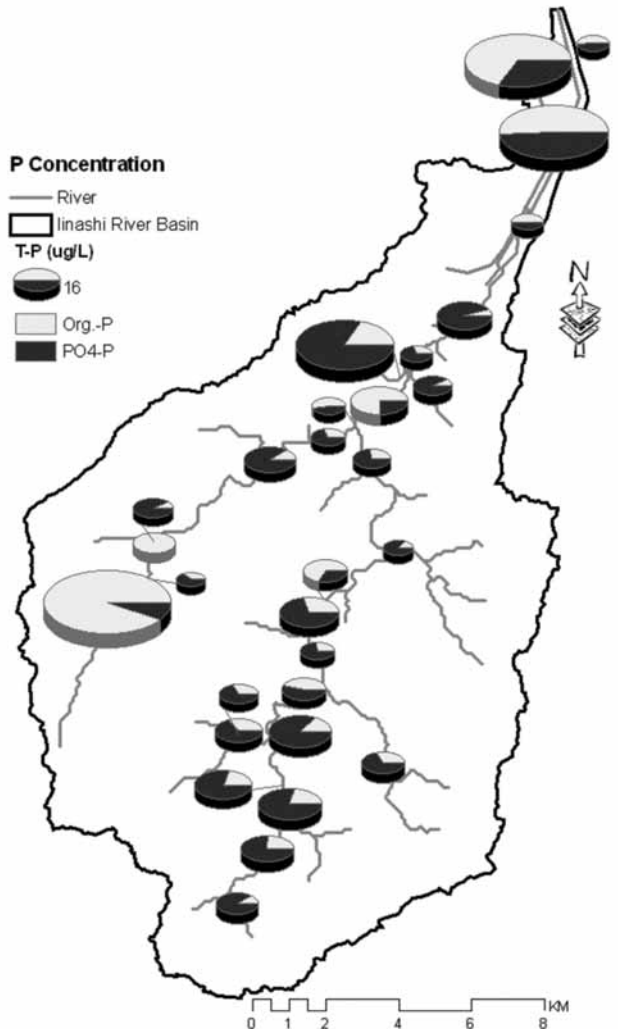


Fig. (3). Composition of total phosphorus at each sampling point.

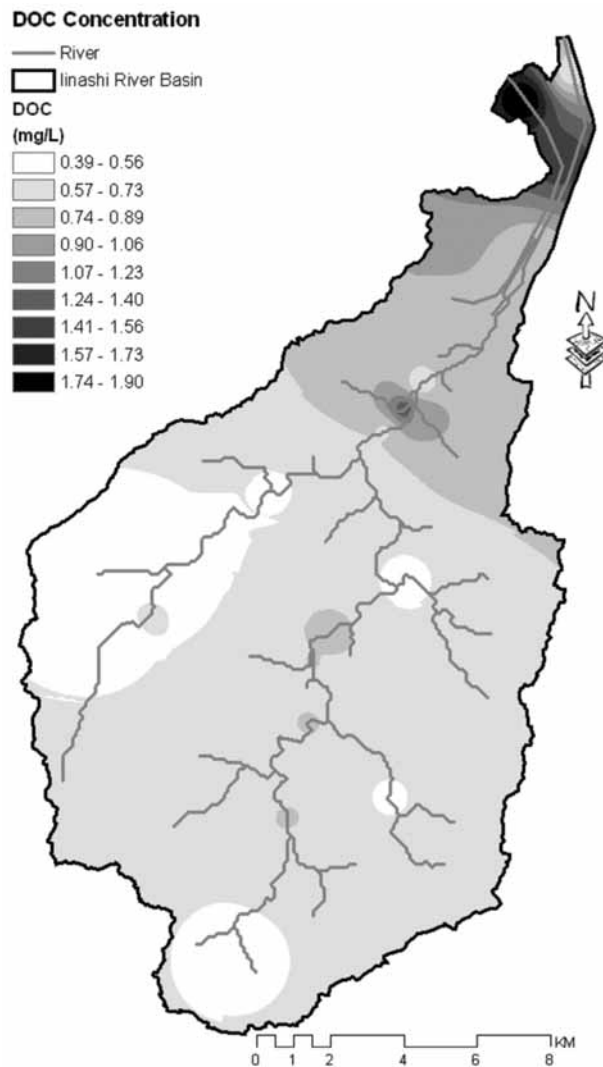


Fig. (4). Spatial distribution of DOC.

about 93%. Dissolved phosphorus in the upstream of the Iinashi was more dominant in the TP compared with the upstream of the Yamasa.

The DOC concentration trend changed around Hirose (Fig. 4). A low concentration was observed in the upstream of the basin. Conversely, the DOC concentration increased in the downstream of the basin. In addition, the biodegradation ability was determined from the analysis of the DOC concentration before and after the 100 day decomposition experiment (Fig. 5). According to studies on the origin and dynamics of recalcitrant organic matter in lakes and its effects on lacustrine ecosystems and water quality [17], the biodegradation abilities of river water, sewage treatment water, mountain stream water, percolating water from upland fields and miscellaneous drainage are 27.6%, 18.1%, 6.3%, 12.4% and 65.7% respectively. As the degradation ability in the upstream of the basin was low (6.0 – 8.0%), it is considered that persistent organic matter flows from the forest basins. Conversely, a high degradation ability of about 47% was observed in the tributary river at Hirose. From the report by [17], it is considered that miscellaneous drainage flows into the river.

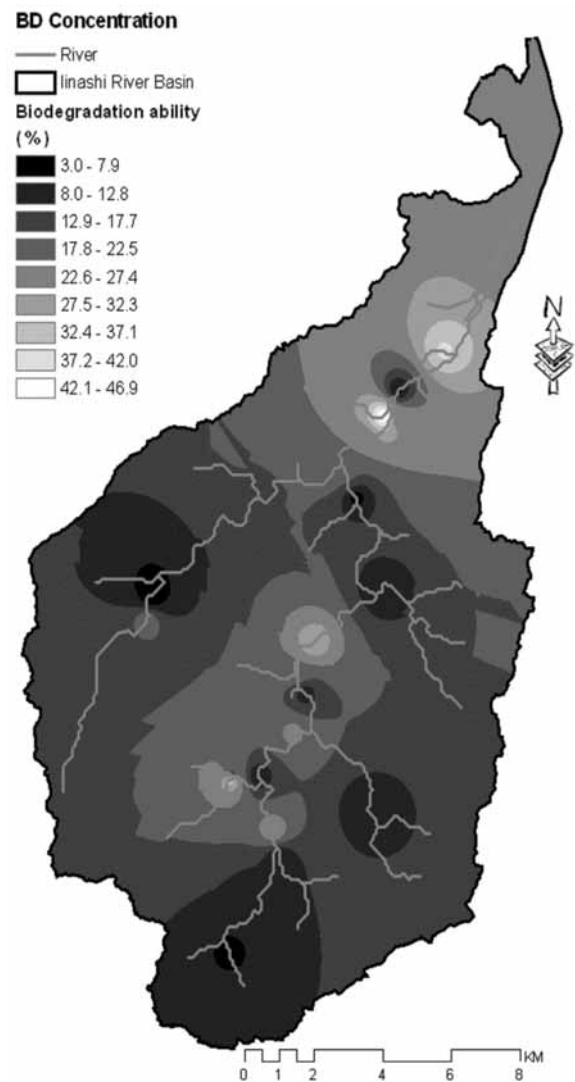


Fig. (5). Spatial distribution of BD.

Coliform bacteria were detected not only in the downstream but also in the upstream of the river (Fig. 6). A high concentration was observed especially in the upstream of the main channel. It is possible the river was polluted by human waste just before water sampling because Coliform bacteria are detected acutely when water is polluted by minute quantities of human waste, or by constant human waste considering a low sewage system adoption ratio.

The spatial distribution of Si is shown in Fig. (7). Si is supplied by weathering, such as that associated with rain water or river water, and silicate mineral or rock. Si is very common and has an important role in the food chain. However, several researchers reported that Si concentration decreases from upstream to downstream of a dam (e.g. [18,19]). Likewise, Si was observed to decrease slightly from upstream to downstream for the basins in this experiment.

4.3. Land Use

The percentage of land used for agriculture in the GIS data is shown in Fig. (8). The percentage varied from 0% to 69% in the basin. Especially in the Tayori River basin, there was a high ratio of agricultural land. Relatively high percent-

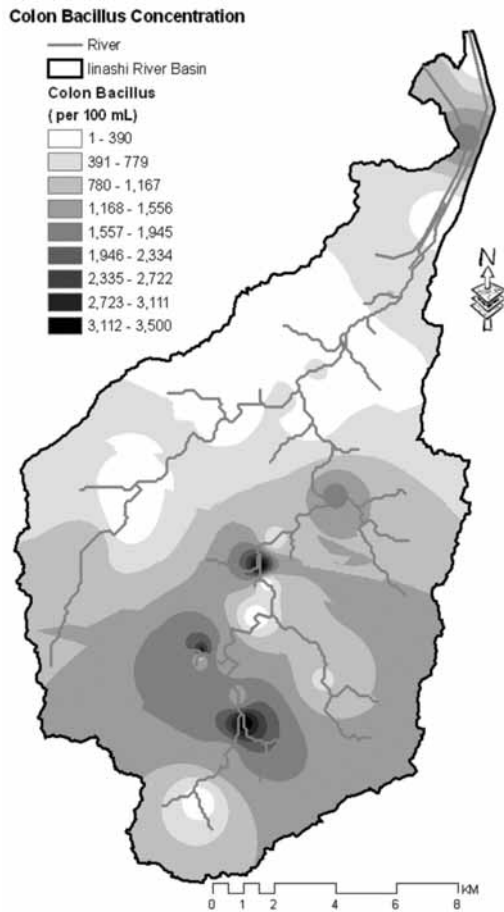


Fig. (6). Spatial distribution of CB.

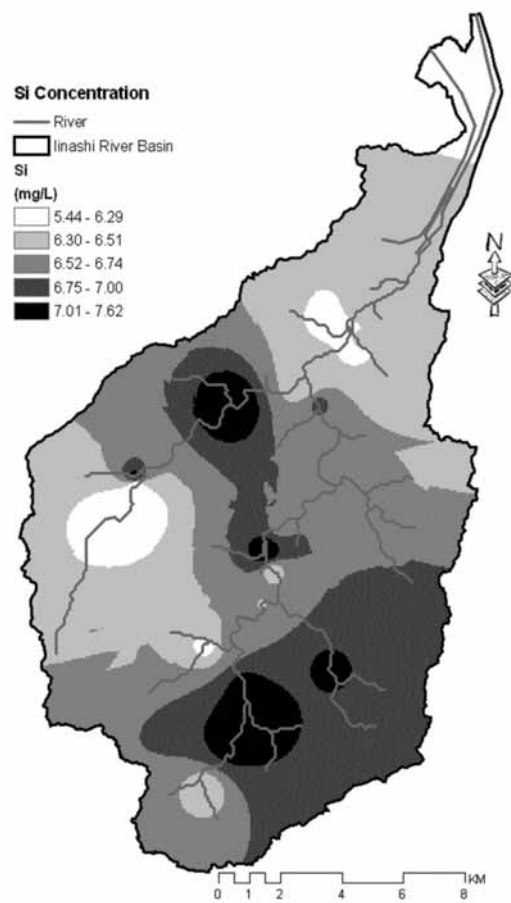


Fig. (7). Spatial distribution of Si.

ages from 6% to 13% were seen around not only Hirose but also in the upstream of the Inashi River. Agricultural land percentages from 0% to 5% were dominant in the basin.

The relationship between residential area and population in the basin is shown in Fig. (9). As it is very difficult to obtain population data for the Tayori River, the data for the basin was not prepared in the GIS database. The percentage of residential area was between 0% and 20.1% in the basin. Almost all sub basins were 0% to 0.5% residential except for the downstream of the Inashi River and some sub basins located in the upstream of the Inashi River. The population is very much concentrated in downtown Hirose. However, the population is spread all over the basin along rivers.

The forest area ratio and breakdown of forest types are shown in Fig. (10). There is a recognizable spatial distribution of forest in the basin. As there is much habitation along the rivers, the forest area ratio decreased in the central part of the basin. However, the ratio was over 50% for almost all the basin. Not only artificial forests but also natural forests remain to a large extent. In addition, a few bamboo groves remain in the Yamasa River basin.

4.4. Load Units

Load units were calculated from concentration data and discharge data for several parameters as shown in Fig. (11). Fig. (11) shows variations in the load unit for small watersheds. The x-axis represents each small sub basin watershed

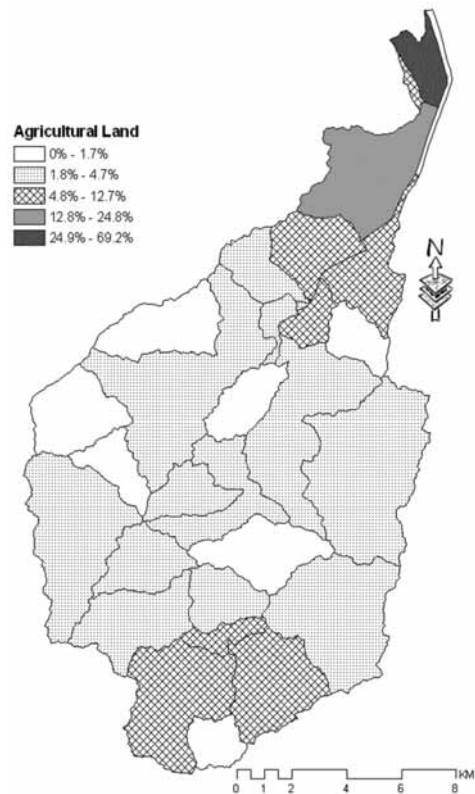


Fig. (8). Agricultural land in each sub basin.

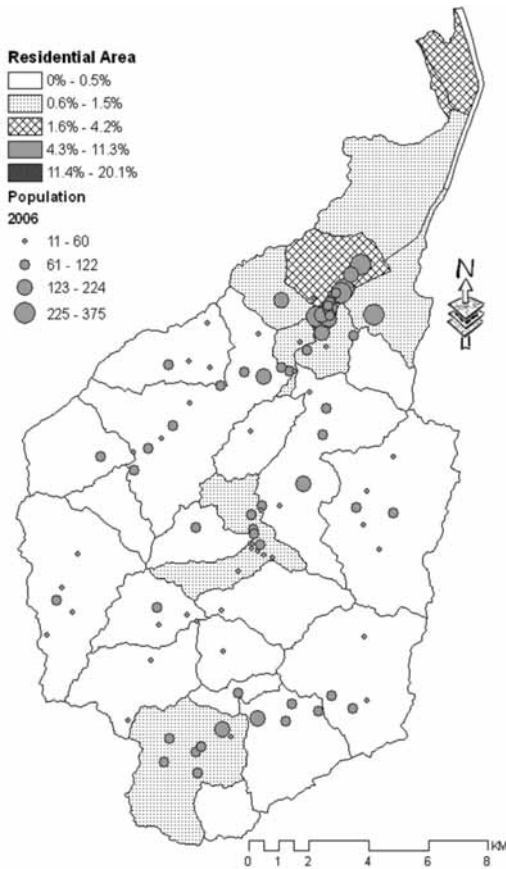


Fig. (9). Residential areas and population.

located from the upstreams to the downstreams of the Inashi and Yamasa Rivers, and each sub basin is independent. In other words, small watersheds were selected using the criteria that there is no inflow from other watersheds. Watersheds 1 to 8 are located in the upstream of the Inashi River, watersheds 9 to 11 are in the upstream of the Yamasa River, and the remaining watersheds are in the downstream of the Inashi River. The graphs in the figure show the ratios of forest and agricultural areas in target small watersheds and load units of the COD, TN and TP. Load units were calculated by two methods. One method was a calculation using the results of our investigation, and the other method was a calculation using the L-Q equation for the load unit estimations of the forest area defined by Shimane Prefecture. In addition, maximum and minimum values for each parameter of the forest area were quoted from the literature [1]. As shown in the figure, forest occupied over 80% of all watersheds except for watersheds 6 and 8, and over 60% of watersheds 6 and 8. The proportion of agricultural area is very small and varied from 0.94% to 8.29%.

Load units for all parameters varied for each watershed regardless of the similar components of land use. The load unit of the COD changed from 34.94 (watershed 13) to 129.46 (watershed 2) $\text{g}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$, that of TN from 7.57 (watershed 12) to 35.15 (watershed 2) $\text{g}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$, and that of TP from 0.19 (watershed 7) to 1.78 (watershed 2) $\text{g}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$. The TP load for watershed 9 was discounted because it was an outlier. Compared with load units calculated using the L-Q equation, almost all values calculated using the results of the investigation were higher, but trends of changes in load

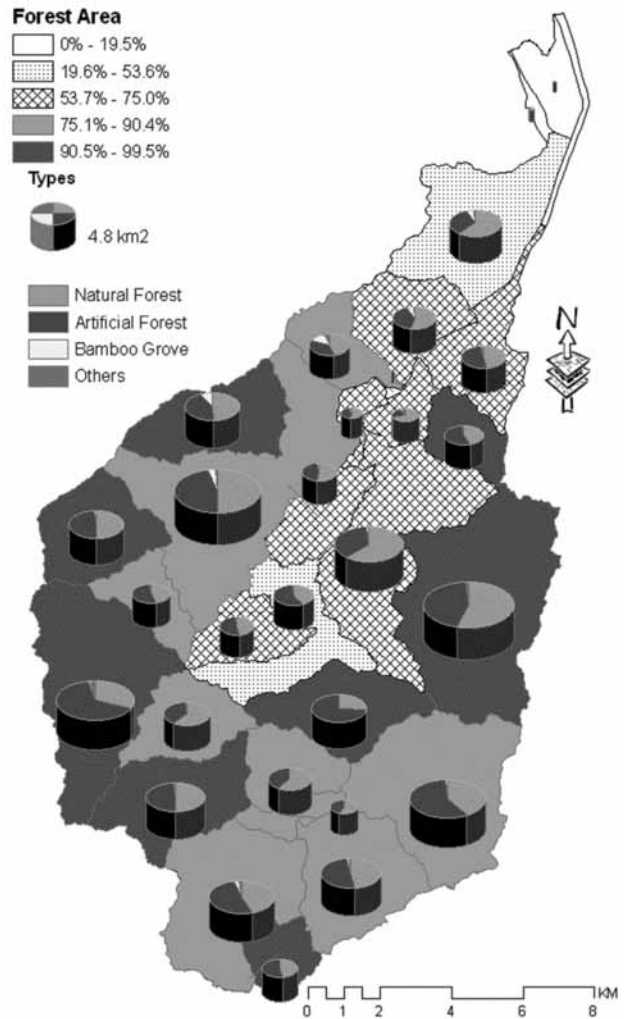


Fig. (10). Forest areas and types.

units are also represented by L-Q equations. COD load units for watersheds 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 exceeded the maximum value in the literature of $91.23 \text{ g}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$. TN load units for watersheds 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 exceeded $20.0 \text{ g}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$ and TP load units for watersheds 2, 4, 6 and 12 exceeded $0.79 \text{ g}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$. In addition, there is a trend for load units in the downstream of the Inashi River (watersheds 12 and 13) to be lower for COD, TN and TP, except for TP in watershed 12, compared with load units in the upstream of the basin. Though it is very difficult to determine the reasons for the spatial differences in load units, the ratios of agricultural and residential areas are one because the percentage of agricultural area exceeded 4.5% in watersheds 2 and 6 and these watersheds had higher load units. Moreover, the TP concentration in watershed 12 exceeded the maximum value, $0.79 \text{ g}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$. It is considered that the 0.87% residential area, which was the highest value in the target small watershed, was a reason for the high load units.

Finally, pollutant loads flowing from upstream to downstream were calculated as shown in Fig. (12). As there are no discharge data for around the river mouth (1-1, 1-2) and Tayori River, the loads were not calculated in this paper. These values were calculated at observation points 1-3, 1-5 and 1-31. Observation points 1-5 and 1-31 are located im-

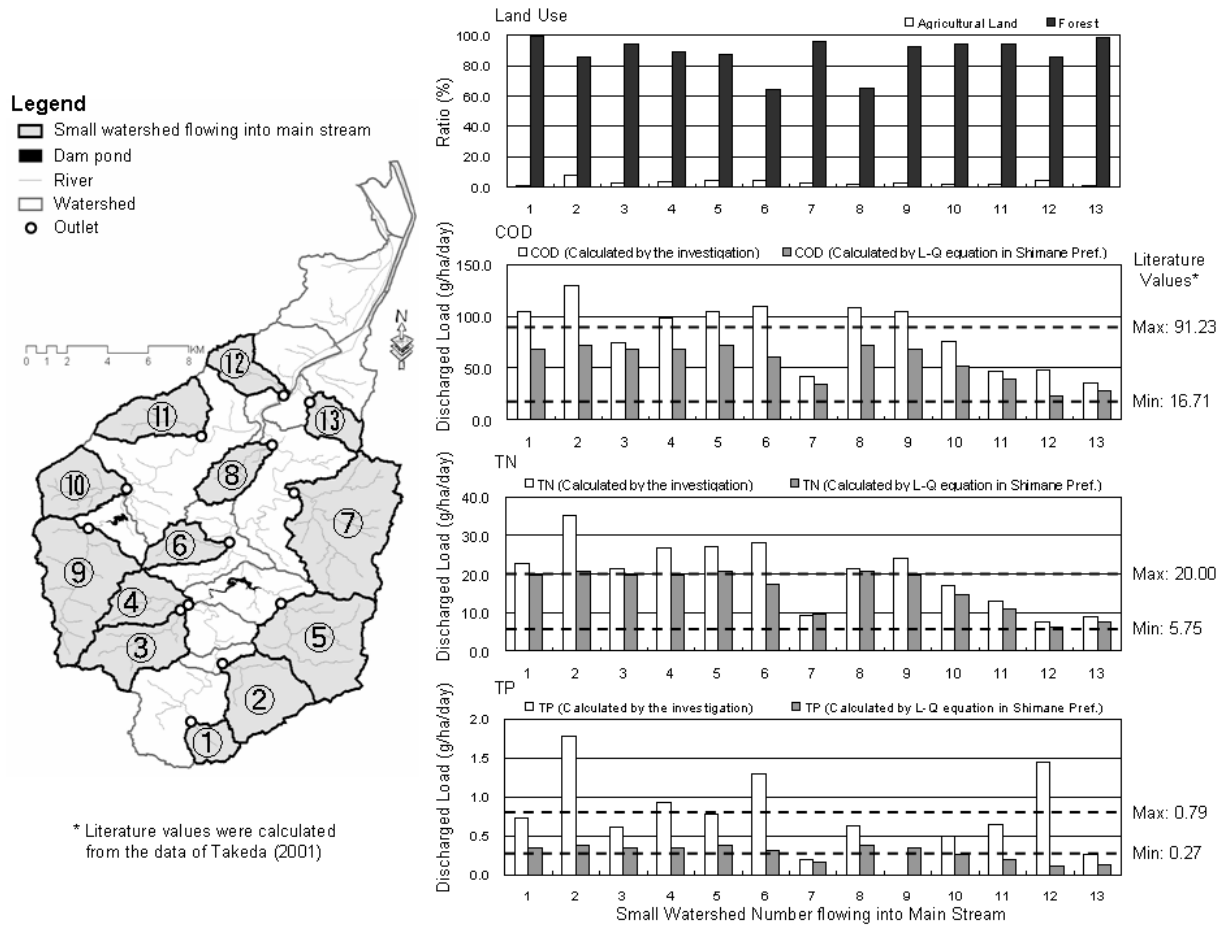


Fig. (11). Difference in discharged load units for each small watershed.

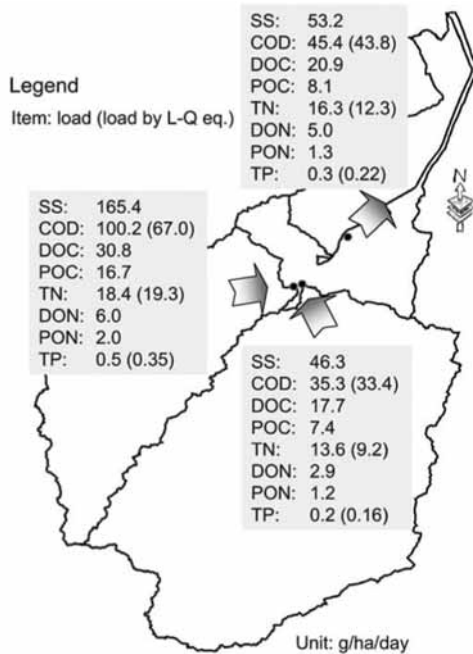


Fig. (12). Pollutant loads from upstream to downstream.

mediately before the confluence of the upstreams of the Inashi and Yamasa Rivers. Observation point 1-3 is located

in the downstream of the Inashi River and is the final point of discharge data. Because there is no inflow from another river after observation point 1-3 for the Inashi River, the calculated load unit at 1-3 is not affected by the inflow of a pollutant load from another river until the river mouth. Though the Yamasa River basin has a higher percentage of forest area (91.5%), lower percentage of agricultural land (2.3%) and lower population density (24 people·km⁻²) than the upstream Inashi River basin as shown in Table 5, discharged loads from observation point 1-31 were higher than those from observation point 1-5. The discharged loads from observation point 1-3 were 53.2 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of SS, 45.4 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of COD, 20.9 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of DOC, 8.1 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of POC, 16.3 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of TN, 5.0 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of DON, 1.3 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of PON, and 0.3 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of TP respectively.

5. CONCLUSION

Water quality was investigated to determine the characteristics of the water environment in the basin. A GIS database was created to consider the relationship between land characteristics and water environment. This research is summarized as follows.

1. From the Chl-*a* concentration, it is considered the dams of Fube and Yamasa were mesotrophic reservoirs. Considering of N/P ratio, phosphorus limits eutrophication.

Table 5. Forest Area Percentage, Agricultural Area Percentage and Population Density

	Forest Area (%)	Agricultural Area (%)	Population Density (People·km ⁻²)
Upstream of Iinashi River basin	89.1	4.3	26
Yamasa River basin	91.5	2.3	24
Downstream of Iinashi River basin	60.6	15.8	-

- The concentrations of water quality parameters in the Iinashi River basin were relatively low at almost all sampling points. The average concentrations of each parameter are 1.86 mg·L⁻¹ of COD, 0.73 mg·L⁻¹ of DOC, 18.5 % of BD, 6.58 mg·L⁻¹ of Si, 519.8 µgN·L⁻¹ of TN, 26.0 µgN·L⁻¹ of NH₄-N, 1.0 µgN·L⁻¹ of NO₂-N, 214.7 µgN·L⁻¹ of NO₃-N, 27.4 µgP·L⁻¹ of TP, and 15.2 µgP·L⁻¹ of PO₄-P.
- Some substances such as phosphorus and colon bacteria had high concentrations not only at Hirose but also in the upstream of the basin.
- Information for the load units discharged from small watersheds was obtained. Load units varied regardless of similar land uses in the basin.
- Discharged loads from observation point 1-31 in the Yamasa River basin were higher than from observation point 1-5 in the upstream of the Iinashi River basin regardless of the high percentage of forest area (91.51%), low percentage of agricultural land (2.3%) and low population density (24 people·km⁻²).
- The discharged loads from observation point 1-3 were determined as 53.2 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of SS, 45.4 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of COD, 20.9 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of DOC, 8.1 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of POC, 16.3 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of TN, 5.0 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of DON, 1.3 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of PON, and 0.3 g·ha⁻¹·day⁻¹ of TP.

From this research, an outline of the water environment for the Iinashi River basin was clarified for the first time. Moreover, a prototype GIS database was built for the basin. With the development of an integrated approach for water environment management in the basin, it will be necessary to store such research results to estimate the quantitative impact on the lake.

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