

CLEAN - Soil, Air, Water

**Decision Letter (clen.202100151.R1)****From:** phenheik@wiley-vch.de**To:** andarani@ft.undip.ac.id, andarani@gmail.com**CC:** phenheik@wiley-vch.de**Subject:** Decision on Manuscript # clen.202100151.R1 for "CLEAN - Soil, Air, Water"**Body:** \*\*\* HTML-Vorlage

<B>FETT</B>  
<U>UNTERSTRICHEN</U>  
<I>KURSIV</I>  
\*\*\*\*

Dear Dr. Andarani:

It is my pleasure to inform you that the manuscript clen.202100151.R1, "An assessment of zinc fluxes by analyzing monthly, weekday, and weekend levels in a river" has been reviewed and recommended for publication pending satisfactory revisions in CLEAN - Soil, Air, Water. The reviewer comments are given below.

I invite you to respond to the reviewer comments and make the necessary revisions to your manuscript.

Before you submit your revision, please adjust your manuscript according to the author guidelines ([www.clean-journal.com](http://www.clean-journal.com), For Authors) and proof-read the manuscript carefully to minimize typographical, grammatical, and bibliographic errors. In addition, check to make sure that all abbreviations are defined.

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Please include a cover letter which indicates in detail the changes you have made and why, and mark these changed sections in the revision using a different color. Also, indicate which of the suggested changes, if any, you have elected not to make and your reasons. I will contact you as soon as possible with a final editorial decision.

The submission of a Graphical Abstract is mandatory for all provisionally accepted papers. Please provide the following in a word file:

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- 2-3 sentences of layman's description of your work covering: background, what was done in your study, and implications of the results;
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Once again, thank you for submitting your manuscript to "CLEAN - Soil, Air, Water" and I look forward to receiving your revision.

Sincerely,

Dr. Prisca Henheik  
Editor-in-Chief  
CLEAN - Soil, Air, Water

\*\* Referee(s)' and Editors' Comments to Author.

Editor: Henheik, Prisca

Comments to the Author:

Please address the following comment:


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[DL-RW-2]

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Figure 2. (a) Zn and (b) Fe concentrations in the river water. “P” represents particulate metal in the suspended solids and “D” denotes concentrations in dissolved phase (<math><0.2 \mu\text{m}</math>). Undetected levels were assumed to have half of the detection limit concentration (0.00025 mg/L for Zn and 0.005 mg/L for Fe)

<u>Revised caption (line 452 – 456):</u>

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# 1 **An assessment of zinc fluxes by analyzing monthly, weekday, and** 2 **weekend levels in a river**

3 Pertiwi Andarani<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Kuriko Yokota<sup>3</sup>, Takanobu Inoue<sup>3</sup>, Hardianti Alimuddin<sup>2</sup>, Nguyen Minh Ngoc<sup>3</sup>

4 <sup>1</sup>Department of Environmental Engineering, Diponegoro University, Semarang, Central Java, Indonesia

5 <sup>2</sup>Graduate Program of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Toyohashi University of Technology,  
6 Toyohashi, Aichi, Japan

7 <sup>3</sup>Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Toyohashi University of Technology, Toyohashi, Aichi,  
8 Japan

9 \*Correspondence: Pertiwi Andarani, M.Eng, Graduate Program of Architecture and Civil Engineering,  
10 Toyohashi University of Technology, Toyohashi, Aichi, 441-8580, Japan  
11 e-mail: andarani@ft.undip.ac.id

## 12 **Abstract**

13 Unlike other heavy metals, zinc (Zn) is indispensable to life but also poses environmental risks to  
14 aquatic organisms. Aichi Prefecture has the Japan's fourth-highest discharges of Zn into water  
15 bodies. As a major industrial area, it is likely that the Zn fluxes in Aichi's water bodies originate from  
16 industrial wastewater. This study evaluated the spatial-temporal and diel variability of Zn  
17 concentrations and loads on sunny days during weekdays and weekends in the Umeda River, Aichi.  
18 The most downstream point was considered as the most polluted section according to the monthly  
19 survey (dissolved Zn: 0.0046–0.0719 mg/L, particulate Zn: 0.42–2.01 mg/g) that varied between  
20 seasons (coefficient of variation: 95% for dissolved Zn; 53% for particulate Zn). The total Zn  
21 concentrations on weekdays (0.015–0.043 mg/L) at the most downstream point exhibited much  
22 higher concentrations than those during the weekends (undetected–0.032 mg/L). Given the  
23 dissolved phase of these Zn levels ( $77 \pm 11\%$ ), it is apparent that the Zn concentrations were  
24 discharged into the Umeda River by industrial facilities on weekdays. The total Zn loading on  
25 weekdays (**56 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day**) was approximately three times higher than that on weekends (**18**  
26 **g/km<sup>2</sup>/day**). At least 67% of the total Zn (**37 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day**) and **70%** of the dissolved Zn (**35 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day**)  
27 fluxes from industrial point sources were potentially discharged on weekdays.

28

29 **Abbreviations:** CRM, certified reference material; CV, coefficient of variation; D-Zn, Zn in dissolved  
30 phase; D-Fe, Fe in dissolved phase; EQS, environmental quality standards; n.d, not detected (Fe ≤  
31 0.01 mg/L, Zn ≤ 0.0005 mg/L); NES, national effluent standards; POC, particulate organic carbon;  
32 PRTR, Pollutant Release and Transfer Register; P-Fe, Fe in particulate phase; P-Zn, Zn in  
33 particulate phase; Q, river discharge; SD, standard deviation; SS, suspended solids; st., sampling  
34 station; US-EPA, United States - Environmental Protection Agency; WFD, Water Framework  
35 Directive; H, water level; Water Framework Directive; ww, industrial wastewater

36 **Keywords:** Flux; Heavy metal; Industrial wastewater; Organic matter; Zinc

## 37 **1 Introduction**

38 Zinc (Zn) is the third most-produced non-ferrous metal in Japan, after copper and aluminum.<sup>[1]</sup>  
39 Based on the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) data from 2018,<sup>[1]</sup> approximately 641  
40 tons of Zn compounds (water-soluble) are annually discharged into public bodies of water in Japan,  
41 and it is the third most-released chemical in these water bodies.<sup>[1]</sup> The most common use of Zn  
42 around the world is galvanizing, to protect steel against corrosion, which accounts for over 50% of  
43 the Zn annually produced, followed by ZnO, die casting, a vulcanizing agent of tire rubber, and other  
44 application to produce brass, tiles, ceramics, glass<sup>[2]</sup>, dyes<sup>[3]</sup>, battery<sup>[4]</sup>, and electronic products<sup>[5]</sup>.  
45 Unlike other heavy metal pollution, Zn does not pose a health risk to humans indirectly exposed  
46 through the environment, whereas direct exposure to ZnO and ZnCl<sub>2</sub> may indeed carry potential  
47 health risks.<sup>[6,7]</sup> On the other hand, humans, animals, plants, and even microorganisms, require Zn  
48 for development and growth; hence, it is indispensable to life processes.<sup>[8]</sup> However, its chronic  
49 toxicity to aquatic life has been observed when it reaches a specific threshold, which is often as a  
50 result of Zn pollution.<sup>[7,9–12]</sup>

51 In riverine ecosystems, Zn is typically present in its most ecotoxic form, i.e., Zn<sup>2+</sup>.<sup>[13,14]</sup> Consequently,  
52 in European countries, stringent environmental quality standards (EQS) on the total fraction of Zn  
53 have set the range from 0.008 to 0.125 mg/L, depending on the water hardness.<sup>[15]</sup> Specifically, in  
54 the UK and Wales, the standards for dissolved bioavailable Zn have been set at 10.9 µg/L, plus  
55 ambient background concentrations that depend on catchments/groups thereof.<sup>[16]</sup> Meanwhile, in  
56 order to protect freshwater aquatic life, the US Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) set the  
57 criterion for total recoverable Zn to 0.047 mg/L as a 24-hour average.<sup>[17]</sup> In order to protect the  
58 aquatic ecosystem, in 2003, Japan enacted EQS for Zn of 0.03 mg/L as the annual mean value.  
59 Nevertheless, according to the Ministry of Environment of Japan, in 2019, 19 riverine sites breached  
60 the EQS, in contrast to lakes and the ocean, which all of them were below the EQS threshold.<sup>[18]</sup>  
61 Naito et al.<sup>[19]</sup> also noted that Aichi Prefecture did not show a clear Zn reduction trend after 2002.  
62 Based on the PRTR Data<sup>[1]</sup>, from 2001 to 2019, Aichi Prefecture had the fourth-largest Zn

63 discharges into public bodies of water (approximately 38 tons/year) after Osaka, Tokyo, and  
64 Kanagawa Prefecture.

65 Due to irregular effluent discharges into the river, a high concentration could be temporarily found,  
66 and was possibly missed, during the monitoring period. Anthropogenic activities tend to be more  
67 intensive during weekdays, apart from in recreational areas. In this case, a survey conducted  
68 measuring weekdays and weekends featured different Zn concentrations. Previous research  
69 revealed that surveys undertaken on weekdays exhibited higher concentrations of  
70 contaminants.<sup>[20,21]</sup> Furthermore, Andarani et al.<sup>[20]</sup> found that throughout 2017, Zn concentrations in  
71 the most downstream point in the Aizumame River, located in Aichi Prefecture, exceeded the EQS.  
72 The Zn fluxes in the Aizumame River were found to mostly originate from point sources of industrial  
73 wastewater, which contributed about 77.3 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day.<sup>[20]</sup> The Zn concentrations in the river may also  
74 become elevated due to point or non-point (diffuse) sources.<sup>[19,22]</sup> Given that industrial facilities do  
75 not operate on weekends and holidays, it was possible to estimate the contribution of industrial  
76 point sources to the river by comparing the measurement results between weekdays and weekends.  
77 Moreover, hydrological and biogeochemical processes may influence dynamic diel fluctuation in  
78 metal concentrations, including Zn.<sup>[23]</sup> Bourg and Bertin<sup>[24]</sup> and Brick and Moore<sup>[25]</sup> were the first to  
79 report a diel cycle of Zn concentrations in near-neutral and alkaline rivers, followed by Nimick et  
80 al.<sup>[26]</sup> The diel Zn cycles had already been intensively observed in several near-neutral  
81 environments and rivers in the United States<sup>[25,27–31]</sup>, United Kingdom<sup>[23]</sup>, and France<sup>[24,32,33]</sup>.  
82 However, comparisons of diel Zn concentrations during weekdays and weekends remain scarce.  
83 The sources of Zn could also be traced by narrowing down activities conducted on weekdays and  
84 weekends. The spatial and temporal variations of Zn are also necessary to be assessed in order to  
85 verify the input of point sources and seasonal changes. In addition, iron (Fe) was also compared to  
86 Zn variation; hence, the impact of anthropogenic activities to the riverine Zn levels could be  
87 identified. Fe is a naturally occurring element in river<sup>[34]</sup> and the adsorption of Zn on the Fe  
88 hydroxides might occur in the surface water<sup>[26,28]</sup>. Therefore, the main objective of this study was to  
89 assess the spatial-temporal and diel variation of Zn in a near-neutral stream located in Aichi  
90 Prefecture, Japan, particularly on weekdays and weekends.

## 91 **2 Materials and Methods**

### 92 **2.1 Sampling Site**

93 For this study, monthly surveys (nine months) and a 24-hour survey were conducted in the Umeda  
94 River, Aichi Prefecture, Japan. Both surveys were undertaken during low flow on a sunny day (no  
95 precipitation on two previous days and the sampling event). The Umeda River is a second grade  
96 river with a catchment area of 86.6 km<sup>2</sup>, crossing Toyohashi City and flowing into Mikawa Bay.

97 Figure 1 shows the sampling stations in the study area. Station 5 (st.5) was below Hatakeda Bridge,  
98 located at the most downstream point without tidal influence. With st.5 as the outlet, the watershed  
99 area accounted for 43.7 km<sup>2</sup>. This station was the sampling point for both the monthly survey the  
100 hourly survey (the weekdays and weekend sampling). St.1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were in the Umeda River,  
101 with its corresponding tributaries, such as st.31 (Ochiai River) and st.21–23 (Sakai River). The  
102 sampling stations (st.2 and st.3) in the Umeda River were located approximately 10 meters before  
103 the confluence of its respective tributary.

104 Land use significantly comprises urban areas (29.8%), including residential, commercial, and  
105 industrial areas, mostly located in the catchment's upper-middle reach, particularly in the vicinity of  
106 st.2, st.3, and st.4. The industrial areas discharge the wastewater to the Sakai River, which were  
107 identified as point sources ww-A, ww-B, and ww-C contributed Zn to the st.23. An industrial area  
108 adjacent to the Ochiai River was identified and the water samples were taken at st.31. However, the  
109 largest area of land use is agricultural (48.8%), consisting of paddy (5.8%) and other crops  
110 (43.0%),<sup>[35]</sup> including cabbage and tea.

## 111 2.2 Samples Collection

### 112 2.2.1 Monthly Survey

113 The monthly survey was conducted for nine months in August 2019, December 2019 to July 2020.  
114 The surveys were undertaken on sunny days (daytime weekday) when no precipitation occurred,  
115 including the previous two days. The interval period between monthly sampling events ranged from  
116 22 to 43 days (31 days on average). Approximately two liters of water samples were taken manually  
117 using acid-cleaned polypropylene bottles at the riverine sampling stations (st.1–st.5, st.31, and  
118 st.21–23) and industrial wastewater sampling points (ww-A, ww-B, and ww-C). The river discharges  
119 were measured and calculated using a velocity-area method according to Andarani et al.<sup>[20]</sup>

### 120 2.2.2 Hourly Survey (during Weekdays and the Weekend)

121 Clear sunny weather events on weekdays (Wednesday-Thursday) and weekends (Saturday-  
122 Sunday) were monitored in the first week of February 2020 (winter) at st.5. The winter season has  
123 the lowest precipitation levels throughout the year, indicating that the point sources may  
124 substantially affect Zn fluxes into the stream. An autosampler (Teledyne ISCO-6712, US) was  
125 deployed and programmed to take one-liter samples hourly between 17:00 and 16:00. Twenty-four  
126 bottles (holding up to a liter of water) made of polypropylene were collected for each sampling event.  
127 The water samples were taken by polypropylene pipe and pumped by a peristaltic pump with a  
128 purge phase in order to avoid cross-contamination. A one-liter water sample was taken manually  
129 using acid-cleaned polypropylene bottles at 17:00 on the second day in order to obtain data over 25  
130 hours. All of the autosampler and polypropylene sample bottles were triple rinsed with deionized  
131 water and oven-dried prior to each sampling procedure. The water samples were taken after all

132 samples were collected in **autosampler** bottles and then immediately filtered and pre-treated in the  
133 laboratory within 48 hours.

### 134 **2.3 River Discharge Measurement Methods**

135 The water level-discharge (H-Q) equation model<sup>[36]</sup> was used to estimate river discharge (Q) of the  
136 Umeda River at Hatakeda Bridge. The water level (H) over every hour at Hamamichi Station,  
137 located about one kilometer from Hatakeda Bridge, was obtained from the River Division of Aichi  
138 Prefectural Construction Bureau. According to the model, the water level at Hamamichi Station  
139 needed to be converted to that at Hatakeda Bridge.<sup>[36]</sup>

### 140 **2.4 Analytical Methods**

#### 141 **2.4.1 Suspended Solids (SS)**

142 Two types of membranes were used to obtain the SS, namely GF/F membranes and cellulose  
143 acetate membranes. The GF/F (0.7  $\mu\text{m}$ , glass microfiber filters, Whatman™, UK) membrane was  
144 further used to measure particulate organic carbon (POC), whereas cellulose acetate membrane  
145 (Advantec®, Japan) was utilized to obtain filtrate as a dissolved fraction of Zn (D-Zn) and Fe (D-Fe).  
146 The SS on the cellulose acetate membrane was further digested to obtain the particulate Zn and Fe  
147 fraction.

148 For the measurement of suspended solids (SS) concentrations, 100 ml water samples were filtered  
149 using wash-dried and pre-weigh GF/F membranes. The GF/F membranes were oven-dried at  
150 400 °C before filtering the samples. The concentrations were determined by subtracting the weight  
151 of the membrane with SS (oven-dried at 105 °C) and the pre-weight divided by filtered volume. This  
152 filtration was performed three times, and the mean values were calculated for further assessment in  
153 this study.

#### 154 **2.4.2 Zn and Fe Concentrations**

155 Five-hundred milliliters of water was filtered using a cellulose acetate membrane (0.2  $\mu\text{m}$ ,  
156 Advantec®, Japan). The filter bottle was triple rinsed with deionized water prior to the filtration of  
157 each sample. The first 100 ml of filtrate was then discarded to avoid cross-contamination. With  
158 respect to the D-Zn and D-Fe, 1.0 ml of concentrated  $\text{HNO}_3$  (ultrapure analytical reagent,  
159 Tamachemicals Co., Ltd., Japan) was added to 100 ml of filtrate and then digested. The digestion  
160 required heating up the samples on a hotplate to a temperature of 205 °C for 20 minutes. In order to  
161 prevent contamination, the first five milliliters of the filtrate were discarded. The metals in suspended  
162 solids were analyzed based on the US-EPA Method 3050B with addition of concentrated HCl  
163 (suprapure guaranteed reagent, Wako Pure Chemical Corporation, Japan). The concentrations of  
164 Zn and Fe were then measured three times using the flame and graphite furnace atomic absorption  
165 spectrometry instrument (AA-7000 Shimadzu, Shimadzu Corporation, Japan) with four calibration  
166 standards (the detection limits of Zn and Fe were 0.0005 mg/L and 0.01 mg/L, respectively).



167 Re-validation of the standard solutions every six sample measurements for the calibration curves  
168 was necessary for quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) purposes. The method blanks  
169 were analyzed together with a set of the six samples. The Zn and Fe contained in the procedures  
170 and reagents were not detected according to the method blank. The triplicate analysis of all  
171 samples showed that the coefficient of variation (CV) was less than 7% both for Zn and Fe  
172 concentrations of the water samples. The CVs of particulate sample measurements were up to 12%.  
173 The analytical procedure was checked using a certified reference material (CRM) for trace elements  
174 (National Metrology Institute of Japan, CRM 7202-c No. 0356). The recovery rates for the analytical  
175 procedure were 84–92% (Zn) and 93–99% (Fe).

176 All of the reagents used were of ultrapure and standard solutions were prepared using ultrapure  
177 water. All glass and plasticware for the elemental analysis were soaked in 1% HNO<sub>3</sub> (Kanto  
178 Chemical, Co., Inc., Japan) solution overnight. They were then triple rinsed using ultrapure water,  
179 with the glass and plasticware used dried prior to use.

### 180 **2.3.3 Particulate Organic Carbon (POC)**

181 POC concentrations of the SS on GF/F membranes were measured using an NC analyzer  
182 instrument (Sumigraph NC-22A, Sumika Chemical Analysis Service, Ltd., Japan), with suspended  
183 solids on the GF/F membrane combusted at a temperature of 600 °C. The acetanilide standard  
184 (Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Japan) was measured to create the calibration curves. Less than  
185 30 µm of drift and zero noise of the instrument baselines were required to conduct the sample  
186 measurement. The triplicate measurement and method blank were then carried out for quality  
187 assurance and quality control purposes.

## 188 **2.4 Data Analysis**

189 The statistical description was used to discuss the study results, mainly the mean, standard  
190 deviation (SD), the range of the values, and CV. A Pearson correlation (*r*) analysis was used to  
191 clarify the relationship among the parameters, calculated using a Minitab® 19. A probability (*p*)  
192 value of less than 0.05 was considered a statistically significant correlation.

## 193 **3 Results and Discussion**

### 194 **3.1 Spatial and Temporal Variation of Zn and Fe Concentrations**

195 The results of Zn and Fe concentrations in the monthly survey from August, December 2019, to July  
196 2020 are illustrated in Figure 2a and b, respectively. The summary of all parameters (SS, Zn, Fe,  
197 POC, and river discharge) can be seen in Table 1. Generally, the Zn levels varied among seasons  
198 as indicated by high CVs (50–155% for P-Zn; 33–202% for D-Zn). The Zn concentrations, mainly in  
199 dissolved form, tended to increase toward the downstream direction. The Zn clearly exhibited high  
200 concentrations, namely **st.3, 4, 5, and 23**. In the vicinity of **st.23**, three manufacturing industries

201 discharge their wastewater to the Sakai River. The detailed wastewater measurement results (Zn  
202 and Fe) are illustrated in Figure 3. Based on the Figure 3a, the total fraction of Zn concentrations in  
203 the wastewater did not exceed the national effluent standards (NES) of 2.0 mg/L. However, the Zn  
204 remained high downstream part of the Umeda River. Other point sources of Zn were not identified  
205 during the preliminary survey. The Zn concentrations in st.3, 4, and 5 exceeded the environmental  
206 quality standards (EQS) in December 2019 and February 2020. In March 2020, the EQS  
207 exceedances were also observed in st.4 (February, March), 3 (February, March), and 23 (February).  
208 From December 2019 to April 2020, relatively high Zn concentrations were obtained in almost all  
209 sampling stations. Figure 2a clearly shows that the Zn levels were considerably higher in winter and  
210 spring than those in summer. According to Andarani et al.<sup>[37]</sup>, the annual value of total fraction of Zn  
211 at st.5 in the 12-month survey exceeded the EQS.

212 Fe measurement is necessary as the possible natural element in river water. Fe could be  
213 considered as the inorganic fraction of SS, whereas the POC indicates the organic part of SS. The  
214 Fe levels during the monthly survey did not exhibit clear tendencies to the downstream (Figure 2b).  
215 Seasonal variation of Fe levels was not observed. Nevertheless, relatively high Fe concentrations  
216 were observed in June 2020 (summer). The dynamic of Zn and Fe concentrations in river water  
217 could be influenced by wastewater input or leaching from soil or sediment. Metal redistribution  
218 between particulate and dissolved fractions might occur due to the changes in physiochemical  
219 properties. The pH was near neutral ( $7.17 \pm 0.17$ ) and relatively stable ( $CV < 6\%$ ), which might not  
220 be considered as the main possible cause of Zn variability.

221 The diel concentrations of Zn during weekdays and weekends over the 24 hours from 17:00 to  
222 17:00 on the next day are shown in Figure 4a and b, respectively. The total Zn concentrations  
223 during weekdays exhibited much higher concentrations than those on weekends. Table 2  
224 summarizes the descriptive statistics of the hourly surveys both during weekdays and the weekend.  
225 On weekdays, the total Zn concentrations ranged from 0.015 to 0.043 mg/L ( $0.029 \pm 0.008$  mg/L),  
226 while during weekends, the total Zn varied from undetected to 0.032 mg/L ( $0.010 \pm 0.007$  mg/L).  
227 Figure 4a illustrates that the total Zn reached its highest value (0.043 mg/L) at 3:00. The discharge  
228 peaked in the afternoon at  $1.01 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ , whereas the total Zn decreased gradually and then slightly  
229 increased to 0.026 mg/L. The lowest concentration was reached at 13:00 (0.015 mg/L) in a  
230 relatively higher river discharge of  $0.96 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ . Figure 4a also clearly shows that the diel Zn  
231 fluctuations of both the total Zn and D-Zn were synchronous to the river discharge variations. The  
232 higher the river discharges, the lower the Zn concentrations owing to dilution, as was also seen in  
233 Nimick et al.<sup>[26]</sup>, Gozzard et al.<sup>[22]</sup>, and Resongles et al.<sup>[32]</sup> The increases in the detected minimum to  
234 maximum concentrations of D-Zn (the amplitude) during weekdays and weekends were 293% and  
235 1778%, respectively. Meanwhile, different amplitudes were observed in other studies, namely 140–  
236 326% for total Zn<sup>[23]</sup>, 800% for dissolved and colloidal Zn<sup>[29]</sup>, and almost 1000% for D-Zn in the least

237 buffered stream.<sup>[38]</sup> Various possible processes that promote diel variation of Zn in a non-acidic  
238 stream were summarized in Gammons et al.<sup>[28]</sup>

239 Meanwhile, the diel Zn fluctuations exhibited a similar pattern during the weekend, but with lower  
240 concentration values, as is shown in Figure 4b. During the weekend, the total Zn concentrations  
241 ranged from undetected (14:00, 16:00, and 17:00 on Sunday) to 0.032 mg/L (at 20:00 on Saturday).  
242 The D-Zn always presented over 24 hours on weekdays, whereas it exhibited lower concentrations  
243 from 12:00 to 17:00 on Sunday. The weekend's D-Zn concentration fluctuations were relatively  
244 similar to those during weekdays at a smaller magnitude, except at 23:00. The D-Zn fractions over  
245 the weekend ( $56 \pm 23\%$ , 9–98%) were lower than those during weekdays ( $77 \pm 11\%$ , 57–98%). It is  
246 apparent that Zn was introduced to the mainstream of the Umeda River on weekdays as a result of  
247 anthropogenic activities. Le Pape et al.<sup>[39]</sup> also found that natural trace elements, including Zn, were  
248 carried by suspended solids, whereas the dissolved phase contribution increased along the river  
249 toward the lower reach, where the urbanization was located.

250 The total Zn concentrations were still present in the daytime during the weekend, but below the  
251 detection limit (0.0005 mg/L) at 14:00, 16:00, and 17:00. It is possible that a few industrial facilities  
252 still operated on Saturday, but the diel cycles might also have occurred when, during the daytime,  
253 the concentrations became lower than at night. The total Zn concentrations varied in a similar trend  
254 of discharges, from 19:00 to 23:00 and 04:00 to 08:00.

255 Because these high temporally resolved samplings (weekdays and the weekend) were conducted in  
256 clear weather, the differences in concentrations could be due to the influence of the Zn point  
257 sources. The EQS of the total Zn in Japan were set to an annual average value of 0.03 mg/L. All of  
258 the Zn concentrations during the weekend remained low and did not exceed 0.03 mg/L. **However,**  
259 **the Zn concentrations exceeded the EQS from 19:00 on Wednesday to 09:00 on Thursday, with the**  
260 **exception at 23:00.** Although the value of 0.03 mg/L is a standard of the annual average value, a  
261 possible breach could be assumed during the 24-hour period. This diel variation of the Zn should be  
262 considered in order to determine the time of water quality monitoring for river water quality  
263 assessments.

264 Figure 4c and d show the Fe concentrations in both the total and dissolved fractions. There was no  
265 difference between the total Fe concentrations on weekdays ( $0.147 \pm 0.028$  mg/L, 0.104–0.215  
266 mg/L) and during the weekend ( $0.180 \pm 0.101$  mg/L, 0.125–0.648 mg/L). In contrast to the Zn  
267 concentrations, the Fe did not exhibit a distinct variation on either weekdays or during the weekend.  
268 **The Fe concentrations showed no discernible variability in either the daytime or at night, even**  
269 **though the Zn concentrations clearly demonstrated a diel fluctuation.** However, during the daytime,  
270 the D-Fe concentrations were relatively lower than during the night, which could only be seen on

271 weekdays. Because the Umeda River has near-neutral pH, the diurnal variation in the D-Fe  
272 concentrations due to photoreduction was not observed, in contrast to previous studies.<sup>[40,41]</sup>

### 273 3.2 Adsorption of Zn in the Umeda River

274 Anthropogenic activities conducted during weekdays could include industrial operations, mining,  
275 traffic, municipal solid waste treatment, and agriculture. Domestic activities performed every day  
276 could also have contributed to the elevated Zn<sup>[19]</sup> during both weekdays and the weekend. However,  
277 in this study, only the Zn concentrations on weekdays significantly increased. The elevated Zn  
278 concentrations could be originated from agricultural runoff<sup>[42–44]</sup>, road runoff<sup>[45]</sup>, traffic emissions, and  
279 atmospheric deposition<sup>[1,46,47]</sup>, as well as natural occurrences<sup>[48]</sup>, industrial<sup>[20,43,49]</sup>, and mining  
280 activities.<sup>[22,23,50]</sup> The increased Zn may come from point sources because the survey was  
281 undertaken in clear weather (no runoff discharges). Hence, there was no wet deposition or surface  
282 runoff introduced into the Umeda River. Sakata et al.<sup>[46]</sup> found that the Zn fluxes into Tokyo Bay  
283 substantially originated from atmospheric depositions. However, most of the Zn fraction in the  
284 Umeda River was in dissolved form, especially during the night; hence, it is unlikely that the source  
285 was from the dry atmospheric deposition of particulate matter. According to the monthly survey in  
286 the Umeda River, the most downstream station had the highest mean of total Zn concentrations  
287 over 14 months from August 2019 to July 2020. By considering the land use of the Umeda River  
288 catchment, the Zn contamination could be contributed from the wastewater point sources of  
289 manufacturing industries located in the upper-middle stream area. Three manufacturing industries  
290 discharging their treated wastewater to Sakai River, a tributary of Umeda River, were identified, but  
291 the Zn concentrations (0.036–0.079 mg/L) did not exceed the NES of 2.0 mg/L during the 14-month  
292 sampling period.<sup>[37]</sup> However, the instream Zn levels of the Umeda River after the confluence of the  
293 Sakai River were relatively higher than those in the upstream section.<sup>[37]</sup>

294 Adsorption is considered an important chemical process that influences the mobility of trace  
295 elements in natural waters due to its kinetically rapid reactions.<sup>[28]</sup> In light of previous studies<sup>[28,31]</sup>, a  
296 suitable mineral or organic surface is necessary to cause trace elements to be adsorbed on the  
297 surface, such as organic matter and hydrous metal oxides (Fe or Mn). The case in Osaka Bay also  
298 showed that Zn was mostly concentrated in the Fe-Mn oxide fraction.<sup>[51]</sup> The present study also  
299 observed a strong correlation between P-Zn and P-Fe at st.5 on weekdays, weekends, and during  
300 the monthly survey ( $r = 0.703$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ). A correlation between P-Zn and P-Fe ( $r = 0.430$ ;  $p < 0.05$ )  
301 was also observed in the sediment of the lower Seyhan River.<sup>[52]</sup>

302 Aquatic organisms and anthropogenic sources may contribute the organic-rich SS to the riverine  
303 system.<sup>[53]</sup> A strong positive correlation between P-Zn and POC has been found in a previous  
304 study.<sup>[54]</sup> In this study, the P-Zn concentrations also strongly correlated to the corresponding POC  
305 concentrations ( $r = 0.456$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ) at st.5 during the monthly and hourly survey. At st.5, Zn

306 generally presented in a dissolved phase ( $67 \pm 20\%$ ) during the monthly and hourly survey.  
307 Compared to the industrial wastewaters, the D-Zn ( $61 \pm 25\%$ ) also exhibited a higher proportion  
308 than P-Zn. Nevertheless, the particulate fraction of Zn might be adsorbed by both the organic matter  
309 and Fe oxides.

### 310 3.3 Zn Fluxes Comparisons

311 According to Figure 6, the cumulative Zn loadings from the most upstream (st.1, 0.0002–0.0657  
312 kg/day) to the downstream (st.5, 1.56–9.91 kg/day) significantly increased, except those in March  
313 2020. The Zn fluxes attenuation was only observed in March where the Zn input declined after  
314 approximately 7.59 km. The cumulative D-Zn fluxes also exhibited a similar trend from upstream to  
315 downstream of the Umeda River. The input of tributary st.23 led to a further increase in st.3  
316 (particularly in the dissolved phase), substantially observed in December 2019 and January–April  
317 2020. However, it should be noted that in December, the D-Zn significantly contributed to  
318 cumulative Zn loading at st.5 because of the Zn input that could not be identified. The Ochiai River  
319 (st.31) did not have a substantial Zn loading to the Umeda River.

320 The total and D-Zn fluxes varied greatly over 24 hours during both time events (Figure 7). The mean  
321 of the total Zn ( $97.15 \pm 25.43$  g/h) and D-Zn load ( $87.45 \pm 23.72$  g/h) on weekdays was much higher  
322 than that during the weekend ( $32.20 \pm 23.30$  g/h and  $26.26 \pm 16.31$ , respectively). On weekdays,  
323 the maximum load of the total Zn ( $142.72$  g/h) was present at 3:00, whereas the minimum ( $50.94$   
324 g/h) occurred at 13:00 during daytime and in the presence of a higher river discharge. As for the  
325 weekend, a similar pattern whereby the loads decreased during the daytime was also observed.  
326 However, the fluctuation exhibited a lower magnitude than that during the weekend. The total Zn  
327 load reached its highest value of  $106.93$  g/h and declined until it was below the detection limit at  
328 14:00, whereas the D-Zn load had remained low since 12:00. Two peaks of total Zn appeared  
329 during the weekend due to the increased P-Zn concentrations. At 20:00, the suspended solids may  
330 have contributed to the elevated Zn, which also included Fe. Meanwhile, at 23:00, the D-Zn  
331 significantly influenced the total Zn load.

332 The total daily Zn loading on weekdays ( $28.0$  g/km<sup>2</sup>/day) was approximately three times higher than  
333 during the weekend ( $9.3$  g/km<sup>2</sup>/day). These differences could originate from the industrial point  
334 sources. The industrial point sources may have contributed at least 67% of the total Zn fluxes ( $37$   
335 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day) and 70% of the D-Zn fluxes ( $35$  g/km<sup>2</sup>/day) on weekdays. Meanwhile, the industrial area  
336 along the Aizumame River in the Aichi Prefecture, discharged approximately  $68$  g/km<sup>2</sup>/day (57%) in  
337 2017<sup>[20]</sup>; much higher than in the case of the Umeda River. Wen et al.<sup>[50]</sup> estimated that non-mining  
338 industrial activities contributed  $3.8$  g/km<sup>2</sup>/day (Chongqing region) and  $0.3$  g/km<sup>2</sup>/day (Wuhan region)  
339 of D-Zn to the Yangtze River according to a survey from July 2007 (flood season) and January 2008  
340 (dry season). In 2000, the Zn input from industrial discharges in the Rhine catchment area in

341 Germany were 1.0 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day.<sup>[55]</sup> It implies that the Japanese river catchments (Aizumame and  
342 Umeda) relatively have substantially higher Zn yield from industrial area than other rivers (Yangtze  
343 and Rhine) that has much larger catchment area.

#### 344 **4 Concluding Remarks**

345 This study assessed the spatial and temporal variations of Zn and Fe for nine months as well as its  
346 diel weekday and weekend levels comparison on sunny days in the Umeda River in Japan's Aichi  
347 Prefecture. The increasing Zn levels were observed from upstream to downstream section of the  
348 Umeda River. The industrial wastewater point sources were identified in the Ochiai River and Sakai  
349 River, the tributaries of the Umeda River. However, only the Sakai River contributed a significant Zn  
350 input to the Umeda River.

351 The hourly survey was undertaken to verify the impact of anthropogenic activities conducted during  
352 weekdays. The distinct differences in the Zn concentrations and loads between weekdays and the  
353 weekend indicated that the industrial wastewater impacted the elevated Zn concentrations on  
354 weekdays. Meanwhile, the variations in the Fe concentrations on weekdays were relatively similar to  
355 those during the weekend. Organic matter and hydrous Fe oxides might have adsorbed the Zn in  
356 the riverine system, as was indicated by a strong correlation between P-Zn, P-Fe, and POC  
357 concentrations at the most downstream sampling station (st.5). The elevated Zn concentrations in  
358 the Umeda River were mostly contributed (more than 67%) by point sources of industrial  
359 wastewater based on the hourly survey.

#### 360 **Conflict of Interest**

361 The authors have declared no conflict of interest.

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- 442







443 **Figure Legends**

444 Figure 1. Sampling stations in the Umeda River and its tributaries

445 **Legend 1**

**Legend**

-  Watershed
-  River
-  Riverine sampling station (st.)
-  Wastewater sampling station (ww)




















Elevation (m)



446



















447 Figure 2. (a) Zn and (b) Fe concentrations in the river water. “P” represents particulate metal in the  
448 suspended solids and “D” denotes concentrations in dissolved phase (<0.2 μm). Undetected levels  
449 were assumed to have half of the detection limit concentration (0.00025 mg/L for Zn and 0.005 mg/L  
450 for Fe)

451 **Legend 2a**

- |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
|  st.1 (P-Zn) |  st.2 (P-Zn) |  st.3 (P-Zn) |  st.4 (P-Zn) |  st.5 (P-Zn) |  st.21 (P-Zn) |  st.22 (P-Zn) |  st.23 (P-Zn) |  st.31 (P-Zn) |
|  st.1 (D-Zn) |  st.2 (D-Zn) |  st.3 (D-Zn) |  st.4 (D-Zn) |  st.5 (D-Zn) |  st.21 (D-Zn) |  st.22 (D-Zn) |  st.23 (D-Zn) |  st.31 (D-Zn) |
|  EQS       |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |

452







453 **Legend 2b**

- |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
|  st.1 (P-Fe) |  st.2 (P-Fe) |  st.3 (P-Fe) |  st.4 (P-Fe) |  st.5 (P-Fe) |  st.21 (P-Fe) |  st.22 (P-Fe) |  st.23 (P-Fe) |  st.31 (P-Fe) |
|  st.1 (D-Fe) |  st.2 (D-Fe) |  st.3 (D-Fe) |  st.4 (D-Fe) |  st.5 (D-Fe) |  st.21 (D-Fe) |  st.22 (D-Fe) |  st.23 (D-Fe) |  st.31 (D-Fe) |

454







455 Figure 3. (a) Zn and (b) Fe concentrations in the wastewater

456 **Legend 3a**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|  ww-A (P-Zn) |  ww-B (P-Zn) |  ww-C (P-Zn) |
|  ww-A (D-Zn) |  ww-B (D-Zn) |  ww-C (D-Zn) |

457

458 **Legend 3b**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|  ww-A (P-Fe) |  ww-B (P-Fe) |  ww-C (P-Fe) |
|  ww-A (D-Fe) |  ww-B (D-Fe) |  ww-C (D-Fe) |

459

460 Figure 4. (a) The total and dissolved Zn concentrations during weekdays; (b) The total and  
461 dissolved Zn concentrations during the weekend; (c) The total and dissolved Fe concentrations  
462 during weekdays; (d) The total and dissolved Fe concentrations during the weekend in February  
463 2020. The error bars represent the standard deviations. The gray shaded area indicates the night-  
464 time hours (from 18:00 to 06:00).

465

466 Legend 4a  
 467 ■ Total Zn concentration    ■ Dissolved Zn concentration    — River discharge (Q) during weekdays  
 468 Legend 4b  
 469 ■ Total Zn concentration    ■ Dissolved Zn concentration    — River discharge (Q) during weekend  
 470 Legend 4c  
 471 ■ Total Fe concentration    ■ Dissolved Fe concentration    — River discharge (Q) during weekdays  
 472 Legend 4d  
 473 ■ Total Fe concentration    ■ Dissolved Fe concentration    — River discharge (Q) during weekend

474 Figure 5. Correlations between (a) Fe and Zn concentrations in particulate phase (P-Fe and P-Zn);  
 475 (b) particulate organic carbon (POC) and P-Zn concentrations at st.5 during the monthly and hourly  
 476 surveys (all correlations were significantly strong positive relationship)

477 Figure 6. Cumulative Zn load in the Umeda River and instream load of the tributary: (a) total Zn; (b)  
 478 dissolved Zn

479 Legend 6

—■— Aug	—●— Dec	—*— Jan	—■— Feb	—▲— Mar
—○— Apr	—○— May	—+— Jun	—*— Jul	

481 Figure 7. (a) Total and dissolved Zn load (a) on weekdays; (b) during the weekend. The gray  
 482 shaded area indicates night-time hours (from 18:00 to 06:00).

483 Legend 7a  
 484 —●— Total Zn load during weekdays    -▲- Dissolved Zn load during weekdays  
 485 Legend 7b  
 486 —●— Total Zn load during weekend    -▲- Dissolved Zn load during weekend

487

488 **Table 1. Summary of water analysis results in the monthly survey**

		Sampling station								
		st.1	st.2	st.3	st.4	st.5	st.31	st.21	st.22	st.23
<b>D-Zn (mg/L)</b>	Minimum	n.d.	0.0036	0.0056	0.0055	0.0046	0.0019	n.d.	n.d.	0.0052
	Maximum	0.0236	0.0278	0.0207	0.0396	0.0719	0.0139	0.0224	0.0273	0.0154
	Mean	0.0038	0.0117	0.0119	0.0198	0.0214	0.0057	0.0067	0.0047	0.0111
	SD	0.0076	0.0082	0.0056	0.0122	0.0204	0.0041	0.0077	0.0085	0.0036
	CV	202%	70%	47%	62%	95%	71%	114%	180%	33%
<b>P-Zn (mg/L)</b>	Minimum	n.d.	0.0010	0.0011	0.0029	0.0028	0.0023	n.d.	0.0007	0.0020
	Maximum	0.0039	0.0083	0.0261	0.0097	0.0142	0.0074	0.0122	0.0051	0.0334
	Mean	0.0010	0.0036	0.0100	0.0053	0.0062	0.0044	0.0027	0.0027	0.0093
	SD	0.0016	0.0028	0.0094	0.0027	0.0039	0.0019	0.0041	0.0017	0.0094
	CV	163%	75%	93%	50%	63%	44%	155%	64%	101%
<b>D-Fe (mg/L)</b>	Minimum	0.052	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
	Maximum	0.118	0.179	0.180	0.085	0.096	0.081	n.d.	0.103	0.171
	Mean	0.081	0.075	0.102	0.058	0.040	0.028	n.d.	0.050	0.098
	SD	0.026	0.063	0.053	0.024	0.037	0.033	n.d.	0.033	0.044
	CV	32%	83%	52%	41%	92%	117%	-	67%	45%
<b>P-Fe (mg/L)</b>	Minimum	0.055	0.035	0.079	0.095	0.102	0.105	0.035	0.059	0.043
	Maximum	0.259	0.183	0.580	0.349	0.169	0.434	1.259	0.615	0.197
	Mean	0.111	0.108	0.207	0.159	0.133	0.194	0.213	0.220	0.147
	SD	0.065	0.051	0.153	0.078	0.026	0.102	0.394	0.201	0.049
	CV	58%	47%	74%	49%	19%	52%	185%	92%	33%
<b>POC (mg/g)</b>	Minimum	27	25	67	153	141	73	85	95	132
	Maximum	281	528	283	297	283	312	330	207	422
	Mean	124	275	176	215	228	194	175	159	234
	SD	83	148	70	48	52	74	81	47	99
	CV	67%	54%	40%	22%	23%	38%	46%	30%	43%
<b>SS (mg/L)</b>	Minimum	2.3	3.1	5.6	5.2	3.6	1.4	1.3	2.7	4.5
	Maximum	38.5	9.6	11.3	9.0	8.6	20.2	23.3	19.1	18.1
	Mean	9.3	6.5	7.9	6.8	6.1	8.2	6.1	7.4	9.1
	SD	11.6	1.9	2.0	1.2	1.7	5.2	6.8	6.4	4.3
	CV	126%	29%	26%	18%	28%	63%	111%	86%	48%
<b>River discharge (m<sup>3</sup>/s)</b>	Minimum	0.01	0.04	0.33	0.57	0.76	0.11	0.01	0.07	0.17
	Maximum	0.06	0.11	0.86	1.18	1.36	0.30	0.05	0.21	0.42
	Mean	0.03	0.08	0.51	0.79	1.06	0.18	0.03	0.14	0.28
	SD	0.02	0.02	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.06	0.02	0.06	0.07
	CV	68%	30%	36%	24%	17%	33%	64%	40%	27%

489 n.d. : not detected (detection limit: 0.0005 mg/L for Zn and 0.01 mg/L for Fe)  
 490 CV, coefficient of variation; D-Zn, Zn in dissolved phase; D-Fe, Fe in dissolved phase; POC, particulate  
 491 organic carbon; P-Fe, Fe in particulate phase; P-Zn, Zn in particulate phase; SD, standard deviation; SS,  
 492 suspended solids; st., sampling station  
 493

494

495

496 **Table 2. Summary of water analysis results in the hourly survey**

	<b>T-Zn (mg/L)</b>	<b>D-Zn (mg/L)</b>	<b>T-Fe (mg/L)</b>	<b>D-Fe (mg/L)</b>	<b>POC (mg/L)</b>	<b>SS (mg/L)</b>	<b>River discharge (m<sup>3</sup>/s)</b>
<b>Weekdays</b>							
Minimum	0.015	0.014	0.104	0.034	112	5.5	0.89
Maximum	0.043	0.040	0.215	0.086	315	21.5	1.01
Mean	0.029	0.026	0.147	0.055	172	9.9	0.93
SD	0.008	0.007	0.028	0.014	50	3.5	0.03
CV	27%	29%	19%	26%	29%	35%	3%
<b>Weekends</b>							
Minimum	n.d.	n.d.	0.125	0.036	102	7.3	0.89
Maximum	0.032	0.0178	0.648	0.063	163	59.7	0.96
Mean	0.010	0.0079	0.180	0.051	131	14.1	0.93
SD	0.007	0.0049	0.101	0.007	17	10.0	0.02
CV	73%	62%	56%	14%	13%	71%	2%

497 n.d. : not detected (detection limit: 0.0005 mg/L for Zn and 0.01 mg/L for Fe)  
 498 CV, coefficient of variation; D-Zn, Zn in dissolved phase; D-Fe, Fe in dissolved phase; POC,  
 499 particulate organic carbon; SD, standard deviation; SS, suspended solids; st., sampling  
 500 station; T-Fe, Fe in total fraction; T-Zn, Zn in total fraction;

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1 **An assessment of zinc fluxes by analyzing monthly, weekday, and**  
2 **weekend levels in a river**

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12 **Abstract**

13 Unlike other heavy metals, zinc (Zn) is indispensable to life but also poses environmental risks to  
14 aquatic organisms. Aichi Prefecture has the Japan's fourth-highest discharges of Zn into water  
15 bodies. As a major industrial area, it is likely that the Zn fluxes in Aichi's water bodies originate from  
16 industrial wastewater. This study evaluated the spatial-temporal and diel variability of Zn  
17 concentrations and loads on sunny days during weekdays and weekends in the Umeda River, Aichi.  
18 The most downstream point was considered as the most polluted section according to the monthly  
19 survey (dissolved Zn: 0.0046–0.0719 mg/L, particulate Zn: 0.42–2.01 mg/g) that varied between  
20 seasons (coefficient of variation: 95% for dissolved Zn; 53% for particulate Zn). The total Zn  
21 concentrations on weekdays (0.015–0.043 mg/L) at the most downstream point exhibited much  
22 higher concentrations than those during the weekends (undetected–0.032 mg/L). Given the  
23 dissolved phase of these Zn levels ( $77 \pm 11\%$ ), it is apparent that the Zn concentrations were  
24 discharged into the Umeda River by industrial facilities on weekdays. The total Zn loading on  
25 weekdays (56 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day) was approximately three times higher than that on weekends (18  
26 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day). At least 67% of the total Zn (37 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day) and 70% of the dissolved Zn (35 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day)  
27 fluxes from industrial point sources were potentially discharged on weekdays.

28

29 **Abbreviations:** CRM, certified reference material; CV, coefficient of variation; D-Zn, Zn in dissolved  
30 phase; D-Fe, Fe in dissolved phase; EQS, environmental quality standards; n.d, not detected (Fe ≤  
31 0.01 mg/L, Zn ≤ 0.0005 mg/L); NES, national effluent standards; POC, particulate organic carbon;  
32 PRTR, Pollutant Release and Transfer Register; P-Fe, Fe in particulate phase; P-Zn, Zn in  
33 particulate phase; Q, river discharge; SD, standard deviation; SS, suspended solids; st., sampling  
34 station; US-EPA, United States - Environmental Protection Agency; WFD, Water Framework  
35 Directive; H, water level; Water Framework Directive; ww, industrial wastewater

36 **Keywords:** Flux; Heavy metal; Industrial wastewater; Organic matter; Zinc

## 37 **1 Introduction**

38 Zinc (Zn) is the third most-produced non-ferrous metal in Japan, after copper and aluminum.<sup>[1]</sup>  
39 Based on the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) data from 2018,<sup>[1]</sup> approximately 641  
40 tons of Zn compounds (water-soluble) are annually discharged into public bodies of water in Japan,  
41 and it is the third most-released chemical in these water bodies.<sup>[1]</sup> The most common use of Zn  
42 around the world is galvanizing, to protect steel against corrosion, which accounts for over 50% of  
43 the Zn annually produced, followed by ZnO, die casting, a vulcanizing agent of tire rubber, and other  
44 application to produce brass, tiles, ceramics, glass<sup>[2]</sup>, dyes<sup>[3]</sup>, battery<sup>[4]</sup>, and electronic products<sup>[5]</sup>.  
45 Unlike other heavy metal pollution, Zn does not pose a health risk to humans indirectly exposed  
46 through the environment, whereas direct exposure to ZnO and ZnCl<sub>2</sub> may indeed carry potential  
47 health risks.<sup>[6,7]</sup> On the other hand, humans, animals, plants, and even microorganisms, require Zn  
48 for development and growth; hence, it is indispensable to life processes.<sup>[8]</sup> However, its chronic  
49 toxicity to aquatic life has been observed when it reaches a specific threshold, which is often as a  
50 result of Zn pollution.<sup>[7,9-12]</sup>

51 In riverine ecosystems, Zn is typically present in its most ecotoxic form, i.e., Zn<sup>2+</sup>.<sup>[13,14]</sup> Consequently,  
52 in European countries, stringent environmental quality standards (EQS) on the total fraction of Zn  
53 have set the range from 0.008 to 0.125 mg/L, depending on the water hardness.<sup>[15]</sup> Specifically, in  
54 the UK and Wales, the standards for dissolved bioavailable Zn have been set at 10.9 µg/L, plus  
55 ambient background concentrations that depend on catchments/groups thereof.<sup>[16]</sup> Meanwhile, in  
56 order to protect freshwater aquatic life, the US Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) set the  
57 criterion for total recoverable Zn to 0.047 mg/L as a 24-hour average.<sup>[17]</sup> In order to protect the  
58 aquatic ecosystem, in 2003, Japan enacted EQS for Zn of 0.03 mg/L as the annual mean value.  
59 Nevertheless, according to the Ministry of Environment of Japan, in 2019, 19 riverine sites breached  
60 the EQS, in contrast to lakes and the ocean, which all of them were below the EQS threshold.<sup>[18]</sup>  
61 Naito et al.<sup>[19]</sup> also noted that Aichi Prefecture did not show a clear Zn reduction trend after 2002.  
62 Based on the PRTR Data<sup>[1]</sup>, from 2001 to 2019, Aichi Prefecture had the fourth-largest Zn



63 discharges into public bodies of water (approximately 38 tons/year) after Osaka, Tokyo, and  
64 Kanagawa Prefecture.

65 Due to irregular effluent discharges into the river, a high concentration could be temporarily found,  
66 and was possibly missed, during the monitoring period. Anthropogenic activities tend to be more  
67 intensive during weekdays, apart from in recreational areas. In this case, a survey conducted  
68 measuring weekdays and weekends featured different Zn concentrations. Previous research  
69 revealed that surveys undertaken on weekdays exhibited higher concentrations of  
70 contaminants.<sup>[20,21]</sup> Furthermore, Andarani et al.<sup>[20]</sup> found that throughout 2017, Zn concentrations in  
71 the most downstream point in the Aizumame River, located in Aichi Prefecture, exceeded the EQS.  
72 The Zn fluxes in the Aizumame River were found to mostly originate from point sources of industrial  
73 wastewater, which contributed about 77.3 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day.<sup>[20]</sup> The Zn concentrations in the river may also  
74 become elevated due to point or non-point (diffuse) sources.<sup>[19,22]</sup> Given that industrial facilities do  
75 not operate on weekends and holidays, it was possible to estimate the contribution of industrial  
76 point sources to the river by comparing the measurement results between weekdays and weekends.  
77 Moreover, hydrological and biogeochemical processes may influence dynamic diel fluctuation in  
78 metal concentrations, including Zn.<sup>[23]</sup> Bourg and Bertin<sup>[24]</sup> and Brick and Moore<sup>[25]</sup> were the first to  
79 report a diel cycle of Zn concentrations in near-neutral and alkaline rivers, followed by Nimick et  
80 al.<sup>[26]</sup> The diel Zn cycles had already been intensively observed in several near-neutral  
81 environments and rivers in the United States<sup>[25,27–31]</sup>, United Kingdom<sup>[23]</sup>, and France<sup>[24,32,33]</sup>.  
82 However, comparisons of diel Zn concentrations during weekdays and weekends remain scarce.  
83 The sources of Zn could also be traced by narrowing down activities conducted on weekdays and  
84 weekends. The spatial and temporal variations of Zn are also necessary to be assessed in order to  
85 verify the input of point sources and seasonal changes. In addition, iron (Fe) was also compared to  
86 Zn variation; hence, the impact of anthropogenic activities to the riverine Zn levels could be  
87 identified. Fe is a naturally occurring element in river<sup>[34]</sup> and the adsorption of Zn on the Fe  
88 hydroxides might occur in the surface water<sup>[26,28]</sup>. Therefore, the main objective of this study was to  
89 assess the spatial-temporal and diel variation of Zn in a near-neutral stream located in Aichi  
90 Prefecture, Japan, particularly on weekdays and weekends.

## 91 **2 Materials and Methods**

### 92 **2.1 Sampling Site**

93 For this study, monthly surveys (nine months) and a 24-hour survey were conducted in the Umeda  
94 River, Aichi Prefecture, Japan. Both surveys were undertaken during low flow on a sunny day (no  
95 precipitation on two previous days and the sampling event). The Umeda River is a second grade  
96 river with a catchment area of 86.6 km<sup>2</sup>, crossing Toyohashi City and flowing into Mikawa Bay.

97 Figure 1 shows the sampling stations in the study area. Station 5 (st.5) was below Hatakeda Bridge,  
98 located at the most downstream point without tidal influence. With st.5 as the outlet, the watershed  
99 area accounted for 43.7 km<sup>2</sup>. This station was the sampling point for both the monthly survey the  
100 hourly survey (the weekdays and weekend sampling). St.1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were in the Umeda River,  
101 with its corresponding tributaries, such as st.31 (Ochiai River) and st.21–23 (Sakai River). The  
102 sampling stations (st.2 and st.3) in the Umeda River were located approximately 10 meters before  
103 the confluence of its respective tributary.

104 Land use significantly comprises urban areas (29.8%), including residential, commercial, and  
105 industrial areas, mostly located in the catchment's upper-middle reach, particularly in the vicinity of  
106 st.2, st.3, and st.4. The industrial areas discharge the wastewater to the Sakai River, which were  
107 identified as point sources ww-A, ww-B, and ww-C contributed Zn to the st.23. An industrial area  
108 adjacent to the Ochiai River was identified and the water samples were taken at st.31. However, the  
109 largest area of land use is agricultural (48.8%), consisting of paddy (5.8%) and other crops  
110 (43.0%),<sup>[35]</sup> including cabbage and tea.

## 111 **2.2 Samples Collection**

### 112 **2.2.1 Monthly Survey**

113 The monthly survey was conducted for nine months in August 2019 and from December 2019 to  
114 July 2020. The monthly survey was a single survey per month. The main criteria for selecting the  
115 monthly survey day were dry weather (including the previous two days) and undertaken on a  
116 weekday. The samples were collected once per day during the daytime, approximately between  
117 09:00 and 14:00 at all riverine sampling stations (st.1–st.5, st.31, and st.21–23) and industrial  
118 wastewater sampling points (ww-A, ww-B, and ww-C). The interval period between monthly  
119 sampling events ranged from 22 to 43 days (31 days on average).

120 Approximately two liters of water samples were collected manually using acid-cleaned  
121 polypropylene bottles which were also triple rinsed by river water. A triplicate analysis of each  
122 sample was conducted, then the average and standard deviation are presented in Figure 2. The  
123 river discharges were measured and calculated using a velocity-area method according to Andarani  
124 et al.<sup>[20]</sup>

### 125 **2.2.2 Hourly Survey (during Weekdays and the Weekend)**

126 Clear sunny weather events on weekdays (Wednesday-Thursday) and weekends (Saturday-  
127 Sunday) were monitored in the first week of February 2020 (winter) at st.5. The winter season has  
128 the lowest precipitation levels throughout the year, indicating that the point sources may  
129 substantially affect Zn fluxes into the stream. An autosampler (Teledyne ISCO-6712, US) was  
130 deployed and programmed to take one-liter samples hourly between 17:00 and 16:00. Twenty-four

131 bottles (holding up to a liter of water) made of polypropylene were collected for each sampling event.  
132 The water samples were taken by polypropylene pipe and pumped by a peristaltic pump with a  
133 purge phase in order to avoid cross-contamination. A one-liter water sample was taken manually  
134 using acid-cleaned polypropylene bottles at 17:00 on the second day in order to obtain data over 25  
135 hours. All of the autosampler and polypropylene sample bottles were triple rinsed with deionized  
136 water and oven-dried prior to each sampling procedure. The water samples were taken after all  
137 samples were collected in autosampler bottles and then immediately filtered and pre-treated in the  
138 laboratory within 48 hours.

### 139 **2.3 River Discharge Measurement Methods**

140 The water level-discharge (H-Q) equation model<sup>[36]</sup> was used to estimate river discharge (Q) of the  
141 Umeda River at Hatakeda Bridge. The water level (H) over every hour at Hamamichi Station,  
142 located about one kilometer from Hatakeda Bridge, was obtained from the River Division of Aichi  
143 Prefectural Construction Bureau. According to the model, the water level at Hamamichi Station  
144 needed to be converted to that at Hatakeda Bridge.<sup>[36]</sup>

### 145 **2.4 Analytical Methods**

#### 146 **2.4.1 Suspended Solids (SS)**

147 Two types of membranes were used to obtain the SS, namely GF/F membranes and cellulose  
148 acetate membranes. The GF/F (0.7  $\mu\text{m}$ , glass microfiber filters, Whatman™, UK) membrane was  
149 further used to measure particulate organic carbon (POC), whereas cellulose acetate membrane  
150 (Advantec®, Japan) was utilized to obtain filtrate as a dissolved fraction of Zn (D-Zn) and Fe (D-Fe).  
151 The SS on the cellulose acetate membrane was further digested to obtain the particulate Zn and Fe  
152 fraction.

153 For the measurement of suspended solids (SS) concentrations, 100 ml water samples were filtered  
154 using wash-dried and pre-weigh GF/F membranes. The GF/F membranes were oven-dried at  
155 400 °C before filtering the samples. The concentrations were determined by subtracting the weight  
156 of the membrane with SS (oven-dried at 105 °C) and the pre-weight divided by filtered volume. This  
157 filtration was performed three times, and the mean values were calculated for further assessment in  
158 this study.

#### 159 **2.4.2 Zn and Fe Concentrations**

160 Five-hundred milliliters of water was filtered using a cellulose acetate membrane (0.2  $\mu\text{m}$ ,  
161 Advantec®, Japan). The filter bottle was triple rinsed with deionized water prior to the filtration of  
162 each sample. The first 100 ml of filtrate was then discarded to avoid cross-contamination. With  
163 respect to the D-Zn and D-Fe, 1.0 ml of concentrated  $\text{HNO}_3$  (ultrapure analytical reagent,  
164 Tamachemicals Co., Ltd., Japan) was added to 100 ml of filtrate and then digested. The digestion

165 required heating up the samples on a hotplate to a temperature of 205 °C for 20 minutes. In order to  
166 prevent contamination, the first five milliliters of the filtrate were discarded. The metals in suspended  
167 solids were analyzed based on the US-EPA Method 3050B with addition of concentrated HCl  
168 (suprapure guaranteed reagent, Wako Pure Chemical Corporation, Japan). The concentrations of  
169 Zn and Fe were then measured three times using the flame and graphite furnace atomic absorption  
170 spectrometry instrument (AA-7000 Shimadzu, Shimadzu Corporation, Japan) with four calibration  
171 standards (the detection limits of Zn and Fe were 0.0005 mg/L and 0.01 mg/L, respectively).

172 Re-validation of the standard solutions every six sample measurements for the calibration curves  
173 was necessary for quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) purposes. The method blanks  
174 were analyzed together with a set of the six samples. The Zn and Fe contained in the procedures  
175 and reagents were not detected according to the method blank. The triplicate analysis of all  
176 samples showed that the coefficient of variation (CV) was less than 7% both for Zn and Fe  
177 concentrations of the water samples. The CVs of particulate sample measurements were up to 12%.  
178 The analytical procedure was checked using a certified reference material (CRM) for trace elements  
179 (National Metrology Institute of Japan, CRM 7202-c No. 0356). The recovery rates for the analytical  
180 procedure were 84–92% (Zn) and 93–99% (Fe).

181 All of the reagents used were of ultrapure and standard solutions were prepared using ultrapure  
182 water. All glass and plasticware for the elemental analysis were soaked in 1% HNO<sub>3</sub> (Kanto  
183 Chemical, Co., Inc., Japan) solution overnight. They were then triple rinsed using ultrapure water,  
184 with the glass and plasticware used dried prior to use.

### 185 **2.3.3 Particulate Organic Carbon (POC)**

186 POC concentrations of the SS on GF/F membranes were measured using an NC analyzer  
187 instrument (Sumigraph NC-22A, Sumika Chemical Analysis Service, Ltd., Japan), with suspended  
188 solids on the GF/F membrane combusted at a temperature of 600 °C. The acetanilide standard  
189 (Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Japan) was measured to create the calibration curves. Less than  
190 30 µm of drift and zero noise of the instrument baselines were required to conduct the sample  
191 measurement. The triplicate measurement and method blank were then carried out for quality  
192 assurance and quality control purposes.

### 193 **2.4 Data Analysis**

194 The statistical description was used to discuss the study results, mainly the mean, standard  
195 deviation (SD), the range of the values, and CV. A Pearson correlation (*r*) analysis was used to  
196 clarify the relationship among the parameters, calculated using a Minitab® 19. A probability (*p*)  
197 value of less than 0.05 was considered a statistically significant correlation.

## 198 **3 Results and Discussion**

### 199 **3.1 Spatial and Temporal Variation of Zn and Fe Concentrations**

200 The results of Zn and Fe concentrations in the monthly survey from August, December 2019, to July  
201 2020 are illustrated in Figure 2a and b, respectively. The summary of all parameters (SS, Zn, Fe,  
202 POC, and river discharge) can be seen in Table 1. Generally, the Zn levels varied among seasons  
203 as indicated by high CVs (50–155% for P-Zn; 33–202% for D-Zn). The Zn concentrations, mainly in  
204 dissolved form, tended to increase toward the downstream direction. The Zn clearly exhibited high  
205 concentrations, namely st.3, 4, 5, and 23. In the vicinity of st.23, three manufacturing industries  
206 discharge their wastewater to the Sakai River. The detailed wastewater measurement results (Zn  
207 and Fe) are illustrated in Figure 3. Based on the Figure 3a, the total fraction of Zn concentrations in  
208 the wastewater did not exceed the national effluent standards (NES) of 2.0 mg/L. However, the Zn  
209 remained high downstream part of the Umeda River. Other point sources of Zn were not identified  
210 during the preliminary survey. The Zn concentrations in st.3, 4, and 5 exceeded the environmental  
211 quality standards (EQS) in December 2019 and February 2020. In March 2020, the EQS  
212 exceedances were also observed in st.4 (February, March), 3 (February, March), and 23 (February).  
213 From December 2019 to April 2020, relatively high Zn concentrations were obtained in almost all  
214 sampling stations. Figure 2a clearly shows that the Zn levels were considerably higher in winter and  
215 spring than those in summer. According to Andarani et al.<sup>[37]</sup>, the annual value of total fraction of Zn  
216 at st.5 in the 12-month survey exceeded the EQS.

217 Fe measurement is necessary as the possible natural element in river water. Fe could be  
218 considered as the inorganic fraction of SS, whereas the POC indicates the organic part of SS. The  
219 Fe levels during the monthly survey did not exhibit clear tendencies to the downstream (Figure 2b).  
220 Seasonal variation of Fe levels was not observed. Nevertheless, relatively high Fe concentrations  
221 were observed in June 2020 (summer). The dynamic of Zn and Fe concentrations in river water  
222 could be influenced by wastewater input or leaching from soil or sediment. Metal redistribution  
223 between particulate and dissolved fractions might occur due to the changes in physiochemical  
224 properties. The pH was near neutral ( $7.17 \pm 0.17$ ) and relatively stable ( $CV < 6\%$ ), which might not  
225 be considered as the main possible cause of Zn variability.

226 The diel concentrations of Zn during weekdays and weekends over the 24 hours from 17:00 to  
227 17:00 on the next day are shown in Figure 4a and b, respectively. The total Zn concentrations  
228 during weekdays exhibited much higher concentrations than those on weekends. Table 2  
229 summarizes the descriptive statistics of the hourly surveys both during weekdays and the weekend.  
230 On weekdays, the total Zn concentrations ranged from 0.015 to 0.043 mg/L ( $0.029 \pm 0.008$  mg/L),  
231 while during weekends, the total Zn varied from undetected to 0.032 mg/L ( $0.010 \pm 0.007$  mg/L).  
232 Figure 4a illustrates that the total Zn reached its highest value (0.043 mg/L) at 3:00. The discharge

233 peaked in the afternoon at 1.01 m<sup>3</sup>/s, whereas the total Zn decreased gradually and then slightly  
234 increased to 0.026 mg/L. The lowest concentration was reached at 13:00 (0.015 mg/L) in a  
235 relatively higher river discharge of 0.96 m<sup>3</sup>/s. Figure 4a also clearly shows that the diel Zn  
236 fluctuations of both the total Zn and D-Zn were synchronous to the river discharge variations. The  
237 higher the river discharges, the lower the Zn concentrations owing to dilution, as was also seen in  
238 Nimick et al.<sup>[26]</sup>, Gozzard et al.<sup>[22]</sup>, and Resongles et al.<sup>[32]</sup> The increases in the detected minimum to  
239 maximum concentrations of D-Zn (the amplitude) during weekdays and weekends were 293% and  
240 1778%, respectively. Meanwhile, different amplitudes were observed in other studies, namely 140–  
241 326% for total Zn<sup>[23]</sup>, 800% for dissolved and colloidal Zn<sup>[29]</sup>, and almost 1000% for D-Zn in the least  
242 buffered stream.<sup>[38]</sup> Various possible processes that promote diel variation of Zn in a non-acidic  
243 stream were summarized in Gammons et al.<sup>[28]</sup>

244 Meanwhile, the diel Zn fluctuations exhibited a similar pattern during the weekend, but with lower  
245 concentration values, as is shown in Figure 4b. During the weekend, the total Zn concentrations  
246 ranged from undetected (14:00, 16:00, and 17:00 on Sunday) to 0.032 mg/L (at 20:00 on Saturday).  
247 The D-Zn always presented over 24 hours on weekdays, whereas it exhibited lower concentrations  
248 from 12:00 to 17:00 on Sunday. The weekend's D-Zn concentration fluctuations were relatively  
249 similar to those during weekdays at a smaller magnitude, except at 23:00. The D-Zn fractions over  
250 the weekend (56 ± 23%, 9–98%) were lower than those during weekdays (77 ± 11%, 57–98%). It is  
251 apparent that Zn was introduced to the mainstream of the Umeda River on weekdays as a result of  
252 anthropogenic activities. Le Pape et al.<sup>[39]</sup> also found that natural trace elements, including Zn, were  
253 carried by suspended solids, whereas the dissolved phase contribution increased along the river  
254 toward the lower reach, where the urbanization was located.

255 The total Zn concentrations were still present in the daytime during the weekend, but below the  
256 detection limit (0.0005 mg/L) at 14:00, 16:00, and 17:00. It is possible that a few industrial facilities  
257 still operated on Saturday, but the diel cycles might also have occurred when, during the daytime,  
258 the concentrations became lower than at night. The total Zn concentrations varied in a similar trend  
259 of discharges, from 19:00 to 23:00 and 04:00 to 08:00.

260 Because these high temporally resolved samplings (weekdays and the weekend) were conducted in  
261 clear weather, the differences in concentrations could be due to the influence of the Zn point  
262 sources. The EQS of the total Zn in Japan were set to an annual average value of 0.03 mg/L. All of  
263 the Zn concentrations during the weekend remained low and did not exceed 0.03 mg/L. However,  
264 the Zn concentrations exceeded the EQS from 19:00 on Wednesday to 09:00 on Thursday, with the  
265 exception at 23:00. Although the value of 0.03 mg/L is a standard of the annual average value, a  
266 possible breach could be assumed during the 24-hour period. This diel variation of the Zn should be

267 considered in order to determine the time of water quality monitoring for river water quality  
268 assessments.

269 Figure 4c and d show the Fe concentrations in both the total and dissolved fractions. There was no  
270 difference between the total Fe concentrations on weekdays ( $0.147 \pm 0.028$  mg/L, 0.104–0.215  
271 mg/L) and during the weekend ( $0.180 \pm 0.101$  mg/L, 0.125–0.648 mg/L). In contrast to the Zn  
272 concentrations, the Fe did not exhibit a distinct variation on either weekdays or during the weekend.  
273 The Fe concentrations showed no discernible variability in either the daytime or at night, even  
274 though the Zn concentrations clearly demonstrated a diel fluctuation. However, during the daytime,  
275 the D-Fe concentrations were relatively lower than during the night, which could only be seen on  
276 weekdays. Because the Umeda River has near-neutral pH, the diurnal variation in the D-Fe  
277 concentrations due to photoreduction was not observed, in contrast to previous studies.<sup>[40,41]</sup>

### 278 **3.2 Adsorption of Zn in the Umeda River**

279 Anthropogenic activities conducted during weekdays could include industrial operations, mining,  
280 traffic, municipal solid waste treatment, and agriculture. Domestic activities performed every day  
281 could also have contributed to the elevated Zn<sup>[19]</sup> during both weekdays and the weekend. However,  
282 in this study, only the Zn concentrations on weekdays significantly increased. The elevated Zn  
283 concentrations could be originated from agricultural runoff<sup>[42–44]</sup>, road runoff<sup>[45]</sup>, traffic emissions, and  
284 atmospheric deposition<sup>[1,46,47]</sup>, as well as natural occurrences<sup>[48]</sup>, industrial<sup>[20,43,49]</sup>, and mining  
285 activities.<sup>[22,23,50]</sup> The increased Zn may come from point sources because the survey was  
286 undertaken in clear weather (no runoff discharges). Hence, there was no wet deposition or surface  
287 runoff introduced into the Umeda River. Sakata et al.<sup>[46]</sup> found that the Zn fluxes into Tokyo Bay  
288 substantially originated from atmospheric depositions. However, most of the Zn fraction in the  
289 Umeda River was in dissolved form, especially during the night; hence, it is unlikely that the source  
290 was from the dry atmospheric deposition of particulate matter. According to the monthly survey in  
291 the Umeda River, the most downstream station had the highest mean of total Zn concentrations  
292 over 14 months from August 2019 to July 2020. By considering the land use of the Umeda River  
293 catchment, the Zn contamination could be contributed from the wastewater point sources of  
294 manufacturing industries located in the upper-middle stream area. Three manufacturing industries  
295 discharging their treated wastewater to Sakai River, a tributary of Umeda River, were identified, but  
296 the Zn concentrations (0.036–0.079 mg/L) did not exceed the NES of 2.0 mg/L during the 14-month  
297 sampling period.<sup>[37]</sup> However, the instream Zn levels of the Umeda River after the confluence of the  
298 Sakai River were relatively higher than those in the upstream section.<sup>[37]</sup>

299 Adsorption is considered an important chemical process that influences the mobility of trace  
300 elements in natural waters due to its kinetically rapid reactions.<sup>[28]</sup> In light of previous studies<sup>[28,31]</sup>, a

301 suitable mineral or organic surface is necessary to cause trace elements to be adsorbed on the  
302 surface, such as organic matter and hydrous metal oxides (Fe or Mn). The case in Osaka Bay also  
303 showed that Zn was mostly concentrated in the Fe-Mn oxide fraction.<sup>[51]</sup> The present study also  
304 observed a strong correlation between P-Zn and P-Fe at st.5 on weekdays, weekends, and during  
305 the monthly survey ( $r = 0.703$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ). A correlation between P-Zn and P-Fe ( $r = 0.430$ ;  $p < 0.05$ )  
306 was also observed in the sediment of the lower Seyhan River.<sup>[52]</sup>

307 Aquatic organisms and anthropogenic sources may contribute the organic-rich SS to the riverine  
308 system.<sup>[53]</sup> A strong positive correlation between P-Zn and POC has been found in a previous  
309 study.<sup>[54]</sup> In this study, the P-Zn concentrations also strongly correlated to the corresponding POC  
310 concentrations ( $r = 0.456$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ) at st.5 during the monthly and hourly survey. At st.5, Zn  
311 generally presented in a dissolved phase ( $67 \pm 20\%$ ) during the monthly and hourly survey.  
312 Compared to the industrial wastewaters, the D-Zn ( $61 \pm 25\%$ ) also exhibited a higher proportion  
313 than P-Zn. Nevertheless, the particulate fraction of Zn might be adsorbed by both the organic matter  
314 and Fe oxides.

### 315 **3.3 Zn Fluxes Comparisons**

316 According to Figure 6, the cumulative Zn loadings from the most upstream (st.1, 0.0002–0.0657  
317 kg/day) to the downstream (st.5, 1.56–9.91 kg/day) significantly increased, except those in March  
318 2020. The Zn fluxes attenuation was only observed in March where the Zn input declined after  
319 approximately 7.59 km. The cumulative D-Zn fluxes also exhibited a similar trend from upstream to  
320 downstream of the Umeda River. The input of tributary st.23 led to a further increase in st.3  
321 (particularly in the dissolved phase), substantially observed in December 2019 and January–April  
322 2020. However, it should be noted that in December, the D-Zn significantly contributed to  
323 cumulative Zn loading at st.5 because of the Zn input that could not be identified. The Ochiai River  
324 (st.31) did not have a substantial Zn loading to the Umeda River.

325 The total and D-Zn fluxes varied greatly over 24 hours during both time events (Figure 7). The mean  
326 of the total Zn ( $97.15 \pm 25.43$  g/h) and D-Zn load ( $87.45 \pm 23.72$  g/h) on weekdays was much higher  
327 than that during the weekend ( $32.20 \pm 23.30$  g/h and  $26.26 \pm 16.31$ , respectively). On weekdays,  
328 the maximum load of the total Zn ( $142.72$  g/h) was present at 3:00, whereas the minimum ( $50.94$   
329 g/h) occurred at 13:00 during daytime and in the presence of a higher river discharge. As for the  
330 weekend, a similar pattern whereby the loads decreased during the daytime was also observed.  
331 However, the fluctuation exhibited a lower magnitude than that during the weekend. The total Zn  
332 load reached its highest value of  $106.93$  g/h and declined until it was below the detection limit at  
333 14:00, whereas the D-Zn load had remained low since 12:00. Two peaks of total Zn appeared  
334 during the weekend due to the increased P-Zn concentrations. At 20:00, the suspended solids may



335 have contributed to the elevated Zn, which also included Fe. Meanwhile, at 23:00, the D-Zn  
336 significantly influenced the total Zn load.

337 The total daily Zn loading on weekdays (28.0 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day) was approximately three times higher than  
338 during the weekend (9.3 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day). These differences could originate from the industrial point  
339 sources. The industrial point sources may have contributed at least 67% of the total Zn fluxes (37  
340 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day) and 70% of the D-Zn fluxes (35 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day) on weekdays. Meanwhile, the industrial area  
341 along the Aizumame River in the Aichi Prefecture, discharged approximately 68 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day (57%) in  
342 2017<sup>[20]</sup>; much higher than in the case of the Umeda River. Wen et al.<sup>[50]</sup> estimated that non-mining  
343 industrial activities contributed 3.8 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day (Chongqing region) and 0.3 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day (Wuhan region)  
344 of D-Zn to the Yangtze River according to a survey from July 2007 (flood season) and January 2008  
345 (dry season). In 2000, the Zn input from industrial discharges in the Rhine catchment area in  
346 Germany were 1.0 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day.<sup>[55]</sup> It implies that the Japanese river catchments (Aizumame and  
347 Umeda) relatively have substantially higher Zn yield from industrial area than other rivers (Yangtze  
348 and Rhine) that has much larger catchment area.

#### 349 **4 Concluding Remarks**

350 This study assessed the spatial and temporal variations of Zn and Fe for nine months as well as its  
351 diel weekday and weekend levels comparison on sunny days in the Umeda River in Japan's Aichi  
352 Prefecture. The increasing Zn levels were observed from upstream to downstream section of the  
353 Umeda River. The industrial wastewater point sources were identified in the Ochiai River and Sakai  
354 River, the tributaries of the Umeda River. However, only the Sakai River contributed a significant Zn  
355 input to the Umeda River.

356 The hourly survey was undertaken to verify the impact of anthropogenic activities conducted during  
357 weekdays. The distinct differences in the Zn concentrations and loads between weekdays and the  
358 weekend indicated that the industrial wastewater impacted the elevated Zn concentrations on  
359 weekdays. Meanwhile, the variations in the Fe concentrations on weekdays were relatively similar to  
360 those during the weekend. Organic matter and hydrous Fe oxides might have adsorbed the Zn in  
361 the riverine system, as was indicated by a strong correlation between P-Zn, P-Fe, and POC  
362 concentrations at the most downstream sampling station (st.5). The elevated Zn concentrations in  
363 the Umeda River were mostly contributed (more than 67%) by point sources of industrial  
364 wastewater based on the hourly survey.

#### 365 **Conflict of Interest**

366 The authors have declared no conflict of interest.

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447

448 **Figure Legends**

449 Figure 1. Sampling stations in the Umeda River and its tributaries

450 Legend 1

**Legend**

-  Watershed
-  River
-  Riverine sampling station (st.)
-  Wastewater sampling station (ww)




















Elevation (m)



451



















452 Figure 2. (a) Zn and (b) Fe concentrations in the river water during the monthly survey. “P”  
453 represents particulate metal in the suspended solids and “D” denotes concentrations in dissolved  
454 phase (<0.2 µm). Undetected levels were assumed to have half of the detection limit concentration  
455 (0.00025 mg/L for Zn and 0.005 mg/L for Fe). Error bars are regarded as standard deviations of the  
456 triplicate analysis.

457 Legend 2a

- |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
|  st.1 (P-Zn) |  st.2 (P-Zn) |  st.3 (P-Zn) |  st.4 (P-Zn) |  st.5 (P-Zn) |  st.21 (P-Zn) |  st.22 (P-Zn) |  st.23 (P-Zn) |  st.31 (P-Zn) |
|  st.1 (D-Zn) |  st.2 (D-Zn) |  st.3 (D-Zn) |  st.4 (D-Zn) |  st.5 (D-Zn) |  st.21 (D-Zn) |  st.22 (D-Zn) |  st.23 (D-Zn) |  st.31 (D-Zn) |
-  EQS

458







459 Legend 2b

- |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
|  st.1 (P-Fe) |  st.2 (P-Fe) |  st.3 (P-Fe) |  st.4 (P-Fe) |  st.5 (P-Fe) |  st.21 (P-Fe) |  st.22 (P-Fe) |  st.23 (P-Fe) |  st.31 (P-Fe) |
|  st.1 (D-Fe) |  st.2 (D-Fe) |  st.3 (D-Fe) |  st.4 (D-Fe) |  st.5 (D-Fe) |  st.21 (D-Fe) |  st.22 (D-Fe) |  st.23 (D-Fe) |  st.31 (D-Fe) |

460







461 Figure 3. (a) Zn and (b) Fe concentrations in the wastewater

462 Legend 3a

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|  ww-A (P-Zn) |  ww-B (P-Zn) |  ww-C (P-Zn) |
|  ww-A (D-Zn) |  ww-B (D-Zn) |  ww-C (D-Zn) |

463

464 Legend 3b

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|  ww-A (P-Fe) |  ww-B (P-Fe) |  ww-C (P-Fe) |
|  ww-A (D-Fe) |  ww-B (D-Fe) |  ww-C (D-Fe) |

465

466 Figure 4. (a) The total and dissolved Zn concentrations during weekdays; (b) The total and  
467 dissolved Zn concentrations during the weekend; (c) The total and dissolved Fe concentrations  
468 during weekdays; (d) The total and dissolved Fe concentrations during the weekend in February  
469 2020. The error bars represent the standard deviations. The gray shaded area indicates the night-  
470 time hours (from 18:00 to 06:00).

471

472 Legend 4a

473 ■ Total Zn concentration    ■ Dissolved Zn concentration    — River discharge (Q) during weekdays

474 Legend 4b

475 ■ Total Zn concentration    ■ Dissolved Zn concentration    — River discharge (Q) during weekend

476 Legend 4c

477 ■ Total Fe concentration    ■ Dissolved Fe concentration    — River discharge (Q) during weekdays

478 Legend 4d

479 ■ Total Fe concentration    ■ Dissolved Fe concentration    — River discharge (Q) during weekend

480 Figure 5. Correlations between (a) Fe and Zn concentrations in particulate phase (P-Fe and P-Zn);  
481 (b) particulate organic carbon (POC) and P-Zn concentrations at st.5 during the monthly and hourly  
482 surveys (all correlations were significantly strong positive relationship)

483 Figure 6. Cumulative Zn load in the Umeda River and instream load of the tributary: (a) total Zn; (b)  
484 dissolved Zn

485 Legend 6

486 —■ Aug    —● Dec    —× Jan    —■ Feb    —▲ Mar  
—◇ Apr    —○ May    —+ Jun    —\* Jul

487 Figure 7. (a) Total and dissolved Zn load (a) on weekdays; (b) during the weekend. The gray  
488 shaded area indicates night-time hours (from 18:00 to 06:00).

489 Legend 7a

490 —●— Total Zn load during weekdays    —▲— Dissolved Zn load during weekdays

491 Legend 7b

492 —●— Total Zn load during weekend    —▲— Dissolved Zn load during weekend

493

494 Table 1. Summary of water analysis results in the monthly survey

		Sampling station								
		st.1	st.2	st.3	st.4	st.5	st.31	st.21	st.22	st.23
<b>D-Zn (mg/L)</b>	Minimum	n.d.	0.0036	0.0056	0.0055	0.0046	0.0019	n.d.	n.d.	0.0052
	Maximum	0.0236	0.0278	0.0207	0.0396	0.0719	0.0139	0.0224	0.0273	0.0154
	Mean	0.0038	0.0117	0.0119	0.0198	0.0214	0.0057	0.0067	0.0047	0.0111
	SD	0.0076	0.0082	0.0056	0.0122	0.0204	0.0041	0.0077	0.0085	0.0036
	CV	202%	70%	47%	62%	95%	71%	114%	180%	33%
<b>P-Zn (mg/L)</b>	Minimum	n.d.	0.0010	0.0011	0.0029	0.0028	0.0023	n.d.	0.0007	0.0020
	Maximum	0.0039	0.0083	0.0261	0.0097	0.0142	0.0074	0.0122	0.0051	0.0334
	Mean	0.0010	0.0036	0.0100	0.0053	0.0062	0.0044	0.0027	0.0027	0.0093
	SD	0.0016	0.0028	0.0094	0.0027	0.0039	0.0019	0.0041	0.0017	0.0094
	CV	163%	75%	93%	50%	63%	44%	155%	64%	101%
<b>D-Fe (mg/L)</b>	Minimum	0.052	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
	Maximum	0.118	0.179	0.180	0.085	0.096	0.081	n.d.	0.103	0.171
	Mean	0.081	0.075	0.102	0.058	0.040	0.028	n.d.	0.050	0.098
	SD	0.026	0.063	0.053	0.024	0.037	0.033	n.d.	0.033	0.044
	CV	32%	83%	52%	41%	92%	117%	-	67%	45%
<b>P-Fe (mg/L)</b>	Minimum	0.055	0.035	0.079	0.095	0.102	0.105	0.035	0.059	0.043
	Maximum	0.259	0.183	0.580	0.349	0.169	0.434	1.259	0.615	0.197
	Mean	0.111	0.108	0.207	0.159	0.133	0.194	0.213	0.220	0.147
	SD	0.065	0.051	0.153	0.078	0.026	0.102	0.394	0.201	0.049
	CV	58%	47%	74%	49%	19%	52%	185%	92%	33%
<b>POC (mg/g)</b>	Minimum	27	25	67	153	141	73	85	95	132
	Maximum	281	528	283	297	283	312	330	207	422
	Mean	124	275	176	215	228	194	175	159	234
	SD	83	148	70	48	52	74	81	47	99
	CV	67%	54%	40%	22%	23%	38%	46%	30%	43%
<b>SS (mg/L)</b>	Minimum	2.3	3.1	5.6	5.2	3.6	1.4	1.3	2.7	4.5
	Maximum	38.5	9.6	11.3	9.0	8.6	20.2	23.3	19.1	18.1
	Mean	9.3	6.5	7.9	6.8	6.1	8.2	6.1	7.4	9.1
	SD	11.6	1.9	2.0	1.2	1.7	5.2	6.8	6.4	4.3
	CV	126%	29%	26%	18%	28%	63%	111%	86%	48%
<b>River discharge (m<sup>3</sup>/s)</b>	Minimum	0.01	0.04	0.33	0.57	0.76	0.11	0.01	0.07	0.17
	Maximum	0.06	0.11	0.86	1.18	1.36	0.30	0.05	0.21	0.42
	Mean	0.03	0.08	0.51	0.79	1.06	0.18	0.03	0.14	0.28
	SD	0.02	0.02	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.06	0.02	0.06	0.07
	CV	68%	30%	36%	24%	17%	33%	64%	40%	27%

495 n.d. : not detected (detection limit: 0.0005 mg/L for Zn and 0.01 mg/L for Fe)  
 496 CV, coefficient of variation; D-Zn, Zn in dissolved phase; D-Fe, Fe in dissolved phase; POC, particulate  
 497 organic carbon; P-Fe, Fe in particulate phase; P-Zn, Zn in particulate phase; SD, standard deviation; SS,  
 498 suspended solids; st., sampling station  
 499

500  
501

502 Table 2. Summary of water analysis results in the hourly survey

	<b>T-Zn (mg/L)</b>	<b>D-Zn (mg/L)</b>	<b>T-Fe (mg/L)</b>	<b>D-Fe (mg/L)</b>	<b>POC (mg/L)</b>	<b>SS (mg/L)</b>	<b>River discharge (m<sup>3</sup>/s)</b>
<b>Weekdays</b>							
Minimum	0.015	0.014	0.104	0.034	112	5.5	0.89
Maximum	0.043	0.040	0.215	0.086	315	21.5	1.01
Mean	0.029	0.026	0.147	0.055	172	9.9	0.93
SD	0.008	0.007	0.028	0.014	50	3.5	0.03
CV	27%	29%	19%	26%	29%	35%	3%
<b>Weekends</b>							
Minimum	n.d.	n.d.	0.125	0.036	102	7.3	0.89
Maximum	0.032	0.0178	0.648	0.063	163	59.7	0.96
Mean	0.010	0.0079	0.180	0.051	131	14.1	0.93
SD	0.007	0.0049	0.101	0.007	17	10.0	0.02
CV	73%	62%	56%	14%	13%	71%	2%

503 n.d. : not detected (detection limit: 0.0005 mg/L for Zn and 0.01 mg/L for Fe)  
 504 CV, coefficient of variation; D-Zn, Zn in dissolved phase; D-Fe, Fe in dissolved phase; POC,  
 505 particulate organic carbon; SD, standard deviation; SS, suspended solids; st., sampling  
 506 station; T-Fe, Fe in total fraction; T-Zn, Zn in total fraction;



Dear Dr. Prisca Henheik,

We really appreciate the opportunity to re-submit our manuscript entitled “An assessment of zinc fluxes by analyzing monthly, weekday, and weekend levels in a river”, for your consideration. We are grateful for the insightful the comments on our manuscript. We added several sentences to address the question raised by the reviewer. In addition, we do our best to improve our manuscript for clarity as indicated below. All changes in the manuscript are marked in red. We also updated the graphical abstract and added the layman’s description.

=====

<i>Reviewer: 1

#### Comments to the Author

In its current, revised form, the article is definitely more readable than its previous form. However, it is still missing here to extend to zinc concentrations analysis on weekdays and weekends over a longer period of time. Please answer my question below:

Did the monthly Zn tests results presented in Figure 2 include a single sample analysis, or is it the result as the average of several tests per month? If a single survey was selected, how was the day chosen for sample collection, except 2 days of dry weather before sampling?

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Editor-in-Chief: Henheik, Prisca

Comments to the Author:

Please address the comment before submitting the revised version.

</i>

Author response:

Thank you for your comment and question. We undertook the monthly survey once per month (single survey). The sampling day was selected according to the weather (sunny/dry) and on a weekday. The minimum interval period was 22 days between each sampling event. Due to weather restriction, it is difficult to conduct the survey in exactly every 30-day. In this study, the interval period ranged from 22 to 43 days. We added this explanation in the manuscript (line 114–116).

Original text (line 114–115):

The surveys were undertaken on sunny days (daytime) when no precipitation occurred, including the previous two days.

Added text (line 114–116):

The surveys were undertaken on sunny days (daytime weekday) when no precipitation occurred, including the previous two days. The interval period between monthly sampling events ranged from 22 to 43 days (31 days on average).

-----

As previously mentioned, we made several changes in the manuscript as follows:

#### 1. Sampling station ID modification

We modified the sampling station ID in sequence from upstream (st.1) to downstream (st.5). We believe it will make the reader easily understand where the upstream and downstream located.

The modification:

st.1 → st.5 (most downstream in the Umeda River)

st. 2 → st.4

st.4 → st.2

st.5 → st.1 (most upstream in the Umeda River)

st. 41 → st.23 (most downstream in the Sakai River)

st.42 → st.22

st. 43 → st.21 (most upstream in the Sakai River)

ww-A → ww-C

ww-C → ww-A

All changes are marked in red.

Accordingly, we also updated the Graphical Abstract, Figure 1, Figure 2, Figure 3, Figure 6, and Table 1.

-----

2. We updated the watershed area with st.5 (most downstream) as the outlet, instead of the outlet at Mikawa Bay for the load per  $\text{km}^2$  calculation. We believe that the watershed area at st.5 is more accurate for the calculation of Zn loading per  $\text{km}^2$  watershed. Consequently, the land use area proportion is also changed. In addition, we updated the land use area using ALOS2-2/ALOS Science Project (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, 2021) data which recently updated in 2021.

Added text (line 98–99):

With st.5 as the outlet, the watershed area accounted for  $43.7 \text{ km}^2$ .

-----

Original text (line 103–105):

Land use is dominated by urban areas (21.8%), including residential, commercial, and industrial areas, mostly located in the catchment's upper-middle reach, particularly in the vicinity of st.2, st.3, and st.4.

Revised text (line 104–106):

Land use significantly comprises urban areas (29.8%), including residential, commercial, and industrial areas, mostly located in the catchment's upper-middle reach, particularly in the vicinity of st.2, st.3, and st.4.

-----

Original text (line 107–109):

However, the largest area of land use is agricultural (66.6%), extensively consisting of paddy (17.5%) and other crops (49.1%), including cabbage and tea.<sup>[35]</sup>

Revised text (line 108–110):

However, the largest area of land use is agricultural (48.8%), consisting of paddy (5.8%) and other crops (43.0%),<sup>[35]</sup> including cabbage and tea.

-----

Original reference (line 414):

[35] J. Mbabazi, T. Inoue, K. Yokota, M. Saga, *J. Environ. Chem. Eng.* **2019**, *7*, 102960.

Revised reference (line 413–414):

[35] JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency), “ALOS2-2/ALOS Science Project,” can be found under [https://www.eorc.jaxa.jp/ALOS/en/lulc/lulc\\_jpn.htm](https://www.eorc.jaxa.jp/ALOS/en/lulc/lulc_jpn.htm), **2021**.

-----

3. We slightly change the sequence of Table 2 to highlight the T-Zn and D-Zn data.

Original Table 2:

SS (mg/L) | D-Fe (mg/L) | T-Fe (mg/L) | D-Zn (mg/L) | T-Zn (mg/L) | POC (mg/L) | River discharge (m<sup>3</sup>/s) |

Revised Table 2:

T-Zn (mg/L) | D-Zn (mg/L) | T-Fe (mg/L) | D-Fe (mg/L) | POC (mg/L) | SS (mg/L) | River discharge (m<sup>3</sup>/s) |

-----

4. We revised the D-Zn load standard deviation on weekday, D-Zn load average on weekend. We also revised total Zn flux per km<sup>2</sup>, proportion and dissolved Zn flux per km<sup>2</sup> because we used the watershed area at st.5. We apologized for this confusion. We also added the proportion of industrial wastewater input in the Aizumame River to easily compare between the Umeda River and the Aizumame River.

Original text (line 24–27):

The total Zn loading on weekdays (28.0 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day) was approximately three times higher than that on weekends (9.3 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day). At least 67% of the total Zn (18.7 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day) and 72% of the dissolved Zn (18.1 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day) fluxes from industrial point sources were potentially discharged on weekdays.

Revised text (line 24–27):

The total Zn loading on weekdays (56 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day) was approximately three times higher than that on weekends (18 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day). At least 67% of the total Zn (37 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day) and 70% of the dissolved Zn (35 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day) fluxes from industrial point sources were potentially discharged on weekdays.

-----

Original text (line 318–320):

The mean of the total Zn ( $97.15 \pm 25.43$  g/h) and D-Zn load ( $87.45 \pm 23.61$  g/h) on weekdays was much higher than that during the weekend ( $32.20 \pm 23.30$  g/h and  $36.17 \pm 7.78$ , respectively).

Revised text (line 320–321):

The mean of the total Zn ( $97.15 \pm 25.43$  g/h) and D-Zn load ( $87.45 \pm 23.72$  g/h) on weekdays was much higher than that during the weekend ( $32.20 \pm 23.30$  g/h and  $26.26 \pm 16.31$ , respectively).

-----

Original text (line 332–335):

The industrial point sources may have contributed at least 67% of the total Zn fluxes (18.7 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day) and 72% of the D-Zn fluxes (18.1 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day) on weekdays. Meanwhile, the industrial area along the Aizumame River in the Aichi Prefecture, discharged approximately 77.3 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day in 2017<sup>[20]</sup>; much higher than in the case of the Umeda River.

Revised text (line 334–337):

The industrial point sources may have contributed at least 67% of the total Zn fluxes (37 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day) and 70% of the D-Zn fluxes (35 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day) on weekdays. Meanwhile, the industrial area along the Aizumame River in the Aichi Prefecture, discharged approximately 68 g/km<sup>2</sup>/day (57%) in 2017<sup>[20]</sup>; much higher than in the case of the Umeda River.

-----

5. We list all author names in all references, including Reference [6]. We also revised the title because the previous one was incorrect.

Original reference [6] (line 371–373):

H. Autrup, P. Calow, W. Dekant, H. Greim, H. Wojciech, C. Janssen, B. Jansson, H. Komulainen, O. Ladefoged, J. Linders, et al., *Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks Opinion on: Risk Assessment Report on Calcium Fluoride Environmental Part*, Brussels, **2011**.

Revised reference [6] (line 372–375):

H. Autrup, P. Calow, W. Dekant, H. Greim, H. Wojciech, C. Janssen, B. Jansson, H. Komulainen, O. Ladefoged, J. Linders, I. Mangelsdorf, M. Nuti, A. Steenhout, J. Tarazona, E. Testai, M. Vighi, M. Viluksela, *Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks Opinion on: Risk Assessment Report on Zinc Environmental Part*, European Commission, Brussels **2007**.

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6. We deleted the year and volume of journal in Reference [26].

Original reference [26] (line 402–403):

[26] D. A. Nimick, C. H. Gammons, T. E. Cleasby, J. P. Madison, D. Skaar, C. M. Brick, *Water Resour. Res.* **2003**, *39*, DOI 10.1029/2002WR001571.

Revised reference [26] (line 402–403):

[26] D. A. Nimick, C. H. Gammons, T. E. Cleasby, J. P. Madison, D. Skaar, C. M. Brick, *Water Resour. Res.* DOI: 10.1029/2002WR001571.

-----

7. We updated the reference [1] and [18] so that the manuscript has the most recent data.

Original text (line 59–61):

Nevertheless, according to the Ministry of Environment of Japan, in 2008, 118 riverine sites breached the EQS, in contrast to lakes and the ocean, which only had one and seven sites, respectively, that exceeded the EQS threshold.[18]

Revised text (line 59–60):

Nevertheless, according to the Ministry of Environment of Japan, in 2019, 19 riverine sites breached the EQS, in contrast to lakes and the ocean, which all of them were below the EQS threshold.[18]

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Original reference [18] (line 392–393):

[18] Ministry of the Environment: Water and Air Environment Bureau, *2008 Public Water Quality Measurement Results*, **2009**.

Revised reference [18] (line 392–393):

[18] Ministry of the Environment of Japan: Water and Air Environment Bureau, *<i>2019 Public Water Quality Measurement Results</i>*, **<b>2020</b>**.

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Original text (line 62–64):

Based on the PRTR Data<sup>[1]</sup>, from 2001 to 2018, Aichi Prefecture had the fourth-largest Zn discharges into public bodies of water (approximately 38 tons/year) after Osaka, Tokyo, and Kanagawa Prefecture.

Revised text (line 62–64):

Based on the PRTR Data<sup>[1]</sup>, from 2001 to 2019, Aichi Prefecture had the fourth-largest Zn discharges into public bodies of water (approximately 38 tons/year) after Osaka, Tokyo, and Kanagawa Prefecture.

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Original reference [1] (line 365–366):

[1] Ministry of Environment of Japan, *<i>Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) Data Page</i>*, **<b>2018</b>**.

Revised reference [1] (line 367):

[1] Ministry of Environment of Japan, *<i>Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) Data Page</i>*, **<b>2021 </b>**.

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8. We deleted 'regression' because we think the Pearson correlation is adequate to show the relationship.

Original text (line 188–189):



A Pearson correlation (r) analysis and regression were used to clarify the relationship among the parameters, calculated using a Minitab® 19.

Revised text (line 190–191):

A Pearson correlation (r) analysis was used to clarify the relationship among the parameters, calculated using a Minitab® 19.

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9. We removed 'in Japan' to make the sentence more concise.

Original text (line 256–258):

However, the Zn concentrations in Japan exceeded the EQS from 19:00 on Wednesday to 09:00 on Thursday, with the exception at 23:00.

Revised text (line 258–260):

However, the Zn concentrations exceeded the EQS from 19:00 on Wednesday to 09:00 on Thursday, with the exception at 23:00.

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10. We revised the sentence for clarity.

Original text (line 266–267):

The Fe concentrations showed no discernible variability on either the weekdays or weekends, even though the Zn concentrations clearly demonstrated a diel fluctuation.

Revised text (line 268–269):

The Fe concentrations showed no discernible variability in either the daytime or at night, even though the Zn concentrations clearly demonstrated a diel fluctuation.

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Original text (line 272–273):

Anthropogenic activities conducted during weekdays could include industrial operations, mining, urban runoff, traffic emissions, atmospheric deposition, and agricultural runoff.

Revised text (line 274–275):

Anthropogenic activities conducted during weekdays could include industrial operations, mining, traffic, municipal solid waste treatment, and agriculture.

--

Original text (line 280–281):

Sakata et al.<sup>[46]</sup> found that the Zn fluxes substantially contributed to atmospheric depositions into Tokyo Bay.

Revised text (line 282 – 283):

Sakata et al.<sup>[46]</sup> found that the Zn fluxes into Tokyo Bay substantially originated from atmospheric depositions.

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11. We changed the name of autosampler bottle for clarity.

Original text (line 128–131):

All of the ISCO and polypropylene sample bottles were triple rinsed with deionized water and oven-dried prior to each sampling procedure. The water samples were taken after all samples were collected in ISCO bottles and then immediately filtered and pre-treated in the laboratory within 48 hours.

Revised text (line 130–133):

All of the autosampler and polypropylene sample bottles were triple rinsed with deionized water and oven-dried prior to each sampling procedure. The water samples were taken after all samples were collected in autosampler bottles and then immediately filtered and pre-treated in the laboratory within 48 hours.

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Once again, we made every effort to cautiously revise the manuscript. We look forward to hearing from you regarding our submission and to respond to any further questions and comments you may have.

Sincerely yours,  
Pertiwi Andarani

# CLEAN - Soil, Air, Water

**Decision Letter (clen.202100151.R2)****From:** phenheik@wiley-vch.de**To:** andarani@ft.undip.ac.id, andarani@gmail.com, yokota@ace.tut.ac.jp, inoue.takanobu.zy@tut.jp, hardianti.alimuddin94@gmail.com, nguyen.minh.ngoc.hw@tut.jp**CC:** phenheik@wiley-vch.de**Subject:** Decision on Manuscript # clen.202100151.R2 for "CLEAN"**Body:** \*\*\* HTML-Vorlage  
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\*\*\*\*

Dear Dr. Andarani:

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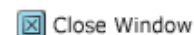
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