

Emerging Pollutants: Protecting Water Quality for the Health of People and the Environment

Assessment of emerging organic contaminants at the groundwater of Yucatán peninsula: recreational and water supply

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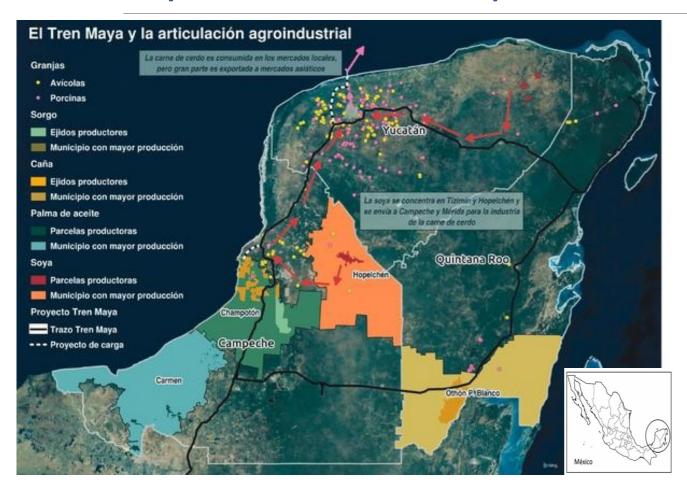
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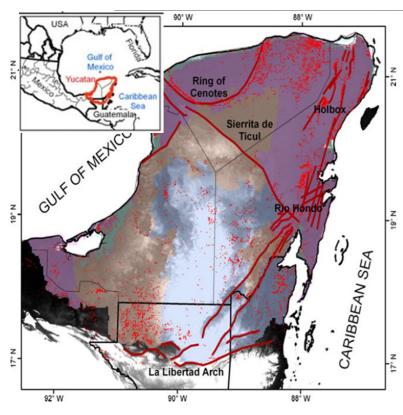
Importance of the Yucatan peninsula



- •Tourism as the predominent economic activity: 3er economic activity for the country
- •Mexico National bank; 8.0% PIB Producto Interno Bruto total, promoting 1.8 millones jobs
- •A combined population of 5.1 million people
- •UN-Habitat study, it is estimated that by 2030, the population will grow 42.7% in 18 municipalities around the Yucatán Peninsula and Southeast.
- This growth would be the result of the development of the Tren Maya, as it is expected in the places where the railroad will have a station



Yucatan Peninsula its hydrogeological characteristics

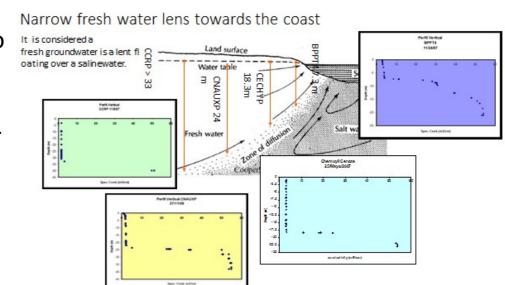


Karstic conditions most open to the atmosfer

No surface drainage, except for few meters near the coast

Karstic coastal aquifer highly vulnerable

Groundwater behaves as lens floating over saline water





Why emergent contaminants?

Water quality at the Yucatan Peninsula had been focusing on Bacteriological quality (fecal indicators) and Nitrogen compounds.

Very recent the presence of organic compounds at the Yucatán Peninsula has been of some concern mainly related to specific areas of recreational (tourism), golf courses, agriculture activity and water supply

- Consumption of Rx and illicit drug on increase
- Disposal is an issue
- Landfills and toilets
- Many communities starting collection for incineration
- Animals
- 75% of antibiotics produced in USA for animals
- Prophylactic
- Personal Care
- Bathing and Swimming



Where to evaluate?

Wells



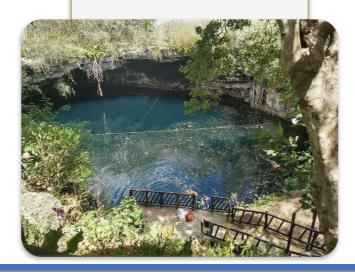
- Water distribution
- At 14-22 Km from the coast
- Tulum, Puerto Morelos



Sinkholes (Cenotes)



- Recreational use
- Cattle areas
- Not use



Karst lake (Uphala)

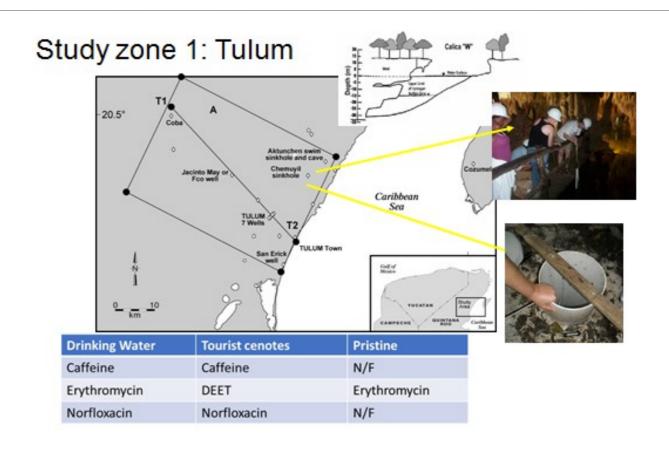
- Nastural Federal Reserve
- Recreational Activities
- Monkeys habitats





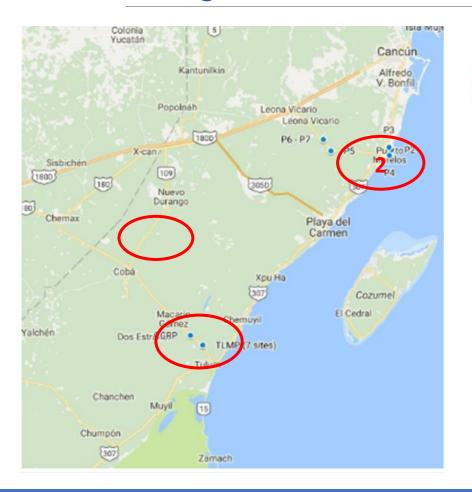
Findings

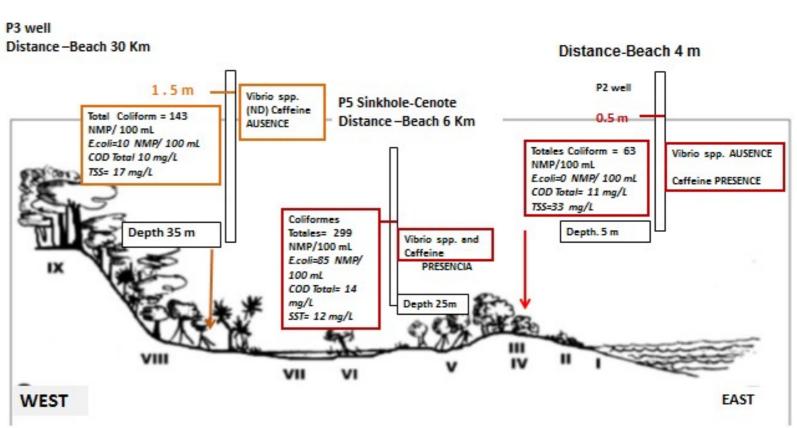






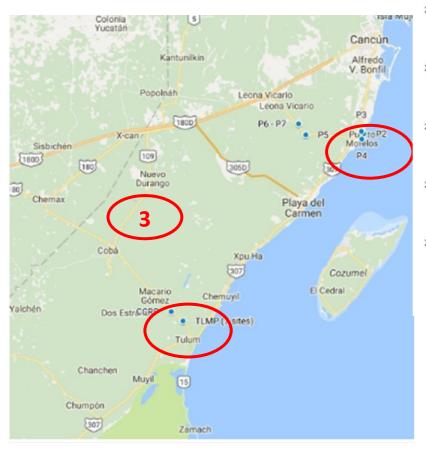
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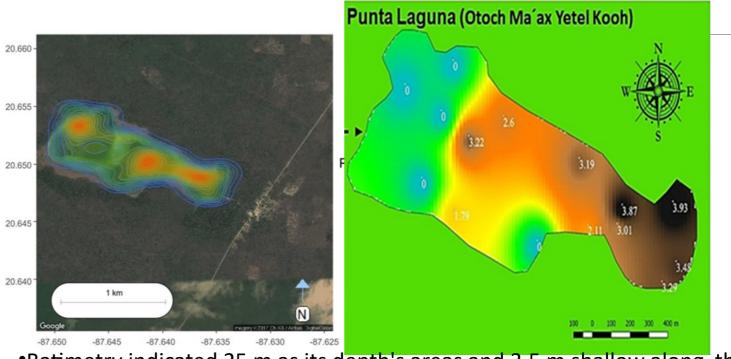




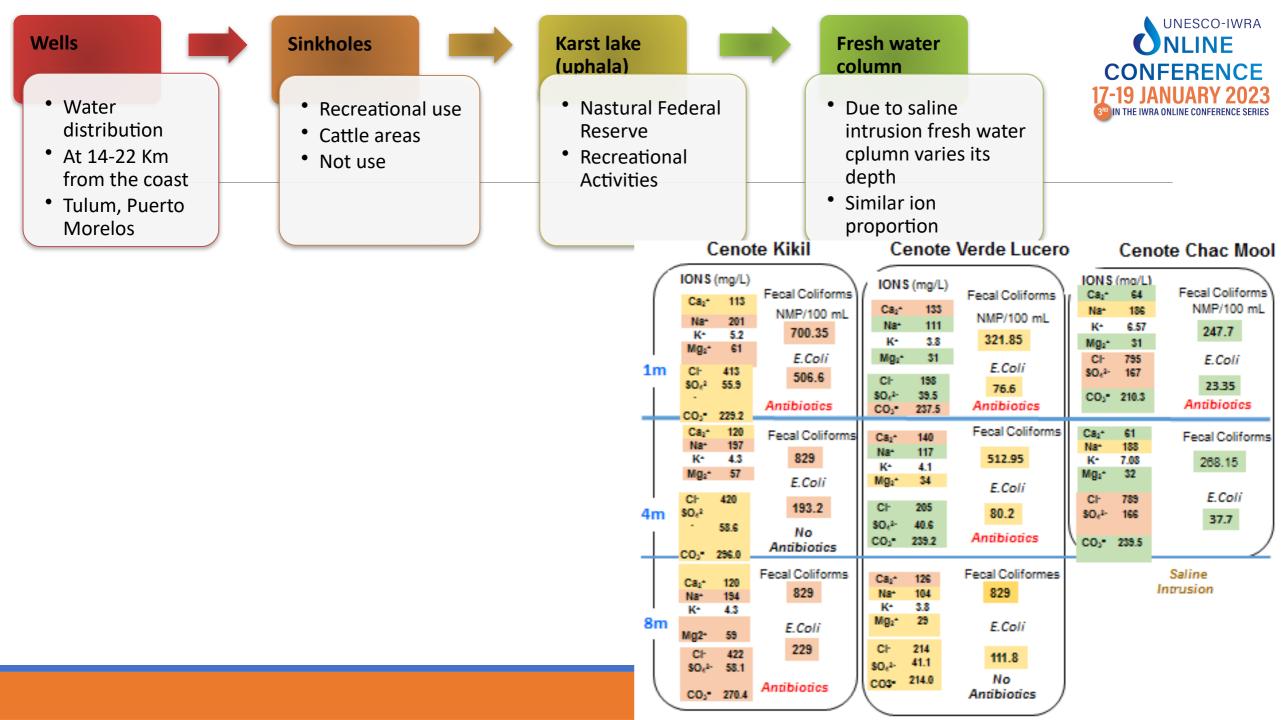


Findings





- •Batimetry indicated 25 m as its depth's areas and 3.5 m shallow along the connection of the sections.
- •Spatial distribution of caffeine indicate: the eastern zone has the highest caffeine concentrations (black 0.39 mg/L), the northwestern zone has the lowest caffeine concentrations (orange-yellow 0.32-0.29 mg/l), the rest of the water body showed no detectable caffeine (blue).





In Summary

Emergent contaminants in a groundwater dependent ecosystem, at the touristic and non-touristic sampled sites is occurring.

The detection of fecal indicators such as: Escherichia coli (E. coli) and the determination of caffeine makes evident that not only in the touristic sites the extent of the contamination implies a human source.

Implication: Promote a Monitoring more specific and with more parameters

Water quality at the groundwater system is deteriorating in sites along the rise of developments.

 Implication: Distinguishing pollution sources allows you to define control strategies and protection policies







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