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# Numerical and experimental study of sediment transport of the Clain river using a hydro-sedimentary channel experiment and a 2D numerical model

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## Abstract

The presence of man-made hydraulic structures, such as dams, on rivers can interfere with the natural bedload transport of sediments, leading to alterations in the river channel and degradation of habitats [1]. This disruption of sediment continuity is a limiting factor in achieving good ecological and chemical conditions in many river ecosystems. In France, there are approximately 60,000 man-made hydraulic structures that segment rivers [2], with a majority classified as low head dams. These dams, which do not exceed the elevation of the top of the channel banks, are poorly studied in comparison to larger dams. Therefore, two questions arise: how do low head dams disrupt bedload transport, and what solutions can be used to restore sediment continuity?

The Clain river is classified under French environmental regulations for the preservation and restoration of Ecological and Sediment Continuity, which prohibits construction of new structures or development of existing ones if they interfere with Sediment Continuity. The Clain river's waterbody has been divided into three sections for Restoration of Ecological Continuity (RCE). The Îlot Tison weir, located in the highly urbanized RCE 3 section of the Clain river, is considered impassable for sediments. To restore Sediment Continuity, numerical morphodynamic models can be used to predict the evolution of bed configuration over time, due to recent advancements in computational methods.

The 2D unsteady flow and sediment transport model in HEC-RAS will be employed to simulate the different scenarios to assess the ecological continuity of sediment transport [3]. The results of the model will be analyzed to evaluate the flow, sediment transport, and morphological change within the river for different structures and flow rates. The model will be calibrated based on terrain measurements such as the flow rate, the water velocity at different sections and the granulometry of sediments all along the studied river.

Using HEC-RAS, a study will be conducted on the transversal structures "Moulin des Cours et Scierie de Tison" and the weir of Saint Benoit, located 8 km to the south of Tison. The future modifications of the transversal structures will be numerically studied to provide a clear conclusion on the ecological continuity state of the Clain river. This research will aid in ensuring the compliance of the transversal structures with the good ecological status of the water body and contribute to the restoration of ecological continuity in the Clain river.



**Figure.1** Bed elevation morphological change (erosion and deposition) over 24 hours flood obtained with Hec-Ras for a flow rate  $Q = 156 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ .

**Keywords:** Sediment transport; CFD numerical modeling; Multi-phase flow; Hydro-sedimentary channel; ecological continuity

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