

环境流量研究的前沿问题与挑战

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摘要:为了应对水文、气候和生态系统变化背景下环境流量研究的新挑战,梳理了国内外环境流量研究成果,指出目前环境流量研究主要存在5个方面的不足,也是该研究目前的前沿问题与挑战:①全球环境变化与非稳定性;②生态水文过程的动态模拟,重点是水文情势静态评价向动态特征评价研究的转变;③生态水文关系的时空特性,重点是生态系统状态、过程变量和物种特征的耦合研究,环境流量的生态特征和时空尺度研究;④环境流量评估的关键指标;⑤环境流量预测的生态学延展。为解决这些问题,提出了人类世背景下环境流量研究的发展方向,认为未来环境流量研究应加强生态目标的动态适应性管理,加强局域到区域的生态学基础研究,完善基于过程的生态水文响应机理,强化环境流量分阶段实施的非水文指标耦合,加强适应性管理方式下的环境流量评估和实践,以保障适应性管理框架下的生态完整性。

关键词:环境流量;生态水文;水文情势;生态系统;全球环境

中图分类号:X37 **文献标志码:**A **文章编号:**1006-7647(2019)02-0001-06

Frontiers and challenges of environmental flow research//CHEN Ang (*Research Center for Sustainable Hydropower Development, China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research, Beijing 100038, China*)

Abstract: To cope with the new challenges of environmental flow research under hydrology, climate and ecosystem changes, research results from both China and abroad have been summarized. Five aspects of shortcomings in the current environmental flow research are pointed out, which also belong to frontier problems and challenges, including (1) Global environmental change and instability; (2) Dynamic simulation of eco-hydrological process in which the transition of hydrological regime from static evaluation to dynamic characteristic evaluation is the key; (3) Characteristics of eco-hydrological relationship in which the coupling research of ecosystem state, process variables and species characteristics, and the research of ecological characteristics, spatial and temporal scales of environmental flows are the key points; (4) Key indicators in environmental flow evaluation; (5) Ecology extension of environmental flow forecasting. To solve these problems, research directions of environmental flows in the background of the Anthropocene are proposed. Dynamic adaptive management of ecological objectives and basic research of ecology from local to regional areas should be strengthened. Mechanisms of eco-hydrological response based on process should be completed and phased implementation of non-hydrological indicator coupling should be intensified. Evaluation and application of environmental flows under adaptive management should be strengthened to guarantee ecological integrity.

Key words: environmental flow; eco-hydrology; hydrological regime; ecosystem; global environment

环境流量(environmental flow)研究与实践主要基于自然流态范式理论^[1]。自然流态反映了历史流量的时间变异和适应过程,维持了本地物种生物多样性的生态系统过程和栖息地条件。因此,除了恢复静态流量条件(如最小流量),还应把恢复特定流量过程作为河流环境流量管理的目标。自然流态可通过长序列的天然流量过程确定,根据不同流量的生态学意义划分流量组分,包括流量的大小、频

率、持续时间、出现时间、变化率等。流量变异受多种因素影响,如气候状况(降水和温度)、土地利用、土壤、地形地貌以及流态的地理差异等^[2-4]。在生态水文作用过程中,物种可不断适应多种流态组分的组合叠加^[5]。通过识别不同物种的促进和抑制因素,分析物种对主要流态组分的适应程度,可促进物种繁殖和群落形成。人类影响下的流量流态变化对有效生境、物种生活史过程、特定物种和栖息地的影

响,导致了物种效能退化、生态过程和生态系统功能退化^[6],在鱼类^[7-8]、河岸带植被^[9]和无脊椎动物^[10-12]等方面均已得到验证。因此,实施环境流量的目标是恢复特定生态目标所需的自然流态组分。

过去25年,环境流量的研究体系不断丰富,出现了基于水文变化的定量评估方法、生态水文响应关系法和区域尺度水文变化的生态限度框架等方法^[13-16],逐渐形成统一认识,并对部分国家和地区的水资源政策产生了一定影响^[17-19]。随着对环境流量社会属性的重视,未来研究与管理将更多考虑社会和生态耦合。同时,为实现联合国可持续发展目标,目前已开展了考虑全球生态用水需求的人类用水量研究^[20-22],以指导淡水生态系统和农业灌溉的水量分配问题。

河流生态学的理论、方法和模型,是环境流量实践的基础。但是,非稳定性的影响导致单纯考虑自然流态范式难以支撑未来变化环境下的环境流量研究,需要扩展环境流量的生态学基础,才能提高可预测性。笔者通过梳理国内外环境流量研究成果,分析全球环境变化对环境流量的影响,总结了环境流量研究的前沿问题与挑战,提出了人类世背景下的环境流量发展方向。

1 环境流量研究的前沿问题

1.1 全球环境变化与非稳定性

20世纪的水资源规划与管理主要基于气候稳定假说,即全新世的水文气候过程相对稳定,对河流水文情势的驱动表现为稳定的流量平均值和方差^[23],未受干扰流域的降雨-径流过程在一定范围内变化,具体由生态流量组分(流量大小、频率、持续时间和出现时间)表征^[24],未受干扰流域可作为背景基线。21世纪以来人类活动的影响导致气候变暖加速,全球气候进入人类世的变化时期,气温和降水随地表过程发生变化,非稳定性导致水文基线改变^[25-26];与历史相比,未来水文情势也将发生变化,给环境流量研究带来了新的挑战。因此,由于气候变化、人口增长、土地利用变化等对水文情势的影响,历史水文基线不再适用^[27-29]。

人类世环境流量研究的另一个挑战是生态系统的非稳定性。由于人类活动的影响加剧,打破了局域的生态平衡^[30],也影响了区域尺度生态系统的动态平衡。人类活动影响、水生生态系统的遗产效应和外来物种入侵对生物间相互作用的影响^[31-32],导致了生态系统非稳定性,破坏了全球淡水生态系统的基线,影响了对目标恢复力的指导作用。

1.2 生态水文过程的动态模拟

水文气候的快速变化导致构建生态水文动态模型更加困难。环境流量研究一般通过表征水文情势长期变化的指标(如峰值流量、低流量大小和出现时间等)识别生态系统静态特征^[33-34]。生态水文响应关系反映了流量的时间变异模式,即:物种对流量变异的适应性为研究特定流量组分变化的生态响应奠定了理论基础。研究表明,通过对物种及其水文指标进行分类排序,可识别一般生态过程,通过流量变化识别特定物种及其栖息地所受影响已在河岸带植物^[35]、鱼类^[36]和无脊椎动物^[37-40]等方面得到验证。

生态过程的时间尺度一般较长,在长期的水文情势变化条件下,单个极端水文事件(如高流量或长期干旱)对生态的直接影响较大。但是在目前的环境流量研究中,尚未充分认识短期流量变化的重要性。单一或系列极端事件的影响,可能导致种群易危^[41-44],非稳定性导致水文基线的改变,使物种暴露于更频繁和剧烈的极端水文事件中,严重影响了物种效能和可持续性。

由于水文气候的非稳定性,静态水文情势指标及其效应在多种情景的生态响应预测方面存在一定的局限性。水文事件的生态响应更多以生态过程为基础,考虑物种效能与短期水文变化和特定水文事件的响应关系,需要从静态水文指标与生态响应的回归关系,向动态的生态水文响应机理扩展,研究生物个体、种群和群落对特定量级水文事件的响应机制^[45-47]。

1.3 生态水文关系的时空特性

大部分生态系统状态(如物种的数量和丰度)的变化,都可用水文情势指标的变化解释。研究表明,72%的生态水文关系研究都是生态系统评估研究的内容;环境流量研究应更加关注生态系统过程^[48-50],加强生态基础耦合。目前,对生态水文关系的认识和量化方法基本达成统一,但由于环境流量涉及多学科、多尺度的内容,在生态水文时空尺度表征方面还未统一,制约了不同尺度环境流量的实施。

环境流量研究与实践需考虑不同时空尺度、多种技术方法和生态响应特征。环境流量的空间尺度从局域尺度扩展到流域尺度和生物地理尺度,生物地理尺度的差异导致物种周转。随着空间尺度扩展,水文学、水力学和生态学特征的表征方法从细粒度定点密集观测,扩展到统计学特征的模型模拟。环境流量实践的方法(观测、模型、试验)一般根据特定空间尺度和时间尺度确定,时间尺度的变化范围较大,一般可从小时尺度、日尺度扩展到月尺度、季尺度、年尺度和年际尺度等。

环境流量研究与实践的尺度关系框架考虑了多

种生态尺度。第一种是年内相对缓慢的生态响应尺度,例如,确定昆虫或河岸带植被物种丰度在几个月内的变化、水文情势变化对群落结构的缓慢影响,需要同时开展多点观测以建立生态水文关系,目前主要方法是开展长期连续的生态系统定点监测。第二种是快速的生态响应,可通过过程变化率识别,例如,通过监测短期的种群增长率或死亡率,可识别特定水文情势及动态变化条件下的物种效能。尽管功能相似的同资源种团适用性较好,但是实践中通常只选择少数物种或少数地点的种群统计数据。第三种是物种性状特征的生态响应,反映了物种特征对不同时间尺度水文变化的响应,包括行为响应、特定水文事件响应(如躲避突变流量能力)、生活史特征响应(如繁殖时间)等。在动态水文条件和非稳定性条件下,环境流量研究更加强调生态水文关系的过程和机理,环境流量实践更加关注通过物种种群变化率^[51]的研究,提高不同区域研究与实践的可移植性。

1.4 环境流量评估的关键指标

水文情势是影响水生生物、河岸带物种及其生态系统的主要因素^[52-55]。与其他环境要素(如温度、泥沙、水力学要素)相比,水文情势的主导驱动是环境流量评估的假设前提。尽管通过划分河流类型、合理选取生态指标等方式可以提高环境流量评估的可移植性,但由于受其他多种因素影响,水文情势变化的生态响应可移植性较差,环境流量评估需要考虑更多可能的影响因素,以改善生态水文预测结果。

在变化环境下,维持流量干预的生态稳定性和社会价值是环境流量研究与实践的难点,需要确定流量过程和特定流量的生态响应。大型底孔泄流电站和调峰电站下游等环境变化剧烈的河段,难以建立较为明确的生态水文响应关系,流量恢复的生态效果有限;但是在能够建立明确生态水文响应关系的河段,流量恢复的生态效果较好。在大多数水文情势变化较小河段,非水文指标的变化极大地影响了环境流量的实施效果;在某些水文要素不是主要限制条件的河段,流量恢复的生态效果有限,其他恢复方法可能更加经济。因此,需要重新考虑环境流量研究与实践的生态水文基础,综合考虑多种影响因素、多种时空尺度和生态尺度的生态水文响应关系。

1.5 环境流量预测的生态学延展

考虑到生态水文的非稳定性问题,需要将生态学基础原理和生态系统核心内容共同纳入环境流量研究体系,以提高环境流量的可预测性。环境流量的生态学基础研究主要关注种群和群落尺度的生态

过程、局域和区域尺度的联系。生物生活史过程受多种环境要素(如流量、温度、泥沙、营养盐)的影响,物种能够完成其生活史过程是维持稳定种群可持续性的基础,有利的生长、生存条件保障了种群的生物多样性。

种群尺度的生态过程主要依靠栖息地。栖息地是物种完成其生活史过程的基本保障,有些物种需要多种栖息环境,如鱼类需要产卵、洄游、索饵、越冬等栖息地^[56],栖息地之间的水系连通性是洄游性生物完成其生活史过程的基本条件。浮游动物、昆虫也需要多种栖息环境完成其生活史过程,成虫可以在适宜的河岸带中生存和繁殖,产卵只能在特定的栖息地,幼体在生长栖息地生长,同时需要躲避可能的极端流量事件影响。

群落尺度的生态过程主要依靠生物传播。生物以繁殖、发育、生长迁徙等形式寻找适宜栖息地,通过生物体的流入和流出过程实现物种传播,建立局域种群和集合种群的联系^[57],物种传播特征的差异可通过集合种群影响整个群落结构。

生态尺度与时空尺度的变化直接相关,通过不同尺度的过程变化率(增长率、死亡率、迁入率、迁出率),可更好地识别群落状态。尽管细粒度的群体过程考虑了群落物种补充机制,但在群落尺度的研究中一般不考虑补充群体监测。群落可用分类结构(如多样性)或群落功能(如物种特征)评价,以便建立与环境条件的联系,鱼类、河岸带植被和水生昆虫等都可采用这种方法。通过物种特征相似性分类,可评估水文梯度的群落变化;根据不同水文情势要求,可确定物种的同资源种团;根据结构特征,可对食物网中物种的营养机能和对应水文情势进行划分。

环境流量的生态学基础强调物种完成其生活史过程、群落形成所需的多种环境要素和空间尺度的重要性,通过加强生态学耦合与延展,可促进建立生态水文响应关系,提高环境流量的可移植性和可预测性。

2 加强生态目标的动态适应性管理

为应对全球环境变化背景下环境流量研究面临的挑战,需要加强生态目标的动态适应性管理。生态水文的非稳定性和多种环境要素导致的水生生态系统退化,给淡水生态系统保护和可持续发展带来了新的挑战。环境流量实施的目标一般是为了恢复生态系统特定的历史状态,为了达到最佳实施效果,需要考虑生态系统退化条件下的流量分配问题^[58-59]。这要求管理者了解全球变暖和外来物种入侵的影响,以及生态系统水文基线和环境变化的

响应。考虑生态目标适应性管理的动态特性以及应对环境变化的不确定性,需要更加灵活的环境流量管理方式。

人类世背景下的自然流态范式的核心是生态恢复的变异管理和环境变化的生态响应。保护生态系统的主要方式是保持其弹性恢复力,即维持生态系统关键过程和联系的稳定性,保障社会和环境变化条件下的生态系统功能完整性^[60-62]。未来生态水文变化存在较大的不确定性,难以精确定量模拟,需要结合风险分析方法对未来各种情景的生态水文条件开展脆弱性评估。构建灵活的生态准则和生态水文响应关系框架,实施非稳定性条件下的环境流量管理是应对生态系统变化的有效措施。为满足大坝的工程目标和生态目标,可采用决策扩展方法^[62]建立气候不确定性条件下的调度规则,明确生态效能指标和约束阈值,评估不同管理措施的效果,如可将物种持久性作为生态弹性恢复力的代表性指标。决策扩展方法可将基于模型或情景模式的未来水文条件与风险模型、非稳定性驱动因素(如气候变化、用水需求等)等结合,评估同时实现工程经济效益和生态效益的管理方式。持续开展脆弱性评估可为分水决策提供支撑,从而提高生态系统可持续性和弹性恢复力。

3 结 语

本文通过综合分析国内外环境流量研究成果,提出了环境流量研究的前沿问题,包括全球环境变化与非稳定性,生态水文过程的动态模拟,生态水文关系的时空特性,环境流量评估的关键指标,环境流量预测的生态学延展。人类世全球环境变化背景下,水文、气候和生态系统共同发生变化,应对全球环境变化成为未来环境流量研究面临的主要挑战。随着对全球环境变化与非稳定性的适应,环境流量研究的特征要素发生了变化,更多地考虑生态水文变化与生态目标保护和恢复的协调,通过有效干预可实现更多的生态效益。非稳定性为环境流量与生态学的耦合发展奠定了基础,生态耦合研究不仅可推动环境流量的发展,还可为生态保护目标的确定提供理论支撑。因此,为应对这些挑战,未来环境流量研究应加强生态目标的动态适应性管理,加强局域到区域的生态学基础,完善基于过程的生态水文响应机理,强化环境流量分阶段实施的非水文指标耦合,加强适应性管理方式下的环境流量评估和实践,以保障适应性管理框架下的生态完整性。

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(收稿日期:2018-03-22 编辑:雷燕)