



## Climate change drives rapid warming and increasing heatwaves of lakes

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4 **1 Climate change drives rapid warming and increasing heatwaves of lakes**

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4 **39 Abstract**  
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7 40 Climate change could seriously threaten global lake ecosystems by warming lake surface  
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9 41 water and increasing the occurrence of lake heatwaves. Yet, there are great uncertainties in  
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12 42 quantifying lake temperature changes globally due to a lack of accurate large-scale model  
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15 43 simulations. Here, we integrated satellite observations and a numerical model to improve lake  
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18 44 temperature modeling and explore the multifaceted characteristics of trends in surface  
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21 45 temperatures and lake heatwave occurrence in Chinese lakes from 1980 to 2100. Our model-  
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24 46 data integration approach revealed that the lake surface waters have warmed at a rate of  
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27 47  $0.11\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C decade}^{-1}$  during the period 1980–2021, being only half of the pure model-based  
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30 48 estimate. Moreover, our analysis suggested that an asymmetric seasonal warming rate has led  
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33 49 to a reduced temperature seasonality in eastern plain lakes but an amplified one in alpine  
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36 50 lakes. The durations of lake heatwaves have also increased at a rate of  $7.7\text{ days decade}^{-1}$ .  
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39 51 Under the high-greenhouse-gas-emission scenario, lake surface temperature and lake  
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42 52 heatwave duration were projected to increase by  $2.2\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  and 197 days at the end of the 21st  
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45 53 century, respectively. Such drastic changes would worsen the environmental conditions of  
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48 54 lakes subjected to high and increasing anthropogenic pressures, posing great threats to aquatic  
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51 55 biodiversity and human health.

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56 56 **Keywords:** lake water temperature, numerical model, satellite observations, climate change  
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## 1. Introduction

Global lakes store 87% of Earth's liquid surface freshwater [1] and provide numerous critically important ecosystem services to human society [2]. However, lake ecosystems worldwide are already under severe threats from anthropogenic pressures and climate change. Lake surface water temperature (LSWT), an important physical indicator of the lake environment, is highly sensitive to climate change [3]. Evidence is mounting that lake surface warming – especially an increasing occurrence of lake heatwaves – has significantly affected the physical and chemical environment of aquatic systems [4, 5] and, ultimately, biodiversity and human health [6, 7]. But great uncertainties remain as to the quantification of lake temperature changes from regional [8-10] to global scales [11, 12]. The common approaches used to characterize lake temperature change include ground observations, satellite data, and numerical simulations, but they yield results that are not often comparable [12-14]. Ground observations of lake surface temperature are traditionally considered the most accurate but are scarcely and unevenly distributed both regionally and globally. For example, only summertime ground data observations of 151 lakes are included in the global lake temperature collaboration (GLTC), with nearly 80% of the data concentrated in Western Europe and North America [15]. Although satellite data could provide information on LSWT across large spatial scales [15] and, indeed, help to fill the void in global lake observations, a temporally consistent estimate of lake surface temperature using satellite sensors is only possible during the cloud-free period. Furthermore, satellite observations of lake surface temperature could be influenced by the thermal characteristics of adjacent lands, especially

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4 79 for small lakes, thus contaminating the lake surface temperature signal. In contrast to satellite  
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7 80 products and ground measurements, numerical lake models can provide a spatially-explicit  
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10 81 estimate of high temporal resolution lake surface temperature at a longer time scale [13, 16].  
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12 82 However, the accuracy of the modeled lake surface temperatures is often questioned due to  
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15 83 the simplified representation of physical processes in model structures, the uncertainties of  
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18 84 atmospheric forcings, and poor parameterization of lake-specific parameters. For instance,  
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21 85 they are often replaced with a predefined value or empirical formula or calibrated based on  
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23 86 the patterns revealed by the limited observations available [17, 18].  
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26 87 China has a total lake area of 81414.6 km<sup>2</sup>. The lakes support nearly half of China's  
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29 88 national centralized drinking water sources, and play critical roles in ecosystem services for  
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32 89 human beings [19, 20]. The ongoing drastic climate change, together with rapid urbanization  
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35 90 and economic growth, has greatly reshaped the thermal conditions of lakes over the past four  
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38 91 decades. Furthermore, lakes in China have variable characteristics and geographical locations  
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41 92 and have therefore been exposed to a wide variety of climate change factors [21], potentially  
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44 93 generating spatially-varying impacts on changes in lake thermal conditions. However,  
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47 94 existing global investigations have not explored Chinese lakes in detail [12]. How lake  
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50 95 surface temperature and lake heatwaves change across China remain elusive, and little is  
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53 96 known about how they will change under different climate change scenarios. Such knowledge  
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56 97 is urgently needed, indeed, to improve our understanding of the processes and mechanisms  
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59 98 underlying climate change impacts on Chinese lakes.

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99 Here, we integrated, in a novel way, satellite observations with a numerical lake model to

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4 100 explore the multifaceted characteristics of surface warming and heatwaves using data from  
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7 101 Chinese lakes during the period from 1980 to 2100 as an example. Specifically, we proposed  
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10 102 a framework that auto-calibrates model parameters for each lake simulated by the Freshwater  
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12 103 Lake model (FLake) [22] by assimilating satellite-derived LSWT from the European Space  
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14 104 Agency Climate Change Initiative project (ESACCI; 2000–2020). The assimilation of  
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17 105 satellite observations could overcome the large-scale parameterization limitation of FLake  
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20 106 and provide an effective and accurate approach to estimating lake surface warming across  
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23 107 large spatial and temporal scales. Our results showed widespread warming and increased  
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26 108 heatwaves in Chinese lakes during the past four decades. Lake heatwaves were projected to  
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29 109 become stronger and more prolonged by the end of the twenty-first century.

## 31 110 **2. Materials and methods**

### 34 111 **2.1 Study sites**

37 112 We selected 168 lakes with a surface area  $\geq 50$  km<sup>2</sup>, as defined in the HydroLAKES  
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40 113 database [1], and with more than 100 valid cloud-free satellite retrievals during 2000–2020  
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43 114 (see [Materials and methods](#)). The lakes ranged between 0 and 5387 m in altitude, between  
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46 115 24.5 and 49.0 °N in latitude, between 50.0 and 4266.6 km<sup>2</sup> in surface area, and between 1.1  
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49 116 and 120 m in average depth ([Figure S1](#); [Table S2](#)). These lakes covered all five lake regions  
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51 117 in China [19], i.e., the Northeast Plain and Mountain Lake (NPML), Inner Mongolia-Xinjiang  
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54 118 Lake (IMXL), Tibetan Plateau Lake (TPL), Eastern Plain Lake (EPL), and Yunnan-Guizhou  
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57 119 Plateau Lake (YGPL).

## 120 2.2 FLake model

121 The FLake model is a one-dimensional bulk model based on the concept of self-  
122 similarity, where the vertical profiles of lake ice, the mixed layer, the thermocline, and the  
123 thermally active upper layer of sediments are described by their own shape functions [23],  
124 which contributes to its low computational cost. FLake has been implemented into large-scale  
125 lake simulations [16, 24, 25] and global weather prediction models [23, 26]. It has been  
126 widely tested on lakes in China [27-30]. The meteorological variables required to drive FLake  
127 include 2 m air temperature, 10 m wind speed, 2 m specific humidity, surface pressure,  
128 surface downward shortwave radiation, and surface downward longwave radiation. Lake-  
129 specific characteristics also need to be described for each lake, including average depth, fetch,  
130 light extinction coefficient, and latitude. The snow module of FLake, which is currently under  
131 development, was turned off in our study. Regarding the bottom sediment module, we  
132 adopted the suggestions from the model's official site – that the heat exchange between lake  
133 water and sediments is only important for shallow lakes and that the heat fluxes at the water-  
134 sediment interface can be neglected when the lake depth is larger than 5 m. The lake fetch  
135 (km) was calculated from the lake surface area (km<sup>2</sup>) as  
136  $fetch = 39.9 + 0.00781 \times surface\ area$  [17].

137 The wind speed over land at latitudes > 35°N was scaled by  $U_{water} = 1.62 + 1.17U_{land}$   
138 [17], where  $U_{water}$  is the wind speed over water (m s<sup>-1</sup>) and  $U_{land}$  is the wind speed over land  
139 (m s<sup>-1</sup>). We ran the FLake model from January 1st 1950 and repeated the first 365 days as the  
140 model spin-up. The model simulation results since 1980 were analyzed as the drastic



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4 141 economic growth of China and the rapid warming in Northern Hemisphere lakes started in  
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7 142 this year [31].  
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### 10 143 **2.3 Datasets and the experimental design**

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13 144 Climate forcing from ERA5-Land [32] was used to run FLake for the historical period.  
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15 145 ERA5-Land was available at a grid resolution of  $0.1^\circ \times 0.1^\circ$  and at an hourly time interval.  
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18 146 Five downscaled global climate model projections of the NASA Earth Exchange Global  
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21 147 Daily Downscaled Projections (NEX-GDDP-CMIP6) [33], i.e., FGOALS-g3, GFDL-ESM4,  
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24 148 MPI-ESM1-2-HR, MRI-ESM2-0, and UKESM1-0-LL, were selected for the future  
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27 149 projections relative to four shared socioeconomic pathways (SSPs): SSP1-2.6, SSP2-4.5,  
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29 150 SSP3-7.0, and SSP5-8.5, representing a radiative forcing of 2.6, 4.5, 3.7, and  $8.5 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  by  
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32 151 2100, respectively. These data were available at daily time steps and a spatial resolution of  
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35 152  $0.25^\circ \times 0.25^\circ$ . The historical (1950–2014) and scenario (2015–2100) data from NEX-GDDP-  
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38 153 CMIP6 were concatenated to run FLake. For both ERA5-Land and NEX-GDDP-CMIP6, we  
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41 154 extracted the time series of the closest grid points from the center of the lakes as model  
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44 155 inputs.

45 156 The satellite-derived LSWT from the ESACCI project [34] was used as a reference for  
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48 157 assessing FLake model performances. ESACCI provided daily LSWT data on more than 2000  
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51 158 inland water bodies worldwide at a resolution of 1 km during 1992–2020. We filtered the data  
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54 159 with its quality flag and selected the best level only and interpolated ESACCI to the centroids  
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57 160 of each lake to acquire a “mean” state of the lake center.

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59 161 We collected ground observations of LSWT from nine lakes (Table S1) to verify the  
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4 162 credibility of our model results, including both plain/alpine warm lakes and boreal/alpine cold  
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7 163 lakes with diverse thermal regimes. These data were documented at hourly to monthly  
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10 164 intervals, generally from 1993 to 2020.

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12 165 We used the human footprint index (HFI) to analyze the impact of anthropogenic  
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15 166 stressors on lake temperature, including the effects of building, cropland, pasture, population  
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18 167 density, night light, railways, roads, seaways, etc. The HFI dataset used in this study [35]  
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21 168 represents the human activity intensity in 2019 and has a spatial resolution of 0.00989°. HFI  
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24 169 values range from 0 to 1, indicating low to high anthropogenic influence.

#### 25 26 170 **2.4 The workflow of CSFLake**

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29 171 The novel approach introduced here is referred to as CSFLake (Coupling remote Sensing  
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32 172 observations and FLake). We first calibrated and validated the model parameters in FLake  
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35 173 over the periods 2001–2010 and 2011–2020 using the workflow of CSFLake as follows. Then  
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38 174 we ran our CSFLake with the best parameters to acquire the historical (1950–2021) and future  
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41 175 (2015–2100) LSWT.

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43 176 We selected three important in-lake model parameters to improve model performances:  
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46 177 light extinction coefficient, lake ice albedo, and depth factor. The light extinction coefficient  
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49 178 determines the amount of shortwave radiation penetrating the deep layers of the lake and  
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52 179 affects the surface water temperature, especially in summer [17]. In the FLake model, it is 3  
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55 180  $\text{m}^{-1}$  by default. We set the range of light extinction coefficients to 0.1–0.3  $\text{m}^{-1}$  for the lakes on  
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58 181 the Tibetan Plateau, which have the most transparent water [36], and to 0.1–3  $\text{m}^{-1}$  for the  
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60 182 remaining lakes. The ice albedo is the percentage of incoming solar radiation that is reflected

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4 183 into the atmosphere and thus controls the rate of ice melt and the thaw date [17]. In the default  
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7 184 FLake model, it is computed from the albedo of white and blue ice and varies with surface  
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10 185 temperature. To maximize the efficiency of the calibration procedure, we set the lake ice  
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13 186 albedo as a unique constant and altered its value to 0.1–0.85, which is within the range of  
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16 187 observations [37]. The depth factor was used to set an “effective depth” for each lake [17, 38],  
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19 188 which is widely used in FLake modeling studies to compensate for the uncertainty in lake  
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22 189 depth estimates. Deep lakes have larger thermal inertia, a lower summer surface temperature,  
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25 190 and a later freeze date [17]. We set the range of depth factors to 0.25–4 [38].

26 191 Latin Hypercube Sampling (LHS) is a stratified sampling method used for Monte Carlo  
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29 192 simulation [39]. Compared with pure random sampling, the pseudo-random procedure of LHS  
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32 193 generates more evenly distributed samples and achieves satisfactory accuracy with a smaller  
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35 194 sample size, which results in less computational cost. The LHS method has been applied as  
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38 195 one of the auto-calibration algorithms in a lake modeling package [40]. We first sampled 300  
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41 196 values within the prescribed valid range and preserved the parameter sets that get optimum  
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44 197 results, i.e., the highest Pearson correlation coefficient with ESACCI.

45 198 Some lakes still show poor fitness because of the delayed ice-off on the Tibetan Plateau;  
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48 199 this is possibly due to the absence of snow whose insulation effect could prevent ice  
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51 200 thickening [41]. We further narrowed the valid range of the ice albedo to 0.1–0.3 to allow  
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54 201 more shortwave radiation to be absorbed by the ice cover and accelerate the melting process.

55 202 Although the obtained parameters may not be realistic for some lakes, they can serve as a  
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58 203 proxy for processes that have not been included in the model [30], for example, salinity for  
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204 non-freshwater lakes, horizontal advection, intrusion of groundwater or glacial melt water,  
205 which constitute important inflows in lakes on the Tibetan Plateau.

## 206 **2.5 Lake heatwaves**

207 A lake heatwave is defined as when the daily LSWT exceeds the 90% threshold of the  
208 seasonally varying climatology period for at least five consecutive days [16, 42]. We selected  
209 1980–2009 as the climatology period while calculating the heatwave for the historical and  
210 future simulations. We followed the same computation method as in a previous study [16] but  
211 excluded heatwave events occurring when the threshold value is less than the climatology  
212 value. This could happen in some lakes that have regular ice cover but do not freeze for a few  
213 years. The annual mean lake heatwave maximum intensity (maximum temperature anomaly  
214 relative to the climatological mean in an event) and total annual days (time between the start  
215 and end dates of an event) were computed in each year as metrics for heatwaves. We  
216 categorized lake heatwaves into four groups depending on their duration: 5–15 days for short  
217 events, 15–25 days for medium events, 25–35 days for long events, and above 35 days for  
218 prolonged events. The lake heatwave events were detected from the daily simulated LSWT  
219 using the Python package “marineHeatWaves”  
220 ([www.github.com/ecjoliver/marineHeatWaves](http://www.github.com/ecjoliver/marineHeatWaves)).

## 221 **2.6 Contribution analysis**

222 We performed six simulations, denoted as S1–6, for the period 1979–2021 using climate  
223 fields from ERA5-Land. The control simulation (CTL) was a subset of the historical  
224 simulation. In the S1–6 simulations, air temperature (AT), wind speed (U), surface pressure

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4 225 (P), surface shortwave (SW) and longwave radiation (LW), and specific humidity (Q) were  
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7 226 kept unchanged as 1979, while the remaining variables varied as in the CTL. The  
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10 227 contributions of each meteorological variable are represented by the percent relative change  
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12 228 from the LSWT trend in CTL to those in S1–6 simulations.

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15 229 To attribute the drivers of lake heatwaves, we used the fraction of attributable risk [43]  
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17 230 (FAR) to quantify the influences of each meteorological variable on the likelihood of  
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20 231 occurrence of long lake heatwaves. FAR quantifies the impacts of cause A on an event by  
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23 232 comparing the likelihood of such events in the real world (the world with the cause A) and the  
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26 233 counterfactual world (the world in which cause A is absent), and it has been used previously  
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29 234 to quantify the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on the intensity of lake  
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31 235 heatwaves [44]. We calculated FAR as  $FAR = 1 - P_0 / P_1$ , where  $P_1$  is the probability that a  
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34 236 long heatwave event occurred in the actual world (i.e., CTL), and  $P_0$  is the probability that a  
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37 237 long heatwave event occurred in the counterfactual worlds (S1–6). Any negative resulting  
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40 238 value will be assigned to zero. The value of FAR represents the likelihood that a potential  
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43 239 factor will be the necessary causation of a long heatwave event. For example, if the FAR  
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46 240 calculated from S1 for Lake B is 90%, it means that 90% of the probability of a long event in  
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48  
49 241 B is due to the trend of air temperature or that there is a 90% chance that the air temperature  
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52 242 trend is necessary for a long event to occur in B.

## 53 243 **2.7 Time series analysis**

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56 244 For the raw simulation results for each lake, we set the minimum water temperature as  
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59 245 1 °C [17] to filter the ice coverage periods. To account for the mismatch between the  
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4 246 simulated and satellite-observed ice period, frozen values were included but replaced with  
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7 247 1 °C while calculating model performance metrics (i.e., correlation coefficient and root mean  
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10 248 square error [RMSE]) during the calibration and validation of CSFLake. However, during the  
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12 249 trend analysis, we only focused on simulated water temperatures above 1 °C and excluded  
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15 250 frozen values. The long-term trends and their confidence levels were calculated using the  
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18 251 Theil-Sen estimator.

### 20 252 **3. Results and discussion**

#### 23 253 **3.1 Spatial distribution of LSWT using a blended analysis of a numerical model and** 24 25 254 **satellite observations**

28 255 Our satellite-derived constraint on the original FLake simulations accurately reproduced  
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31 256 the satellite-based LSWT across both spatial and temporal scales (Figure 1). Overall, the  
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34 257 model performances declined slightly but remained acceptable during the validation phase  
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37 258 compared to the calibration phase (Figure S2). For both 2011–2020 and 2001–2010, the  
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40 259 correlation coefficient between simulation results and satellite observations was  $0.97 \pm 0.02$   
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42 260 (the uncertainty means the standard deviation across lakes). The RMSE for 2011–2020 was  
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45 261  $1.31 \pm 0.32$  °C and  $1.35 \pm 0.35$  °C for 2001–2010. Over the entire satellite data-taking period,  
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48 262 the correlation coefficient increased from 0.79 to 0.97 and RMSE decreased from 4.46 to  
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51 263 1.39 °C, indicating substantial improvements. Compared to ground observations (Table S1),  
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54 264 CSFLake also produced satisfactory results (Figure S3; Figure S4). The comparison with  
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57 265 daily observations showed correlation coefficients larger than 0.96 and RMSE ranging  
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60 266 between 0.94 and 1.50 °C. We also achieved satisfactory accuracy at hourly and sub-hourly

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4 267 intervals with RMSEs of 1.19 °C and 1.67 °C, although the model parameters were  
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7 268 determined by daily satellite observations. The original FLake model well captured the LSWT  
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10 269 in shallow and warm lakes on the Eastern Plain and Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau, whereas  
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12 270 considerable bias occurred for ice-covered lakes on the Tibetan Plateau (RMSE = 4.80 °C).  
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15 271 Four Tibetan lakes were even simulated to remain frozen throughout the year. These model  
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18 272 biases are in part attributed to the absence of saline effects on lake temperature and the effects  
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21 273 of snow insulation on preventing ice thickening in FLake [45]. CSFLake overcame the  
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24 274 deficiencies of the FLake model due to unknown lake-specific characteristics (e.g., water  
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27 275 clarity and ice albedo) or missing processes (e.g., salinity and snow; see Materials and  
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30 276 methods). Given the difficulty of monitoring lake interior information at large scales and the  
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33 277 enormous accessible satellite data, CSFLake undoubtedly has advantages over pure model-  
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36 278 based simulation. The flexibility and good performance demonstrated across diverse Chinese  
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39 279 lakes, further support the future global application of CSFLake.

40 280 The annual mean climatology of LSWT (1980–2021) revealed an average LSWT of  
41  
42 281 11.2 °C across all the studied lakes but with a substantial spatial variation (Figure S5).  
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45 282 Among the five lake zones considered, EPL has the highest annual mean LSWT (17.8°C),  
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48 283 followed by YGPL (17.7°C), NPML (16.7°C), IMXL (12.1°C), and TPL (8.8°C). EPL and  
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51 284 YGPL were the warmest due to their low latitudes, but the annual range of LSWT was much  
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54 285 smaller in YGPL than in EPL as the summer heating is mitigated by its highlands.  
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57 286 Unsurprisingly, TPL was the coldest of the five lake zones.  
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### 287 3.2 Changes in LSWT and heatwave characteristics from 1980 to 2021

288 Our results suggested that LSWT in the studied Chinese lakes has experienced rapid  
289 warming over the past four decades. During 1980–2021, the annual mean LSWT across  
290 Chinese lakes significantly increased at a rate of  $0.11\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C decade}^{-1}$  ( $p < 0.01$ ) (Figure 2a),  
291 while the original FLake overestimated the warming trend by about 100%, especially for  
292 Tibetan lakes (Figure S6). This implies that the model parameters should be carefully  
293 calibrated to avoid systematic errors in the estimation of long-term trends.

294 The spatial distribution of LSWT trends showed clear altitudinal and latitudinal  
295 dependences, with plain and subtropical lakes warming faster than alpine and boreal lakes,  
296 respectively (Figure S7a; Figure 2d). If the warming trend was normalized by its climatology,  
297 boreal, and alpine lakes, particularly TPL, would have the most significant trend (Figure S8).  
298 Among the five lake zones, the average warming trend was higher in the warmer (i.e., lakes  
299 with higher climatological annual mean LSWT) and shallower lakes (Figure S9a&b). For  
300 example, EPL had a larger warming rate ( $0.22\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C decade}^{-1}$ ) than the other lake zones ( $0.08$  to  
301  $0.12\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C decade}^{-1}$ ) (Figure 2d; Figure S9e). Moreover, we found that the warming trend in five  
302 lake zones increased with the intensity of human activity, as indicated by HFI in 2019 (Figure  
303 S9f). This suggests that the emission of greenhouse gases and rapid urbanization, which have  
304 been identified as the primary causes of the extreme summer air temperatures in eastern  
305 China [46], accelerated lake surface warming.

306 The lake warming rates across China were considerably smaller than the global  
307 average [12] ( $0.34\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C decade}^{-1}$ ), which only includes 15 Chinese lakes. In contrast to



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4 308 temperate lakes with seasonal ice cover [3], alpine lakes on the Tibetan Plateau experienced  
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7 309 much less warming. This demonstrates how the performance of lake temperature simulation  
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10 310 results, particularly for Tibetan lakes, can significantly bias estimates of lake warming. In  
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12 311 addition, a previous LSWT analysis using satellite products across Chinese lakes indicated a  
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15 312 much higher warming rate of  $0.26\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C decade}^{-1}$  ( $p < 0.01$ ) in 2001–2016 than our model-data  
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18 313 blended analysis ( $0.03\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C decade}^{-1}$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ) during the same period, i.e. 2001–2016 [47].  
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20 314 This discrepancy is possibly due to the inclusion of ice temperature in the previous satellite-  
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23 315 based analysis and the large temporal interval of the available data ( $\geq 8$  days). Our  
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26 316 insignificant warming trend is consistent with the change in global air temperature during the  
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29 317 “warming hiatus” period [48].

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31 318 At seasonal timescales, the warming trend of Chinese lakes was uneven (Figure S10).  
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34 319 The annual maximum LSWT had a mean rate of  $0.14\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C decade}^{-1}$  from 1980 to 2021, which  
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37 320 is faster than the annual mean LSWT (Figure S11a). The annual maximum LSWT trends  
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40 321 showed a clear latitudinal gradient, with lakes at higher latitudes exhibiting stronger trends.

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42 322 The lakes generally displayed the highest warming rate in spring (March–May) for EPL  
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45 323 and IMXL lakes. The warming rate in summer (June–August) and autumn (September–  
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48 324 November) was most notable for NPML and TPL lakes with seasonal ice cover. By contrast,  
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51 325 the warming rates of YGPL were roughly similar across different months, peaking in October  
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54 326 (Figure S12b). The spring warming rate in EPL ( $0.45\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C decade}^{-1}$ ) was more than twice as  
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57 327 high as the annual warming rate, with a maximum in March reaching  $0.67\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C decade}^{-1}$  (Figure  
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60 328 S12b). This result is consistent with previous findings from four lakes in the Yangtze River

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4 329 basin, showing a warming rate of  $0.26\text{--}0.28\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C decade}^{-1}$  (1979–2017) and that the warming  
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7 330 rate in the spring was twice to four times higher than in other seasons [27]. Moreover, the  
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10 331 ratio of spring to summer warming rates increased for low-altitude lakes and decreased for  
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12 332 high-altitude lakes (Figure S13), suggesting that seasonality was reduced in plain lakes but  
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15 333 amplified in alpine lakes due to asymmetric warming.

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17 334 From 1980 to 2021, the climatological annual mean lake heatwave maximum intensity  
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20 335 and total annual days across Chinese lakes had an average value of  $1.6\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  and 21 days,  
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22  
23 336 respectively (Figure S14b). In terms of the spatial pattern, the average maximum intensity of  
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26 337 lake heatwaves decreased with increasing altitude, with the highest intensity in eastern China  
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29 338 (EPL and NPML;  $3.5$  and  $3.7\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and the lowest at YGPL and TPL ( $1.0$  and  $1.1\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). This  
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31 339 result is possibly related to the lower variability of LSWT in alpine lakes (Figure S5b), which  
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34 340 is consistent with previous findings that lakes with higher interannual variability experience  
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37 341 stronger lake heatwaves [16]. The total annual days of lake heatwaves were larger for lakes  
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40 342 located at lower latitudes, with YGPL experiencing the longest lake heatwaves. Moreover,  
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42 343 TPL and YGPL endured the most prolonged lake heatwaves during the warm seasons (May–  
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45 344 September; Figure S15d).

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47 345 The maximum intensity of lake heatwaves showed a weak but significant increasing  
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50 346 trend across Chinese lakes with a mean rate of  $0.27\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C decade}^{-1}$ , and the total annual days of  
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53 347 lake heatwaves increased rapidly with an average rate of  $7.7\text{ days decade}^{-1}$  (Figure 3a&b). A  
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56 348 greater number of lakes had a significantly increasing trend in heatwave total annual days  
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59 349 (154 of 168 lakes) than in heatwave maximum intensity (115 of 168 lakes). The heatwave  
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4 350 maximum intensity increased most at EPL ( $0.30\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C decade}^{-1}$ ) and TPL ( $0.15\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C decade}^{-1}$ ),  
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7 351 whereas the increasing rates of heatwave total annual days were greatest for the alpine lakes  
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10 352 of YGPL ( $11.0\text{ days decade}^{-1}$ ) and TPL ( $5.9\text{ days decade}^{-1}$ ) (Figure 3c&d; Figure S7c&d).

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12 353 We also found a strong negative correlation between lake depth and the maximum  
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15 354 intensity of lake heatwaves (Figure S9c), suggesting that lake heatwaves were milder in deep  
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18 355 lakes compared to shallow ones. Deep lakes generally had a longer duration of lake  
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21 356 heatwaves (Figure S9d) because their greater thermal inertia increases their resistance to  
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24 357 short-term climatic variations but also prevents them from quickly recovering from an  
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27 358 extreme state. Furthermore, the lake heatwave maximum intensity was more strongly  
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30 359 correlated with lake depth than the lake heatwave total annual days ( $-0.51$  versus  $0.27$ ).  
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32 360 Hence, morphological characteristics affect lake heatwave intensity more than duration.

### 34 361 3.3 Drivers of lake warming

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37 362 Air temperature, specific humidity, and longwave radiation all increased across China  
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40 363 from 1980 to 2021, but there were marked spatial differences in temporal variations of wind  
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43 364 speed, shortwave radiation, and surface pressure (Figure S17). Our attribution analysis  
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46 365 showed that longwave radiation (47.7%), specific humidity (39.4%), and air temperature  
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49 366 (24.3%) were the major factors contributing to lake warming, although the magnitude of their  
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52 367 respective contributions varied by season and lake zone (Figure 4a-e). We also calculated  
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55 368 FAR to detect the necessary causation for a heatwave event to last more than 25 days, which  
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58 369 we refer to as a “long event” (see Materials and methods). It appears that the FAR for these  
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60 370 three variables (i.e., longwave radiation, specific humidity, and air temperature) was 1 for 50

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4 371 lakes, which were mainly distributed in Eastern China and the Tibetan Plateau (Figure 4f;  
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6 372 Figure S16), suggesting that these variables had a 100% chance of inducing a long heatwave  
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9 373 event in these lakes. Shortwave radiation, surface pressure, and wind speed were also required  
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12 374 for long heatwaves, with 71.3%, 73.9%, and 69.8% probability for 48, 36, and 34 lakes,  
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14  
15 375 respectively. It should be noted that our sensitivity experiments can only detect the isolated  
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18 376 effects of meteorological variables on lake temperature. As a result, there are still lakes that  
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21 377 failed to compute FAR, indicating that non-linear interactions between multiple  
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24 378 meteorological factors may play an important role.

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26 379 Increasing air temperature (Figure S17f) contributed most to the warming of the annual  
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28 380 LSWT for EPL (41.8%), YGPL (58.3%), and IMXL (50.7%), whereas longwave radiation  
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31 381 was the most important factor for TPL (79.5%). The increased shortwave radiation  
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34 382 contributed to the lake surface warming in EPL, NPML, and YGPL, whereas the decreased  
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37 383 shortwave radiation in TPL prevented lake surface warming (Figure S17d). The slow  
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40 384 warming rate for Tibetan lakes can be explained by the dimming of solar radiation on the  
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43 385 Tibetan Plateau, which is further related to the promoted deep convection by surface warming  
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46 386 and moistening [49]. Tibetan Plateau lakes are typically warmer than the overlying  
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49 387 atmosphere because of the strong solar radiation in the high-altitude region [50], and the  
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52 388 influence of increasing air temperature may thus be counteracted by solar dimming [28].  
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55 389 However, this was not found in the pure modeling framework [51, 52], highlighting that great  
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58 390 uncertainties exist in both the lake model itself and the LSWT data used for model  
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60 391 calibration.

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4 392 In spring, the combined effects of increasing air temperature, shortwave radiation,  
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7 393 specific humidity, and longwave radiation led to a remarkable warming trend of LSWT in  
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10 394 EPL (Figure 4c; Figure S10a). Moreover, the implementation of air pollution control policies  
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12 395 since 2013 has greatly reduced aerosols, leading to an accelerated brightening in southeastern  
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15 396 China [53]. This phenomenon could enhance the warming of lakes in eastern China (EPL and  
16  
17 397 NPML) because of their relatively low water clarity [36]. The intense spring warming in EPL  
18  
19 398 may impede the treatment of eutrophication by providing suitable thermal environments for  
20  
21 399 harmful algae. The start dates of blooms in Lake Taihu have advanced by 30 days from 2003  
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23 400 to 2017 [54] and this could worsen in the future without interventions.

#### 24 25 26 27 28 29 401 **3.4 Future projections of LSWT and lake heatwaves**

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31 402 Annual mean LSWT, annual maximum LSWT, and the annual mean maximum intensity  
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33 403 and total annual days of lake heatwaves are projected to increase substantially during the  
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35 404 twenty-first century, with the magnitude of these changes increasing with the severity of  
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37 405 climate change scenarios (Figure 5). Under the most stringent scenario (SSP1-2.6), relative to  
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39 406 the period 1980–2009, the annual mean LSWT, annual maximum LSWT, heatwave annual  
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41 407 mean maximum intensity, and heatwave total annual days (averaged during 2071–2100) will  
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43 408 increase by 1.0 [0.7, 1.7] °C, 1.4 [0.9, 2.5] °C, 1.7 [1.2, 3.1] °C, and 119 [88, 180] days by the  
44  
45 409 end of the century, respectively. The values within square brackets represent the minimum  
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47 410 and maximum for the five climate model ensembles. Under the worst-case scenario (SSP5-  
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49 411 8.5), the annual mean LSWT, annual maximum LSWT, heatwave annual mean maximum  
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51 412 intensity, and heatwave total annual days will increase by 2.2 [1.8, 3.3] °C, 3.6 [2.8, 5.6] °C,  
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4 413 4.8 [3.9, 7.3] °C, and 197 [189, 218] days, respectively. In different lake zones, the strongest  
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7 414 future warming of LSWT occurred at EPL, as also found for the historical period. By  
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9 415 contrast, TPL had the greatest increase in the intensity of lake heatwaves, while EPL and  
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12 416 YGPL had the greatest increase in the duration of lake heatwaves. Generally, lakes at lower  
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15 417 latitudes will experience longer heatwaves.

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17 418 Warmer surface water could have cascading effects on the physical and chemical  
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20 419 environments of the aquatic systems (Figure 6). Lake thermal stratification will be  
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23 420 strengthened because of the increasing temperature/density gradient between surface and  
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26 421 bottom water [3]. Along with the warming lake surface in spring, thermal stratification will  
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29 422 start earlier, thereby inhibiting the exchange of oxygen and nutrients between the lake surface  
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32 423 and bottom [55] and increasing the summer surface temperature [7].

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34 424 The lake surface warming will also result in reduced gas solubility, which is the primary  
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37 425 factor of deoxygenation at the lake surface, although, in some productive lakes, this  
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40 426 phenomenon could be diminished by the strengthened photosynthesis due to increasing  
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43 427 phytoplankton biomass [56]. In the deep layer of lakes, the accelerated rates of respiration  
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46 428 with warmer temperatures [5] will lead to higher oxygen consumption, but oxygen  
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49 429 replenishment will be reduced by the stably stratified water column, and anoxic conditions  
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52 430 will follow [56]. For example, within deep Lake Qiandao, the strong lake stratification in  
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55 431 2016 drastically reduced the dissolved oxygen in the thermocline and deep layers [57].

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57 432 High water temperatures and low oxygen concentrations will squeeze the oxythermal  
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60 433 habitat of fish [58, 59]. Rising annual maximum LSWT may even exceed the critical

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4 434 temperature allowing the normal physiological functions for species [60]. The dispersed  
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7 435 distribution of lakes can dampen the movement of lacustrine species to suitable water, and the  
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10 436 physical environment is projected to change more rapidly than the migration speeds of aquatic  
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12 437 species [61], which might cause more ecological disasters.

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15 438 At the water-sediment interface, anoxia will facilitate nutrient release from redox-  
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17 439 sensitive compounds [62], especially phosphorus, which is a major limiting factor for algae  
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20 440 growth in freshwater. If the bottom water temperature also increases, the mineralization of  
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23 441 organic matter will be accelerated, which will lead to higher emissions of carbon dioxide and  
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26 442 methane [63, 64], reinforcing climate warming due to greenhouse gases. This process will  
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29 443 speed up the recycling of nutrients and favor phytoplankton growth, suggesting positive  
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31 444 feedback between climate change and eutrophication [65].

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34 445 Together with the heavy external nutrient loading from domestic, agricultural, and  
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36 446 industrial waste, the growth of phytoplankton is promoted by hot water under nutrient-rich  
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39 447 conditions [66]. Besides that, stronger stratification will permit phytoplankton to circulate in  
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42 448 the euphotic zone [67]. Increasing algae blooms have been reported worldwide, especially in  
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45 449 regions that depend highly on fertilizers [68]. In China, the occurrence of algae blooms in the  
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48 450 2010s has increased nearly nine times relative to the 1980s–1990s [68], and many blooms  
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50 451 have been reported recently in natural lakes and reservoirs (Figure S18).

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53 452 Furthermore, the warmer surface water and stronger stratification will favor the  
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55 453 dominance of cyanobacteria in lakes given its higher optimal growth temperature and ability  
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58 454 to adjust buoyancy [66], leading to a higher frequency of harmful algae blooms [64]. The  
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4 455 toxic substances produced by cyanobacteria will threaten the security of drinking water and  
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7 456 human health [6, 69]. For example, the unusually warm spring in Lake Taihu in 2007  
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10 457 triggered a cyanobacteria bloom that eventually contaminated the water supply for the two  
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12 458 million inhabitants around the lake [6]. Blooms create turbid lake water and exhaust dissolved  
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15 459 oxygen due to the decomposition process after they die, resulting also in massive die-offs of  
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18 460 fishes [59]. Moreover, the photosynthesis-induced increases in pH during the blooms [62] and  
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21 461 the subsequent low-oxygen conditions will stimulate the release of nutrients, creating positive  
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23 462 feedback and deteriorating water quality.

#### 24 25 463 **4. Conclusion**

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28 464 Our study proposed a novel model–satellite data blended approach to investigate the  
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31 465 changes in water temperature in 168 Chinese lakes from 1980 to 2100. During 1980–2021,  
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34 466 the annual mean and annual maximum water temperature in China increased at an average  
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37 467 rate of 0.11 °C decade<sup>-1</sup> and 0.14 °C decade<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. Among the five Chinese lake  
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40 468 zones, the warming rate was highest in EPL and lowest in TPL. The water temperature in  
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43 469 shallow, warm, and anthropogenic-affected lakes changed more rapidly than in other lakes. In  
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46 470 general, longwave radiation, specific humidity, and air temperature contributed most to the  
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49 471 increase of lake water temperature and the prolongation of lake heatwaves. Our projections  
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52 472 showed that warming in Chinese lakes will continue into the twenty-first century, along with  
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55 473 more intensive and prolonged lake heatwaves. Our results give opportunities for researchers  
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58 474 and managers to enhance their understanding of the changing physical environment and  
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60 475 formulate management or policies to alleviate the consequences of climate change in lakes.



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6  
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8

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28 485 **Author contributions**  
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31 486 **Xiwen Wang:** Investigation, Conceptualization, Data curation, Methodology, Writing -  
32  
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34 487 original draft. **Kun Shi:** Supervision, Conceptualization, Methodology, and Editing. **Yunlin**  
35  
36 488 **Zhang:** Data curation and Validation. **Yibo Zhang:** Methodology, Software, and Validation.  
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39 489 **Boqiang Qin:** Conceptualization, Validation, and Editing. **Weijia Wang:** Data curation,  
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42 490 Methodology, and Validation. **R. Iestyn Woolway:** Supervision and Editing. **Shilong Piao:**  
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45 491 Supervision and Editing. **Jeppesen Erik:** Supervision and Editing. All authors reviewed the  
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48 492 results and approved the final version of the manuscript.  
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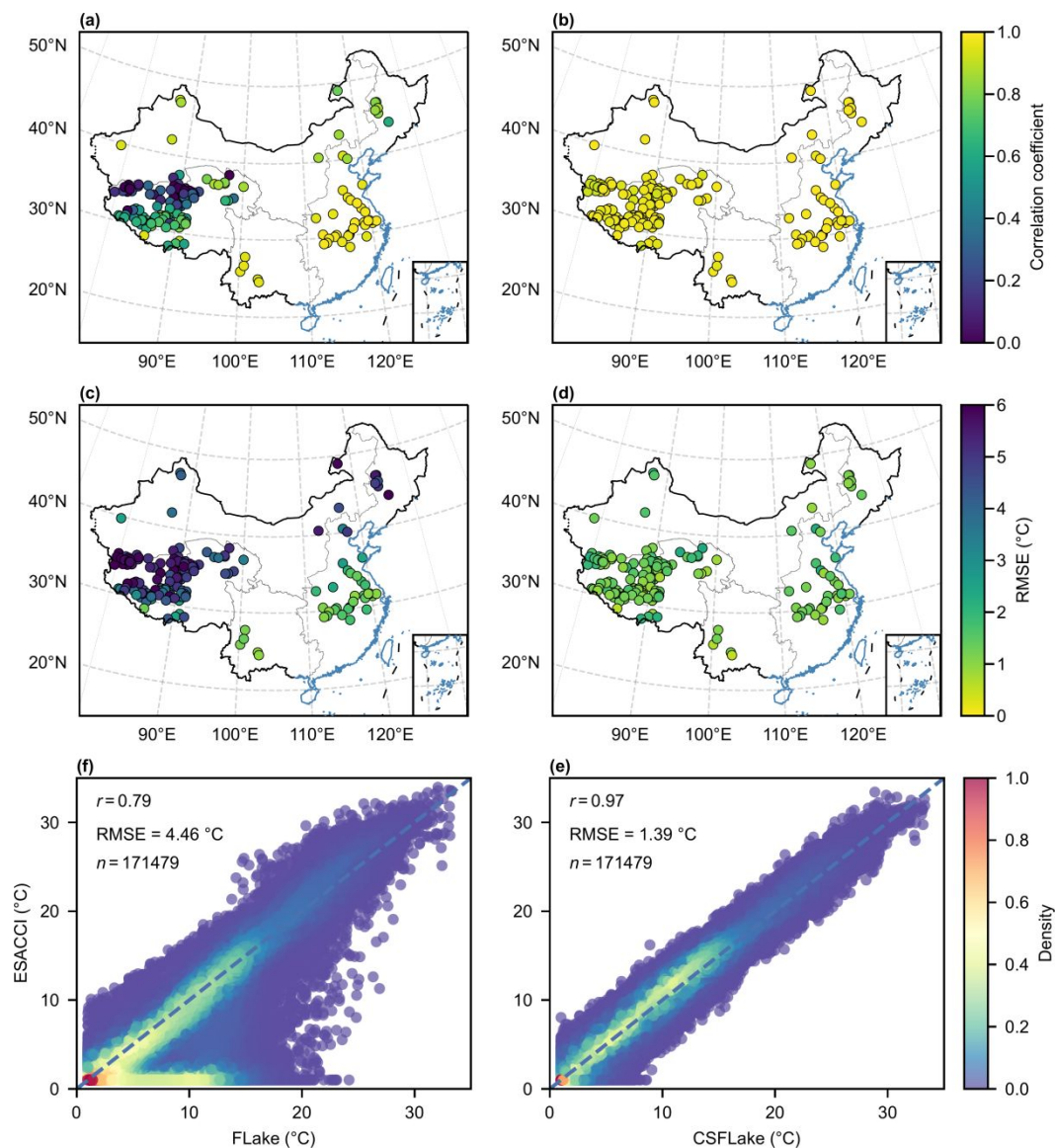
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650 **Figure 1–6**

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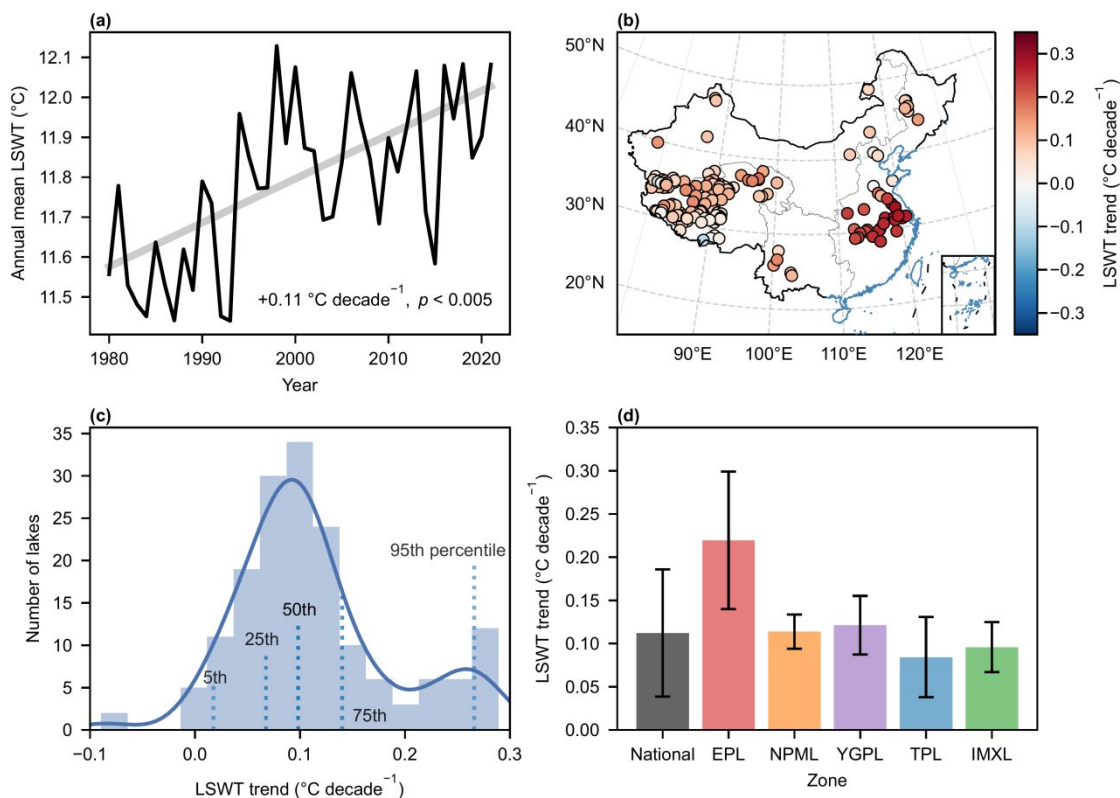
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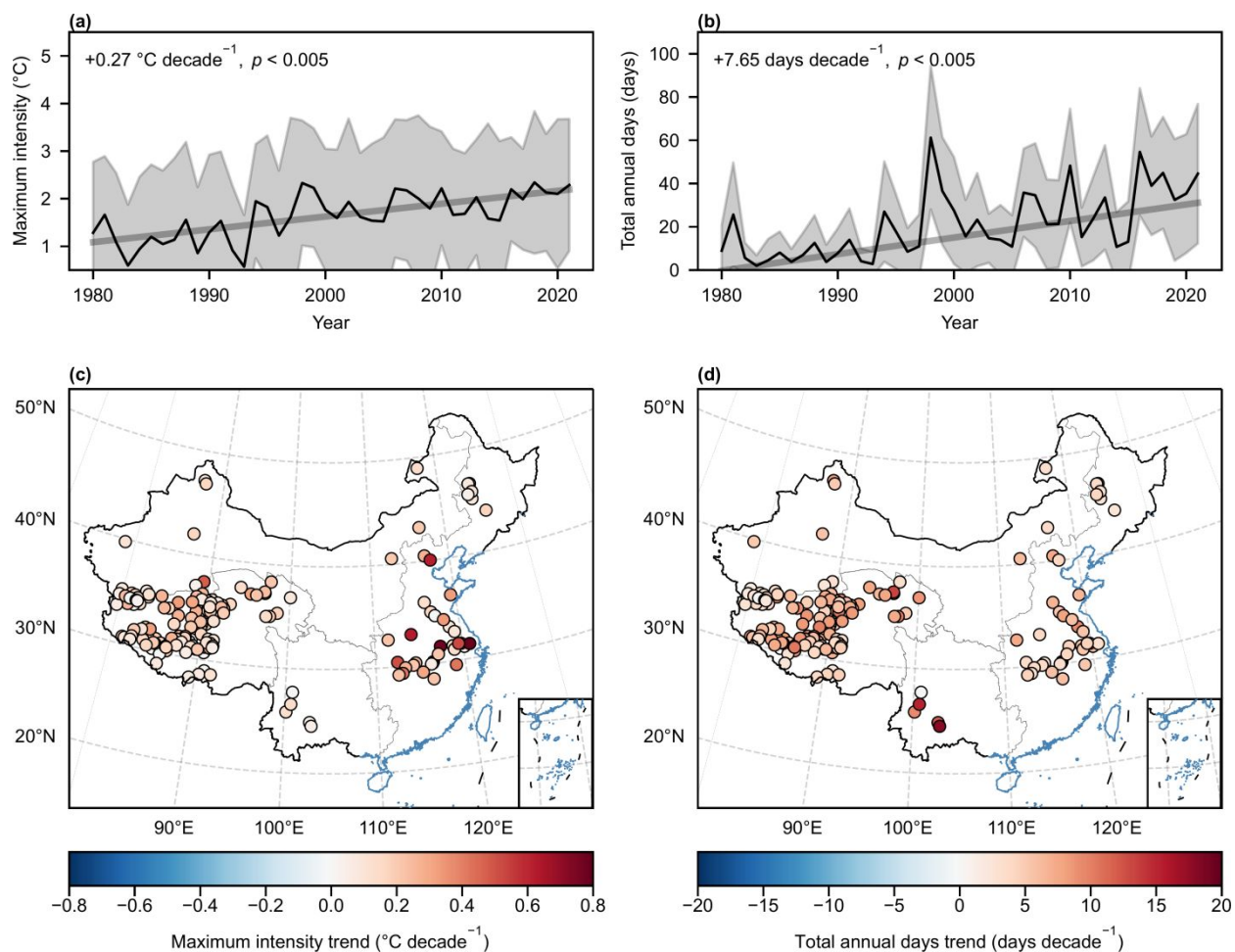
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Figure 1 Validation of simulated lake surface water temperature (2000–2020). (a–b) Pearson correlation between ESACCI and FLake (a) and CSFLake (b). (c–d) Root mean square error (RMSE) between ESACCI and FLake (c) and CSFLake (d). (e–f) Comparisons between the lake surface water temperature from satellites and simulation results. (e) ESACCI versus FLake. (f) ESACCI versus CSFLake. Pearson correlation coefficient (italics “ $r$ ”), RMSE, and the number of points (italics “ $n$ ”) are given in the text. The density of points was computed as the normalized kernel density estimation. Note that some lakes in (a) were not shown because they remained frozen (always 1 °C) during satellite data-taking period.



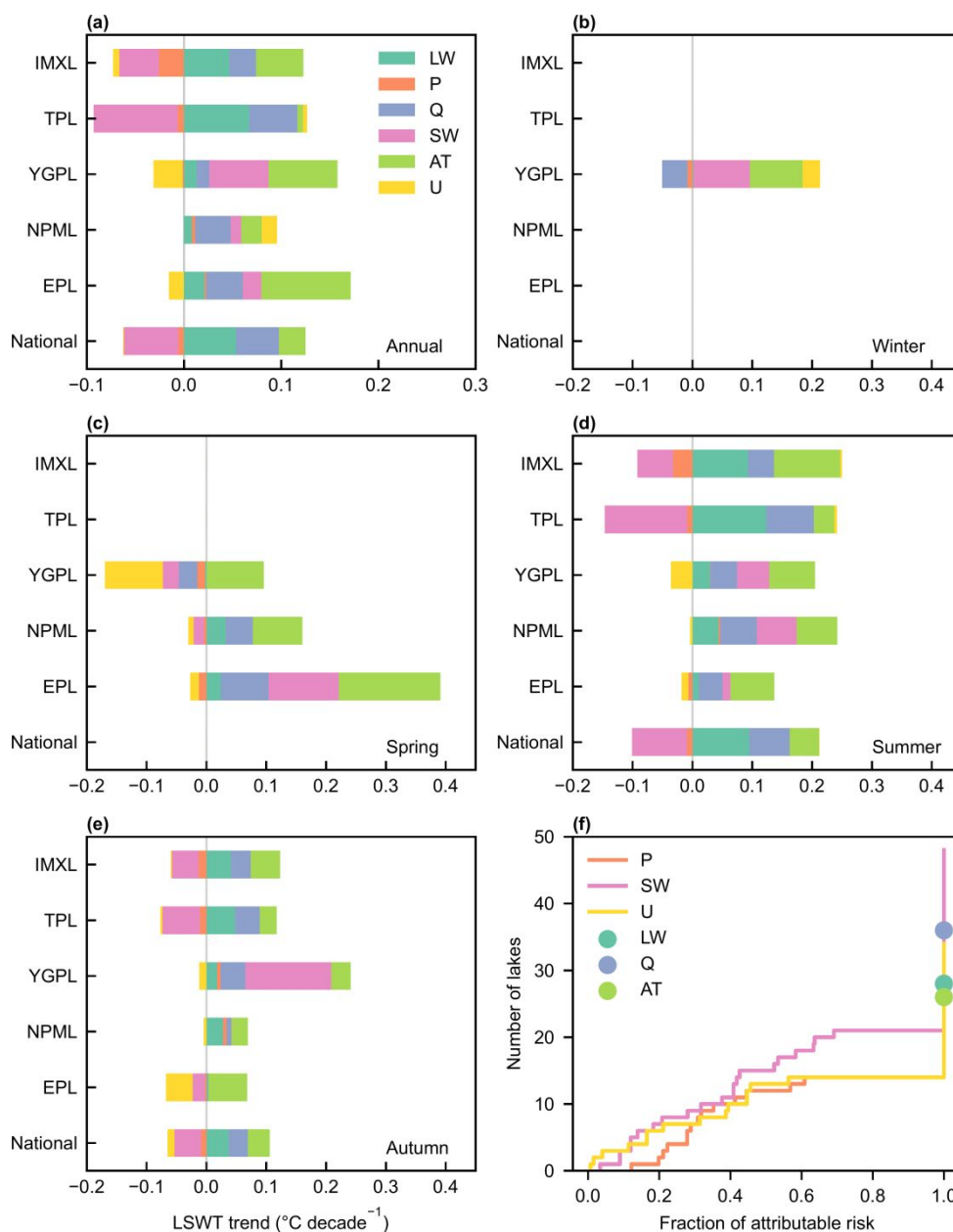
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661 Figure 2 Trend of lake surface water temperature (1980–2021). (a) Annual mean lake surface  
 662 water temperature (LSWT) averaged over all studied lakes. (b) Spatial distribution of the LSWT  
 663 trends. (c) Histogram (bar), kernel density estimation (solid line), and percentiles (dashed line)  
 664 of the LSWT trend. (d) The LSWT trend averaged over all lakes and five lake zones. The whiskers  
 665 represent the standard deviation.

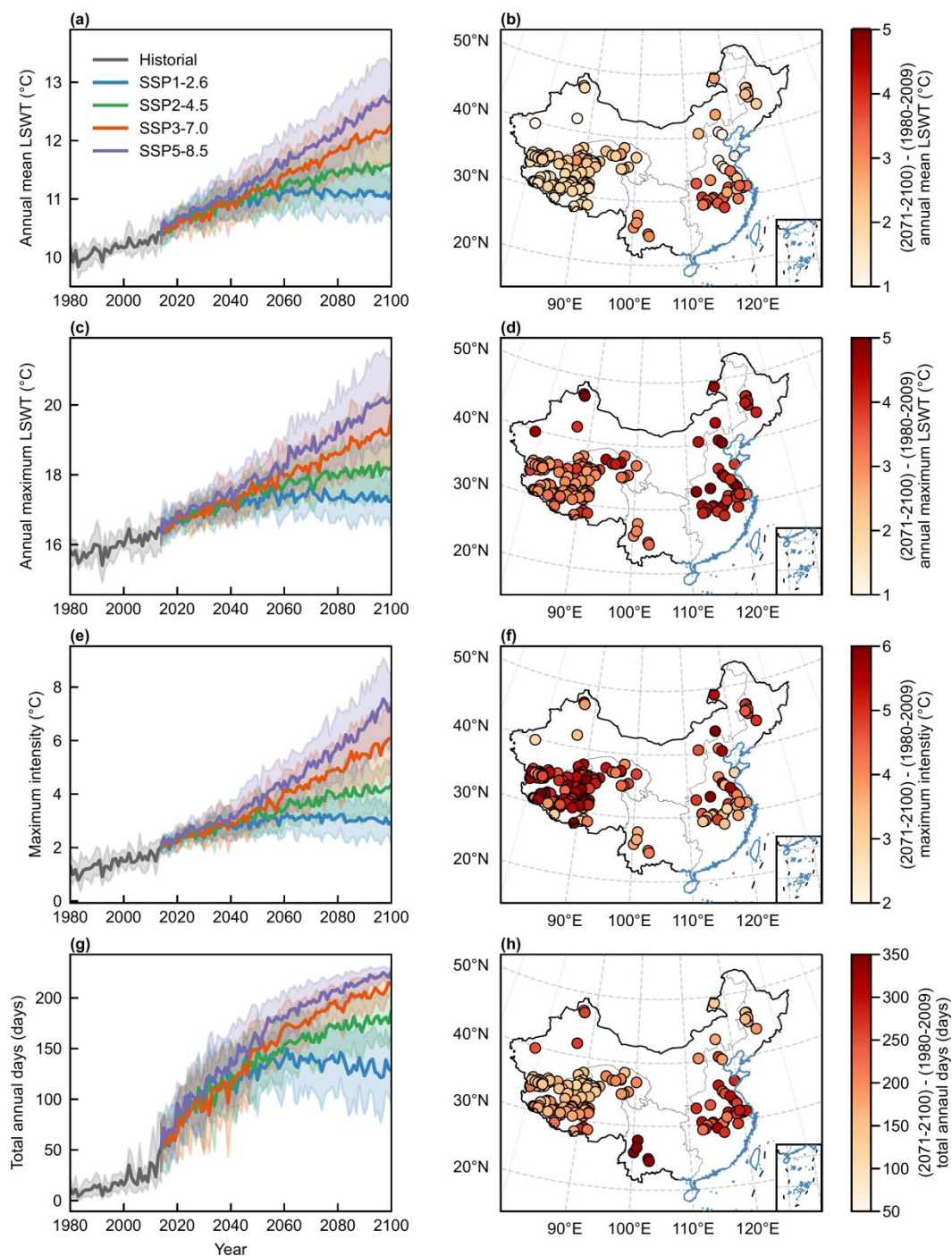


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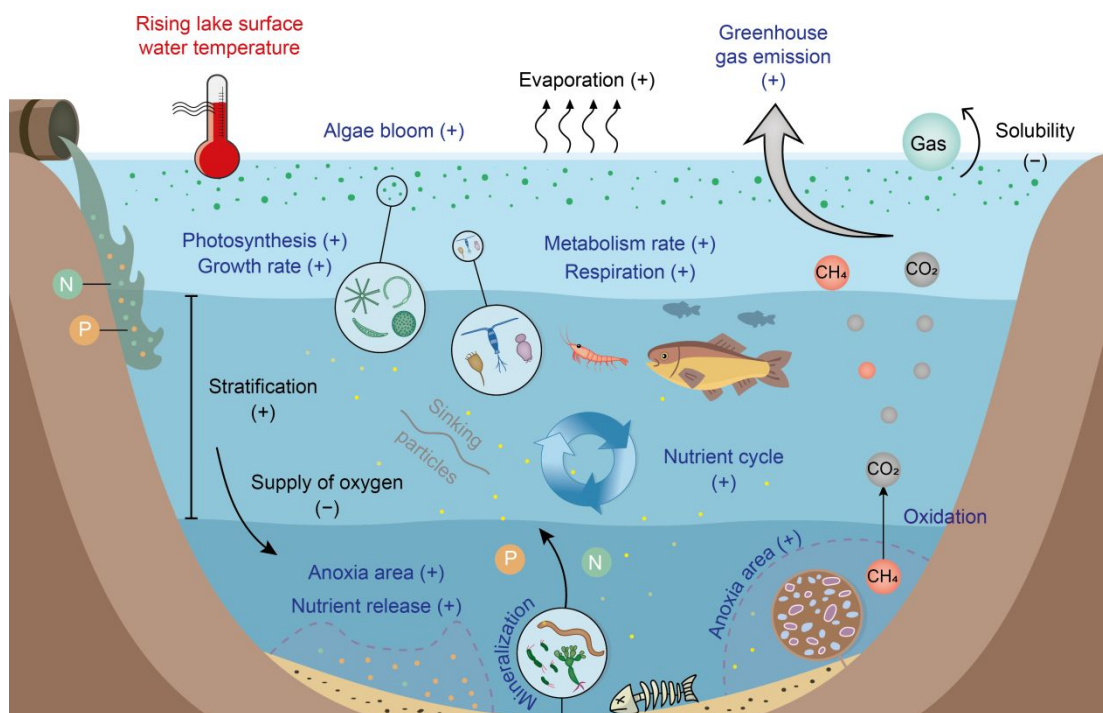
667 Figure 3 Lake heatwave metrics during 1980–2021. (a–b) Annual time series of averaged  
 668 maximum lake heatwave intensity (a) and total annual days (b). The spatial distribution of their  
 669 annual trends over 1980–2021 is shown in (c) and (d). The solid lines and shaded areas in (a–b)  
 670 denote the average of all studied lakes and the standard deviation, respectively.



671  
 672 Figure 4 Contribution of meteorological variables to the trend of lake surface water temperature  
 673 (LSWT; 1980–2021). (a) Contribution of surface downward longwave radiation (LW), surface  
 674 pressure (P), 2 m specific humidity (Q), surface downward shortwave radiation (SW), 2 m air  
 675 temperature (AT), and 10 m wind speed (U) to the LSWT trend for five lake zones. (b–e) The  
 676 contribution of meteorological variables for winter (b; December, January, and February), spring  
 677 (c; March, April, and May), summer (d; June, July, and August), and autumn (e; September,  
 678 October, and November) to the LSWT trends. (f) Contributions of meteorological variables to the  
 679 occurrence of long lake heatwaves.



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 681 Figure 5 Future projection of lake surface water temperature and heatwaves. Temporal changes of  
 682 the (a) annual mean lake surface water temperature (LSWT), (c) annual maximum LSWT, (e)  
 683 annual mean lake heatwave maximum intensity, and (g) lake heatwave total annual days under  
 684 historical and future climate forcing (SSP1-2.6, SSP2-4.5, SSP3-7.0, SSP5-8.5). The solid lines  
 685 show the mean across all the studied lakes and five lake-climate ensembles. The shaded areas  
 686 represent the standard deviation between climate ensembles. Differences between SSP5-8.5 run  
 687 (averaged over 2071–2100 and five lake-climate ensembles) and historical run (averaged over  
 688 1980–2009 and five lake-climate ensembles) of the (b) annual mean LSWT, (d) annual maximum  
 689 LSWT, (f) annual mean lake heatwave maximum intensity, and (h) lake heatwave total annual  
 690 days.



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Figure 6 Implications of rising lake surface water temperature in the lake ecosystem. The biochemical and physical processes are represented by blue and black text, respectively. The symbol “+” after the name of a process indicates that increases in lake surface water temperature may facilitate the process, while “-” indicates the opposite. The absence of a symbol means the effect of rising lake surface water temperature on this process is unclear.

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4 **1 Supplementary Materials to “Climate change drives rapid warming and increasing**

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7 **2 heatwaves of lakes”**

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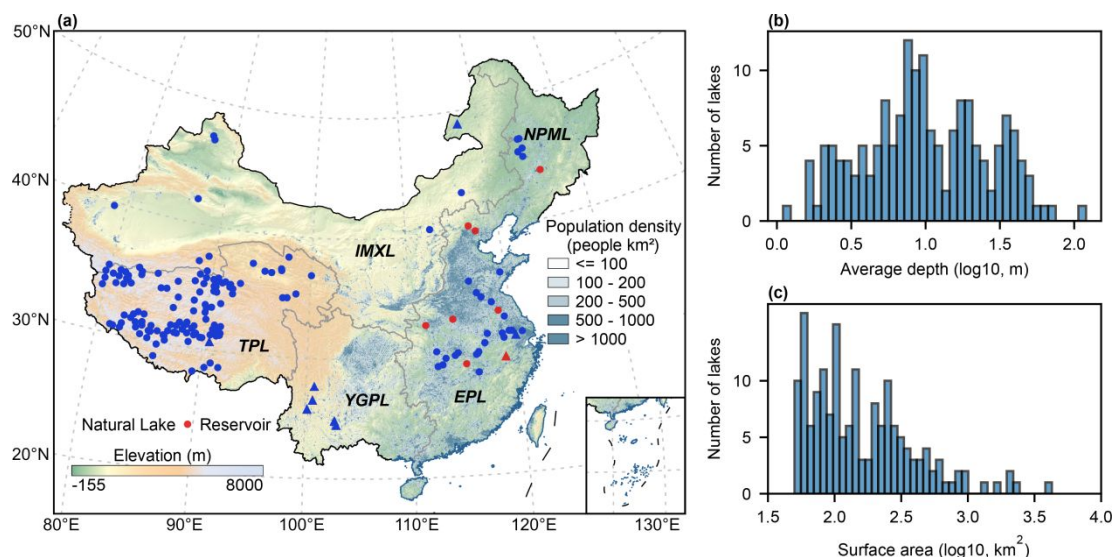
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40 **Supplementary Figures and Tables**

41 Figure S1-18

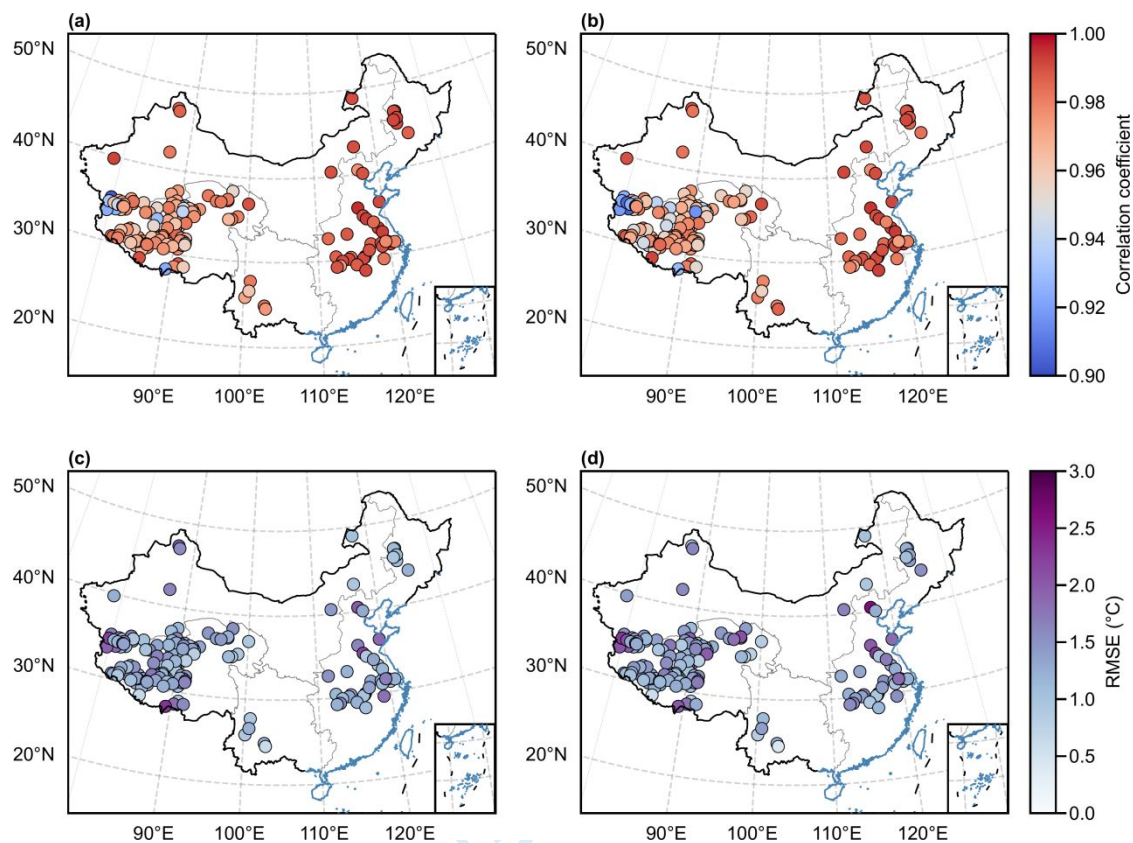
42 Table S 1-2

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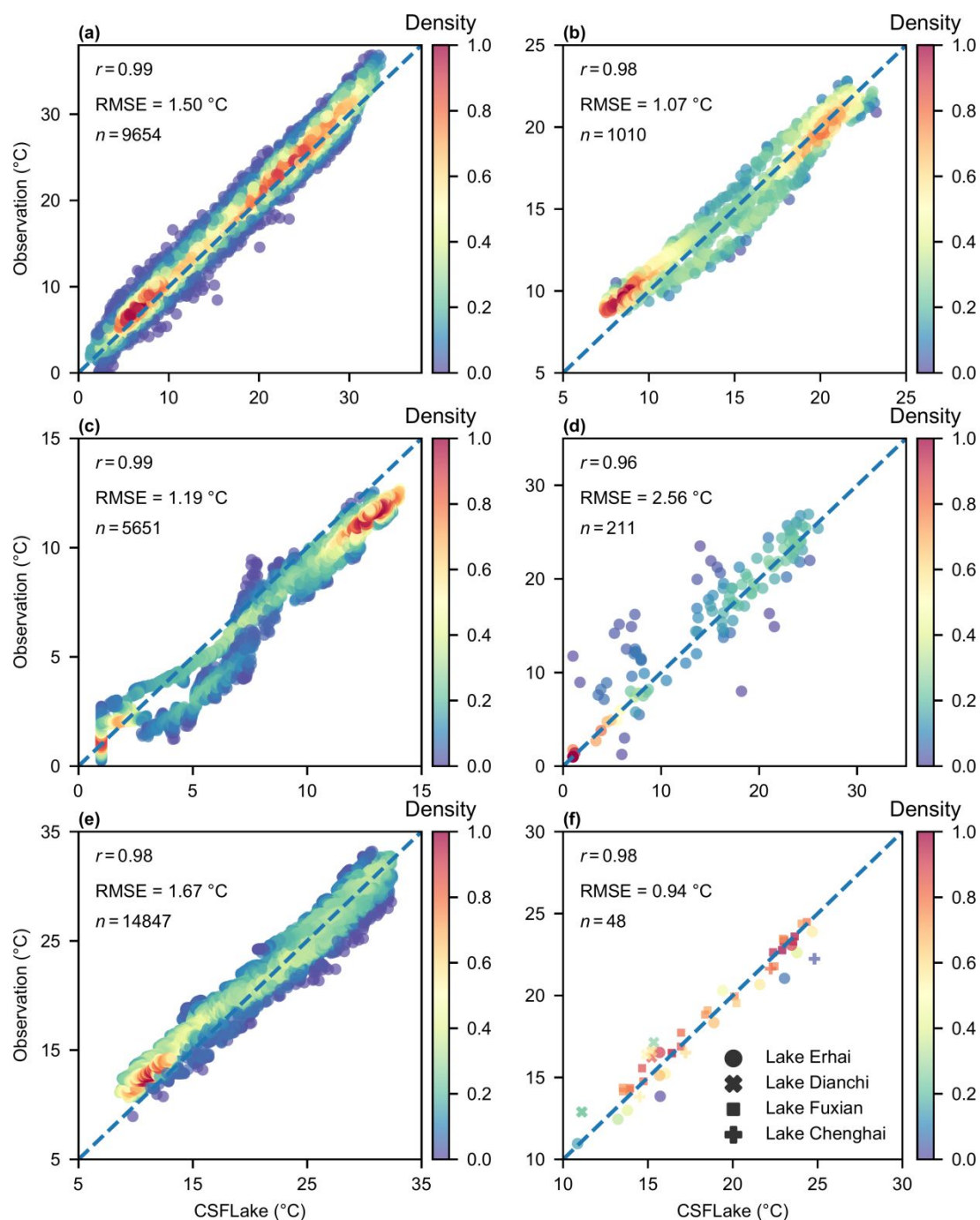


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44 Figure S1 Distribution and characteristics of the studied lakes. (a) Map of the studied natural  
 45 lakes and artificial reservoirs. (b) Histograms of  $\log_{10}$ [surface area ( $\text{km}^2$ )]. (c) Histograms of  
 46  $\log_{10}$ [average depth (m)]. The information is derived from the HydroLAKES database. The  
 47 location of lake points is the centroids of lake polygons. The triangles in (a) represent the nine  
 48 lakes on which ground observations are available for model verification. The population  
 49 density dataset is derived from WorldPop ([www.worldpop.org](http://www.worldpop.org)).



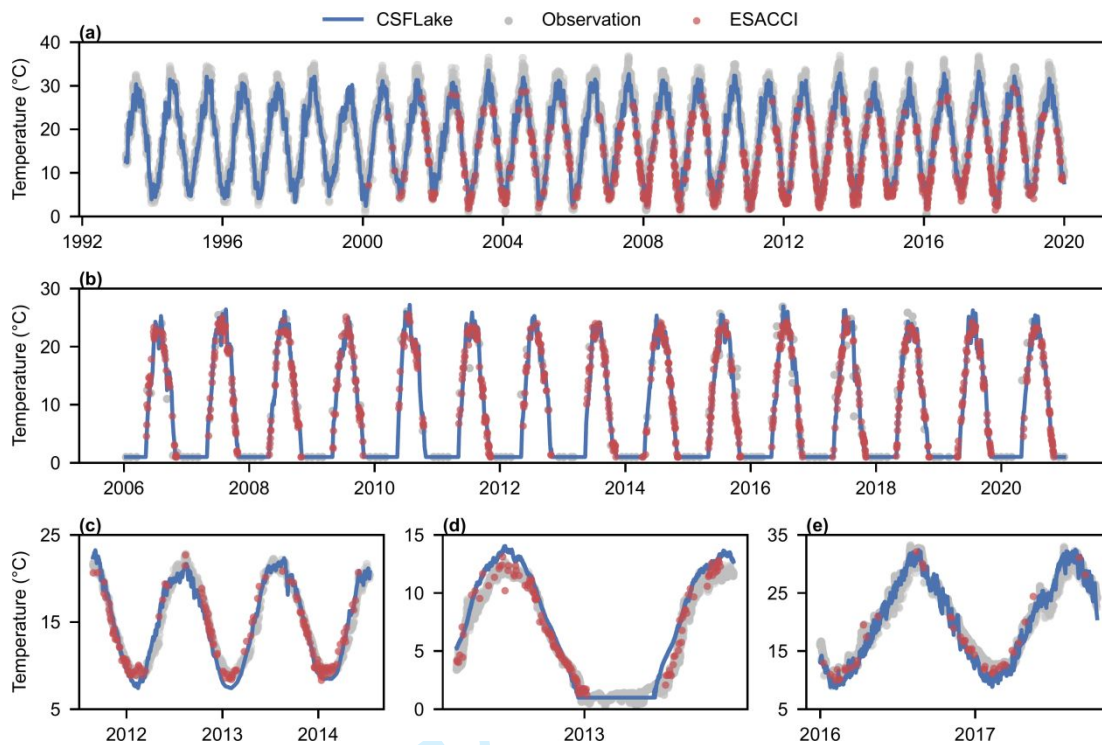
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 51 Figure S2 Model performances during 2001–2010 (calibration phase) and 2011–2020 (verification  
 52 phase). (a-b) Pearson correlation coefficient between simulation results and ESACCI during  
 53 2001–2010 (a) and 2011–2020 (b). (c-d) Root mean square error (RMSE; unit: °C) between  
 54 simulation results and ESACCI during 2001–2010 (c) and 2011–2020 (d).



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56 Figure S3 Comparison between the simulated lake surface water temperature using CSFLake and  
 57 observations. (a) Lake Taihu. (b) Lake Lugu. (c) Lake Namco. (d) Lake Hulun. (e) Lake Qiandao.

58 (f) Four lakes on the Yunnan-Guizhou plateau. The Pearson correlation coefficient (*r*),  
 59 root mean square error (RMSE), and the number of points (*n*) are shown in the text. The density of  
 60 points was computed as the normalized kernel density estimation.

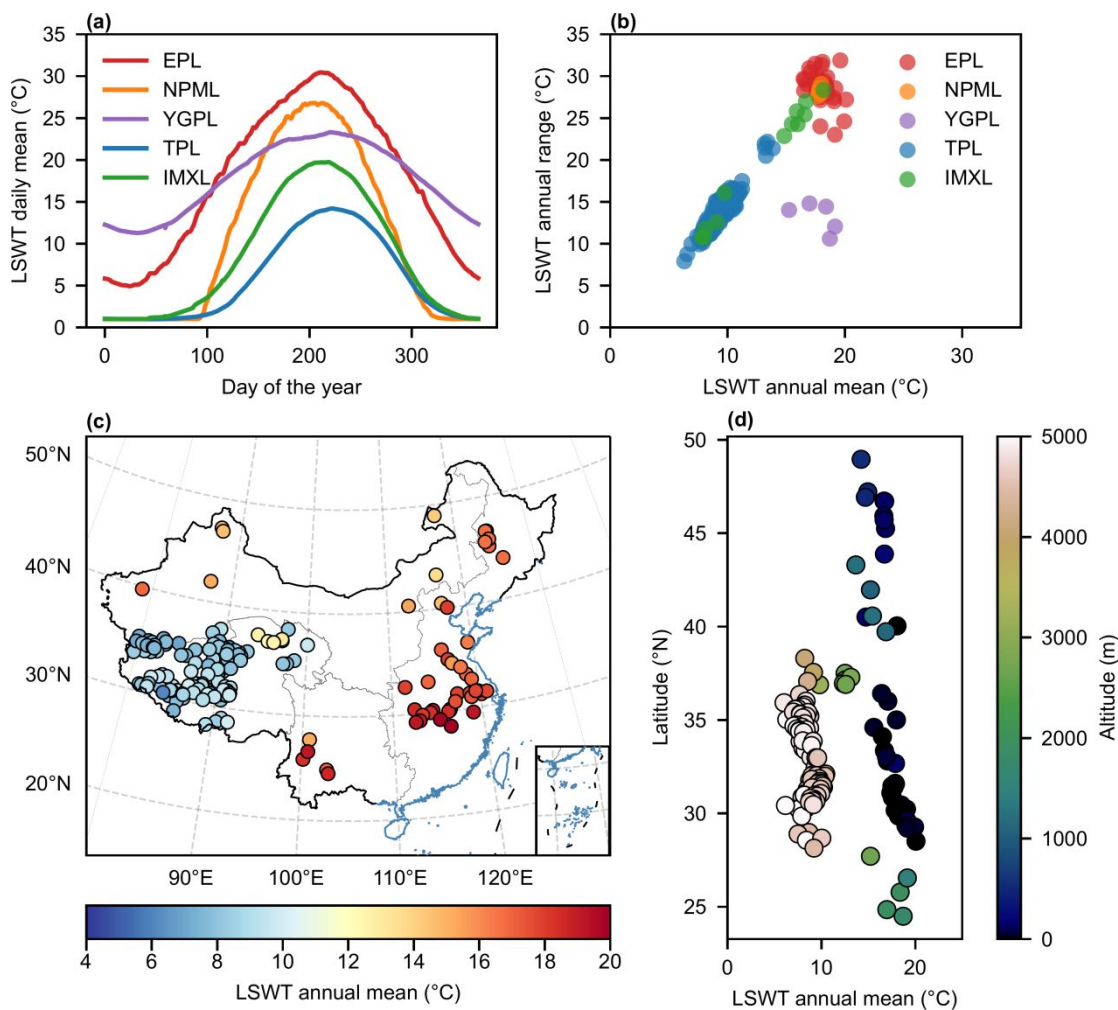


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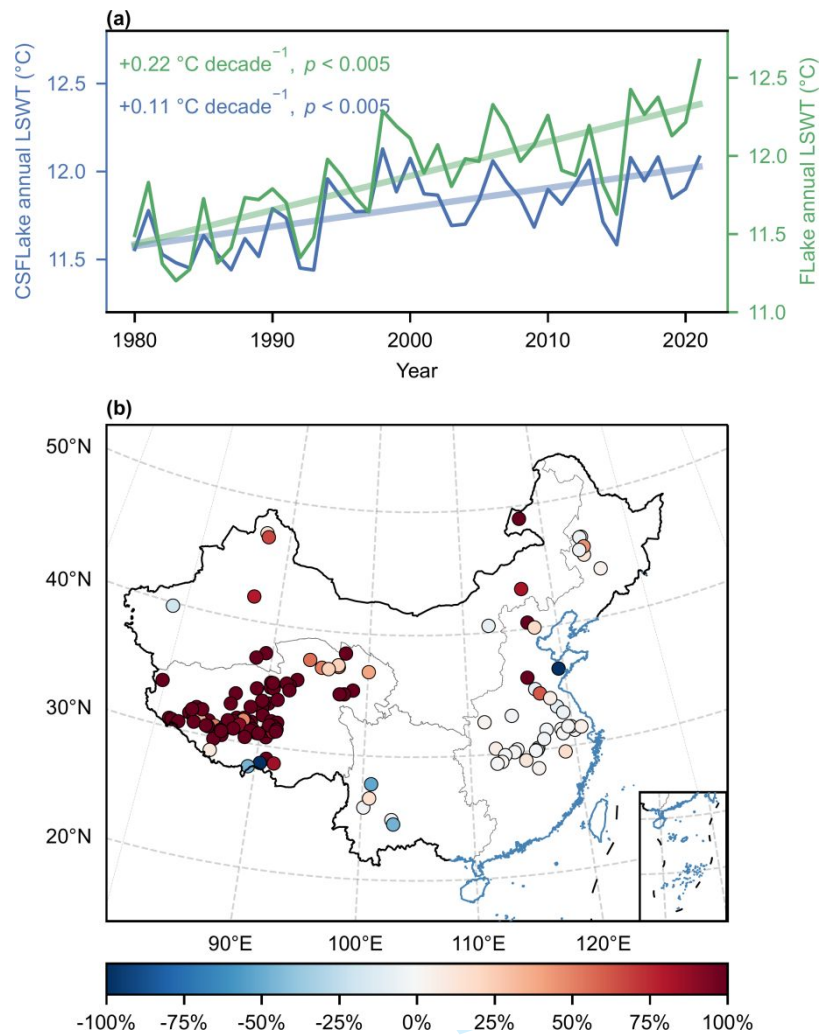
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Figure S4 Comparison of lake surface water temperature between CSFLake, ESACCI, and ground observations. (a) Lake Taihu. (b) Lake Hulun. (c) Lake Lugu. (d) Lake Namco. (e) Lake Qiandao.

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 65 Figure S5 Climatological daily mean, annual mean, and annual range of lake surface water  
 66 temperature. (a) Climatological daily mean lake surface water temperature (LSWT) for each day  
 67 of the year from 1980 to 2021 in five lake zones. (b) Average of LSWT annual mean vs. annual  
 68 range from 1980 to 2021 in five lake zones. The annual range was calculated by annual maximum  
 69 minus annual minimum surface water temperatures. (c) Spatial distribution of the climatological  
 70 annual mean LSWT for each year from 1980 to 2021 and (d) its variation across latitudes and  
 71 altitudes.



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73 Figure S6 Comparison of the LSWT trends simulated by CSFLake and FLake. (a) Annual mean  
 74 LSWT and trend of all studied lakes. (b) Percent errors between the LSWT trends simulated by  
 75 CSFLake and FLake. Percent error =  $(T - E) / T \times 100$ , where T and E denote the LSWT trend  
 76 simulated by CSFLake and FLake, respectively. Note that some lakes are not shown in the figures  
 77 because they stayed frozen for at least one year and their trends were therefore not calculated.

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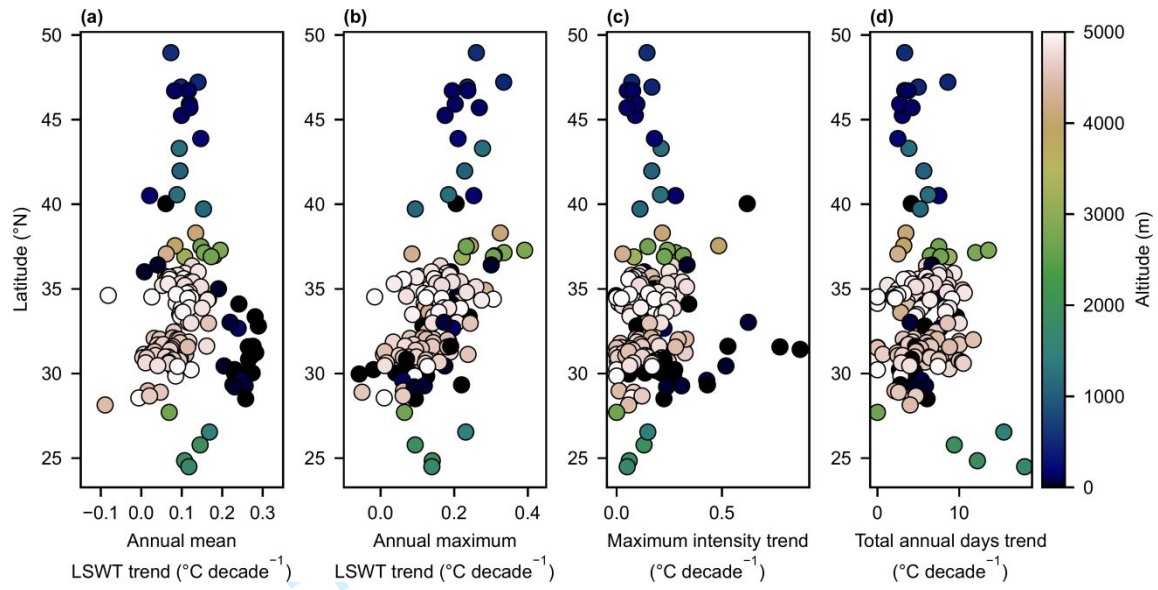
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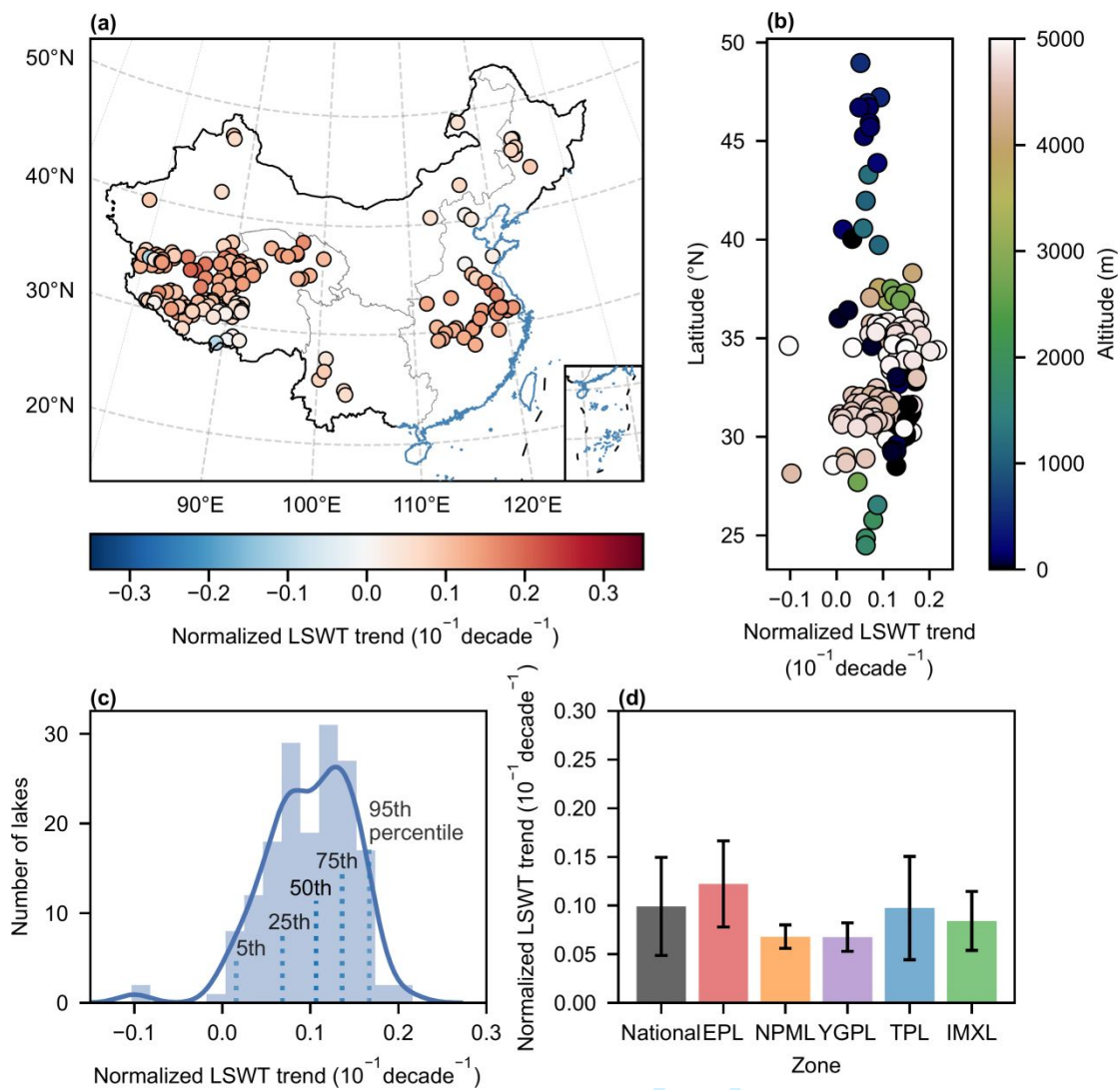
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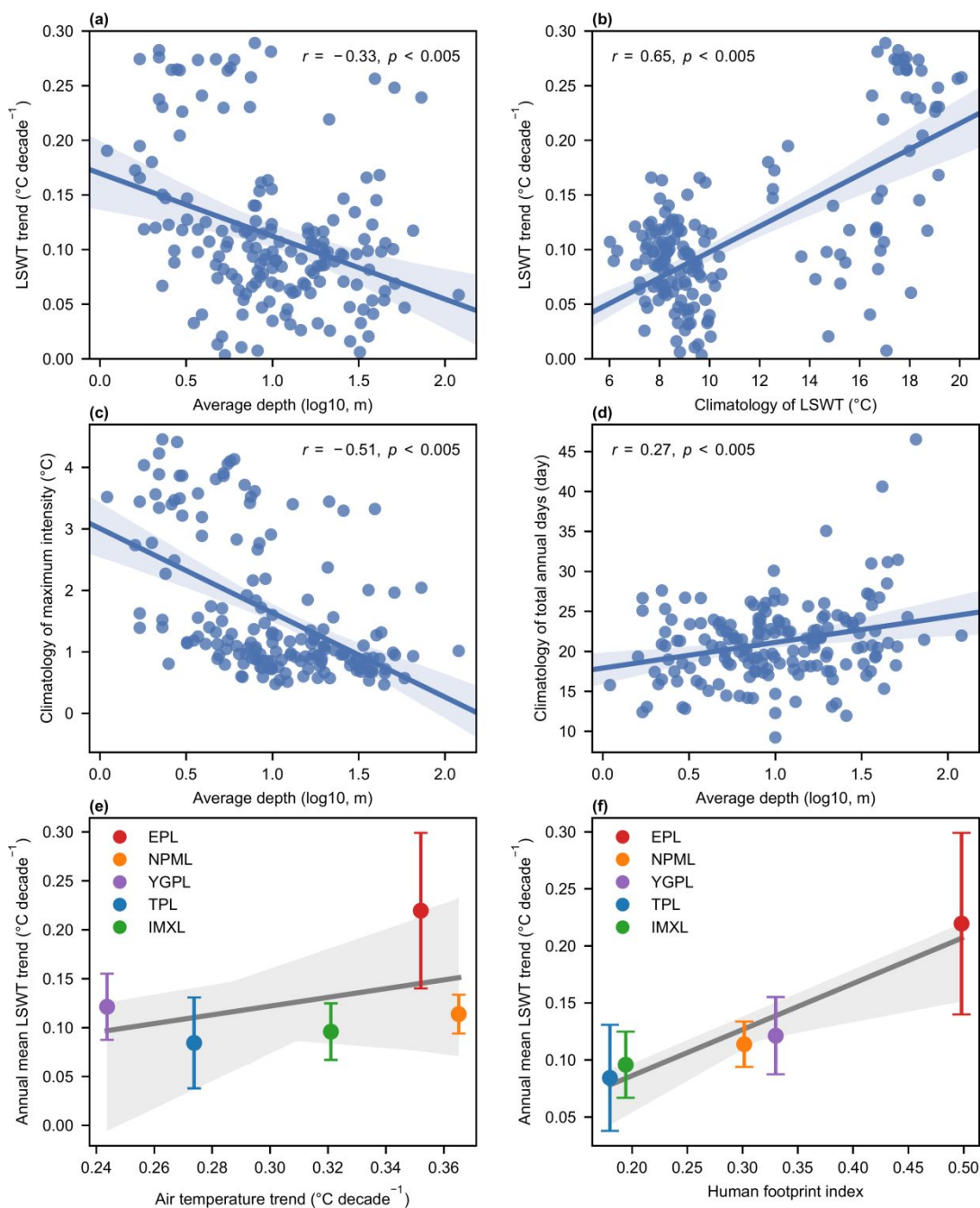


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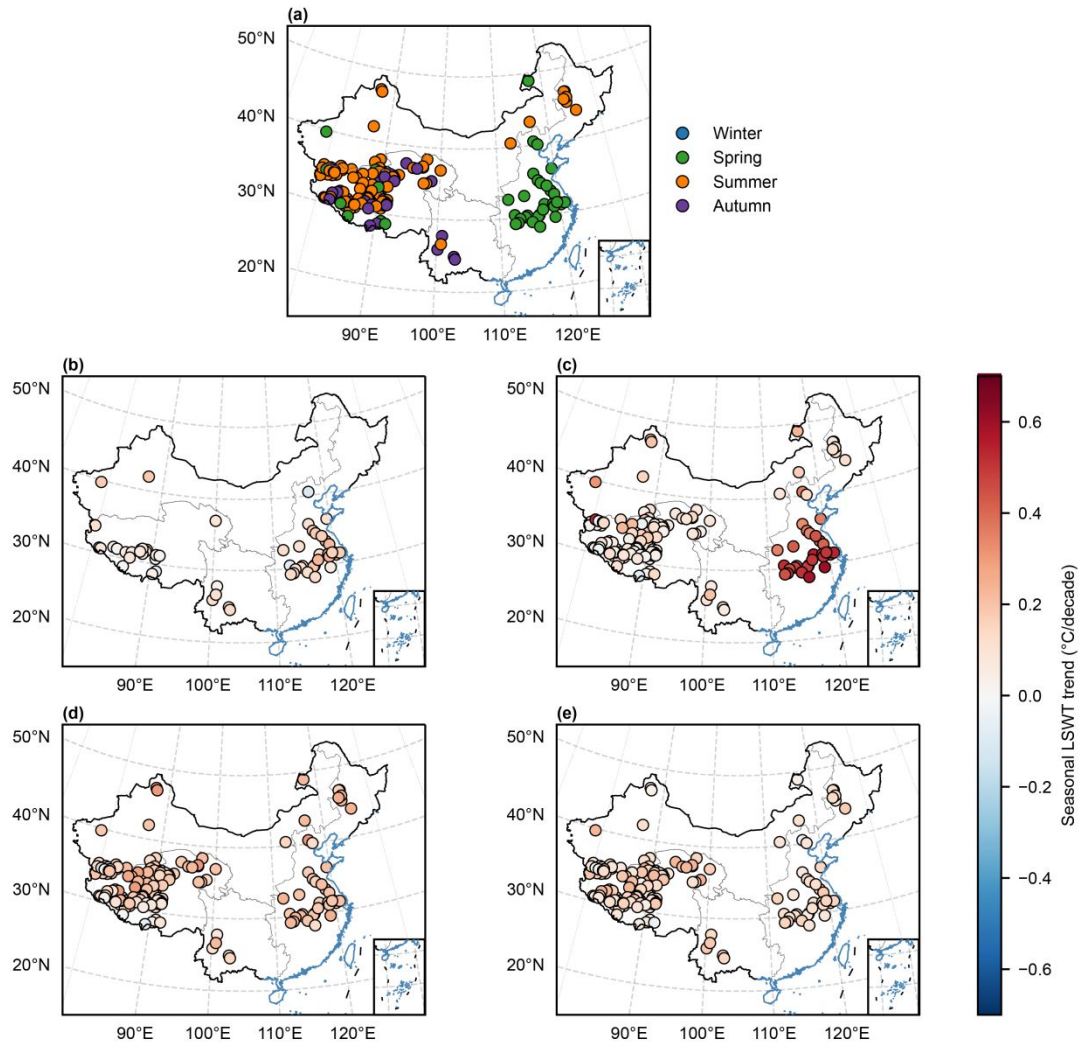
79 Figure S7 Variations along latitude and altitude (1980–2021). (a) Annual mean lake surface water  
 80 temperature (LSWT) trend. (b) Annual maximum LSWT trend. (c) Lake heatwave (LHW)  
 81 maximum intensity trend. (d) LHW total annual days trend.



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 83 Figure S8 Normalized trend of lake surface water temperature (1980–2021). Same as Figure 2 but  
 84 the trend of lake surface water temperature is normalized by its annual mean climatology from  
 85 1980 to 2021.

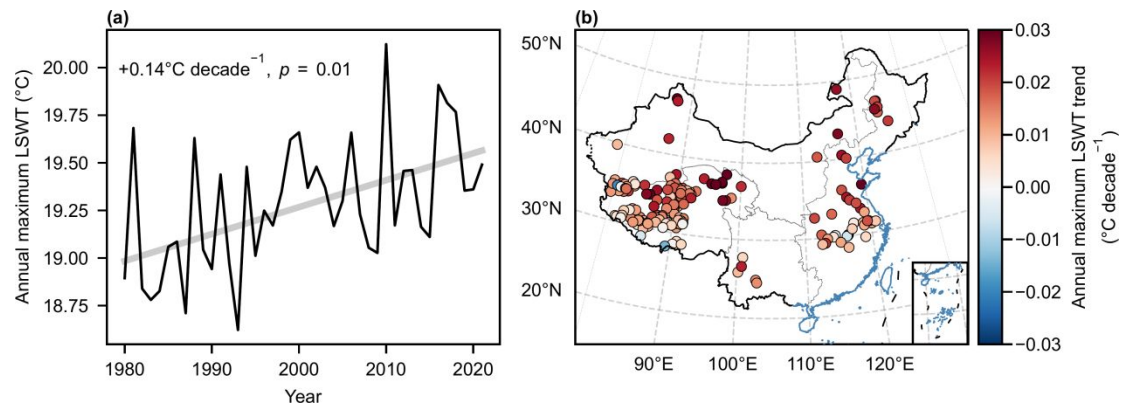


86  
 87 Figure S9 Relationships between lake characteristics and lake water temperature. (a–b) Lake  
 88 surface water temperature (LSWT) trend versus average depth (a) and annual mean climatology of  
 89 LSWT (b; 1980–2021). (c–d) Lake average depth versus the annual mean climatology of lake  
 90 heatwave maximum intensity (c) and total annual days (d). Each point represents a value from one  
 91 lake. Italics “r” and “p” denote the Pearson correlation coefficient and its significance. (e–f) The  
 92 relationship between LSWT trend and air temperature trend (e) and human footprint index (f). The  
 93 solid lines and their surrounding shaded areas show the linear regression model fit and 95%  
 94 confidence interval, respectively.



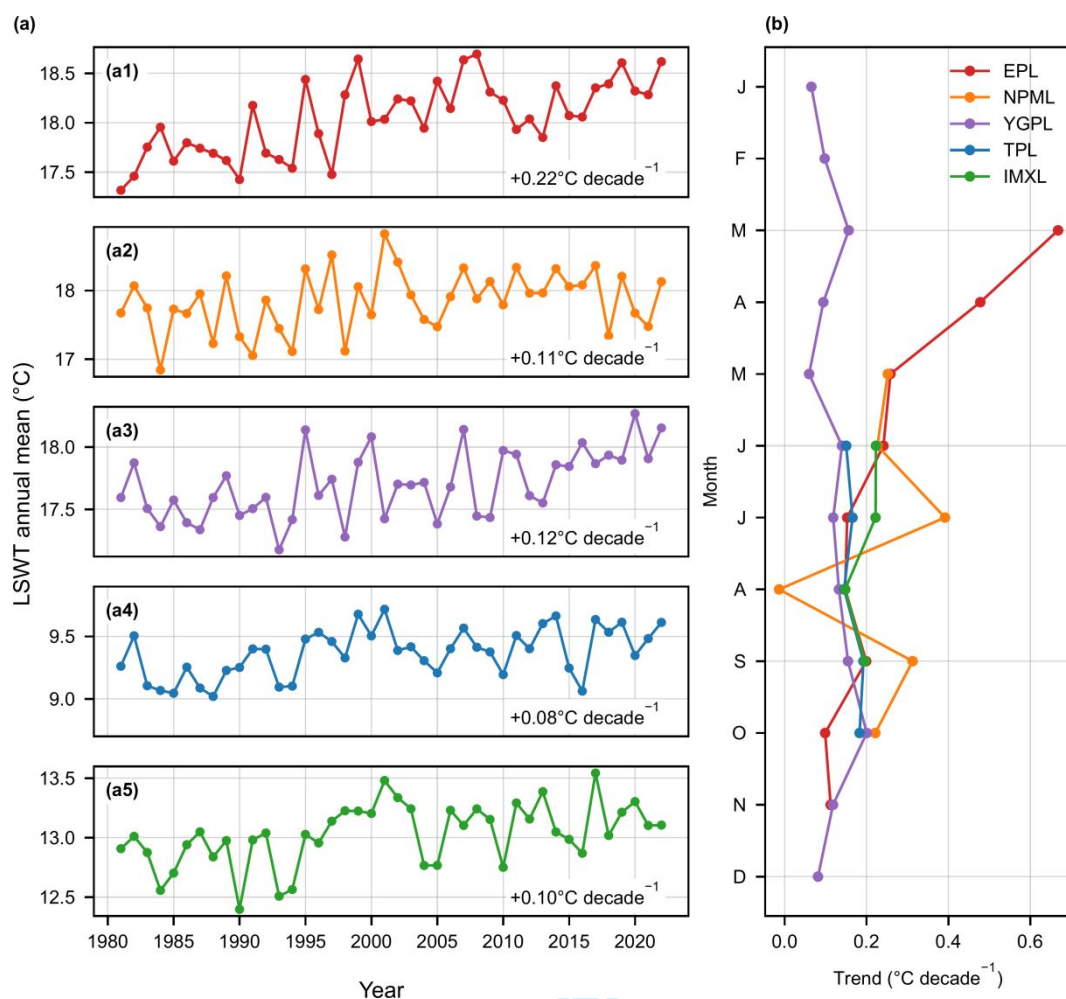
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Figure S10 Trend of seasonal LSWT. (a) The fastest warming season. (b-e) The trend of LSWT in winter (b), spring (c), summer (d), and autumn (e).



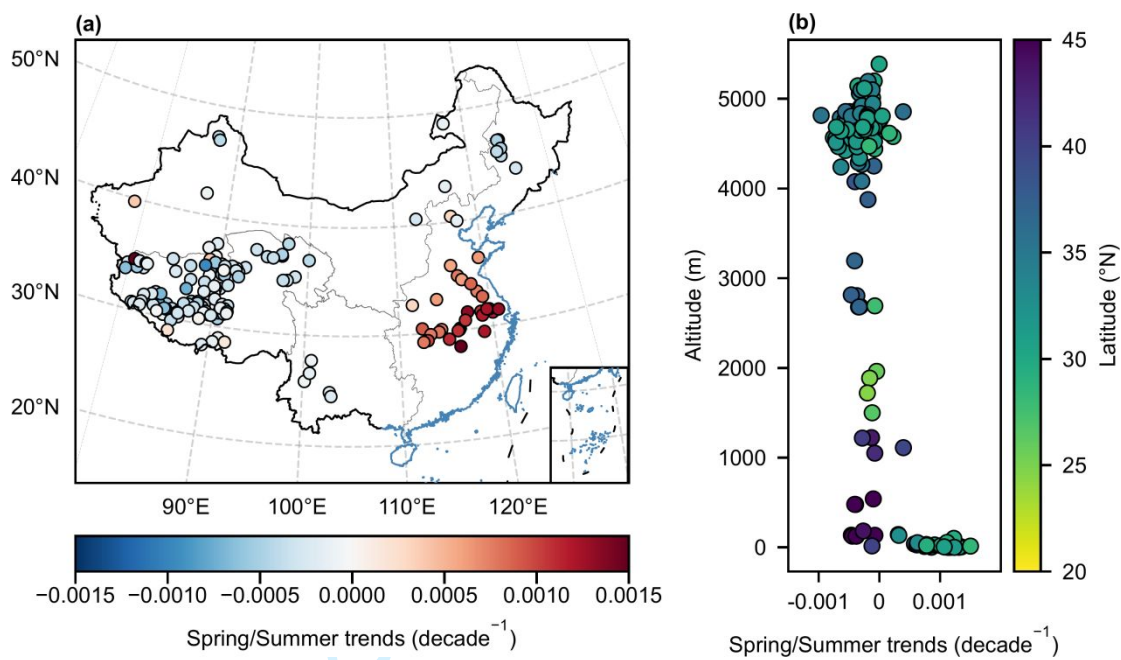
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99 Figure S11 Annual maximum lake surface water temperature. (a-b) The trend of annual maximum  
100 lake surface water temperature (LSWT) averaged over all studied lakes (a) and its spatial  
101 distribution (b). The annotations in the top left corner show the slope and  $p$  value.



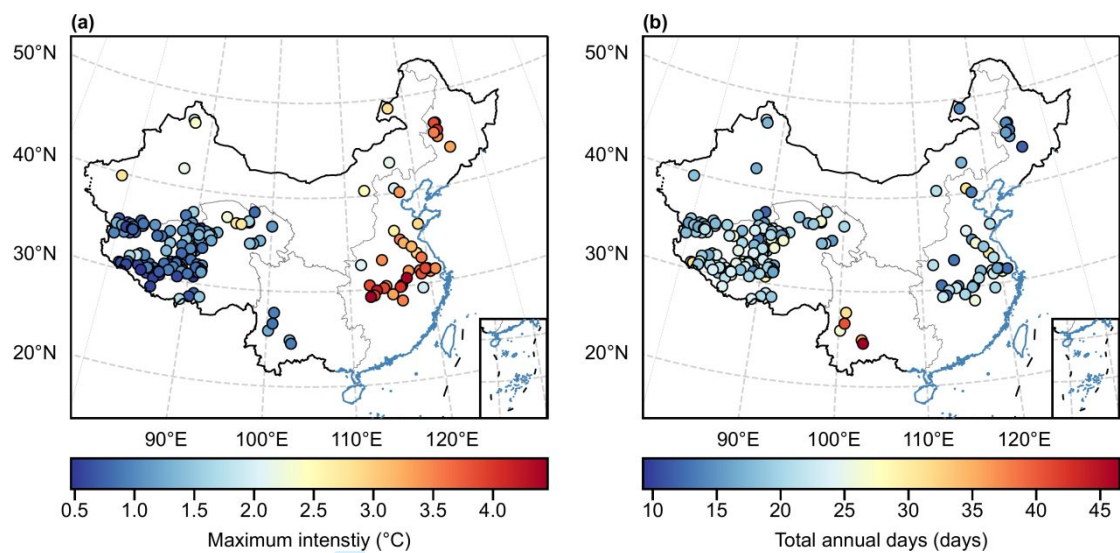
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Figure S12 Variation of lake surface water temperature at different time scales. (a) Interannual variation of lake surface water temperature (LSWT) in EPL (a1), NPML (a2), YGPL (a3), TPL (a4), and IMXL (a5). (b) Monthly variation of LSWT. The solid lines in (a-b) denote the annual mean LSWT across the five lake zones.



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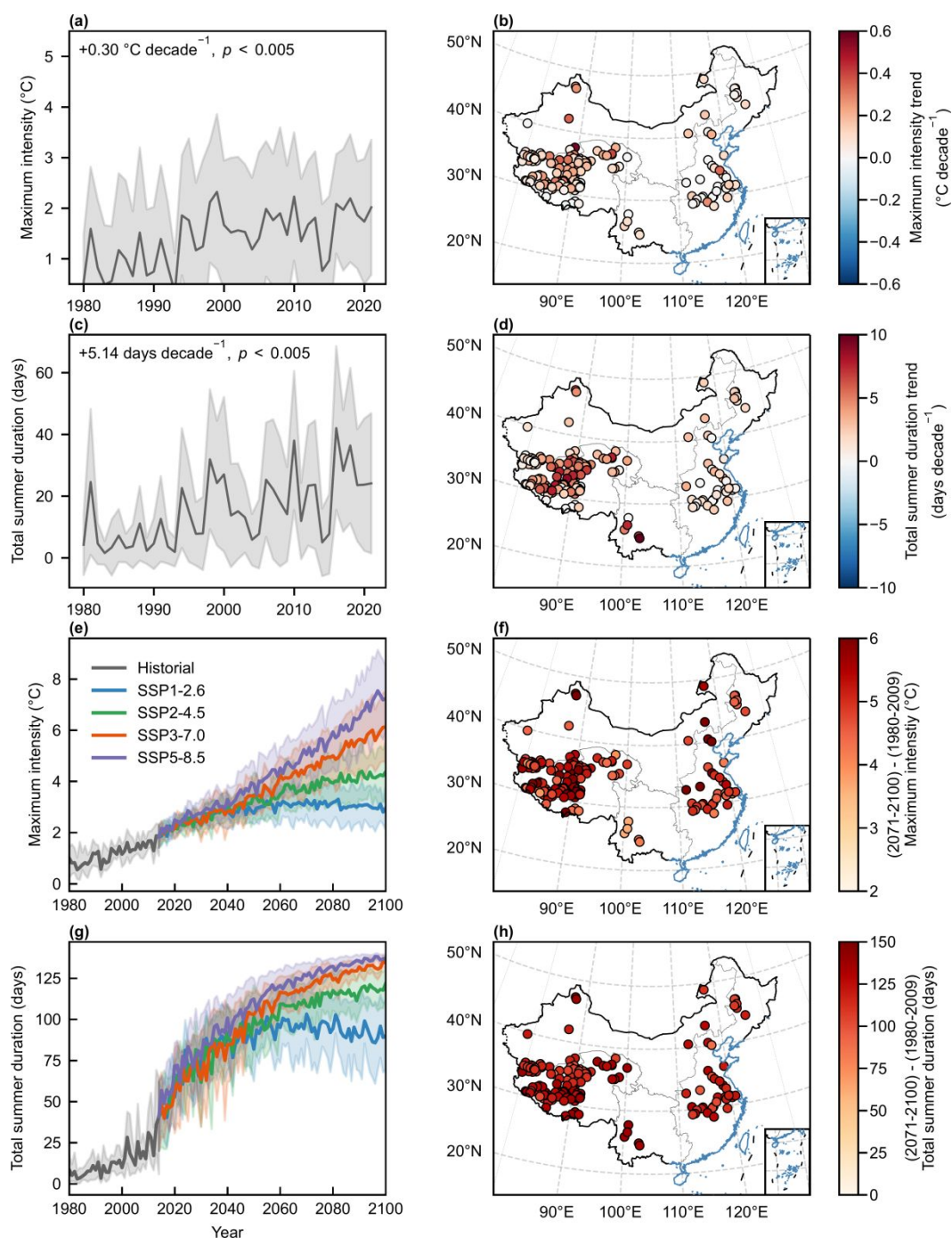
Figure S13 Trends of the ratio of spring to summer lake surface water temperature. (a) The spatial distribution. (b) The variations along altitude and latitude.



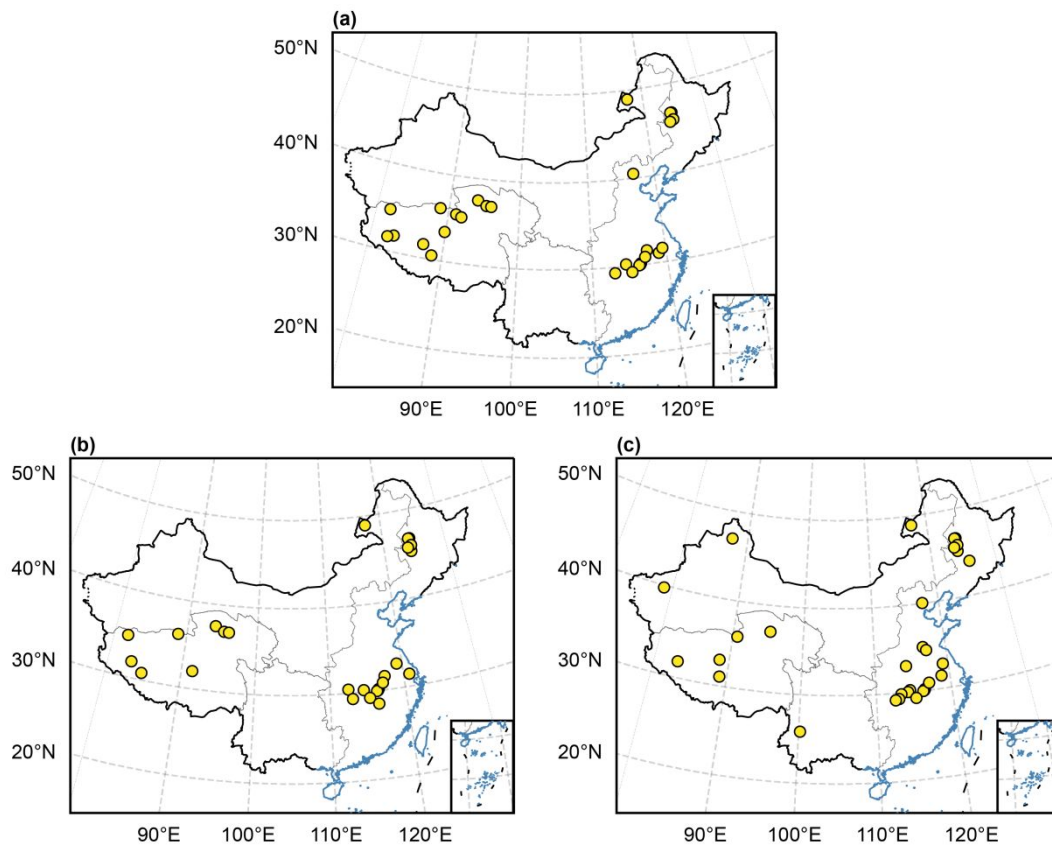
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111 Figure S14 Lake heatwave climatology during 1980–2021. (a) The climatological mean during  
112 1980–2021 of lake heatwave maximum intensity. (b) The climatological mean during 1980–2021  
113 of lake heatwave total annual days.





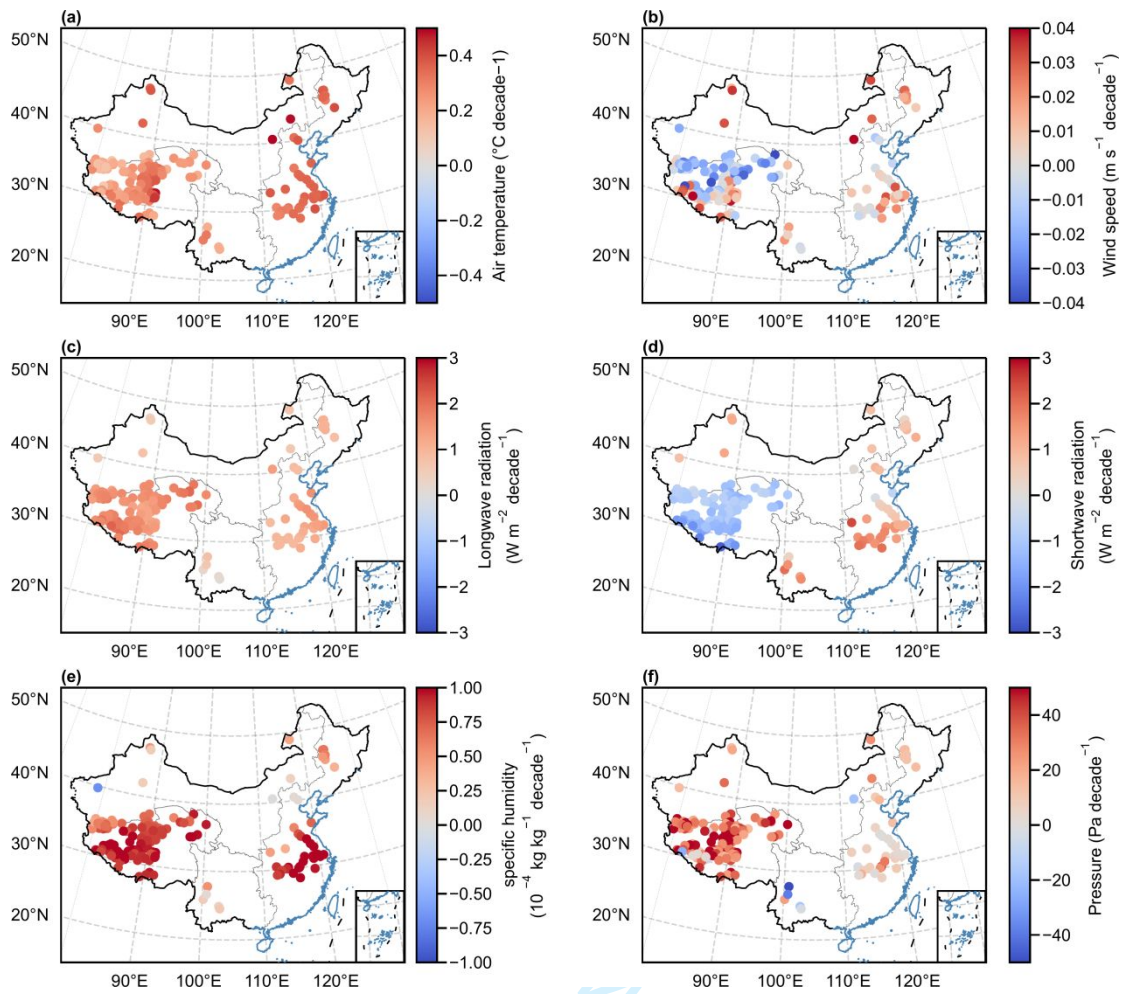
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 115 Figure S15 Historical and future projection of the warm-season (May–September) lake heatwave  
 116 (1980–2100). (a-b) Annual mean (a) and climatology (b; 1980–2021) of the maximum intensity  
 117 averaged over all studied lakes. (c-d) Annual mean (c) and climatology (d) of the total annual days  
 118 averaged over all studied lakes. (e-f) Future projection (e) and the differences between 2071–2100  
 119 and 1980–2009 under the SSP5-8.5 scenario (f) of the maximum intensity. (g-h) Future projection  
 120 (g) and the differences between 2071–2100 and 1980–2009 under the SSP5-8.5 scenario (h) of the  
 121 total annual days. The solid lines and their surrounding shaded areas represent the ensemble mean  
 122 and standard deviation of the simulation results driven by five global circulation models,  
 123 respectively. The upper-right texts in (a) and (c) show the trend calculated using the Theil-Sen  
 124 estimator and its significance.



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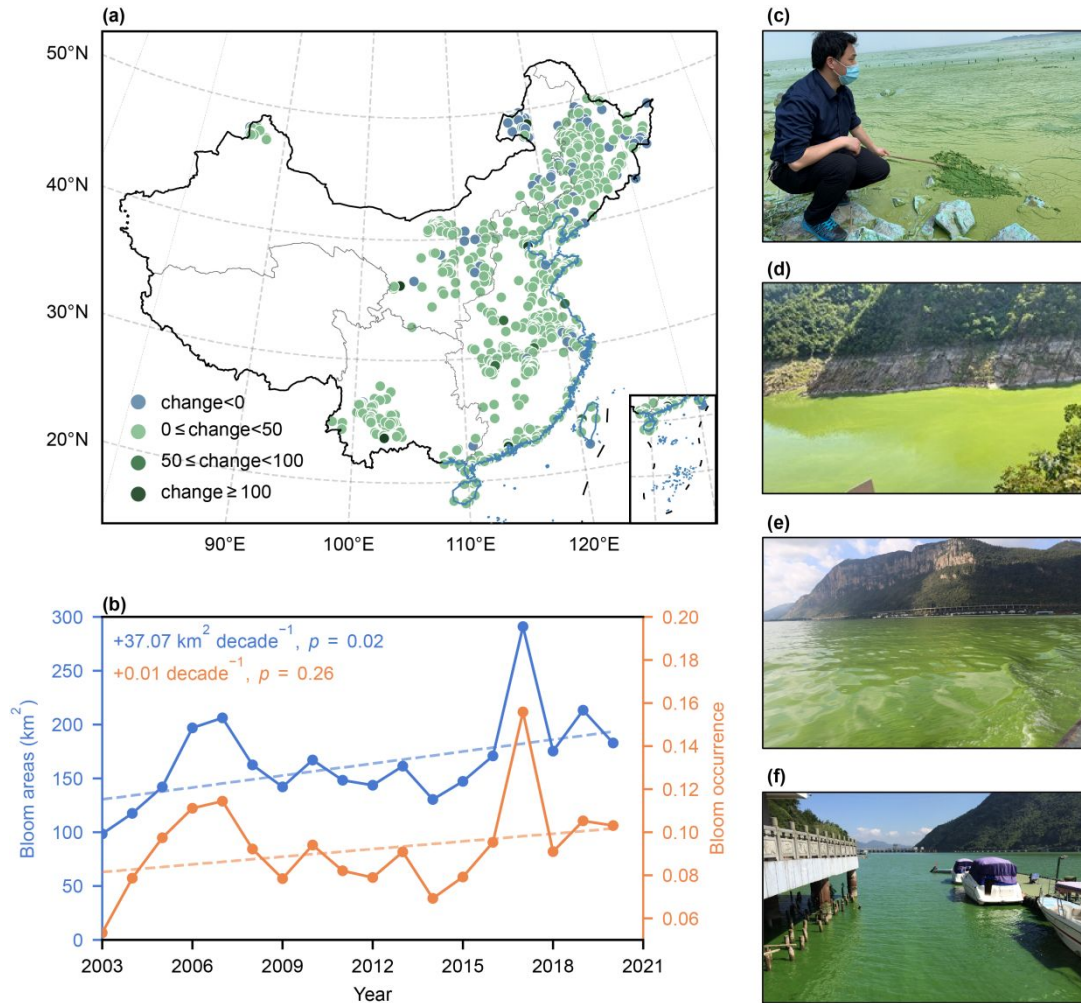
126 Figure S16 Lakes with a fraction attributable risk equals one. (a) Longwave radiation. (b) Specific  
127 humidity. (c) Air temperature.

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Figure S17 Trend of meteorological variables (1980–2021). (a) 2 m air temperature. (b) 10 m wind speed. (c) Surface downward longwave radiation. (d) Surface downward shortwave radiation. (e) 2 m specific humidity. (f) Surface pressure.



132

133 Figure S18 Algae blooms in Chinese lakes. (a) The changes in the bloom occurrence between the  
 134 2010s and 1980–1990s [1]. “change” was calculated as  $(BO_{2010s} - BO_{1980-1990s}) / BO_{1980-1990s}$ ,  
 135 where  $BO_x$  denotes the bloom occurrence during the period  $x$ . (b) The bloom areas and occurrence  
 136 from 2003 to 2020 in Lake Taihu were derived from MODIS images [2]. (c–f) Photographs of  
 137 algae blooms in May 2020 in Lake Taihu (c), in August 2022 in Three Gorges Reservoir (d), in  
 138 October 2015 in Lake Dianchi (e), and in August 2016 in Fuchunjiang Reservoir (f).

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Table S1 Nine lakes with ground observations.

Lake Name	ID	Temporal frequency	Thermal regime	Lake zone	Surface area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Average depth (m)
Lake Taihu	148	Daily	Warm polymictic	EPL	2329.14	2.20
Lake Lugu	15431	Daily	Warm monomictic	YGPL	50.03	51.30
Lake Namco	149	Two-hourly	Dimictic	TPL	1963.82	44.40
Lake Hulun	123	Monthly	Cold polymictic	IMXL	2121.43	6.20
Lake Qiandao	1467	Hourly	Warm monomictic	EPL	424.57	50.90
Lake Erhai	1479	Irregular	Warm polymictic	YGPL	242.26	40.00
Lake Dianchi	1483	Irregular	Warm polymictic	YGPL	298.34	19.70
Lake Fuxian	1485	Irregular	Warm monomictic	YGPL	215.37	65.30
Lake Chenghai	15455	Irregular	Warm monomictic	YGPL	74.75	41.70

141 Table S2 Information on the studied lakes and selected best parameters. Lake ID is the ID in the HydroLAKES database. Lake type=1 or 3 represent natural lakes and  
 142 lake type=2 represent reservoirs. The nine lakes that provided ground lake surface water temperature for model verification are emphasized in italics.

Lake ID	Lake type	Lake zone	Surface area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Average depth (m)	Elevation (m)	Latitude	Longitude	Light extinction coefficient (m <sup>-1</sup> )	Ice albedo	Depth factor
<i>123</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>IMXL</i>	<i>2121.43</i>	<i>6.20</i>	<i>540</i>	<i>48.96</i>	<i>117.41</i>	<i>0.58</i>	<i>0.20</i>	<i>0.59</i>
143	1	TPL	4266.55	16.80	3194	36.89	100.05	0.24	0.25	1.02
145	2	EPL	1374.36	9.80	10	33.35	118.77	0.38	0.18	0.49
147	1	TPL	1749.53	28.00	4539	31.79	88.95	0.28	0.13	0.77
<i>148</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>EPL</i>	<i>2329.14</i>	<i>2.20</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>31.24</i>	<i>120.14</i>	<i>0.55</i>	<i>0.47</i>	<i>1.93</i>
<i>149</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>TPL</i>	<i>1963.82</i>	<i>44.40</i>	<i>4724</i>	<i>30.72</i>	<i>90.59</i>	<i>0.16</i>	<i>0.28</i>	<i>0.65</i>
1245	1	IMXL	854.89	8.00	478	47.22	87.21	0.17	0.15	1.13
1250	1	IMXL	165.81	20.90	479	46.93	87.45	0.52	0.14	0.92
1252	1	NPML	132.18	6.90	135	46.72	124.37	1.79	0.16	0.31
1257	1	NPML	429.94	5.20	136	46.71	124.17	1.75	0.14	0.30
1286	1	NPML	246.95	2.70	126	45.25	124.30	1.13	0.14	1.00
1300	1	IMXL	213.64	7.70	1223	43.30	116.65	0.54	0.20	0.80
1304	1	IMXL	961.84	9.10	1050	41.97	87.05	2.65	0.13	1.24
1317	2	EPL	121.66	36.00	143	40.51	116.89	1.86	0.25	0.71
1323	2	EPL	118.62	13.10	16	40.04	117.57	1.75	0.14	0.30
1325	1	IMXL	102.82	8.40	1111	39.73	78.73	1.61	0.20	0.38
1336	1	TPL	585.60	30.00	4076	38.30	97.58	0.15	0.10	0.50
1344	1	IMXL	616.34	10.00	3876	37.55	89.33	1.99	0.11	0.93
1347	1	TPL	204.51	2.40	2686	37.50	93.94	0.80	0.12	1.04
1350	1	TPL	142.97	9.90	2805	37.14	96.95	0.25	0.12	1.00
1352	1	IMXL	354.71	13.60	4251	37.07	88.43	0.45	0.11	0.70
1353	1	TPL	321.88	2.00	2680	36.96	95.23	1.62	0.11	0.79

1357	1	IMXL	225.85	4.10	4713	36.36	89.39	0.42	0.14	3.98
1359	1	EPL	139.85	8.20	38	36.01	116.20	0.87	0.16	0.44
1364	1	TPL	100.81	11.00	4881	35.93	90.64	0.10	0.20	2.00
1366	1	TPL	220.78	16.70	4870	35.75	90.18	0.30	0.11	0.50
1367	1	TPL	261.40	16.60	4475	35.74	92.89	0.55	0.14	1.04
1369	1	TPL	300.10	12.60	4886	35.58	91.09	0.31	0.12	1.44
1370	1	TPL	255.38	14.70	4753	35.55	91.92	0.41	0.15	1.23
1371	1	TPL	231.17	42.70	4081	35.30	98.57	1.25	0.10	0.66
1372	1	TPL	208.99	6.40	4787	35.30	89.27	0.17	0.15	1.13
1373	1	IMXL	165.96	9.60	4844	35.21	79.86	0.33	0.10	1.00
1374	1	TPL	269.64	5.50	4772	35.22	90.31	0.30	0.10	1.00
1375	1	TPL	198.59	16.00	4688	35.21	92.19	1.75	0.14	0.30
1377	1	TPL	617.76	17.40	4267	34.94	97.69	0.24	0.17	0.99
1378	1	TPL	248.04	35.70	5080	35.03	81.08	0.32	0.12	0.71
1379	1	TPL	121.34	8.00	4960	35.04	83.13	0.20	0.12	1.00
1382	1	TPL	107.02	8.50	4904	34.95	81.56	0.54	0.20	0.80
1383	1	EPL	237.73	1.10	32	35.00	116.84	1.53	0.18	4.73
1385	1	TPL	520.58	9.00	4290	34.91	97.25	0.40	0.10	2.00
1386	1	TPL	372.84	19.30	4855	34.81	90.36	0.25	0.11	0.50
1387	1	TPL	108.03	7.20	4857	34.77	90.65	0.25	0.11	1.00
1388	1	EPL	175.30	3.00	28	34.60	117.26	0.77	0.30	1.00
1389	1	TPL	268.13	22.50	4818	34.57	89.00	1.75	0.14	0.30
1391	1	TPL	127.93	8.00	4920	34.21	82.32	0.25	0.20	1.00
1395	1	TPL	113.96	20.00	4961	34.15	79.78	0.25	0.10	0.60
1396	1	EPL	247.63	3.90	17	34.11	118.21	0.63	0.27	4.03
1399	1	TPL	347.02	45.10	4812	34.01	81.64	0.20	0.10	0.30
1401	1	TPL	105.06	19.70	4525	33.95	80.91	0.80	0.10	1.00
1402	1	TPL	101.50	12.80	5062	33.85	88.59	0.40	0.13	1.42

1403	1	TPL	332.93	50.00	4239	33.60	79.70	1.65	0.11	0.62
1404	1	TPL	472.55	25.70	4935	33.49	90.36	0.51	0.10	0.82
1405	1	TPL	378.99	20.00	4929	33.38	89.87	0.51	0.10	0.82
1411	1	TPL	106.31	5.10	4872	33.01	89.81	1.13	0.14	0.25
1416	1	EPL	703.14	7.90	2	32.81	119.28	1.86	0.49	0.41
1417	2	EPL	286.45	72.90	134	32.68	111.56	0.73	0.14	0.49
1419	1	TPL	149.16	8.20	4615	32.46	89.98	0.50	0.10	1.00
1422	1	TPL	207.16	12.70	4568	32.08	90.87	0.51	0.11	1.43
1424	1	TPL	188.28	33.70	4585	32.03	91.47	1.14	0.10	0.72
1425	1	TPL	251.56	8.50	4465	31.90	87.54	0.25	0.10	1.50
1427	1	TPL	134.17	11.90	4551	31.70	91.17	0.25	0.10	0.80
1428	1	TPL	346.70	19.20	4554	31.71	88.03	0.27	0.18	0.95
1429	1	TPL	267.15	37.90	4563	31.55	88.77	0.25	0.10	0.50
1430	1	EPL	786.91	2.60	5	31.57	117.45	0.63	0.12	4.35
1431	1	TPL	498.06	10.00	4716	31.54	82.98	2.65	0.13	1.00
1433	1	TPL	148.14	12.20	4529	31.51	90.97	0.20	0.13	1.00
1434	1	EPL	161.56	2.90	0	31.58	119.82	0.68	0.15	4.28
1436	1	EPL	206.35	3.70	4	31.47	118.88	0.73	0.30	1.00
1437	1	TPL	146.74	2.30	4424	31.41	84.07	0.70	0.10	2.00
1438	1	EPL	124.24	1.70	1	31.43	120.79	1.34	0.19	4.58
1439	1	TPL	477.00	32.10	4649	31.14	88.36	0.33	0.14	0.73
1440	1	TPL	200.64	18.30	4560	31.25	90.59	0.48	0.10	0.97
1441	1	TPL	144.14	38.30	4666	31.22	91.17	0.51	0.10	0.69
1442	1	TPL	182.53	18.80	4760	31.28	83.47	0.20	0.10	1.00
1443	1	TPL	105.95	11.30	4623	31.24	84.96	0.30	0.10	1.00
1444	1	TPL	101.75	14.60	4629	31.22	89.20	0.50	0.10	1.24
1445	1	TPL	473.71	34.10	4567	31.13	84.12	0.28	0.23	0.72
1446	1	EPL	145.01	4.70	5	31.10	118.99	0.86	0.78	0.56



1447	1	TPL	389.33	8.70	4685	31.02	87.16	0.40	0.10	1.00
1448	1	TPL	102.74	5.30	4656	30.94	89.64	0.80	0.10	1.00
1449	1	TPL	958.10	25.00	4612	30.91	85.61	0.49	0.11	0.83
1450	1	TPL	825.06	120.00	4535	31.06	86.58	1.80	0.12	0.31
1451	1	TPL	141.17	15.10	5101	30.88	83.59	0.20	0.10	1.00
1452	1	TPL	261.27	32.50	4570	30.72	81.22	0.32	0.20	0.73
1454	1	TPL	413.60	44.80	4585	30.68	81.49	0.19	0.13	0.65
1456	1	EPL	128.23	2.90	27	30.45	112.46	1.04	0.14	4.28
1457	1	TPL	205.49	36.30	4714	30.28	86.41	0.17	0.24	0.70
1458	1	EPL	302.36	7.40	16	30.23	114.49	0.63	0.13	3.15
1459	1	TPL	141.90	37.90	5198	30.23	84.79	0.55	0.10	0.69
1460	1	EPL	128.37	5.70	9	30.17	116.45	1.03	0.41	0.45
1461	1	EPL	261.58	6.00	9	30.03	116.35	1.03	0.41	0.45
1462	1	EPL	101.95	5.20	17	30.03	114.21	0.86	0.78	0.56
1463	1	EPL	302.31	5.50	9	29.97	116.22	1.86	0.49	0.41
1464	1	EPL	215.13	2.20	19	29.86	113.30	1.15	0.64	0.26
1465	1	TPL	110.98	18.30	5145	29.85	85.73	0.26	0.10	0.97
1467	2	EPL	424.57	50.90	100	29.60	118.96	1.00	0.70	0.70
1470	1	EPL	143.81	3.00	19	29.33	112.97	0.80	0.17	4.25
1472	2	EPL	201.81	39.20	55	29.28	115.21	0.34	0.17	0.69
1473	3	TPL	566.97	28.20	4442	28.98	90.92	0.27	0.11	0.77
1474	1	TPL	277.69	58.30	4580	28.90	85.61	0.31	0.16	0.57
1476	1	EPL	151.81	7.50	14	28.51	116.31	0.38	0.18	0.49
1477	1	TPL	283.19	36.40	5013	28.56	90.40	0.37	0.11	0.70
1479	1	YGPL	242.26	40.00	1962	25.78	100.18	0.57	0.18	0.68
1483	1	YGPL	298.34	19.70	1886	24.85	102.72	0.33	0.10	0.29
1485	1	YGPL	215.37	65.30	1721	24.49	102.89	0.14	0.23	0.52
14153	1	NPML	73.78	1.80	125	45.92	124.45	1.99	0.11	0.93

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5	14177	1	NPML	98.83	2.10	125	45.71	123.87	1.13	0.14	0.25
6	14316	2	NPML	58.11	25.80	182	43.88	125.83	1.13	0.14	0.25
7	14520	1	IMXL	86.94	2.70	1218	40.57	112.69	0.77	0.10	1.43
8	14765	1	TPL	54.33	1.70	2814	37.29	96.90	0.30	0.10	3.00
9	14800	1	TPL	82.42	1.60	2680	36.91	95.92	0.77	0.10	1.43
10	14821	1	EPL	99.99	3.90	33	36.42	119.46	0.96	0.12	1.47
11	14845	1	TPL	80.39	7.80	4856	36.01	88.77	1.62	0.11	0.50
12	14864	1	TPL	87.44	10.50	4858	35.81	89.43	0.30	0.10	0.70
13	14872	1	TPL	53.69	8.00	4886	35.70	91.38	0.30	0.10	1.00
14	14878	1	TPL	99.99	17.40	4911	35.61	90.56	0.43	0.11	0.99
15	14884	1	TPL	91.01	9.90	5049	35.57	82.76	0.30	0.10	1.00
16	14894	1	TPL	59.34	6.20	4778	35.43	84.66	0.40	0.10	3.45
17	14895	1	TPL	64.77	3.20	4815	35.41	88.37	0.25	0.11	2.00
18	14898	1	TPL	53.86	3.70	4783	35.33	91.87	0.78	0.10	4.08
19	14901	1	TPL	86.02	7.60	4889	35.30	83.12	0.61	0.12	1.12
20	14908	1	TPL	51.96	4.30	4772	35.20	90.50	0.77	0.10	1.00
21	14913	1	TPL	81.87	3.20	4793	35.12	86.73	0.54	0.10	4.20
22	14940	1	TPL	53.82	3.70	4805	34.81	92.22	0.30	0.12	2.00
23	14943	1	TPL	71.81	7.50	5039	34.74	81.90	0.30	0.25	0.60
24	14948	1	IMXL	50.75	4.70	5187	34.69	79.70	0.54	0.10	1.00
25	14954	1	TPL	97.70	10.60	5004	34.62	80.45	0.15	0.10	1.00
26	14959	1	TPL	91.22	21.50	5194	34.53	81.05	0.20	0.10	0.60
27	14966	1	TPL	61.08	9.90	5099	34.48	81.80	0.25	0.10	1.00
28	14972	1	TPL	61.93	16.10	5100	34.44	81.95	0.25	0.11	0.70
29	14977	1	TPL	87.28	35.10	5166	34.40	85.78	0.15	0.20	0.30
30	14984	1	TPL	57.48	9.40	4885	34.34	85.23	0.30	0.12	1.00
31	15013	1	TPL	80.93	9.80	4922	33.89	91.20	0.25	0.10	1.00
32	15014	1	TPL	67.52	2.30	4836	33.87	87.02	1.00	0.10	1.50
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15026	1	TPL	63.34	5.40	4947	33.63	89.71	0.50	0.10	1.00
15062	1	TPL	57.10	2.50	4822	32.98	88.69	0.40	0.10	3.00
15063	1	TPL	64.98	1.70	4557	32.97	86.72	0.40	0.10	2.00
15064	2	EPL	77.81	21.30	52	33.03	114.26	1.91	0.72	0.27
15135	1	TPL	93.44	5.80	4340	32.11	83.54	0.73	0.10	1.00
15142	1	TPL	93.66	22.90	4467	32.03	84.12	0.77	0.10	0.88
15146	1	TPL	61.22	4.90	4515	32.00	88.23	0.30	0.10	1.50
15160	1	TPL	60.20	7.10	4718	31.86	83.16	1.75	0.14	0.30
15163	1	TPL	88.15	30.70	4553	31.82	88.21	0.37	0.10	0.74
15169	1	TPL	58.80	6.80	4683	31.72	90.74	0.30	0.20	1.00
15175	1	TPL	53.09	8.60	4800	31.62	82.34	1.75	0.14	0.30
15178	1	TPL	54.89	8.80	4605	31.58	87.28	0.20	0.20	1.50
15180	1	TPL	54.07	8.80	4464	31.57	86.75	0.40	0.10	1.00
15184	1	EPL	83.49	2.20	0	31.61	119.55	0.86	0.21	4.45
15191	1	TPL	70.30	4.80	4523	31.47	91.50	0.20	0.20	1.20
15197	1	TPL	72.23	25.80	4648	31.38	87.91	0.69	0.12	0.82
15208	1	TPL	75.95	3.50	4524	31.30	91.46	0.73	0.10	4.13
15232	1	TPL	81.23	10.00	4675	31.07	89.04	1.13	0.14	0.25
15245	1	TPL	58.45	10.80	5116	30.98	82.23	0.30	0.10	1.00
15252	1	TPL	70.76	7.00	4692	30.98	87.41	0.50	0.10	1.50
15257	1	TPL	56.08	4.80	4658	30.93	89.84	0.50	0.10	2.00
15265	1	TPL	65.39	20.10	4657	30.76	84.98	0.50	0.10	0.70
15267	1	TPL	60.05	17.30	4640	30.81	84.79	0.41	0.11	0.99
15270	1	EPL	71.47	2.80	6	30.85	117.11	1.15	0.64	0.26
15276	1	TPL	58.81	6.60	4784	30.63	82.15	0.40	0.10	1.50
15277	1	TPL	84.68	15.50	4684	30.67	86.22	0.31	0.14	1.15
15278	1	TPL	59.30	30.80	4684	30.61	86.31	0.31	0.11	0.74
15292	1	TPL	81.06	10.40	5387	30.43	84.07	0.10	0.13	2.30

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15296	1	TPL	68.93	6.70	4807	30.47	88.61	0.35	0.10	1.50
15381	1	EPL	80.79	2.30	22	29.21	112.51	0.86	0.78	0.56
15405	1	TPL	61.67	5.10	4616	28.68	91.68	1.20	0.14	0.30
15424	1	TPL	62.15	4.40	4472	28.14	89.35	1.20	0.30	0.30
<i>15431</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>YGPL</i>	<i>50.03</i>	<i>51.30</i>	<i>2692</i>	<i>27.71</i>	<i>100.79</i>	<i>1.60</i>	<i>0.20</i>	<i>0.61</i>
<i>15455</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>YGPL</i>	<i>74.75</i>	<i>41.70</i>	<i>1500</i>	<i>26.55</i>	<i>100.67</i>	<i>0.27</i>	<i>0.62</i>	<i>0.63</i>

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