- 1 Hydraulic hazard exposure of humans swept away in a whitewater river
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# 20 Abstract

21 Despite many deaths annually worldwide due to floods, no strategy exists to 22 mechanistically map hydraulic hazards people face when entrained in a river. Previous 23 work determined water depth-velocity product thresholds for human instability from 24 standing or walking positions. Because whitewater rivers attract diverse recreation that 25 risks entraining people into hazardous flow, this study takes the next step by predicting 26 the hazard pattern facing people swept away. The study site was the 12.2-km bedrock-27 alluvial upper South Yuba River in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. A novel algorithm was 28 developed and applied to two-dimensional hydrodynamic model outputs to delineate 29 three hydraulic hazard categories associated with conditions for which people may 30 be unable to save themselves: emergent unsavable and steep emergent surfaces, 31 submerged unsavable surfaces, and hydraulic jumps. Model results were used to 32 quantify exposure of both an upright and supine entrained person to collision and body 33 entrapment hazards. Hazard exposure was expressed with two metrics: passage proximity (how closely a body approached a hazard) and reaction time (time available to 34 35 respond to and avoid a hazard). Hazard exposure maps were produced for multiple 36 discharges, and the areal distributions of exposure were synthesized for the river 37 segment. Analyses revealed that the maximum hazard exposure occurred at an 38 intermediate discharge. Additionally, longitudinal profiles of the results indicated both 39 discharge-dependent and discharge-independent hazards. Relative to the upright body. 40 the supine body was overall exposed to less dangerous channel regions in passage 41 down the river, but experienced more abrupt encounters with the danger that did occur.

42 Keywords: Hydraulic hazards; River rapids; Floods; Hydraulic jumps; Whitewater

# 43 **1. Introduction**

44 Worldwide, more than 175,000 people were killed by freshwater floods from 1975 45 to 2001 (Jonkman 2005), and a review of river flood events found that the majority of 46 fatalities stemmed from drowning or physical trauma (Jonkman and Kelman 2005). 47 Current strategies for flow-related, or hydraulic, hazard assessments involve identifying 48 depth-velocity product thresholds above which humans lose stability from either a 49 standing or walking position. Theoretical studies have characterized friction (sliding) and 50 moment (toppling) instability mechanisms (Keller and Mitsch 1993; Lind et al. 2004; 51 Jonkman and Penning-Rowsell 2008; Xia et al. 2014), and experimental studies have been used to evaluate the predicted thresholds for the occurrence of these mechanisms 52 53 (Foster and Cox 1973; Abt et al. 1989; Takahashi et al. 1992; Karvonen et al. 2000; 54 Jonkman and Penning-Rowsell 2008; Cox et al. 2010; Russo et al. 2013; Xia et al. 55 2014). Factors influencing the onset of human instability in a flow include body weight, 56 height, clothing, ground surface composition, slope, entrained debris, flow turbulence, fluid density, psychology, experience, and other variables (Karvonen et al. 2000; 57 Chanson et al. 2014; Milanesi et al. 2015). 58

Relative to investigating the conditions for instability, simulating the fate of people following the loss of stability has received little attention. McCarroll et al. (2015) modeled the transport of bathers in a rip current as a series of particles in a flow field and simulated multiple escape strategies to evaluate their success. The present study also sought to predict the fate of people carried away in a flow, but in a whitewater river that hosts multiple forms of recreation. The hydraulic hazard exposure of people swept down a river was described, defined herein as the potential for entrained bodies to 66 encounter hazards and incur harm in the form of drowning or physical trauma. To be
67 conservative, it was assumed that any hazard exposure could produce harm and
68 therefore needed to be documented.

#### 69 1.1. Whitewater river hydraulic hazards

70 Whitewater rivers contain a variety of elements that create channel complexity 71 and rapids that can be hazardous to people. Boulders transported into a channel by 72 tributaries and landsliding from cliff faces have been found to produce rapids (Dolan et 73 al. 1978; Graf 1979; Webb et al. 1988). Debris flow fan deposits at the mouths of 74 tributaries can be reworked by main channel flows to create downstream rock gardens 75 and additional rapids (Kieffer 1985; Webb et al. 1989). These rock features impose 76 lateral and vertical flow constrictions that generate several wave types, including abrupt 77 transitions from supercritical to subcritical flow in the form of hydraulic jumps (Leopold 78 1969; Kieffer 1985). The diverse morphologies and arrangements of rock elements and 79 their control on flow served as the basis for the classification of different channel units in 80 bedrock rivers (Grant et al. 1990). The flow features associated with whitewater rivers 81 also spurred the development of the International Scale of River Difficulty in the 1950s 82 by the association American Whitewater in an effort to classify and convey the 83 challenges of traversing rapids. The rating system was revised in 1998 to focus less on 84 describing individual hazards and more on expressing the intangible measure of overall 85 rapid difficulty (Belknap 1998). Consequently, by its design, the system offers no more 86 than qualitative characterizations of each of the six difficulty ratings at the scale of 87 individual rapids.

88 As an example of a hazardous whitewater river setting, the Mather Gorge and its 89 Great Falls on the Potomac River upstream of Washington, D.C. are notorious for 90 deaths due to deceptive waters and close proximity to a large urban center from which 91 people with varying hazard awareness travel for recreation. The Washington Post 92 published a visually interactive overview of hydraulic hazards present in this canyon 93 where 27 people died 2001–2013 (The perils at Great Falls, The Washington Post, 94 2013) and 51% of river accidents here are fatal, with 72% of these incidents originating 95 from shoreline-based activities that are not related to boating (Potomac River Gorge 96 Safety Press Conference, National Park Service, 2013). After getting swept from shore 97 or falling out of a craft, collisions and/or entrapment with emergent or submerged rocks 98 can cause physical trauma and/or drowning, and entrapment inside hydraulic jumps 99 exhibiting strong multiphase flow recirculation can hold a body underwater until death.

100 Although this study focuses on whitewater rivers, similar hydraulic hazards occur 101 during urban flooding, including during storm surges and tsunamis. Instead of 102 hazardous interactions with boulders and bedrock, collisions with and entrapment by 103 features of the urban landscape can cause physical trauma and drowning (Jonkman 104 2005). Both whitewater rivers and urban floods can also contain floating debris that 105 present an additional hazard, and Penning-Rowsell et al. (2005) introduced a flood 106 hazard equation that uses a debris factor to account for this. Thus, the new methods 107 presented in this study have broader significance to understanding natural flood 108 hazards.

# 109 1.2. Meter-scale river maps and models

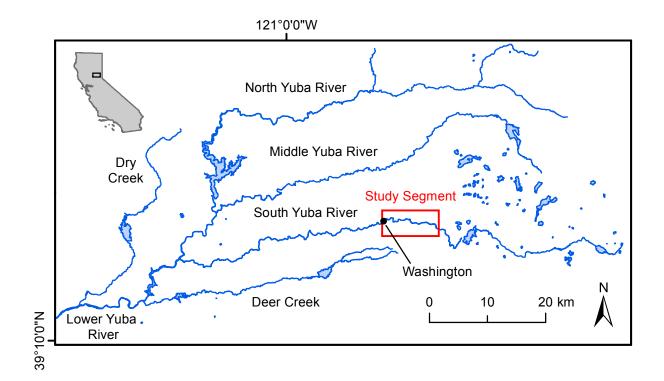
110 Characterizing the exposure of humans to hydraulic hazards required a digital 111 terrain model of the topo-bathymetric surface and a hydrodynamic model with a 112 resolution commensurate with the human scale. To determine the local occurrence of 113 hydraulic hazards and then aggregate the results to coarser scales, data collection and 114 mechanistic modeling methods that resolve meter-scale variations were required. 115 Meter-scale data are increasingly available for free (e.g., 116 http://www.opentopography.org) or can be collected at a rapidly decreasing cost with 117 increasing detail. Key technologies include airborne LiDAR mapping of the terrestrial 118 river corridor (Lane and Chandler 2003; Hilldale and Raff 2008), airborne bathymetric 119 LiDAR mapping of shallow, clear water (McKean et al. 2008), and boat-based 120 echosounding of the subaqueous riverbed (Vilming 1998; Muste et al. 2012). To 121 characterize spatially distributed, meter-scale river hydraulics over tens of kilometers at 122 many discharges, two-dimensional (2D) depth-averaged hydrodynamic modeling was 123 used.

124 1.3. Study objectives

For a segment of the upper South Yuba River (SYR) in Northern California, the objectives of this study were to (1) conceptualize different hydraulic hazards and delineate their locations for multiple discharges, (2) design hydraulics-based metrics to quantify and map the exposure of an entrained human body in the upright and supine positions to these hazards, and (3) determine trends in the hazards as a function of discharge and longitudinal position in the river. This study introduces a systematic, objective, and detailed approach to quantifying and mapping hydraulic hazard exposurewithin the process-based research paradigm.

### 133 **2. Study area**

134 The 12.2-km SYR study segment was located on the west side of the Sierra 135 Nevada Mountains beginning at the coordinates {39°20'48.34"N, 120°41' 37.55"W} and 136 terminating at the town of Washington, California, at the coordinates {39°21′28.55″N. 137 120°48'11.54"W} (Fig. 1). A thorough description of the study segment is available in 138 Pasternack and Senter (2011), so only the essential details are provided here for 139 brevity. This region is characterized by a Mediterranean climate with an average annual precipitation of 173.9 cm (Western Regional Climate Center) for 1914–2003 at Lake 140 141 Spaulding, 8 km upstream of the upper extent of the study segment. The drainage area 142 above Washington, CA, is 512.8 km<sup>2</sup> with 310.8 km<sup>2</sup> captured by Spaulding Dam. 143 Regulated releases and unregulated spills occur at the dam. The average daily flow for 144 1965–2014 measured just downstream at Langs Crossing (USGS gage 11414250) was 145 3.03 m /s, while the average daily flow at Washington (USGS gage 11417000) for 1942–1972 was 8.44 m<sup>3</sup>/s. Inadequate historical flow records prior to flow regulation, 146 147 periodic, complex changes to flow regulation, interdecadal trends in the hydrologic 148 regime due to forest cover changes, and cumulative, unabated geomorphic impacts 149 from multiple, severe anthropogenic activities, such as hydraulic mining of hillsides, 150 preclude reasonable determination of bankfull discharge. Four tributaries drain into the 151 study segment and two more do so above the study segment but below the dam. The 152 maximum elevation in the watershed is 2552 m above mean sea level, and the channel 153 bed elevation within the study segment ranges from ~780 to 1015 m. Bed material



spans sand to large boulders, and extensive bedrock outcrops are associated with
canyons and pools. Hydraulic mining was performed at multiple sites within the study
segment and has contributed sediment to the channel (Pasternack and Senter 2011).

# 157 **3. Methods**

158 This article presents an approach to evaluate hydraulic hazards (Sects. 3.2 - 3.4) 159 and then applies it to a case study to find new insights about whitewater rivers. A high-160 resolution DEM and 2D hydrodynamic model were used in this study, but those 161 elements and data underpinning them are not the focus herein. Increasingly, the 162 frontiers of river science are being built upon such models (e.g., Hauer et al. 2009; 163 Wyrick and Pasternack 2014; Gonzalez and Pasternack 2015; Strom et al. 2016), with 164 the aim of journal articles to present the novel developments. The underpinnings and 165 validation of the data and model are important background and thus explained in Online 166 Resource 1 to keep the article's focus on new science.

# 167 3.1. Meter-scale data and hydrodynamic model

Field data were used to characterize geomorphic, hydrologic, and hydraulic attributes of the remote and hazardous SYR at ~1-5 m resolution, including 2D hydrodynamic modeling. An airborne LiDAR survey mapped 34,113 large, emergent boulders within the wetted area at the heavily regulated low base flow—an important and unique aspect of this study in order to address hydraulic hazards (Pasternack and Senter 2011).

A previously peer-reviewed, meter-scale 2D hydrodynamic model of the SYR
was used in this study. Three-dimensional (3D) hydrodynamic models are available, but

176 have high computational demands for the >10 km range and 1-m resolution needed. 177 The new science and methods in this study do not depend on whether the model is 2D 178 or 3D, just that the outputs are meter-scale to resolve hydraulic hazards. Scientific 179 exploration with 3D models is ongoing and can be expected to eventually surpass the 180 current use of 2D models. The use of a morphodynamic model was also not considered, 181 because this study only investigated a range of flows for which large boulders would not 182 be in transport (Pasternack and Senter 2011). This decision was made because most 183 recreational risk and mortality occur at flows when coarse sediment is not in motion. 184 Non-recreational mortality often does occur during extreme floods that are channel-185 changing events, and this study does not address such geomorphic dynamism. The 186 Sedimentation and River Hydraulics Two-dimensional Model (Lai 2008) solved the 187 depth-averaged St. Venant equations using the finite-volume method to simulate both 188 subcritical and supercritical flows, which was key to predicting the occurrence of 189 hydraulic jump hazards. Model validation is detailed in Online Resource 1. Validation 190 results were within accepted standards (e.g., Gard 2003; Pasternack et al. 2006b; 191 Reinfelds et al. 2010).

The assumption of 2D flow is strictly violated through waterfalls and inside hydraulic jumps, but these are a small fraction of the model domain. Additionally, our field experience with evaluating model performance for point velocity in waterfalls of the SYR revealed that the problem primarily affects the positioning of the peak velocity in a vertical drop and not the presence and position of the hydraulic jump, which were more critical for this study. Support for this viewpoint and application exists in the literature where 2D models have been used to investigate settings with complex 3D flows, such as dam-break-induced floods (Peng 2012), spillway flow (Ying and Wang 2012), and
other boulder-bed streams (Harrison and Keller 2007). Therefore, 2D modeling was
appropriate to use for this purpose of mapping hydraulic jumps.

Model results used in this study were for snowmelt-driven flows of 15, 31, 85, and 196 m<sup>3</sup>/s, which correspond to the 70<sup>th</sup>, 82<sup>nd</sup>, 89<sup>th</sup>, and 92<sup>nd</sup> percentile values, respectively, for the daily mean discharge series at the Langs Crossing gage. These discharges are also higher than the daily mean flow reported for the Washington gage at the downstream end of the segment, and they span the approximate discharge range across which kayakers and rafters have been reported to run the river (Jolly Boys and Golden Quartz runs of the South Yuba River, A Wet State,

209 http://www.awetstate.com/1Alph.html#CA).

# 210 3.2. Human body abstraction

A human body can assume multiple positions in a flow, which changes the exposure to surrounding hazards. Floating with feet pointed downstream in the supine position is a commonly reported strategy for safe passage known as defensive swimming (Whitewater skill: How to swim, Rapid Media,

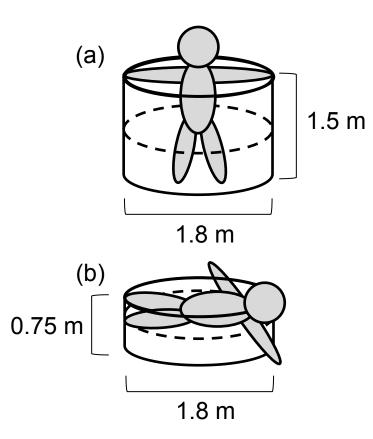
215 https://www.rapidmedia.com/rapid/categories/skills/1288-whitewater-skill-how-to-

swim.html), while floating with legs extended downward into the water column may be used by someone who does not have this training or is otherwise unable to maintain the supine position. While there are positions that are intermediate between these two, the supine and upright positions correspond to the end members of exposure to hazards beneath the water surface assuming that the head remains unsubmerged. The supine position maximizes the distance between the body and a submerged hazard while the

222 upright position minimizes this distance. To represent both positions, two safety zones 223 were defined as the cylinders formed when a 1.8 m tall body was rotated about its 224 centroid in the upright (Fig. 2a) and supine (Fig. 2b) positions, giving cylinder radii of 0.9 225 m (Table 1). A cylinder height of 1.5 m was used for the upright body safety zone as it 226 was assumed that a person moving with legs fully extended downward was able to 227 maintain their head above the water. A height of 0.75 m was used for the supine body 228 safety zone. By tracking the location of the safety zone perimeter in relation to hazards, 229 a variety of different upright and supine body positions were accounted for.

# 230 3.3. Delineation of hydraulic hazards

To identify hydraulic hazards, hazard types were first defined and then algorithms 231 232 were developed to map their locations for each of the four discharges investigated. A 233 2D modeling approach was determined to be suitable for addressing two risks 234 associated with people in a river. First, people can collide with emergent and 235 submerged rocks that cause physical trauma. Second, people can get trapped below 236 the water surface by submerged rocks or hydraulic jumps, leading to drowning. There 237 was value in distinguishing between emergent and submerged rocks, because this 238 attribute affects one's ability to see the hazard and avoid it. Also, each one poses a 239 different kind of hazard. Emergent rocks primarily cause blunt force trauma and also 240 pose a risk of partial pinning or wrapping. Submerged rocks may also cause those, but 241 they are especially dangerous due to their potential to cause drowning due to foot 242 entrapment and pinning beneath the water surface by the flow. In conceptualizing the 243 hazards associated with rock elements, there existed significant uncertainty concerning 244 what sizes and spatial arrangements of rocks were most prone to causing physical



Parameter	Value used	
Threshold orientation angle for node in jump (°)	150	
Intermediate passage proximity (m)	0.9	
Max passage proximity (m)	1.8	
Intermediate reaction time (s)	5	
Max reaction time (s)	10	
	Body position	
	Upright	Supine
Safety zone radius (m)	0.9	0.9
Safety zone height (m)	1.5	0.75
Freely floating savability threshold (m <sup>2</sup> /s)	0.3	0.3
Foot-entrapped savability threshold (m <sup>2</sup> /s)	0.3	0.3
Distance required for a freely floating person to save themselves (m)	0	0
Max depth to assess freely floating savability (m)	1.5	0.75
Max depth to assess foot-entrapped savability (m)	1.5	0.75
Min depth to assess freely floating savability (m)	0	0
Min depth to assess foot-entrapped savability (m)	0	0

245 trauma or body entrapment. Assuming that substrate of any size and configuration had 246 the potential to cause harm under certain flow conditions, the literature on human 247 stability in a flow provided some basis for determining the flow conditions that would 248 make the substrate hazardous. A conservative assumption was also made to treat all 249 hydraulic jumps as hazardous since quantifying jump severity required complex 250 analyses beyond the scope herein. The below section introduces a concept used to 251 discriminate between safe and hazardous flow conditions for an entrained body followed 252 by sections that explain how each of the hydraulic hazard categories were defined and (¢) 253 delineated.

254 3.3.1. Savability

255 In keeping with past research concerned with human stability in a flow, this study 256 used a depth-velocity product for delineating the surface hazard types. Reported depth-257 velocity product thresholds above which adult humans lose stability from an already 258 standing or walking position range from about 0.6-2 m<sup>2</sup>/s (Abt et al. 1989; Karvonen et 259 al. 2000), though the topic at hand for this study was not a statics problem involving the 260 loss of stability, but a dynamics problem involving the potential to regain stability 261 beginning from an entrained position. For a freely floating body, savability was defined 262 as the ability for the person to overcome further transport by regaining footing in a 263 stable, standing position with head above the water surface. For an entrained body that 264 suddenly experienced foot entrapment, savability referred to the capacity to avoid 265 getting swept over and held underwater, and instead maintain a controlled upright 266 position. A rock surface could therefore be described as savable if the ambient flow 267 conditions allowed a freely floating or foot-entrapped person to save themselves by

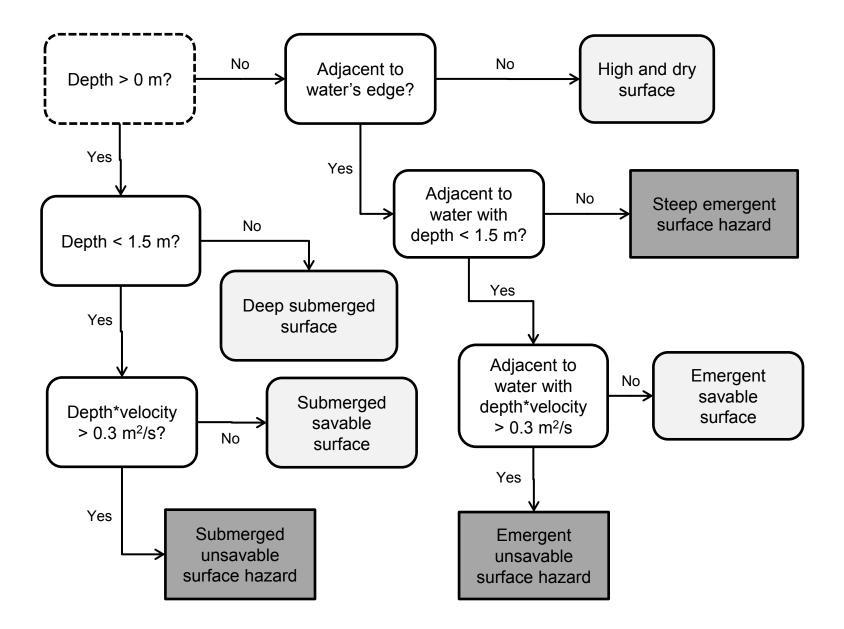
268 achieving a stable standing position. Halting one's forward progression while moving 269 freely with the flow or righting oneself following foot entrapment were not assumed to be 270 equivalent to maintaining upright stability from an already standing or walking position. 271 and it was reasoned that the threshold depth-velocity product below which saving was 272 possible must be lower than that for upright stability due to an entrained body's 273 momentum. A value of 0.3 m<sup>2</sup>/s was chosen for this study to be the threshold depth-274 velocity product for savability (Table 1) with lower values corresponding to the absence 275 of hydraulic hazards given a person's ability to save themselves and avoid harm. A 276 similar approach was taken by McCarroll et al. (2015) to determine whether a simulated 277 bather had escaped a rip current and reached a safe area by evaluating both the depth 278 and a hazard rating that uses a depth-velocity product. Co-author Pasternack has 279 extensive personal experience with savability in whitewater rivers and training beginners with river safety. From his experience, the threshold value is reasonable for normal 280 281 recreational boaters and swimmers. It will be significantly lower for inebriated 282 inadvertent swimmers (a common presence on whitewater rivers) and higher for 283 whitewater experts.

1 It is important to note that this threshold value is only a rough estimate as this study did not aim to experimentally determine this value, but instead to introduce the concept of savability for which future investigation is needed. For comparison, 0.3 m<sup>2</sup>/s falls within the low hazard category proposed by Cox et al. (2010) for children and adults that permits stable standing and wading. These authors also suggested 0.8 m<sup>2</sup>/s as the working limit for trained safety personnel. While no depth and velocity data were collected to identify the threshold for regaining stability, Cox et al. (2004) posited that once footing is lost, less hazardous flow conditions are required for footing to be
regained due to greater bodily surface area presented to the flow. It is also more
challenging to perform an athletic dynamic maneuver to regain footing than it is to make
small weight shifts to sustain existing footing, especially as one becomes more tired
through the exertions of avoiding hydraulic hazards.

### 296 3.3.2. Emergent unsavable surface hazards

297 Since no strong basis existed for discriminating among different substrate sizes 298 and arrangements in terms of the associated hazard, the full topographic surface was 299 considered in the hydraulic hazard delineation. The perimeters of emergent surfaces 300 where depth = 0 m were first identified. Next, the perimeters were delineated as 301 emergent unsavable surface hazards for a freely floating or foot-entrapped body in the 302 upright position if the adjacent water had a depth <1.5 m and a depth-velocity product 303 >0.3 m<sup>2</sup>/s (Fig. 3; Table 1). This meant that upon encountering an emergent surface 304 under these flow conditions, a person could not save themselves to regain a stable 305 standing position and was instead at risk of experiencing involuntary physical contact 306 and associated harm.

In areas where emergent surfaces abutted water deeper than 1.5 m, the depth was considered too great to permit a 1.8 m tall person to save themselves into a standing position with head above the water surface. Therefore, the depth-velocity product threshold was not evaluated in these situations. It was reasoned that emergent surfaces next to deep, slow water were less likely to be hazardous than those next to deep, fast water. However, no threshold velocity could be discerned for what constituted hazardous due to the complexities of describing the interaction of a body with a near-



vertical rock surface, so the entirety of these surfaces was designated as steep
emergent surface hazards for the sake of caution. Very few of these hazards were
present along the study site, so they were lumped with the emergent unsavable surface
hazards.

#### 318 3.3.3. Submerged unsavable surface hazards

319 Submerged surfaces were designated as unsavable and therefore hazards if flow 320 conditions prevented someone from regaining a standing position in these locations 321 such that a traumatic collision or underwater entrapment could result. Specifically, 322 submerged surfaces with depth <1.5 m and a depth-velocity product >0.3  $m^2$ /s were 323 identified as submerged unsavable surface hazards for a freely floating or foot-324 entrapped body in the upright position (Fig. 3; Table 1). The savability threshold was 325 only evaluated for surfaces shallower than 1.5 m as deeper surfaces were considered to 326 be out of reach for a 1.8 m tall upright person to save themselves on. While there 327 conceivably existed a minimum depth for which a body was not at risk of submergence 328 and drowning regardless of velocity, regaining a controlled stance to avoid hazard 329 contact and physical trauma could still be inhibited given high velocity. Therefore, 0 m 330 was used as the lower depth limit for evaluating the savability threshold (Table 1). Additionally, savable surfaces were also delineated as these locations were relevant to 331 332 later analyses.

Unsavable and savable surfaces exposed to a body in the supine position (Fig. 2b) were mapped using the same steps as those described above but with savability evaluated down to a depth of 0.75 m (Table 1). This was intended to represent the situation in which a freely floating or foot-entrapped person in the supine position attempted to save themselves into a standing position on surfaces less than 0.75 m in depth. While it was reasoned that the savability threshold for a supine body that's either freely floating or foot entrapped should still fall below the threshold for stability from an already standing position, there was no strong basis for altering the threshold relative to that used for the freely floating or foot-entrapped upright body. Therefore, the savability threshold was maintained at  $0.3 \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$ .

### 343 3.3.4. Hydraulic jump hazards

344 The final hazard described in this study was hydraulic jumps, which can occur 345 due to submerged surfaces and therefore account for an additional hazard associated 346 with these inundated features. The presence of aeration is a critical component of the 347 jump hazard (Valle and Pasternack 2002, 2006), as the level of aeration can be large 348 enough to prevent lifejacket buoyancy from supporting a person above the water 349 surface while also small enough to make the multiphase zone unbreathable. This study 350 only investigated the presence or absence of hydraulic jumps, as identified by the 351 transition from supercritical to subcritical flow in the 2D model output. The scheme 352 introduced in this study for locating hydraulic jumps is itself a novel tool that could be 353 used in the study of spatially explicit mountain river hydraulics. The general steps 354 involved identifying supercritical regions, isolating the perimeters of these regions, and 355 then analyzing the flow vectors at the model mesh nodes adjacent to the perimeters to 356 determine those downstream of and within a jump. The same hydraulic jumps hazards 357 were used for the supine body scenario as for the upright body, as these features were 358 assumed to be exposed to anything moving along at the water's surface.

359 For each modeled discharge, supercritical flow regions were identified, and the 360 orientations of the flow vectors at computational mesh nodes were computed to isolate 361 the nodes immediately downstream of the supercritical flow where jumps, by definition, 362 occurred. Given the angle  $\alpha$  of the flow vector at each mesh node (Fig. 4a) and the 363 angle  $\beta$  associated with the line segment connecting that node to a point on the 364 perimeter of a supercritical flow region, the orientation angle  $\gamma$  of the flow vector to the 365 point was computed using the expressions below.

(1)

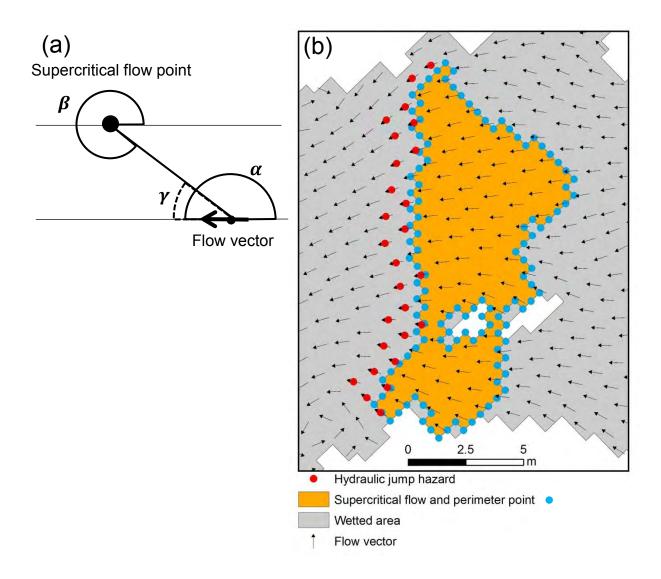
367

 $\beta > \alpha: \gamma = |\beta - 180 - \alpha|$  $\beta < \alpha: \gamma = |\beta + 180 - \alpha|$ (2)

368 It was necessary to select a certain threshold orientation angle  $\gamma$  to isolate mesh 369 nodes sufficiently downstream of the supercritical flow to represent the jump location. 370 An angle of  $\gamma = 90^{\circ}$  was tried initially, but this value erroneously included too many 371 mesh nodes on the upstream side of the supercritical flow due to raster edge effects. A 372 stricter threshold of  $\gamma = 150^{\circ}$  was ultimately chosen such that the majority of the isolated mesh nodes occurred along the appropriate downstream boundary of the supercritical 373 flow (Fig. 4b). 374

#### 375 3.4. Characterizing hazard exposure

376 After delineating hazard locations, two criteria were introduced to describe the 377 instantaneous hazard exposure at any point in the river where a body might be located 378 during transit. These included passage proximity, i.e., how close a person would be 379 swept toward a hazard if they were unable to save themselves along the way, and 380 reaction time, i.e., how much time was available for the person to swim against the



381 current to change their trajectory and avoid a close hazard encounter. A key factor in 382 evaluating hazard exposure is human motility that complicates the prediction of where a 383 body will move through a flow. Instead of trying to guess or simulate motile behavior 384 and determine the effects on hazard exposure, this study used the instantaneous 385 trajectory at all positions in the flow to map the hazard exposure and gage the need for 386 motility to avoid hazards. While hazard exposure was described using the hazard 387 locations, flow direction, and velocity magnitude, characterizing the vulnerability of 388 people to harm upon encountering a hazard was beyond the scope of this study. The 389 risk of physical trauma or drowning was represented by describing the hazard exposure 390 with the passage proximity and reaction time metrics and assuming that harm would 391 result if a hazard encounter were to occur.

392 An instantaneous trajectory of constant velocity and direction was projected from 393 the flow vector at each 2D model node, and these trajectory attributes were used to 394 quantify the two metrics as a means of characterizing the hazard exposure associated 395 with each node in the flow. This approach of projecting constant direction and velocity 396 can both over and underestimate the exposure to hazards, because at any given node 397 in the flow, the direction and velocity can either be more or less conducive to hazard 398 exposure than the conditions experienced by the body along the remainder of its actual 399 path. For example, the trajectory at one location might have a high velocity and be 400 directed at a hazard, while further down the path the velocity could decrease and the 401 direction change to a safer area, or vice versa.

# 402 3.4.1. Passage proximity

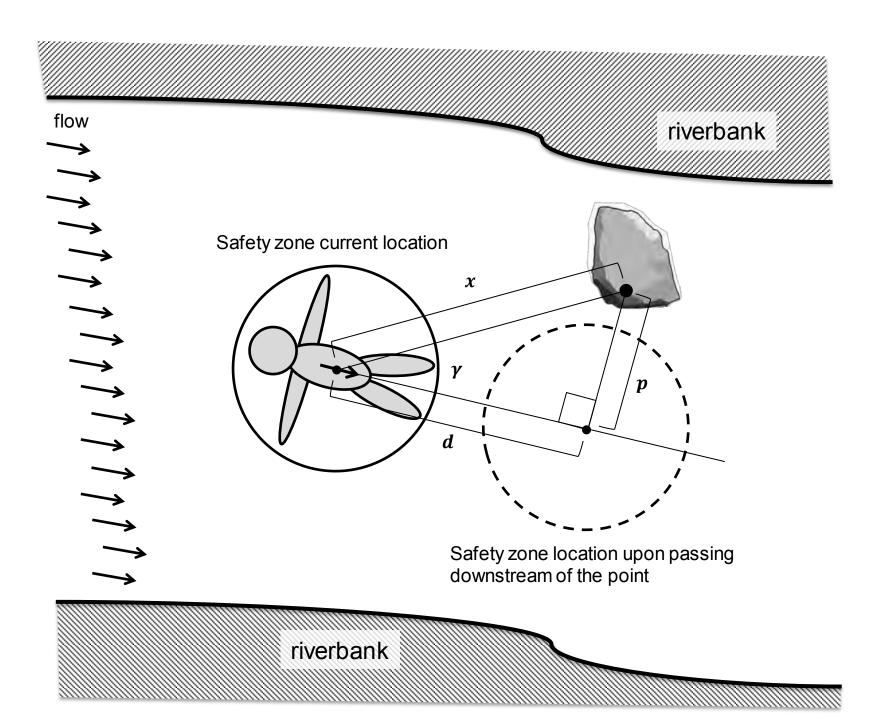
403 For a body moving along a constant trajectory set by the flow vector at the mesh 404 node to which the body's centroid was momentarily coincident, the passage proximity 405 represented the closest distance reached between the centroid and a point along the 406 perimeter of an unsavable surface, savable surface, or hydraulic jump. This occurred 407 when the orientation angle  $\gamma$  as calculated with Equations (1) or (2) between the 408 centroid and point equaled 90°, so this angle was used as the threshold for isolating 409 mesh nodes upstream of the points. For each of the four discharges, orientation angles 410 were calculated between each mesh node and each of the points. An upstream position 411 with an orientation angle less than 90° meant that the coincident centroid had yet to 412 reach its passage proximity p to the point (Fig. 5), while a downstream position meant 413 that the centroid would only be carried further away from the point. For those pairs of 414 nodes and points exhibiting an upstream node orientation, the orientation angle was used to calculate the passage proximity as given below, while it was not appropriate to 415 416 compute the metric in the case of downstream node orientation.

417

$$p = \sin(\gamma) x \tag{3}$$

418 3.4.2. Reaction time

Reaction time was introduced as the second metric to characterize exposure,
specifically to account for velocity and convey the imminence of a potential encounter.
This metric refers to the time available to avoid a hazard given the flow velocity
regardless of whether this time is sufficient for a person to actually avoid it, which
depends on a person's swimming ability, consciousness, etc. For a body moving along



424 a constant trajectory at a velocity v, the reaction time computation depended on 425 whether the body's centroid would reach within 0.9 m of an unsavable surface, savable 426 surface, or hydraulic jump point. If the centroid was not going to approach the point 427 within this distance (p > 0.9 m) as depicted in Fig. 5, then the reaction time was 428 calculated as follows with d equal to the distance traveled by the body before passing 429 downstream of the point.

430 
$$t = \frac{d}{v} = \frac{\cos(\gamma)x}{v}$$
(4)

431 Conversely, if the body's centroid was going to approach the point within this 432 distance (p < 0.9 m), then the reaction time was computed using the below equations 433 where lengths *b*, *c*, and *r* and angles *e*, *f*, and *g* are defined in Fig. 6.

$$b = \tan(\gamma) x \tag{5}$$

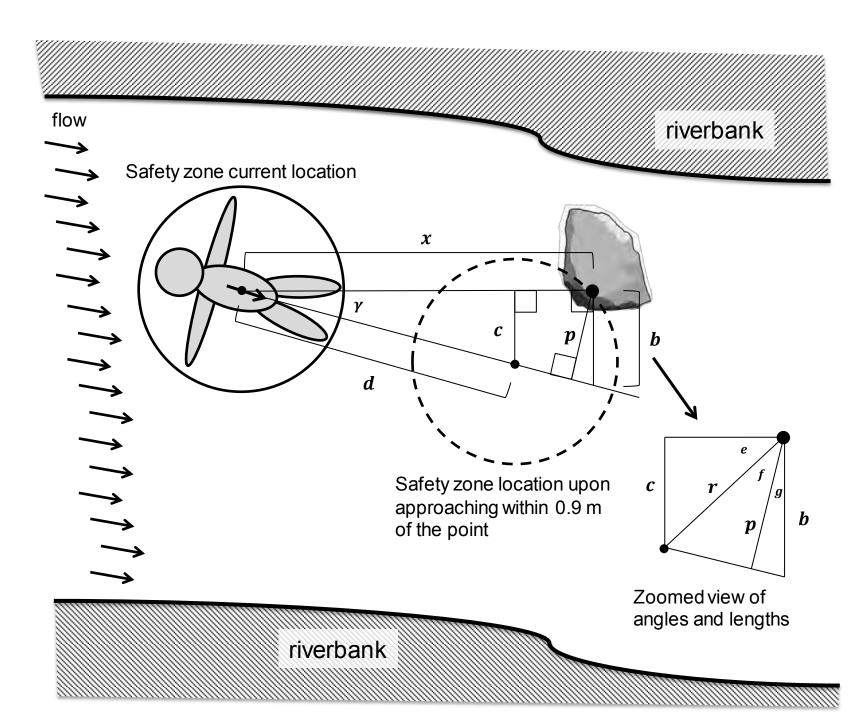
435 
$$e = 90 - f - g = 90 - \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{p}{r}\right) - \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{p}{b}\right)$$
(6)

$$c = \sin(e) r \tag{7}$$

437 
$$t = \frac{d}{v} = \frac{c}{\sin(\gamma)v}$$
(8)

438 3.4.3. Total hazard exposure

For each discharge, the computation of passage proximity and reaction time was first made separately for emergent unsavable surfaces, submerged unsavable surfaces, and hydraulic jumps to assess the exposure to each hazard category irrespective of the presence of the others. Savable surfaces were included in each computation to account for encounters with these safe areas that were assumed to permit saving. Only surfaces



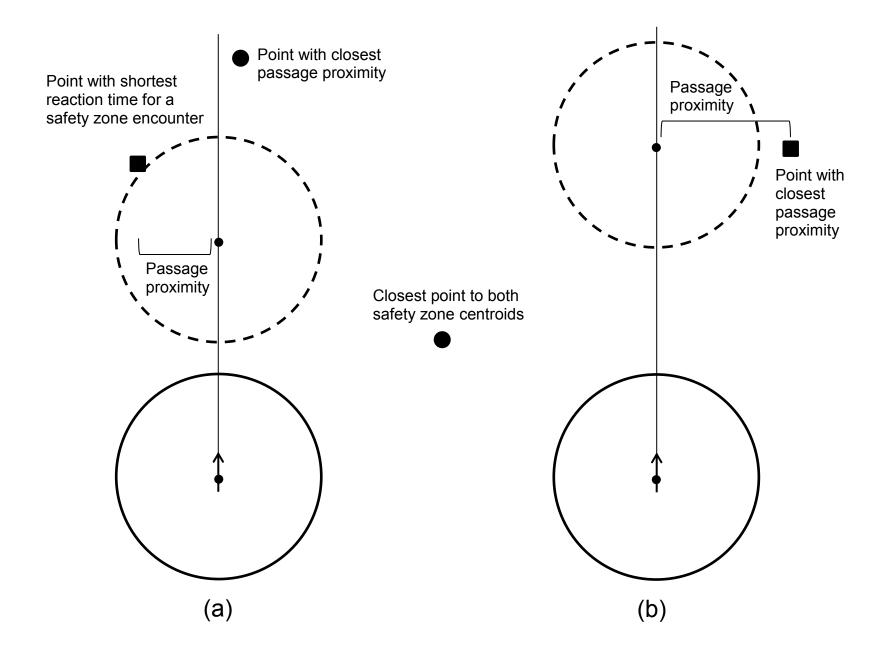
delineated with respect to the upright body's 1.5-m tall safety zone were used in these
individual hazard category computations. Next, the points for all the hazard categories
and savable surfaces were combined and the two metrics were again calculated to
characterize the total hazard exposure for the upright body. Total hazard exposure was
defined to be the exposure of a body to all of the three hazard types, and lastly it was
also calculated with the hazards delineated for the supine body such that a comparison
could be made with the total hazard exposure for the upright body.

451 3.4.4. Mapping hazard exposure

452 The next step was to bin the values of the two metrics for visual purposes as well 453 as to quantify the resulting areal extent of each bin. For example, how much of the river 454 segment at a given discharge exhibited the potential for encountering a hazard within 5 455 s? A baseline level of hazard exposure relevant for mapping was first established by 456 constraining the range of values for the metrics. A hazard with a sufficiently large 457 passage proximity, here defined as greater than twice the safety zone radius (1.8 m), 458 was treated as posing no threat to a body regardless of how short the reaction time was 459 (Table 1). Similarly, it was decided that hazards with reaction times larger than 10 s 460 were not a threat no matter how close the passage proximity was. These values were 461 somewhat arbitrarily chosen, but greater than 10 s was considered to be relatively safe 462 with adequate time for a person to evaluate the situation and react accordingly to the 463 flow, and over 1.8 m was judged to be plenty of distance between the hazard and 464 body's centroid to avoid an encounter.

465 Two scenarios were considered for assigning a passage proximity and reaction 466 time to each mesh node. Where encounters were predicted to occur between the safety 467 zone and multiple hazard points based on the velocity and trajectory associated with a 468 given node, the hazard point with the shortest reaction time for an encounter 469 determined both the passage proximity and reaction time for the node (Fig. 7a). Values 470 weren't assigned if the shortest reaction time was associated with a savable surface 471 point because these encounters were assumed to permit a person's saving and 472 avoidance of downstream hazards. If the safety zone was predicted to near miss hazard 473 points with passage proximities between 0.9 and 1.8 m, then the point with the closest 474 passage proximity was selected to set the values of the two metrics at the node (Fig. 475 7b).

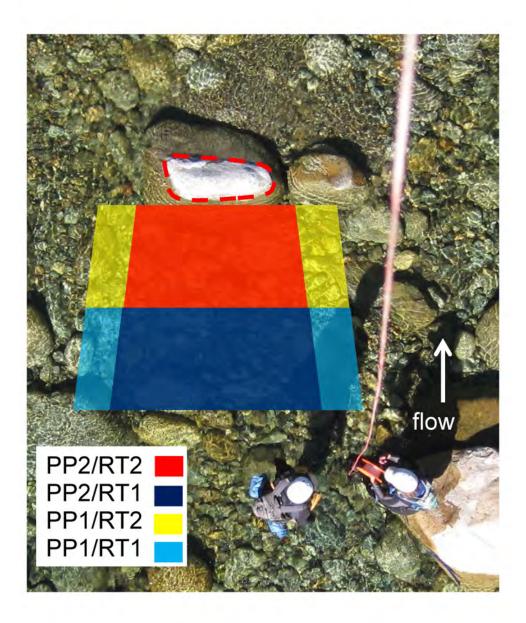
476 After assigning metric values, rasters were created for passage proximity and 477 reaction time. To classify the values of the passage proximity (PP) raster in the context 478 of the human body safety zone dimensions, a rating of two (PP2) was assigned for 479 passage proximities less than 0.9 m that corresponded to hazard encounters (Fig. 7a). 480 This rating was also given to cells upstream and within 0.9 m of a hazard point, as 481 bodies in this area were being actively pushed into the hazard. A rating of one (PP1) 482 was given for passage proximities between 0.9 and 1.8 m, which represented the near-483 miss scenario (Fig. 7b). A rating of zero (PP0) was assigned for cells with no 484 downstream hazards less than 10 s away or with passage proximities under 1.8 m. The 485 reaction times (RT) were assigned a rating of zero (RT0) for greater than 10 s or for 486 passage proximities over 1.8 m, one (RT1) for between 5 and 10 s, and two (RT2) for 487 under 5 s or if a cell was already within 0.9 m of a hazard point. For mapping the 488 exposure to submerged unsavable surface hazards, PP3 and RT3 were given to cells 489 that exhibited unsavable conditions to represent the immediate exposure of the body's



490 centroid to the underlying hazard. Overlapping passage proximity and reaction time 491 rating areas were then paired to express hazard exposure with six different ratings: no 492 hazard (PP0/RT0), distant near miss (PP1/RT1), imminent near miss (PP1/RT2), distant 493 collision (PP2/RT1), imminent collision (PP2/RT2), and immediate exposure (PP3/RT3). 494 For example, Fig. 8 shows an emergent surface bound by a dashed line with 495 hypothetical paired passage proximity and reaction time ratings on the upstream side of 496 the surface. Lastly, the fraction of the wetted area occupied by each paired rating for a 497 given discharge was computed.

498 3.4.5. Longitudinal profiles

499 To provide a basic landscape context for the hazard analysis, the average 500 elevation at each longitudinal position through the river valley was computed for the 501 study segment. Next, the longitudinal distribution of total hazard exposure for each 502 discharge was determined by computing the fraction of the wetted area at each position 503 along the river that exhibited some form of exposure, e.g., PP1/RT1 or PP1/RT2, from 504 at least one of the hazards. These hazard exposure, or danger, fractions were plotted 505 as a longitudinal series in the downstream direction to reveal the locations of more and 506 less dangerous regions encountered in passage down the river. Additionally, the covariance between the danger fraction distribution at 15 m<sup>3</sup>/s and that at each of the 507 508 higher discharges was computed and plotted as longitudinal series to reveal how 509 increasing discharge influenced the locations of dangerous regions. Lastly, the 510 cumulative distribution of the longitudinal series of danger fractions was plotted for each 511 discharge. The raw danger areas were not used to generate these cumulative 512 distributions because the danger fractions more meaningfully represented the exposure



of a body to danger while in transit downstream. For example, a person could enter a
region of the river with a large total danger area, but the channel could be very wide
here such that the danger fraction is low. In contrast, a region that has less danger area
but is also very narrow would exhibit a high danger fraction, which accurately expresses
a more unavoidable exposure to hazards.

### 518 3.4.6. Adjustable model parameters

519 At this time, the model relies on new parameters that are logical and meet 520 whitewater expert judgment, but not well constrained with high scientific certainty. Most 521 scientific theories and engineering applications are first published and used with less-522 constrained parameterizations as done here, and then future studies provide practical 523 refinements. The iterative development of the Universal Soil Loss Equation (Wischmeier 524 and Smith 1978; Renard et al. 1994) is a good example of that. Some highly popular 525 scientific parameters, such as channel roughness, remain contentious and uncertain 526 despite widespread study and application (Lane 2005; Ferguson 2010). In this case, the 527 model involved a highly hazardous phenomenon with many dangers in attempting field-528 scale parameter calibration at the study site under the discharges of interest. In light of 529 this uncertainty, the assumptions behind the current model parameter values are 530 reported to convey the uncertainty of the results and highlight opportunities for 531 refinement.

532 Experiments in controlled flume settings can inform adjustments to the model 533 parameters listed in Table 1. The concept of savability was used to describe the 534 capacity for a person to regain a controlled upright stance with head above the water 535 surface starting from either a freely floating or foot-entrapped upright or supine position. A single threshold was used to account for all four of these situations, but the ability tosave oneself in each scenario may actually correspond to different thresholds.

538 Additionally, a depth-velocity product might not be sufficient for capturing the savability 539 in the two freely floating situations as saving could also hinge on the distance over 540 which one is exposed to flow that does not exceed a certain threshold. Experimental 541 analysis could determine, for example, that a distance of 3 m is required for an adult moving along with a current exhibiting a depth-velocity product of  $0.2 \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$  to save 542 543 themselves. In this study, it was assumed that instantaneous saving was possible upon 544 encountering water with a depth-velocity product below 0.3 m<sup>2</sup>/s. The minimum and 545 maximum depth for assessing savability could also be clarified as a function of subject 546 height. Lastly, the threshold orientation angle used to isolate mesh nodes downstream 547 of supercritical flow could be field validated by mapping the locations of hydraulic jumps 548 and comparing these to the node locations.

549 In contrast, other parameter values may be adjusted a priori depending on the 550 application. These include the safety zone dimensions, which are tied to the height of 551 the human subjects of interest as well as the maximum passage proximity and reaction 552 time used to map and analyze the hazard exposure.

553 3.4.7. Hazard model validation

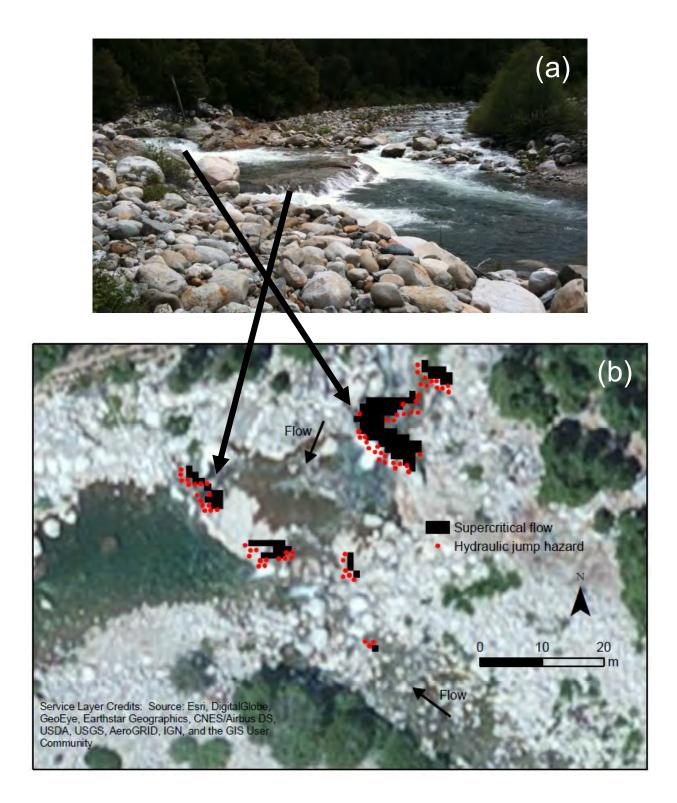
At this time only limited validation of the hydraulic hazard model theorized and applied to the validated 2D model was performed, which involved a visual comparison of the predicted and observed hydraulic jump hazard locations. In addition, co-author Pasternack used his expert whitewater experience and training in whitewater safety to qualitatively evaluate whether the model results were reasonable at individual rapids in

the SYR as he has kayaked and swam portions of the river at different discharges. 559 560 Whole branches of science involve exploration of nature using back-of-the-envelope 561 calculations and numerical models with no chance for validation presently, such as 562 Earth's interior dynamism, landscape evolution modeling over thousands to millions of 563 years, geomorphic modeling of other planets, and various solar and galactic dynamics. 564 Natural hazards present a unique situation, because they involve the Earth's extreme 565 dynamics, with infrequent periodicity, large size, flashiness, and deadly hazards. A good 566 case in point of a model development arc is the SHALSTAB model for predicting maps 567 of shallow landslide hazards, whose equations and results were published with no 568 validation (Dietrich et al. 1992), leading to widespread usage in hazard management. 569 The authors published a field study with some model validation nine years later (Dietrich 570 et al. 2001). Even now, many flood hazard studies lack hydrodynamic validation data 571 (e.g., Chen and Liu 2016). Nevertheless, planners must design evacuation schemes 572 and management plans on the basis of whatever they can, so having the best analysis 573 possible is warranted regardless of the ideal of model validation.

574 If a sponsor were to fund a model validation effort to test the results of this model 575 in a future study, then the ideal approach would be to deploy human analogs into a 576 flood and use large-scale particle image velocimetry to measure passage proximity and 577 reaction time associated with each hydraulic hazard, and then compare those to model 578 predictions. Whitewater rivers with roads that run along them, like the one used in this 579 study or the North Fork of the Payette River in Idaho are excellent locations for testing. 580 Human test dummies replicate the dimensions, weight proportions and articulation of 581 the human body, while pig carcasses are widely regarded as the best organic analog of

582 humans. These could be positioned upstream either manually or using the robotic river 583 truss (Pasternack et al., 2006a). Pole-mounted cameras or tethered kite-blimps would 584 be deployed to capture the velocity field of the ambient flow and track the motion of the 585 test subject. These data would be used to measure passage proximities and compute 586 reaction times, ideally for a wide range of flows. Although this is not difficult to envision, 587 it would be costly and difficult to schedule in light of flood unpredictability. Since the 588 underlying topographic and hydraulic data for this study was collected in 2009, 589 California has experienced a historic drought and only a few days of flooding have 590 occurred between then and when this hazard study was completed.

591 One aspect of the model that was more amenable to validation was the 592 delineation of the hydraulic jump hazards since these could be safely photographed in 593 the field and compared to the locations mapped using the approach developed in this 594 study. For example, jump hazards were photographed during a flow of 4.4 m<sup>3</sup>/s at the 595 Langs Crossing gage and were visually compared to the locations of jumps delineated 596 with 2D model results for this flow. Figure 9 shows the confluence of Canyon Creek with 597 the South Yuba River where hydraulic jumps are associated with several steps. 598 Features such as the steps in the photo were represented well in the DEM, and the 599 corresponding flow acceleration was therefore reproduced closely by the 2D model. In 600 contrast, other locations with smaller-scale causes of flow acceleration, such as 601 individual boulders or shaped bedrock protrusions, were not as well captured in the 602 DEM and 1-m resolution computational mesh, so the occurrence of supercritical flow 603 was often underpredicted by the 2D model in these locations, leading to an 604 underpredicted occurrence of jump hazards. The eddy viscosity coefficient also affected

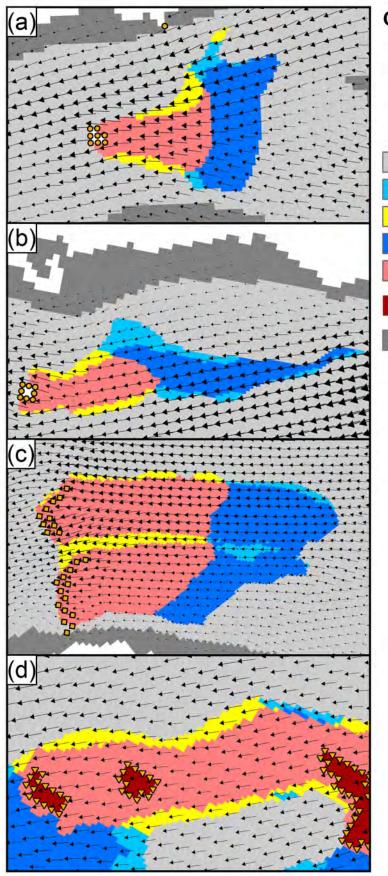


605 the extent of supercritical flow predicted by the 2D model as it determined the efficiency606 of momentum transfer.

### 607 **4. Results**

#### 608 *4.1.* Hazard exposure maps

609 Mapping the hazard exposure permitted visual assessment of how the algorithms 610 captured the interaction of the hazards with the hydraulics. Hazard exposure maps for 611 the full study segment at 31 m<sup>3</sup>/s for each hazard type as well as the total of all hazards 612 are provided in Online Resources 2-5. Fig. 10 illustrates the results for four different 613 scenarios for hazard encounters in the study segment, with the first two maps (Fig. 10a, 614 b) involving emergent unsavable surfaces, hydraulic jumps for the third map, and 615 submerged unsavable surfaces for the bottom map. While present in each of the maps, 616 the submerged unsavable surfaces (PP3/RT3) were only displayed in Fig. 10d. 617 Excluding the non-hazard area (PP0/RT0), the remaining PP/RT rating areas in each 618 map composed the danger zones for the mapped hazards. The danger zones and 619 component areas exhibited different shapes and sizes depending on the flow direction, 620 velocity magnitude, depth, and hazard configuration. In Fig. 10a, the danger zone 621 showed a flared upstream end due to convergent flow with more vectors oriented 622 directly to the hazard to produce either a near miss or an encounter. The danger zone in 623 Fig. 10b had a tapered tip because of flow that diverged from the hazard here and 624 expanded out toward the right bank, but bank narrowing just downstream converged 625 flow toward the hazard and enlarged the danger zone midsection.



# **Channel Regions**

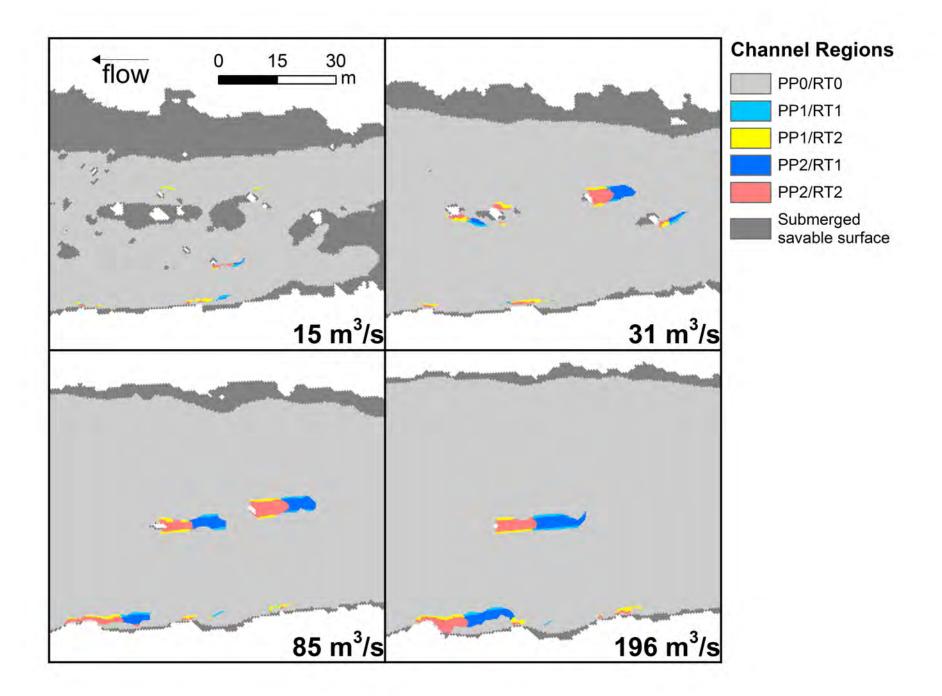
- Emergent unsavable surface
- Hydraulic jump
- Submerged unsavable surface
- † Flow vector
  - PP0/RT0
  - PP1/RT1
  - PP1/RT2
  - PP2/RT1
  - PP2/RT2
  - Submerged unsavable surface (PP3/RT3)
  - Submerged savable surface

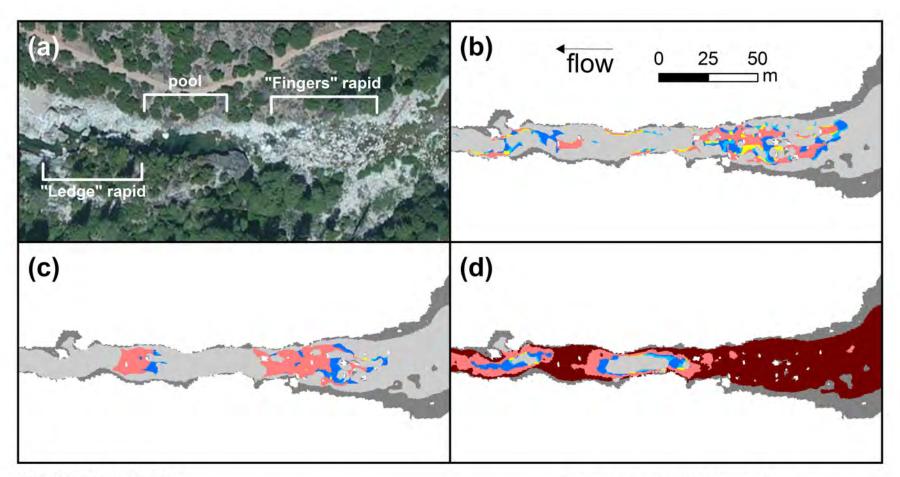
626 In addition to flow direction, velocity magnitude and depth influenced the danger 627 zones. The hazard points associated with two jumps are shown in Fig. 10c, with the 628 lower jump exhibiting a danger zone with a tip skewed away from the left bank. The 629 boundary between PP2/RT2 and PP2/RT1 also showed this skew which resulted from a 630 gradient in velocity laterally across the danger zone with slower velocities closer to the 631 left bank. The danger zone of the upper jump showed comparatively little skew due to 632 more uniform velocities across the width of the zone. However, the longitudinal extents 633 of the danger zone areas containing RT2 versus RT1 differed due to a velocity gradient 634 along the length of the zone. Flow accelerated toward the jump such that more of the 635 danger zone was within 5 s of a jump point, whereas the absence of a gradient would 636 yield equal longitudinal extents of areas within 5 and 10 s of a hazard. Depth was 637 relevant to the danger zones because the depth-velocity product determined the 638 distribution of submerged savable surfaces that suppressed the extent of the danger 639 zones. The left side of the lower danger zone in Fig. 10c lacked PP1/RT2 and PP1/RT1 640 area because the adjacent submerged savable surface was already within a body's 641 safety zone here for which saving was assumed to be possible.

The hazard configuration specifically affected the danger zone component areas. The jumps present within the segment consisted of laterally distributed clusters of hazard points such as those displayed in Fig. 10c. As a result, the danger zone areas with PP2 were much more extensive than those with PP1 as hazard encounters rather than near misses were more likely. Longitudinally distributed clusters of hazard points like those shown in Fig. 10d favored areas with RT2 and not RT1, since flow was consistently within 5 s of an encounter or near miss with a hazard. The PP2/RT1 and 649 PP1/RT1 area in the lower left and right corners of Fig. 10d was associated with650 downstream submerged unsavable surface hazards not visible in the panel.

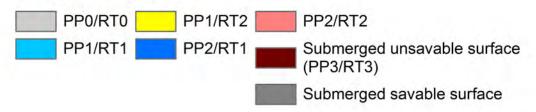
651 For a given site, increasing discharge had the potential to change flow direction, 652 velocity magnitude, depth, and hazard configuration to elicit the aforementioned changes in danger zone shape and size. At 15 m<sup>3</sup>/s for the site shown in Fig. 11, 653 654 extensive submerged savable surface area limited the presence of emergent unsavable 655 surface hazards. Savable surfaces shrank considerably at 31 m<sup>3</sup>/s as depths and 656 velocities increased such that multiple emergent surfaces became hazards and grew 657 danger zones, including a particularly well-developed one just right of the map center. 658 Increasing discharge further reduced the savable surface area but also submerged the 659 emergent surfaces. This limited the longitudinal clustering of emergent unsavable 660 surface hazards, so the component areas with RT1 were not suppressed in the mid-661 channel danger zones at 85 m<sup>3</sup>/s. While only one small mid-channel emergent surface 662 remained at the site in Fig. 11 at 196  $m^3/s$ , there was a prominent emergent surface 663 along the left bank that was not bordered by savable water and therefore showed a 664 substantial danger zone here. Increasing velocity as discharge rose resulted in longer 665 danger zones since more distant flow was within 10 s of a downstream hazard.

Lastly, Fig. 12 shows a site with two class IV+ rapids ("Fingers" and "Ledge" of the Jolly Boys run of the South Yuba River, http://www.awetstate.com/SYubaJB.html) and the interaction among all three hazards types that are individually displayed for the upright body scenario at 31 m<sup>3</sup>/s. The upstream rapid was relatively shallow and strewn with boulders that created multiple emergent unsavable surface hazards at 31 m<sup>3</sup>/s (Fig. 12b). Small patches of savable water were present around these emergent surfaces at





## **Channel Regions**

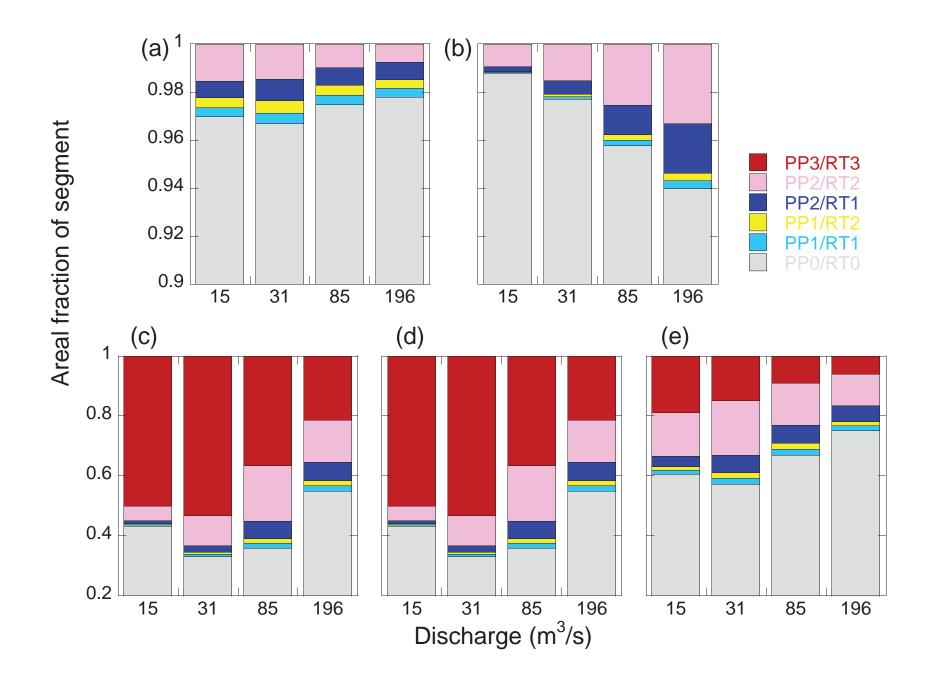


Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

672 this discharge that limited the extent of the danger zones in some places. These 673 boulders also accelerated flow to form jump hazards here (Fig. 12c). Due to depths <1.5 674 m and high velocities, nearly all of the submerged surfaces here were unsavable (Fig. 675 12d). Just downstream was a pool adjacent to steep bedrock walls (Fig. 12a) where slow velocities and large depths produced few hazards at 31 m<sup>3</sup>/s. The next rapid 676 677 occurred immediately downstream where the higher bed elevation and the narrow 678 bedrock walls converged flow to form a large jump hazard. Only a couple mid-channel 679 surfaces were emergent here, and the surfaces that were <1.5 m deep were mostly 680 unsavable.

#### 681 4.2. Segment-scale areal fractions of hazard exposure

682 When the hazard exposure results were aggregated to the segment scale in the 683 form of areal fractions, multiple discharge-dependent trends were evident (Fig. 13). For 684 all discharges, the emergent unsavable surface (Fig. 13a) and jump hazards (Fig. 13b) 685 showed limited danger zone areas that occupied <10% of the river segment. In contrast, 686 over 45% of the segment contained the danger zones of submerged unsavable surface 687 hazards across all discharges (Fig. 13c). Both the emergent and submerged unsavable 688 surface hazards showed concave-down trends with peak danger zone areal fractions of 3.3% and 67%, respectively, at  $31 \text{ m}^3$ /s, while the jump hazards exhibited a monotonic 689 690 increase in danger zone areal fraction as discharge rose, peaking at 6.0%. The danger 691 zone areal fractions for the total hazards exposed to an upright body (Fig. 13d) were 692 nearly identical to those for the submerged unsavable surfaces since these hazards 693 greatly outnumbered the jump and emergent unsavable surface hazards for all



discharges. The total hazard areal fractions for the supine body position (Fig. 13e) weresubstantially lower than these for the upright position.

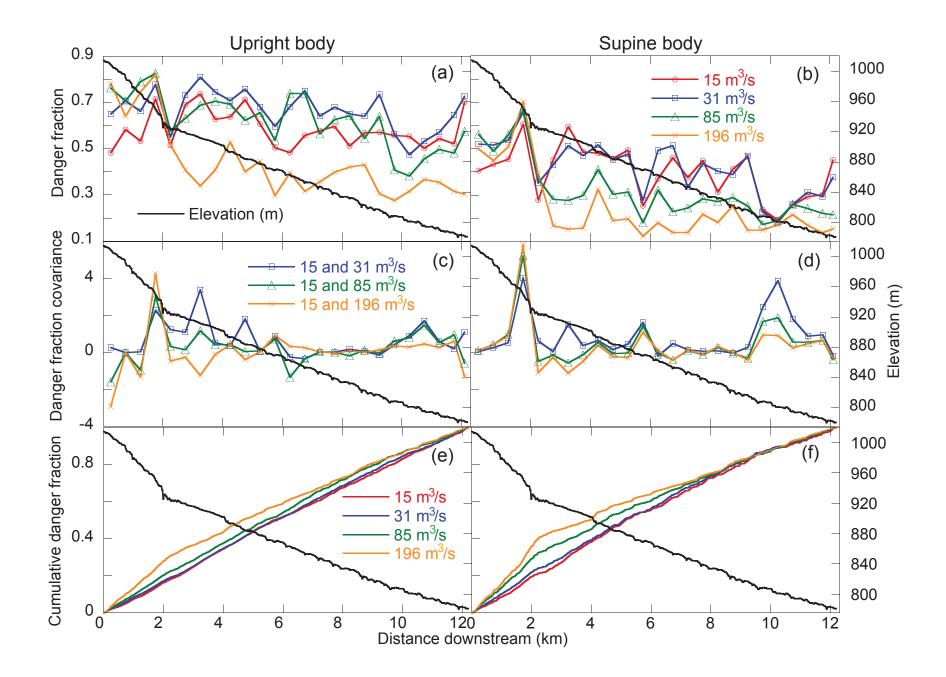
696 The component fractions of the danger zones also changed across discharges. 697 i.e., the fractions of the danger zone areas occupied by the paired passage proximity 698 and reaction time ratings. For emergent unsavable surface and jump hazards, 699 increasing discharge coincided with an overall increase in each component area except 700 for clear declines in PP2/RT2 (Table 2). For submerged unsavable surface hazards and 701 the total hazards for both body positions, the PP3/RT3 area declined significantly as 702 discharge increased, while the remaining component areas showed overall increases. 703 PP3/RT3 was particularly dominant within the danger zones at 15 and 31 m<sup>3</sup>/s for 704 submerged unsavable surface hazards and total hazards for the upright position.

#### 705 4.3. Longitudinal profiles

The profile of elevation along the valley centerline indicated the presence of two 706 707 dominant slopes across the study segment, with the steeper upstream region ending 708 abruptly at a large waterfall around river kilometer two (Fig. 14). Due to the local 709 variability in hazard occurrence and the associated danger zone extents, the 710 longitudinal distributions of the polygon danger fractions exhibited considerable noise. 711 The average danger fractions within 0.5-km windows along the study segment were 712 instead plotted to help visualize the trends (Fig. 14a, b). For both the upright (Fig. 14a) 713 and supine (Fig. 14b) body positions, high danger fractions for all discharges occurred 714 just upstream of the waterfall at river kilometer two with sharp drops in the danger 715 fractions immediately downstream. For the upright position, the danger fractions at 15.

		Component fractions for PP/RT rating area				
Hazard	Discharge (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	PP1/RT1	PP1/RT2	PP2/RT1	PP2/RT2	PP3/RT3
Emergent unsavable surface	15	0.119	0.140	0.225	0.516	-
	31	0.136	0.151	0.271	0.442	-
	85	0.156	0.163	0.292	0.388	-
	196	0.170	0.162	0.324	0.344	-
Submerged unsavable surface	15	0.007	0.008	0.015	0.087	0.883
	31	0.012	0.011	0.032	0.150	0.795
	85	0.026	0.025	0.090	0.289	0.570
	196	0.039	0.037	0.136	0.314	0.474
Jump	15	0.029	0.029	0.169	0.774	-
	31	0.044	0.043	0.244	0.669	-
	85	0.056	0.053	0.290	0.601	-
	196	0.054	0.051	0.343	0.552	-
	15	0.007	0.008	0.015	0.087	0.883
Total hazards-	31	0.012	0.011	0.032	0.150	0.795
upright body	85	0.025	0.025	0.090	0.290	0.570
	196	0.037	0.035	0.135	0.321	0.471
	15	0.032	0.032	0.089	0.367	0.480
Total hazards-	31	0.047	0.045	0.135	0.423	0.350
supine body	85	0.064	0.058	0.182	0.425	0.272
	196	0.065	0.057	0.211	0.422	0.246

 Table 2 Danger zone component fractions for each hazard category



31, and 85 m<sup>3</sup>/s rose rapidly downstream of this point of low danger, while for the
supine position, only the 15 and 31 m<sup>3</sup>/s danger fractions showed a rapid increase here.

718 The covariance distributions revealed the presence of both discharge-dependent 719 and discharge-independent danger (Fig. 14c, d). A positive value of covariance at any 720 location in the profile meant that danger, or lack thereof, was discharge independent 721 between the two flows (i.e., between 15 m<sup>3</sup>/s and a higher flow), while negative values 722 indicated that the danger changed between the flows. Danger fraction covariance 723 showed more positive values for the supine (Fig. 14d) than the upright (Fig. 14c) 724 position, and both positions showed peaks for each distribution just upstream of the 725 waterfall. The cumulative distributions of danger fractions for all four discharges under 726 the supine body scenario (Fig. 14f) deviated more from a uniform distribution of danger 727 than those for the upright position (Fig. 14e), and the less smooth curves for the supine 728 position indicated greater local accumulations of danger fractions. Within the first two 729 river kilometers, the 196 m<sup>3</sup>/s distribution for both body positions showed the most 730 pronounced accumulation of danger fractions with progressively reduced accumulations 731 in order of decreasing discharge.

## 732 5. Discussion

#### 5.1. Understanding hazard exposure across the study segment

In aggregating the hazard exposure results to the segment scale, there existed a balance at 31 m<sup>3</sup>/s between the extent of surfaces that were exposed to a body in either position and the extent of unsavable water that made these surfaces hazardous. The overall decline in the danger zone areal fractions for emergent unsavable surface

738 hazards over the discharge series indicated that mid-channel emergent surfaces were 739 overwhelmingly inundated at the highest discharge. While emergent surface hazards 740 arose along the banks where unsavable water became more extensive with increasing 741 discharge, the danger zone areal fractions declined in part because these bank 742 locations constituted one-sided hazard exposure. Mid-channel hazards could be 743 encountered by a body from either side of the hazards, and the associated danger 744 zones were therefore larger than those for hazards along the banks. The decline was 745 additionally attributed to the decreasing wetted-perimeter-to-wetted-area ratio with rising 746 discharge as hazard recruitment along the banks did not counter the expansion in 747 channel area. The submerged unsavable surface hazards also declined overall with 748 discharge, as once the mid-channel surfaces were submerged too deeply, only narrow 749 bands of these submerged hazards were present along the banks. The danger zone areal fractions for both surface hazards did increase from 15 to 31 m<sup>3</sup>/s before 750 751 declining, as the factors responsible for the occurrence of these hazards were optimized at this intermediate discharge. Velocities overall continued to increase beyond 31 m<sup>3</sup>/s, 752 753 and the extent of unsavable water expanded. However, the mid-channel surfaces were 754 inundated too deeply at higher discharges to be hazards. In contrast, the inundation of 755 surfaces created additional flow-accelerating features, e.g., boulders over which water 756 spilled at high velocity, that expanded the extent of not only unsavable water but also 757 supercritical flow and jump hazards. These conditions were prevalent enough to 758 compensate for the drowning out of features that accelerated flow at lower discharges, 759 such that the danger zone areal fractions for jump hazards monotonically rose with 760 discharge.

761 Regarding the danger zone component fractions, relatively low velocities and 762 hazard clustering favored immediate hazard exposure. At 15 m<sup>3</sup>/s, the majority of the 763 danger zone area for emergent unsavable surface and jump hazards consisted of 764 immediate exposure in the form of PP2/RT2, as low velocities limited the extent of 765 upstream waters within 10 s of the hazards. For submerged hazards, the unsavable 766 surfaces themselves (PP3/RT3) dominated not only the danger zones but also much of 767 the entire channel, such that the remaining component areas occupied limited space. 768 Lateral and longitudinal clustering of the hazards interacted with relatively low velocities 769 to restrict the expression of the other component areas. With increasing discharge, 770 these other component fractions rose because increasing velocities enlarged the 771 channel area not immediately exposed to but within 10 s of the hazards.

772 Relative to the upright body, the supine body was subjected to lower total hazard 773 exposure while passing down the river, but this danger was less uniformly experienced 774 with sudden transitions from safe pools to hazardous rapids. The differences in the 775 results between the two positions were explained by the channel geometry in the lateral 776 and longitudinal directions. The safety zone height was reduced by a factor of two from 777 1.5 to 0.75 m to account for the supine body position, and the extent of the submerged 778 unsavable surfaces (PP3/RT3) for each discharge was reduced to less than half of that 779 for the upright position. This indicated that the cross-sectional channel geometry overall 780 produced a disproportionately greater decrease in hazardous surface area for every unit 781 decrease in depth. The longitudinal profiles of danger fractions for both body positions 782 showed a discharge-independent presence of hazard exposure just upstream of the 783 waterfall near river kilometer two. Regardless of the discharge and body position, there

784 were always features here that generated hazards and yielded a peak in the danger 785 fraction profile. The discharge independence of the danger upstream of the waterfall 786 was confirmed by the positive covariance values for each distribution at this location along the river. The 85 m<sup>3</sup>/s profile for the upright position increased between river 787 788 kilometers two and 3.75 but remained low for the supine position, as this region of the 789 segment was plane bed with few features to create hazards under high discharges and 790 a supine body position. Deep pools, such as the one present around river kilometer 791 5.75, had slow velocities and drowned-out surfaces that produced discharge-792 independent safety as supported by low danger fractions and positive covariance for each distribution here. The negative covariance between 15 and 196 m<sup>3</sup>/s for the 793 794 upright body revealed that channel locations switched from dangerous to safe (river 795 kilometers 3.25 and 12.1) or vice versa (river kilometer 0.25) for this position between 796 these two discharges. The region that became more dangerous was explained by a secondary channel thread that was relatively calm at 15 m<sup>3</sup>/s but became much more 797 hazardous at 196 m<sup>3</sup>/s. For both body positions, increasing discharge corresponded to 798 799 an upstream loading of the danger fraction cumulative distributions as hazards were 800 largely drowned out beyond river kilometer two. Relative to the cumulative distributions 801 for the upright body, the more abrupt increases in the distributions for the supine body 802 indicated a greater sensitivity to the dichotomous step-pool channel geometry that was 803 present along much of the segment.

#### 804 5.2. Model implications

805 This study has broached the topic of how to mechanistically characterize the 806 exposure of people to hazards upon entrainment in a whitewater river. Flood-related 807 deaths are not linked exclusively to whether or not people have been swept away. A 808 survey of people affected by the Bangladesh cyclone of 1991 found that 112 out of 285 809 people (39%) who were carried away by the storm surge died (Bern et al., 1993). The 810 hazard delineation procedure used herein offers a foundation for identifying the 811 locations of hazards for which refinements can be adopted depending on the setting. 812 For example, the automated mapping of unsavable surfaces in an urban flood 813 environment can be paired with the manual delineation of specific features that are of 814 particular concern for causing physical trauma and body entrapment. However, the 815 model developed in this study does not account for changes to the landscape as a 816 result of flood flows that may alter the hydraulics and the distribution of hazards, such 817 as the mobilization of debris in an urban setting (Chanson et al., 2014). The methods 818 introduced in this study also do not address other urban flood hazards including 819 drowning within a vehicle that's driven into floodwaters.

820 Given the complexity of predicting where a volitional, inertial body would move 821 within a flow field, multiple simplifications were made that permitted a substantive first 822 step for this line of research. Instantaneous hazard exposure was quantified for any 823 point in the flow where a body could be present, though Lagrangian particle tracking 824 would be the next logical step to more rigorously assess the hazard exposure of a body 825 moving along a path through the flow under a variety of different scenarios. This 826 includes someone who has fallen out of their raft within a rapid or someone who has 827 lost stability while evacuating a residence and swept down a flooded street. This could 828 also help determine the connectivity of safe flow regions present along a river or flooded 829 neighborhood through which people may be carried with relatively low exposure to830 hazards.

## 831 6. Conclusion

832 This study presented a new, analytical approach to characterizing the exposure 833 of people to hazards within a flow. LiDAR and two-dimensional model results for a 834 segment of the South Yuba River offered a unique opportunity to delineate hazards and 835 mechanistically describe the exposure of an entrained body to these features for a 836 whitewater river setting. Passage proximity and reaction time were introduced as 837 metrics derived from the velocity magnitude and direction to express a body's hazard 838 exposure. Increasing discharge produced concave-down trends in the body's exposure 839 to emergent and submerged unsavable surface hazards, while a monotonic increase 840 occurred for exposure to jump hazards. The total hazard exposure faced by a body 841 moving down the river in the upright position was greater than that for a supine body, 842 although the supine body experienced a less uniform exposure to hazards including 843 abrupt encounters with dangerous channel regions. Further investigation is needed for 844 the concept of savability given its importance to quantifying hazard exposure, such that 845 the model may be applied to other dangerous flow settings like urban floods.

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## 1010 Figure Captions

- 1011 **Fig. 1** Study segment location in California and within the Yuba River watershed
- 1012 Fig. 2 Human body safety zones for the (a) upright and (b) supine positions
- 1013 **Fig. 3** Decision tree for the surface hazard delineation that begins with the dashed-line
- 1014 rounded box in the upper left and ends with hazardous surfaces in the dark-shaded
- 1015 squared boxes and safe surfaces in the light-shaded rounded boxes
- 1016 **Fig. 4** (a) Orientation γ of the flow vector to the supercritical flow point given the vector
- 1017 angle  $\alpha$  and the angle  $\beta$  of the line connecting the vector to the point; (b) a site 1018 demonstrating the delineated jump hazard points
- 1019 **Fig. 5** Scenario in which the body's centroid does not approach within 0.9 m of a hazardous surface, savable surface, or hydraulic jump point
- 1021 Fig. 6 Scenario in which the body's centroid does approach within 0.9 m of a hazardous
  1022 surface, savable surface, or hydraulic jump point
- Fig. 7 The appropriate hazard points, marked as squares, for setting the reaction time
  rating at a mesh node given (a) a PP2 rating and (b) a PP1 rating
- Fig. 8 Kite-blimp imagery of the SYR with the dashed-line perimeter of an emergentsurface plus the associated hypothetical paired rating areas
- Fig. 9 (a) Photo looking upstream at hydraulic jumps at the confluence of Canyon Creek
  (left) and the South Yuba River (right); (b) predicted locations of supercritical flow and
  hydraulic jumps for the discharge in (a) (aerial imagery shows a lower baseflow)
- Fig. 10 Four scenarios with different danger zone shapes and sizes and flow vectorsscaled independently for each panel to the velocity magnitude
- 1032 Fig. 11 A site at four different discharges with danger zones mapped for emergent1033 unsavable surface hazards only
- Fig. 12 (a) Aerial imagery of two rapids with (b) emergent unsavable surface hazards,
  (c) jump hazards, and (d) submerged unsavable surface hazards for an entrained
  upright body at 31 m<sup>3</sup>/s
- Fig. 13 Segment-scale areal fractions of exposure to (a) emergent unsavable surface
  hazards, (b) jump hazards, (c) submerged unsavable surface hazards, (d) total hazards
  for the upright body, and (e) total hazards for the supine body
- 1040 **Fig. 14** Longitudinal profiles of valley centerline elevation and danger fractions
- averaged within 0.5 km windows for (a) the upright and (b) supine bodies; longitudinal
- 1042 profiles of danger fraction covariance averaged within 0.5 km windows for (c) the upright
- and (d) supine bodies; longitudinal profiles of cumulative danger fractions for (e) the
- 1044 upright and (f) supine bodies

## **Supplemental materials**

#### Topographic mapping data

For the SYR, the entire 12.2 km study segment was surveyed in the summer of 2009. Airborne LiDAR data of the terrestrial river corridor as well as bedrock outcrops and emergent boulders in the wetted base flow channel averaged 1 point per 0.74 m. Because the SYR had many large emergent boulders within the wetted area at base flow, the LiDAR survey was able to map many of them with multiple points; then a novel data-processing and object identification workflow was used to delineate each boulder as an object (Pasternack and Senter 2011). In this way, 34,113 individual boulders were explicitly resolved in the DEM-an important and unique aspect of this study in order to address hydraulic hazards. Ground-based wadeable channel surveys were done using a Leica TPS1200 robotic total station, a Topcon GTS-603 total station, and Trimble 5700 RTK GPS. Survey point density was ~1 point every 5 m on a rough grid and 1 point every 1 m along the thalweg. Bathymetric data was collected in pools using a pontoon-mounted Sonarmite echosounder coupled to a Trimble 5700 RTK GPS. This rig was floated laterally and longitudinally along pool cross-sections spaced ~5 m apart, and with data collected on a 5 s time interval. Combining these data collection methods, the segment-averaged topographic point density was 38-39 points per 100 m<sup>2</sup> both within and beyond the 0.283  $m^3$ /s base flow domain.

Data collected using different observational methods were compared (i.e., every method against every other method) where they overlapped to assess uncertainty, with full details reported in Pasternack and Senter (2011). Each survey method involved internal performance tests, such as backsight checks, GPS root mean square values, and comparison of airborne LiDAR observations to ground-based observations on flat, smooth roads. Internal checks were within typical high-quality standards, which is within 0.5-10 cm for vertical accuracy in rough terrain and over long distances with a steep valley slope. Uncertainty assessment becomes more complicated when comparing methods, because (1) LiDAR and echosounders observe an area, while pole-mounted instruments observe mm-scale points and (2) grain-scale topographic relief in the SYR mountain channel easily ranges from 2 to 200 cm. Even with the rapid advancements in landform mapping detail and accuracy as used in this study and even if the technologies are performing equally in both settings, mountain channel comparisons will underperform lowland channel comparisons, because of the greater range of topographic variability in the mapped units, including sharp slope breaks. For instance, whereas 208 observed deviations between LiDAR and RTK GPS points on flat, smooth roads showed that 45% of deviations were within 2.5 cm of each other, 66% within 5 cm, and 96% within 10 cm, 247 observed deviations between LiDAR and ground-based instruments in the topographically complex river corridor showed that 18% were within 5 cm, 43% within 10 cm, 85% within 25 cm and 98% within 50 cm. Nevertheless, accuracy performance within the river corridor was well within the range of grain-scale relief, a key performance target.

#### Two-dimensional hydrodynamic modeling

Two-dimensional models of both segments were made using the Surface-water Modeling System v.10.0 (Aquaveo, LLC, Provo, UT) and run using Sedimentation and River Hydraulics (SRH-2D, v. 2.1) according to the procedures of Pasternack (2011). SRH-2D is a 2D finite-volume model that solves fluid mechanics equations to produce an estimate for depth and velocity at each computational node (Lai 2008). SRH-2D implements a hybrid structured-unstructured mesh that can use both quadrilateral and triangular elements of any size allowing for mesh detail comparable to any finite-element model.

Although this study focuses on four modeled flows associated with the spring snowmelt hydrological regime with respect to investigating hydraulic hazards, flows were actually modeled over three orders of magnitude for three hydrologic seasons (dry, wet, and snowmelt) for additional hydraulic, geomorphic, and ecological analyses (Pasternack and Senter 2011). Input discharge was obtained from USGS gaging stations on the South Yuba River at Lang's Crossing (#11414250) and on Canyon Creek below Bowman (#11416500). The South Yuba River has substantial ungaged accretionary flows, so a thorough hydrological analysis was completed (Pasternack and Senter, 2011) yielding regression relations to estimate accretionary flows from the major ungaged tributaries for three different hydrological seasons (wet, dry, and snowmelt). A stage-discharge relation was made between the total gaged inflows (SYR at Lang's Crossing plus Canyon Creek below Bowman) and observed water surface elevations at the exit of the study segment for total inflows ranging from 0.424 to 200.65  $m^3$ /s. The time lag between inflow gage values and outflow WSE values was estimated for both gages and accounted for in the stage-discharge relation. For the remote outlet of the upstream computational mesh there was no appropriate location for a stage recorder. That model's downstream WSE was set to equal the simulated WSE at the entrance to the downstream computational mesh for that flow simulation.

To simulate hydrodynamics over the discharge range investigated with reasonable computational efficiency, it is beneficial to create different computational meshes that span key inundation extents and divide the length of a river segment into two or more linked sections. For the SYR, two inundation extents (< ~30 m<sup>3</sup>/s and < ~200 m<sup>3</sup>/s) and two longitudinal sections (study entrance to upstream of confluence with Canyon Creek, and upstream of Canyon Creek to study terminus) were used, all with 1-m internodal spacing. The downstream low and high flow meshes had 331,593 and 467,272 elements, respectively. The upstream low and high flow meshes had 284,461 and 396,615 elements, respectively. For each flow-regime simulation, the results from the two reaches were merged to create a single point file for evaluation in GIS using the output processing workflows explained in Pasternack (2011).

Roughness associated with resolved bedform topography (e.g., alluvial bars, partially to fully emergent boulders and boulder clusters, and bedrock outcrops) was explicitly represented in the detailed channel DEM and the 1 m resolution computational mesh. Given the heterogeneity of bed material, bedrock, and vegetation as well as the presence of all such features impacting hydraulic roughness across a wide range of flows, unresolved bed roughness was parameterized using a spatially and flow independent Manning's n value of 0.1. This value was confirmed through depth and velocity validation as well as sensitivity analysis.

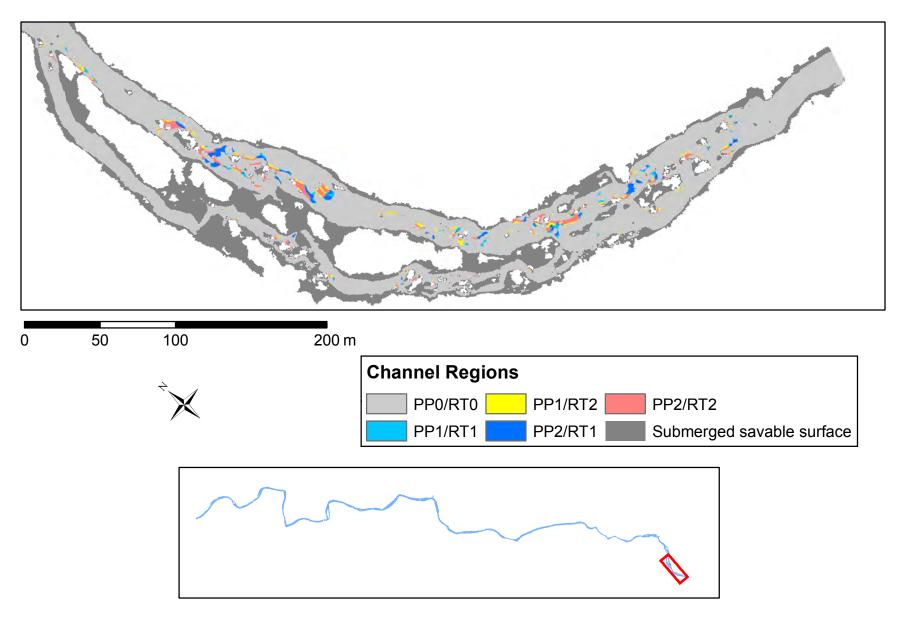
Extensive model validation was performed for model simulations over two orders of magnitude of flow ranges (~0.62 to 26.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s combined flow from the two inflow gages). Mass conservation between specified input flow and computed output flows for simulations of observed conditions was within 1%, except for the lowest flow simulation

of the upstream mesh. That one run had a loss of 1.9%, which was considered reasonable given the extreme complexity of the channel topography and uncertainty in accretionary flows at the lowest discharge (which is well below the base flow discharge used for MU mapping in this study). WSE performance was tested by comparing 17,198 pairs of model predictions against LiDAR observations throughout the two meshes at base flow for a mean signed deviation of -2.8 cm. Performance was best where the water surface was flat and smooth and worst in steep sites with waves, but data from all areas were aggregated to obtain the unsigned statistical distribution of error. For unsigned deviations, 34% of test points were within 5 cm vertical, 51% within 10 cm, and 91% within 25 cm. Surface velocity magnitude was measured at 273 locations and compared to depth-averaged model predictions using the method of Barker (2011), vielding a good predicted versus observed  $r^2$  of 0.61. Further analysis revealed that  $r^2$ was 0.8 when velocities were limited to those in pools or transitional areas between pools and other morphological units. It was 0.5-0.64 on planar surfaces in the channel and in the floodway. The only unsatisfactory performance occurred in steep sites with waves where  $r^2$  was 0.06. Median unsigned velocity magnitude error was 28% for all observations, but also varied depending on morphological unit type from 21-36%. Interestingly, steep sites with waves had a reasonable median unsigned error of 25%. Overall, the SYR 2D model met all common standards of 2D model performance in aggregate, but some care was needed in the use of values at the steepest sites where the horizontal flow assumption was violated. Even though SRH-2D is assumed to be stable for simulating extremely steep reaches, model performance in predicting precise velocities appears to suffer in such areas. Prediction accuracy only matters to the extent that velocity and depth values are above the thresholds to correctly classify locations as hydraulic jumps or proximal to emergent and submerged rocks and banks.

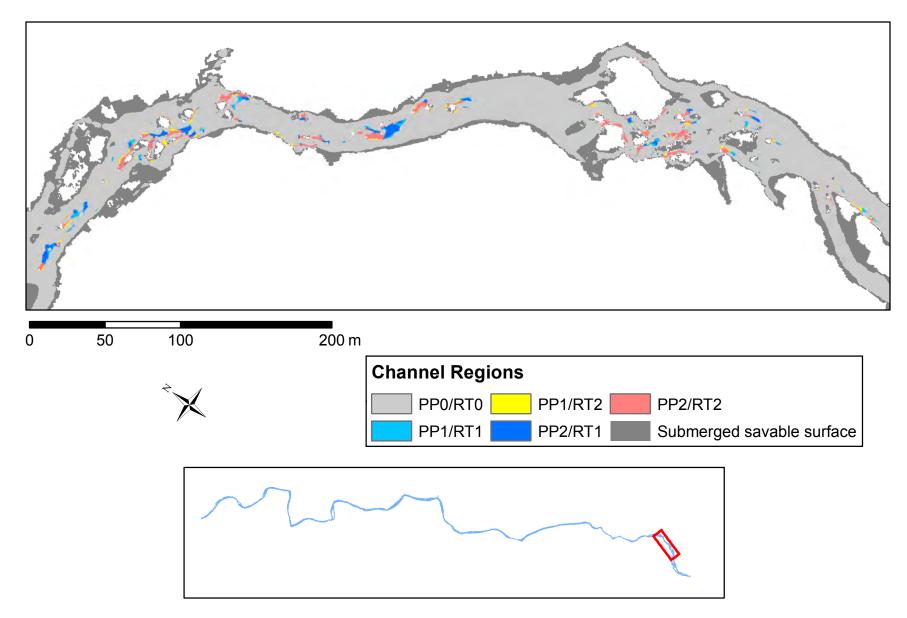
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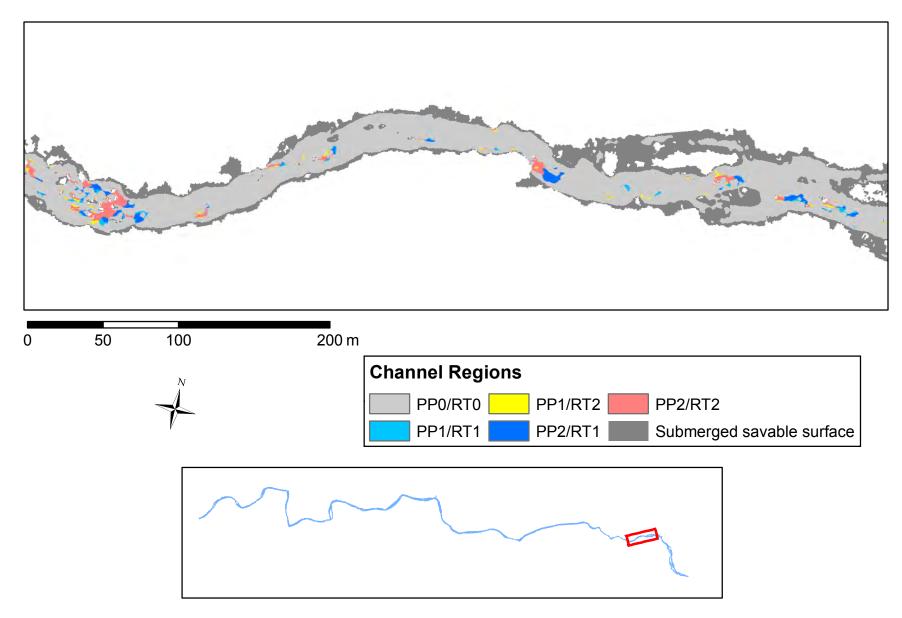
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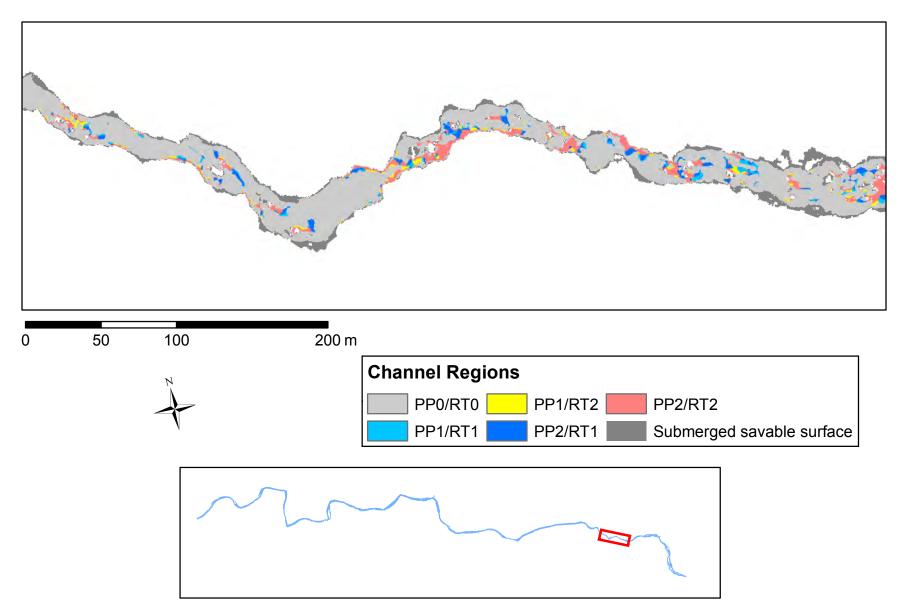
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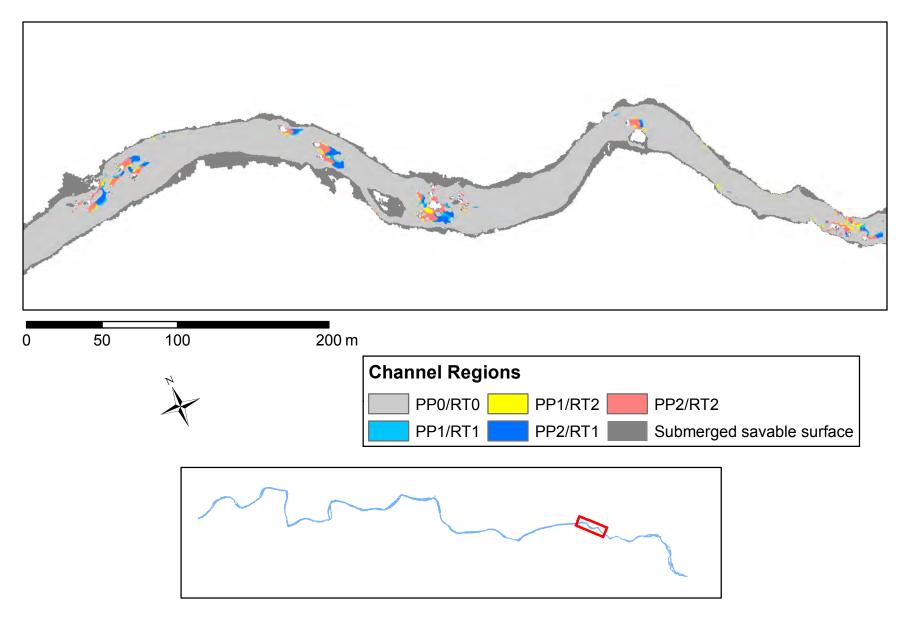
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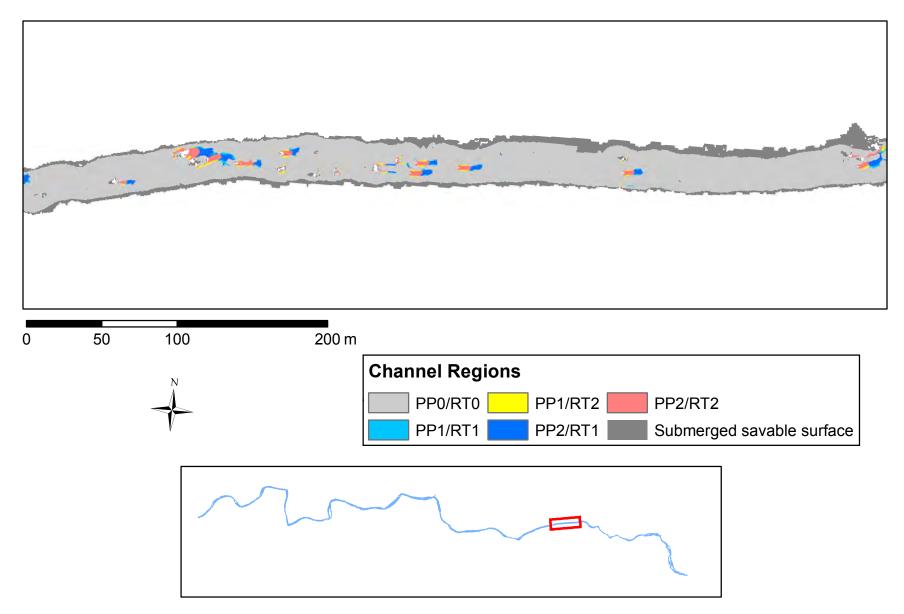


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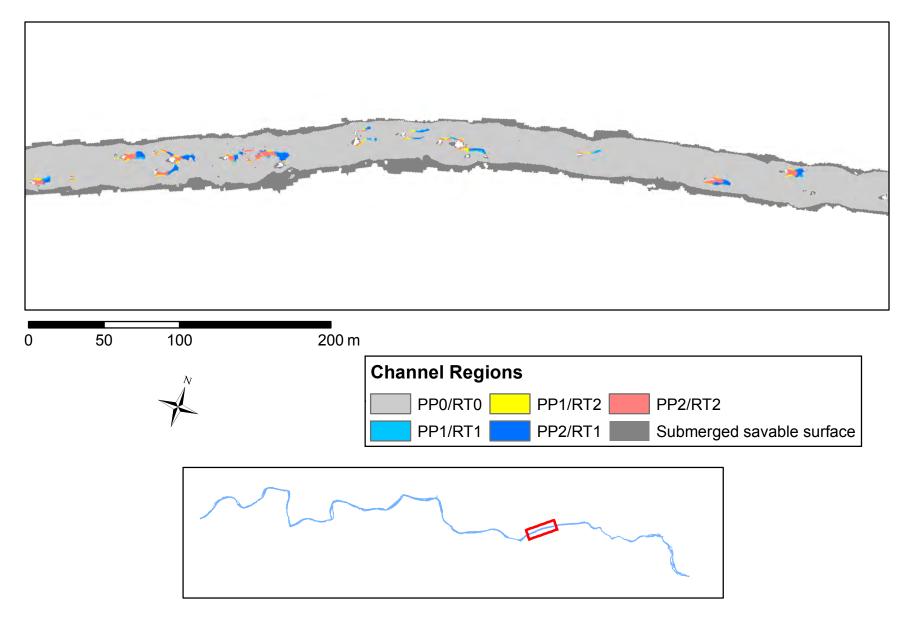


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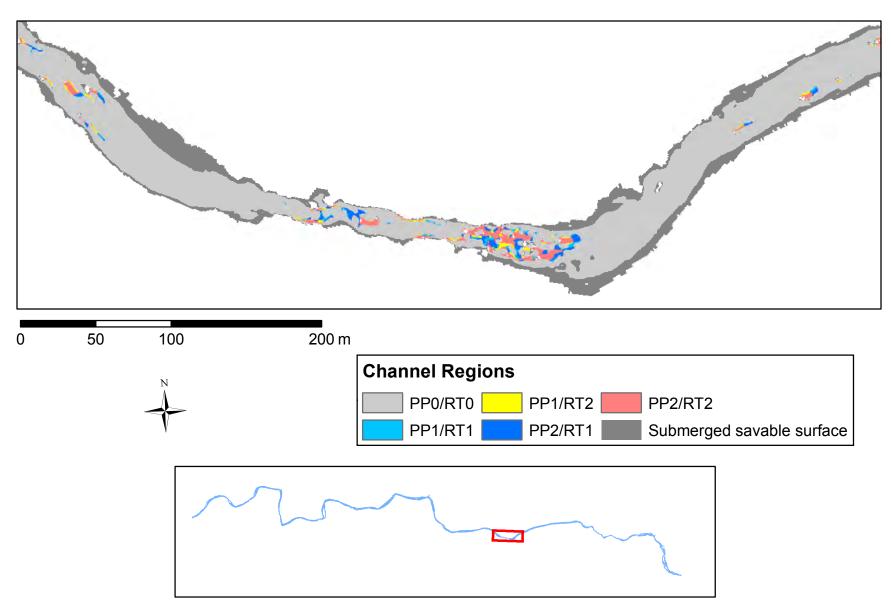




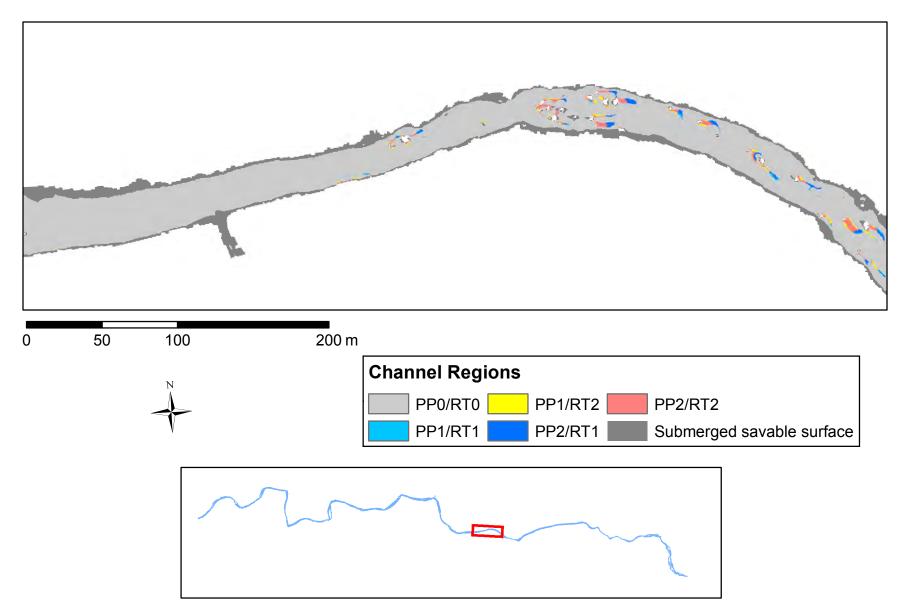
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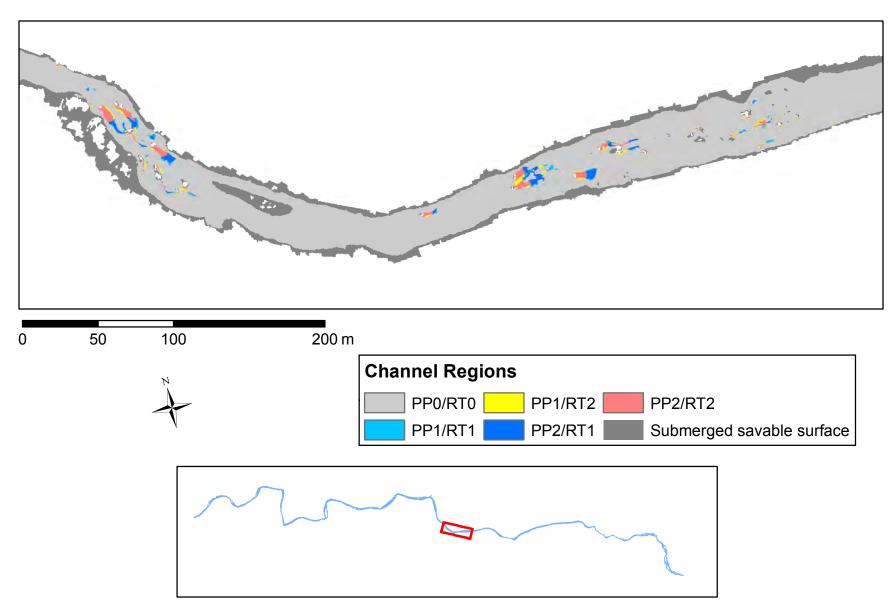




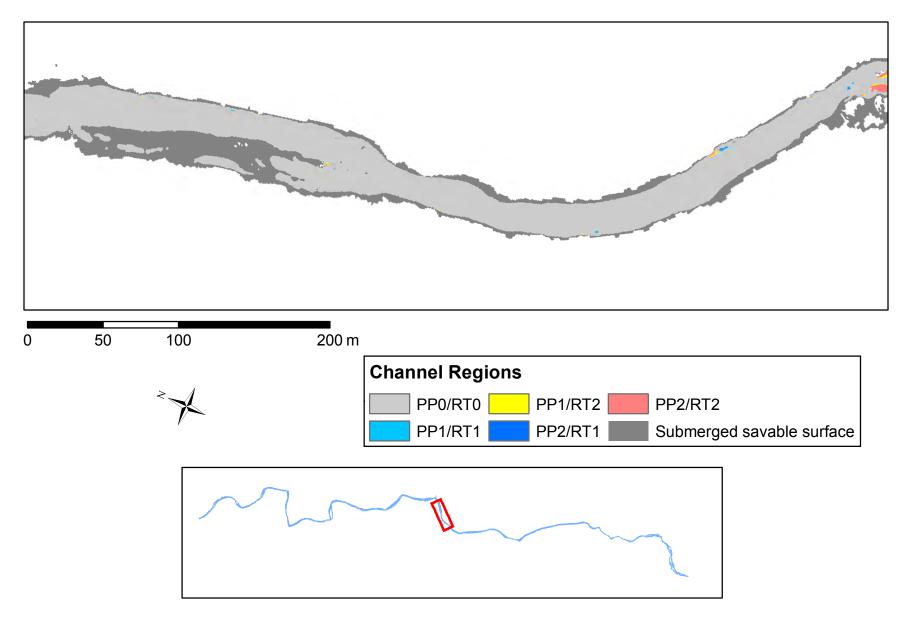
SYR Emergent Unsavable Surface Hazards at 31 m<sup>3</sup>/s, p. 9



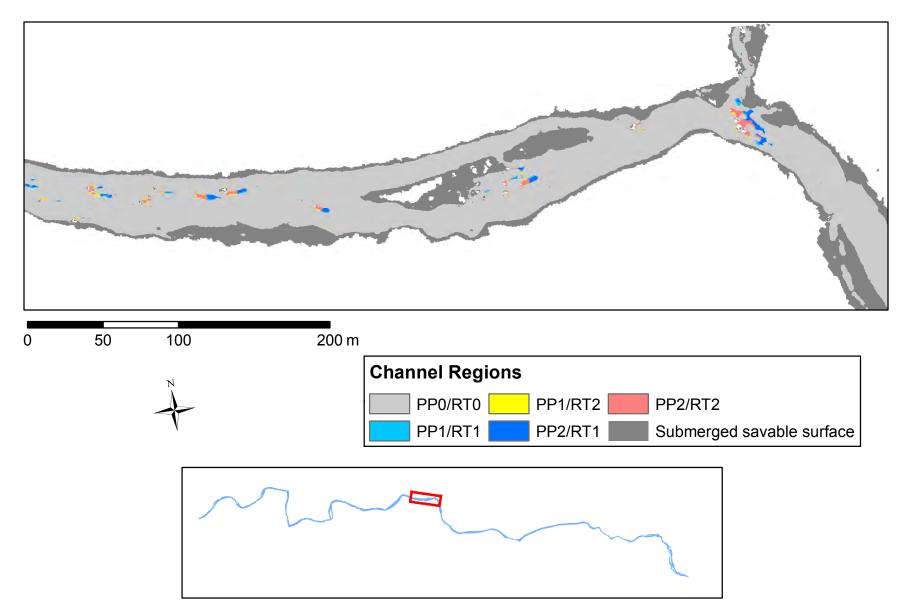


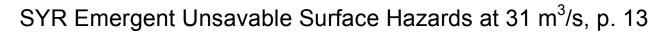


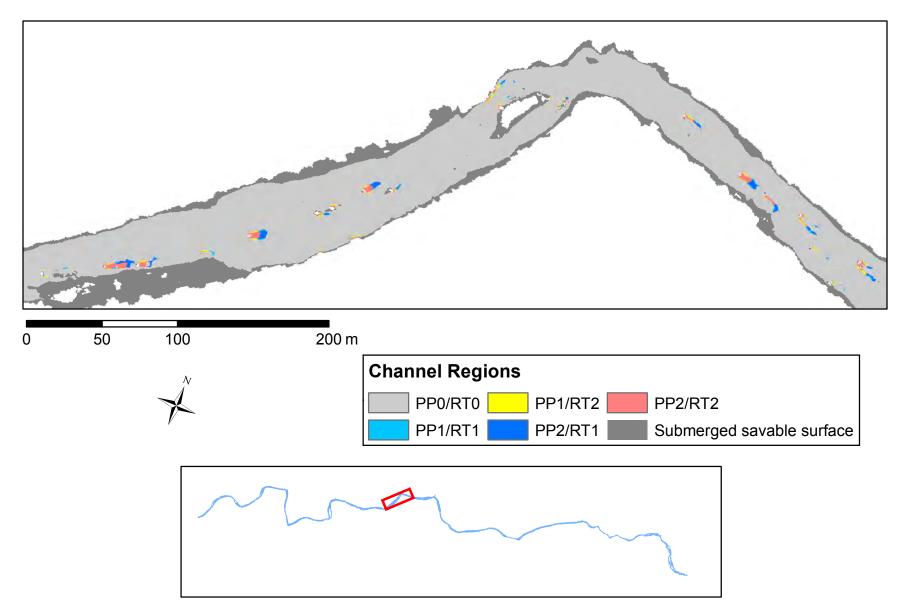
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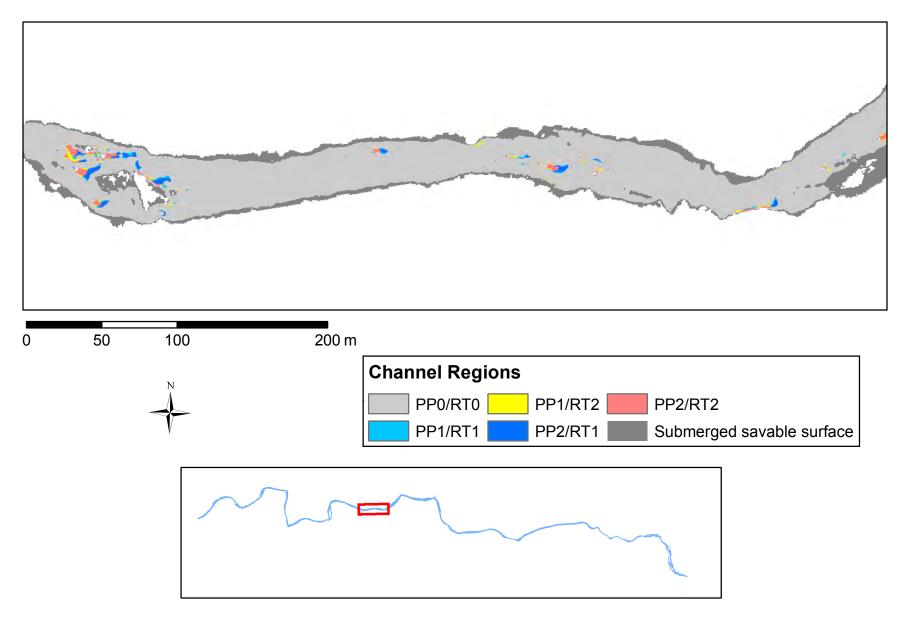
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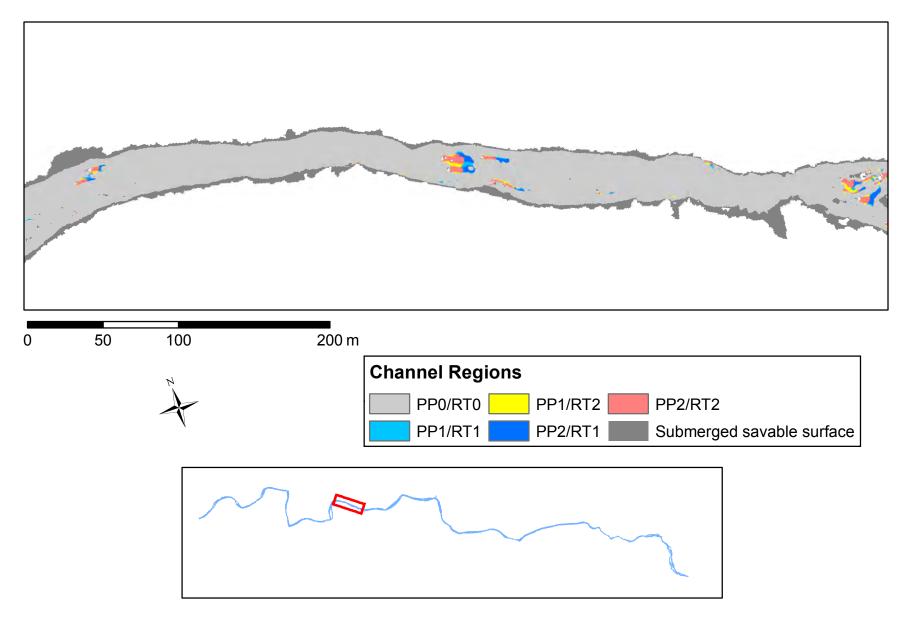




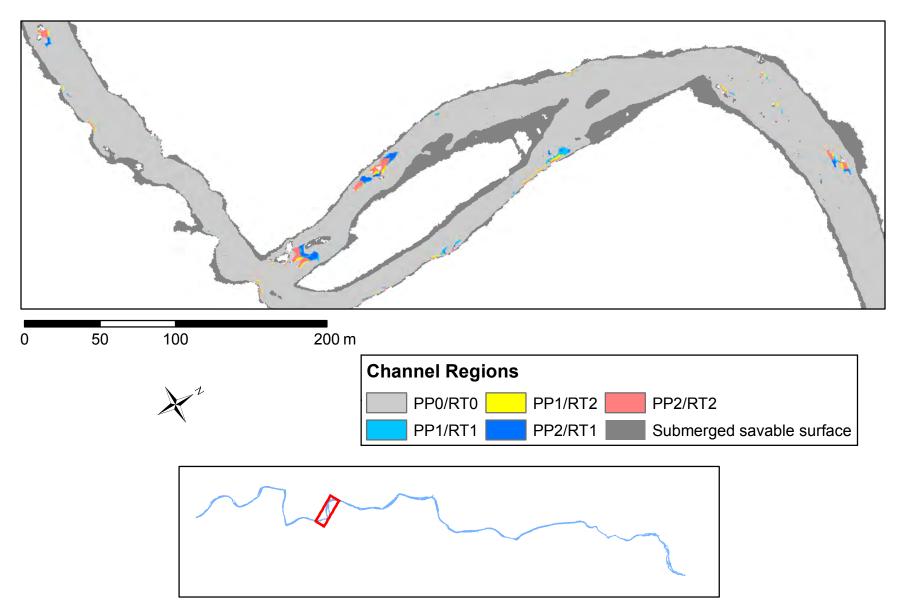


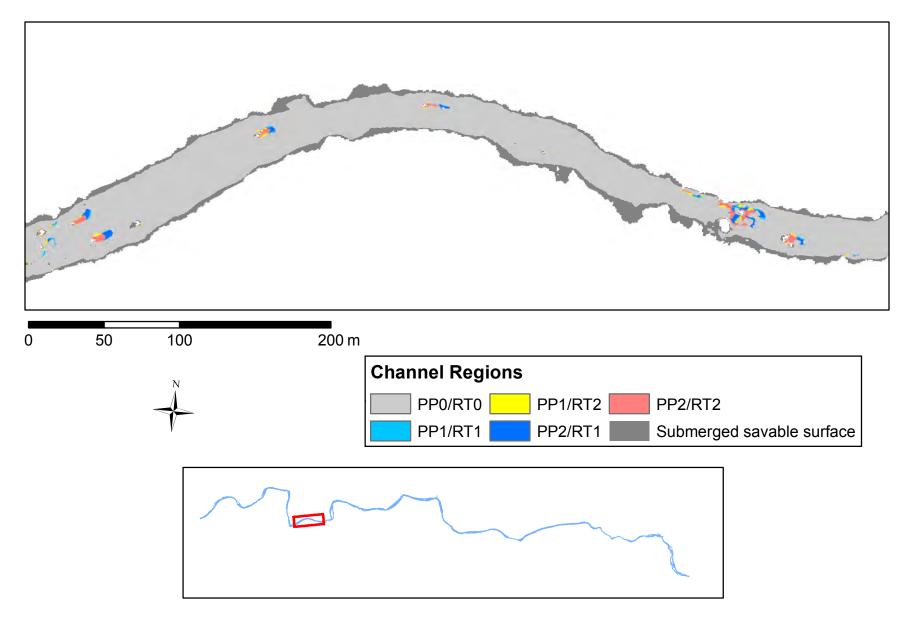
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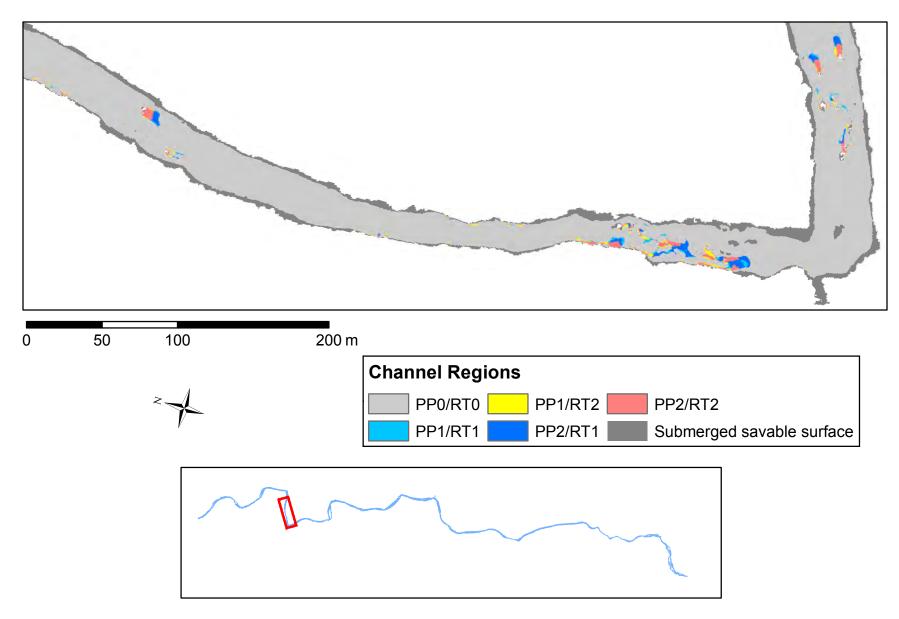




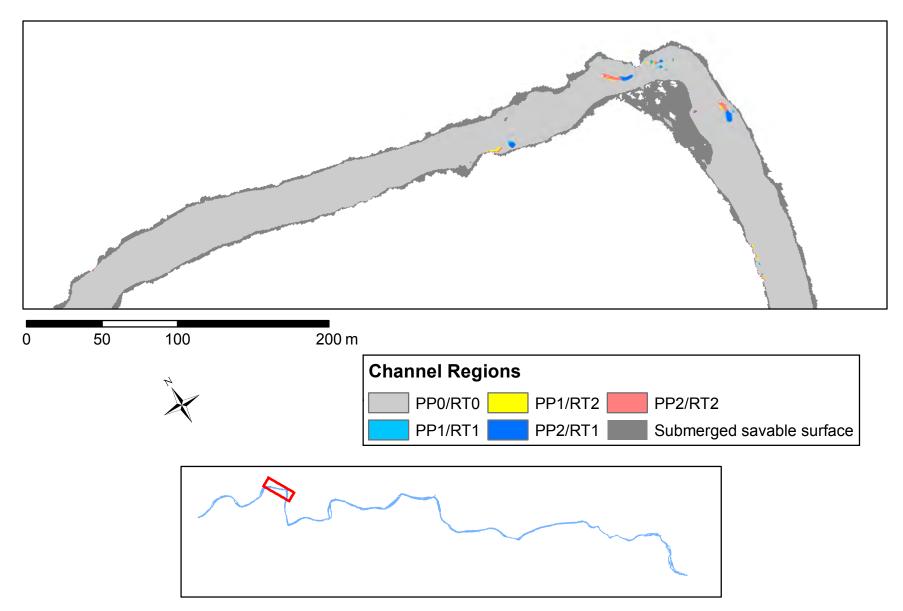




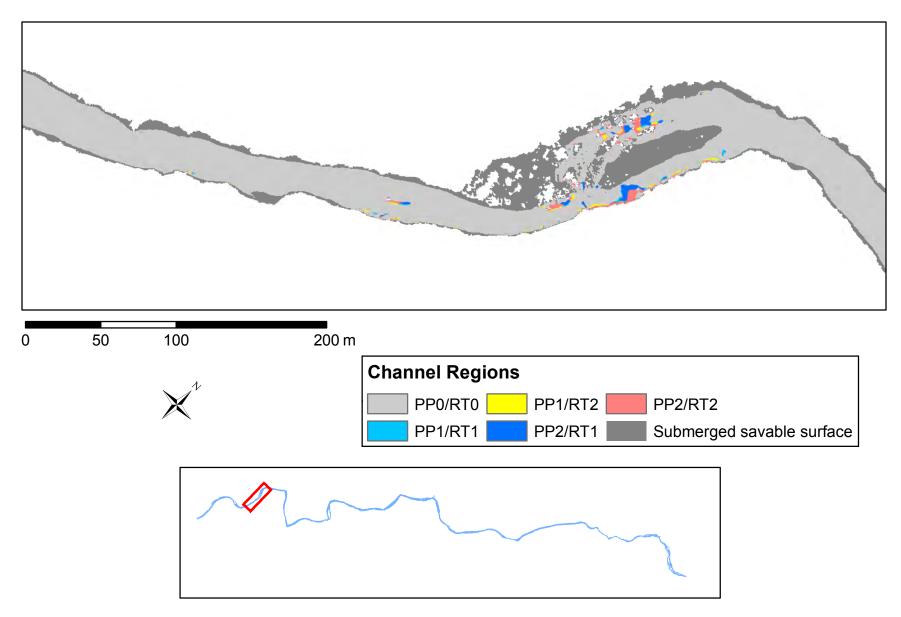
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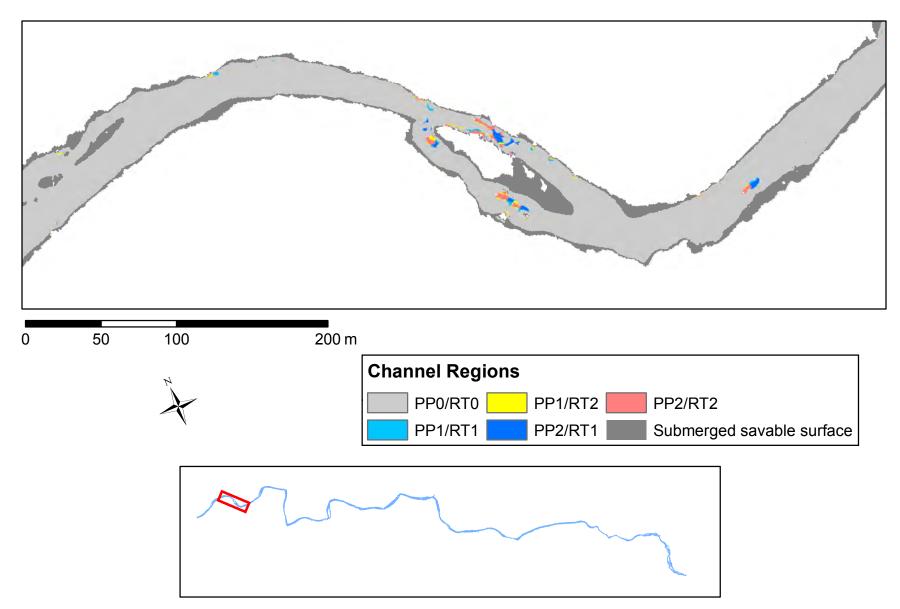




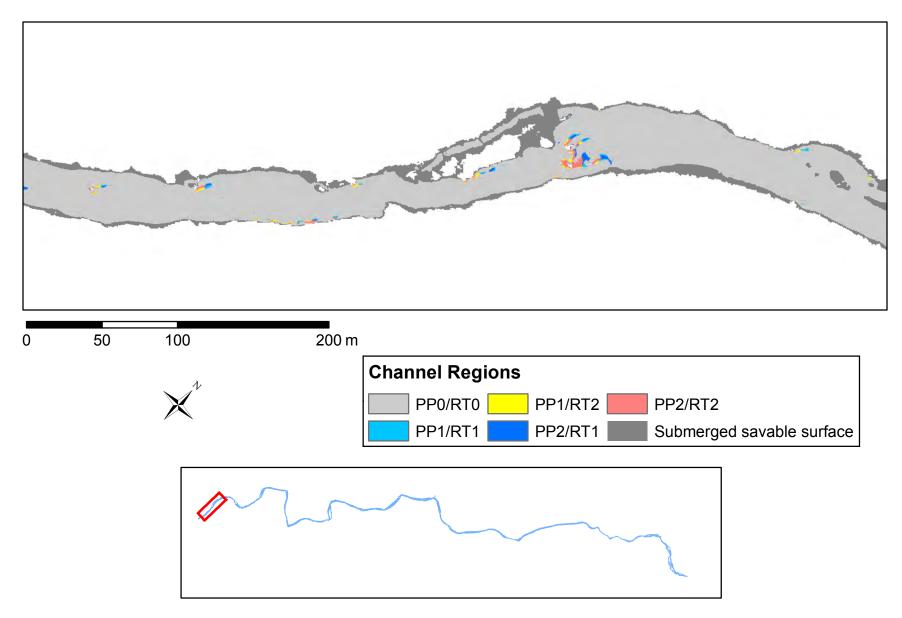
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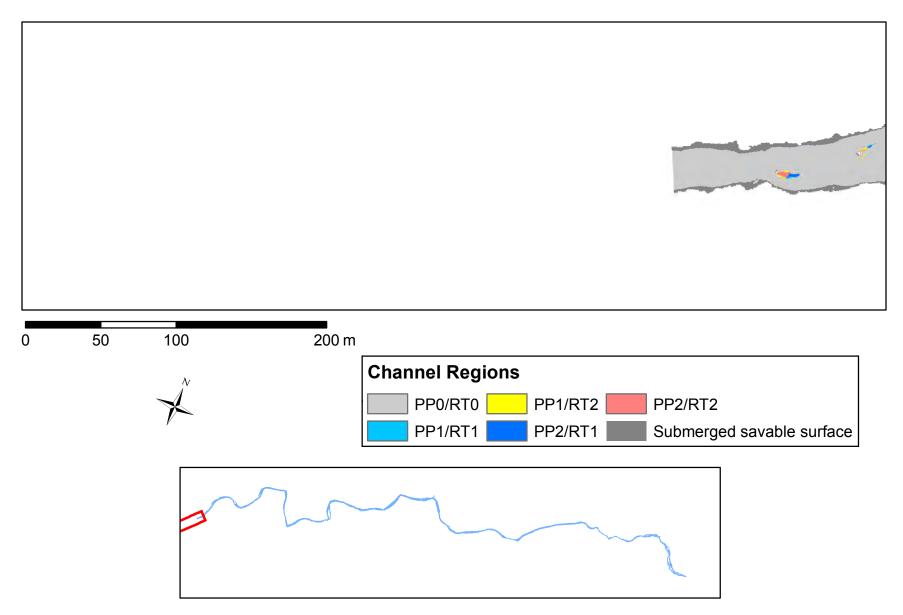


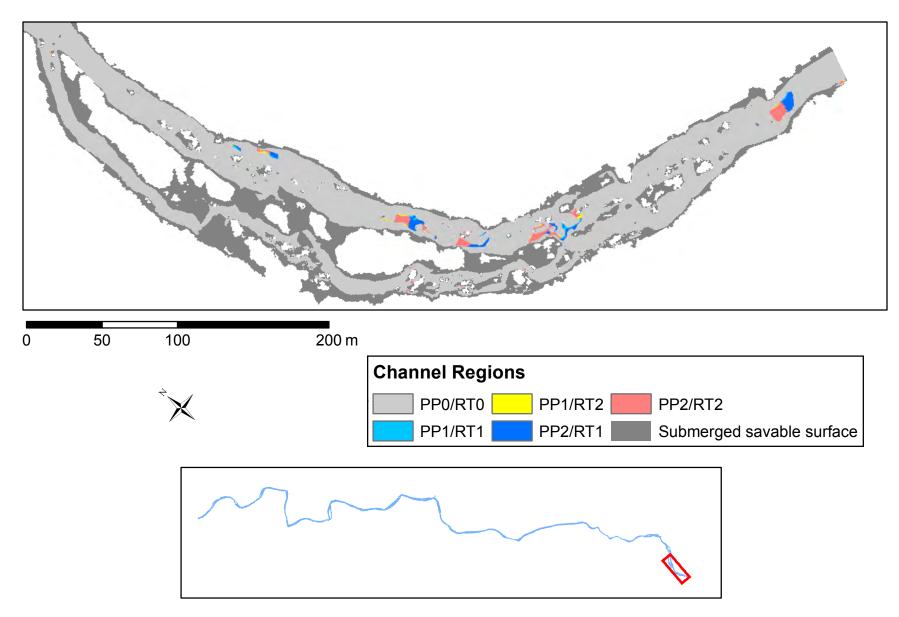


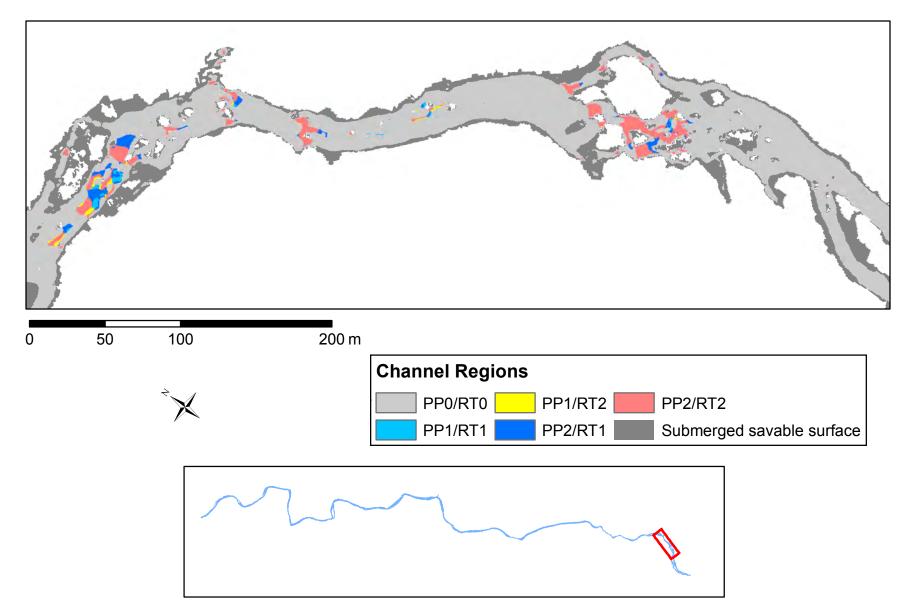


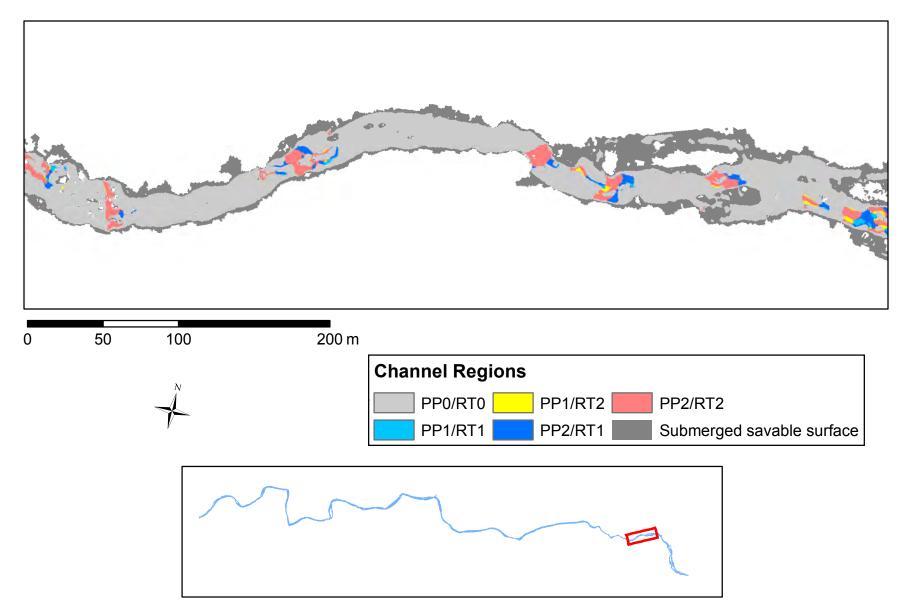
SYR Emergent Unsavable Surface Hazards at 31 m<sup>3</sup>/s, p. 22

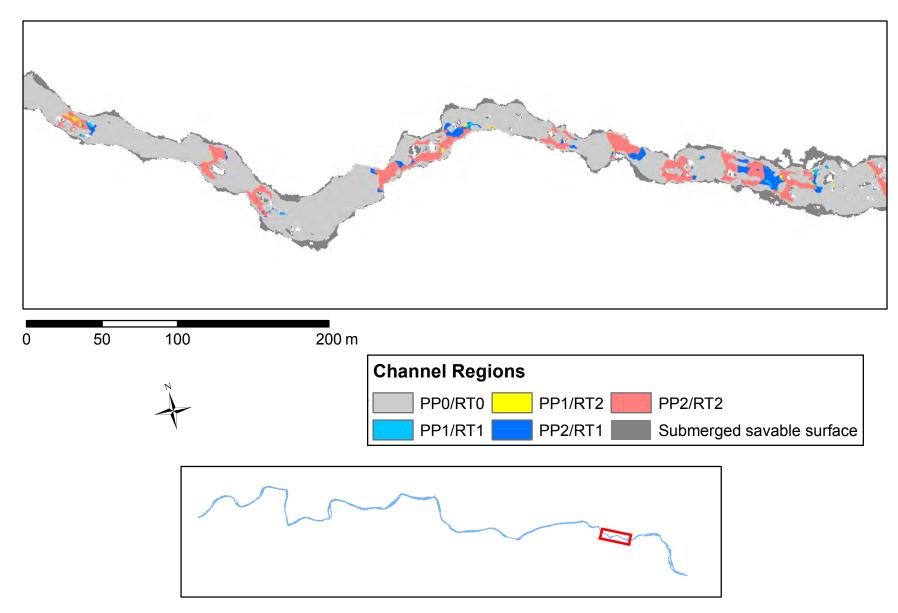


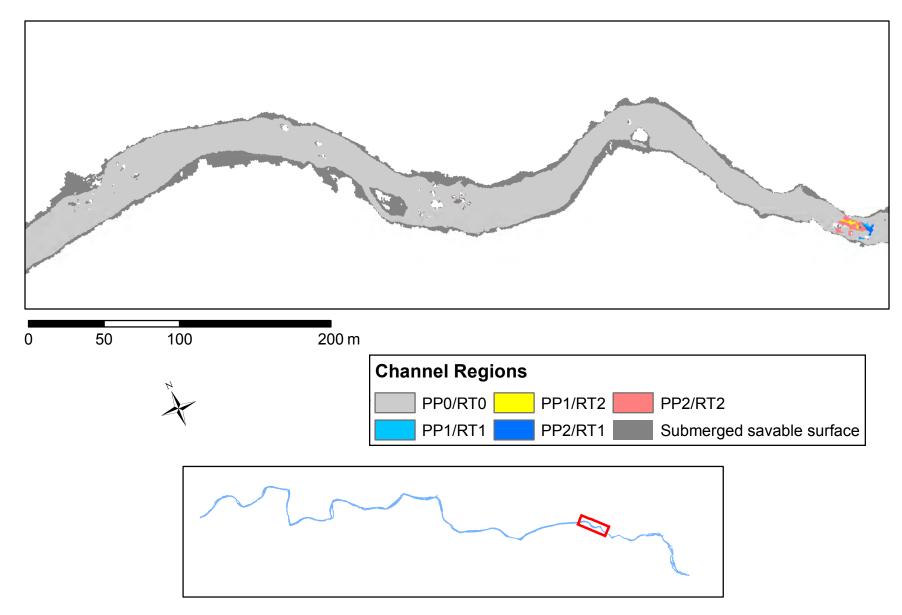


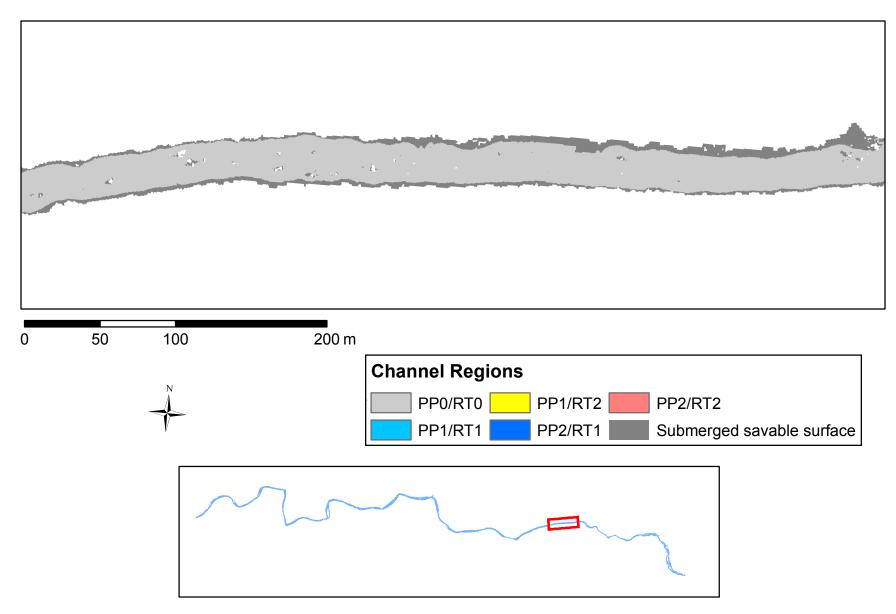


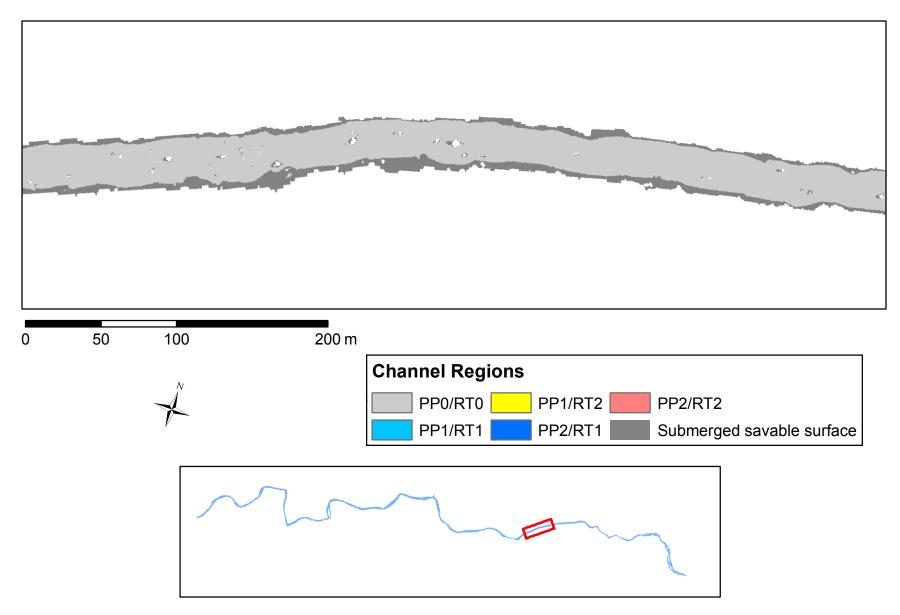


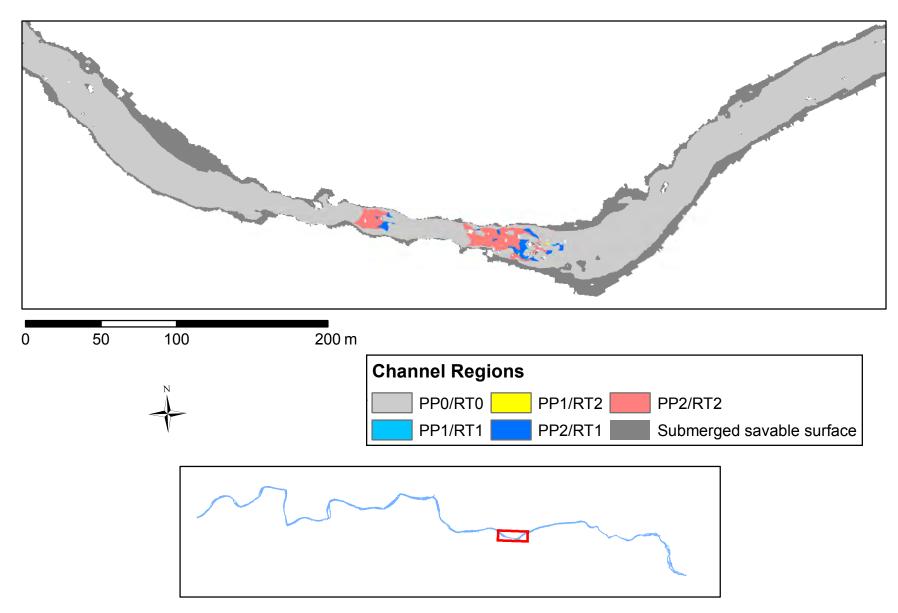


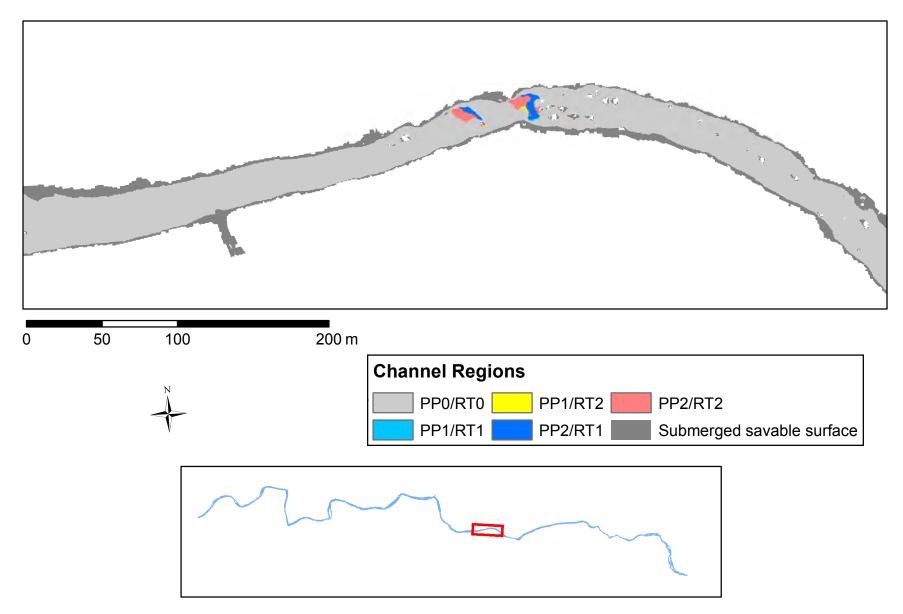


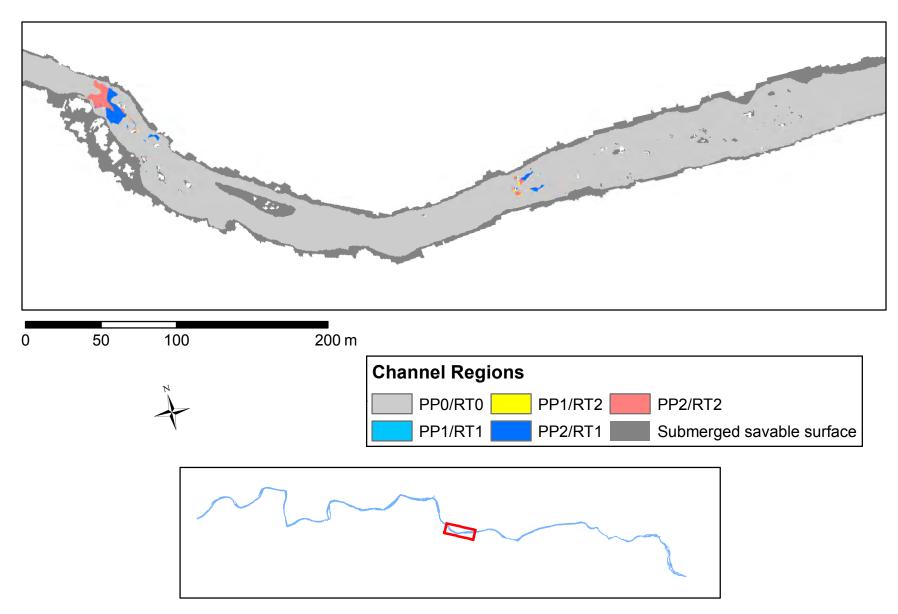


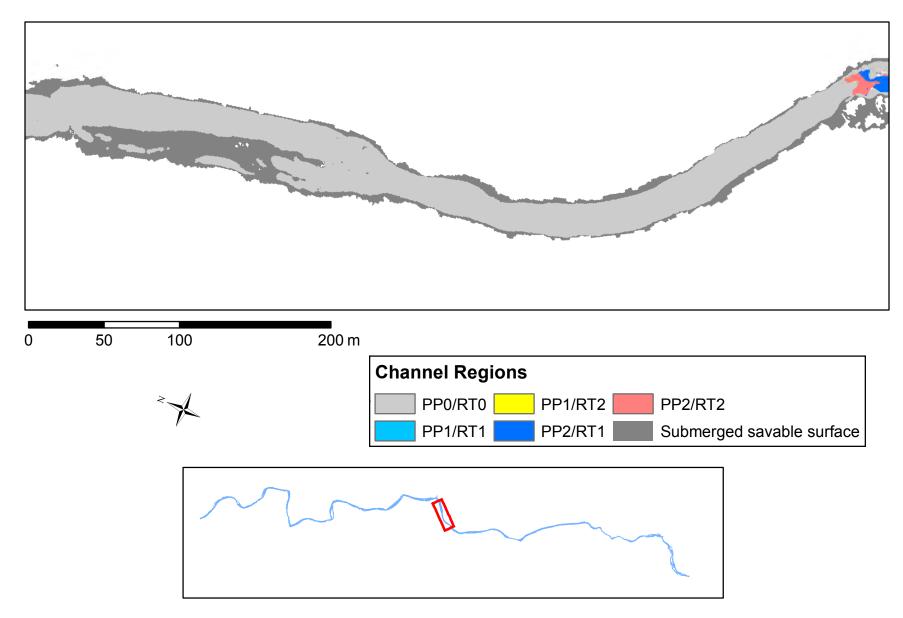


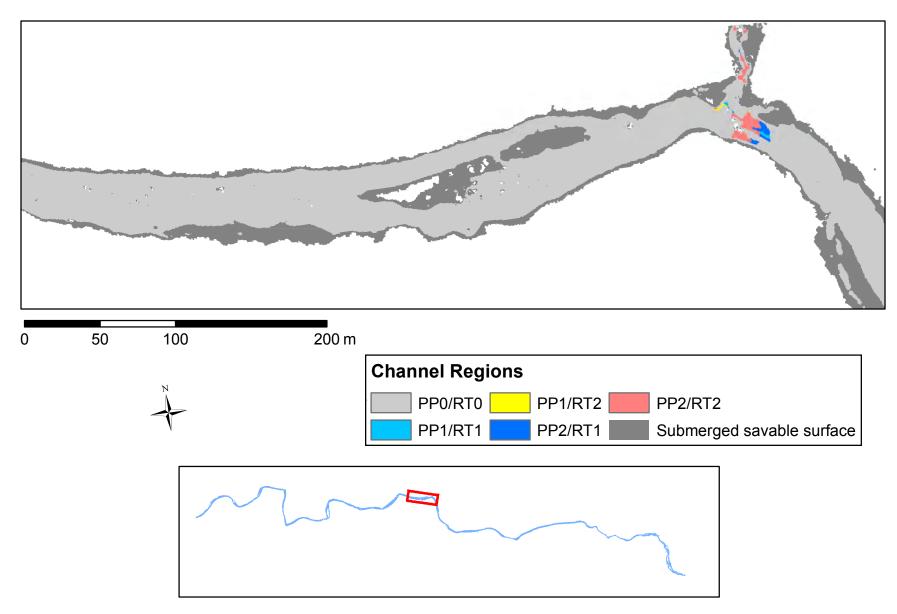


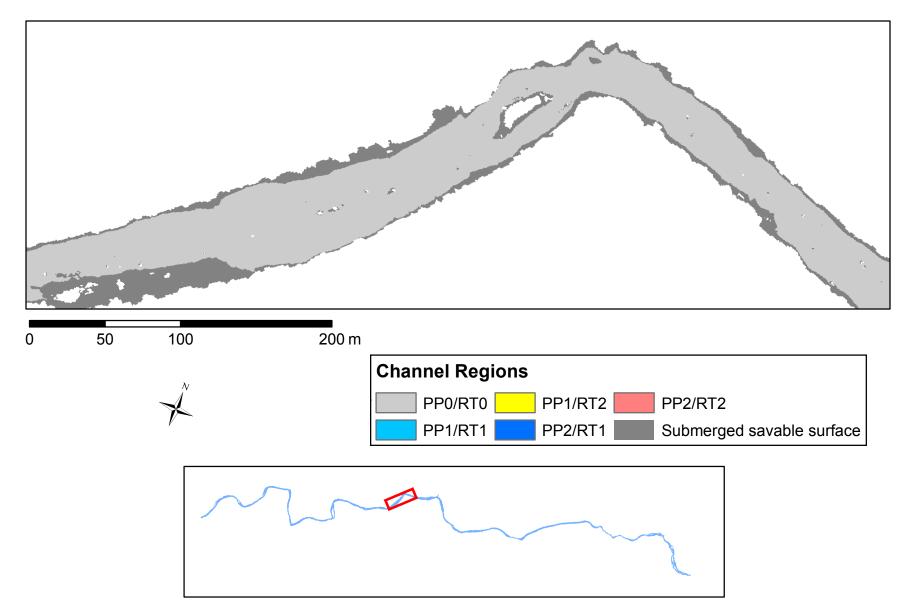


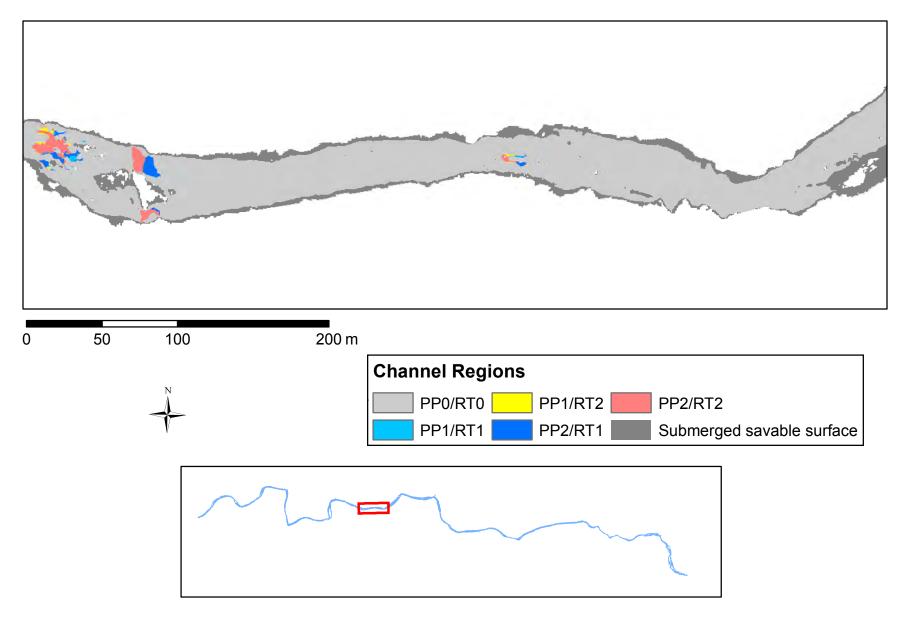


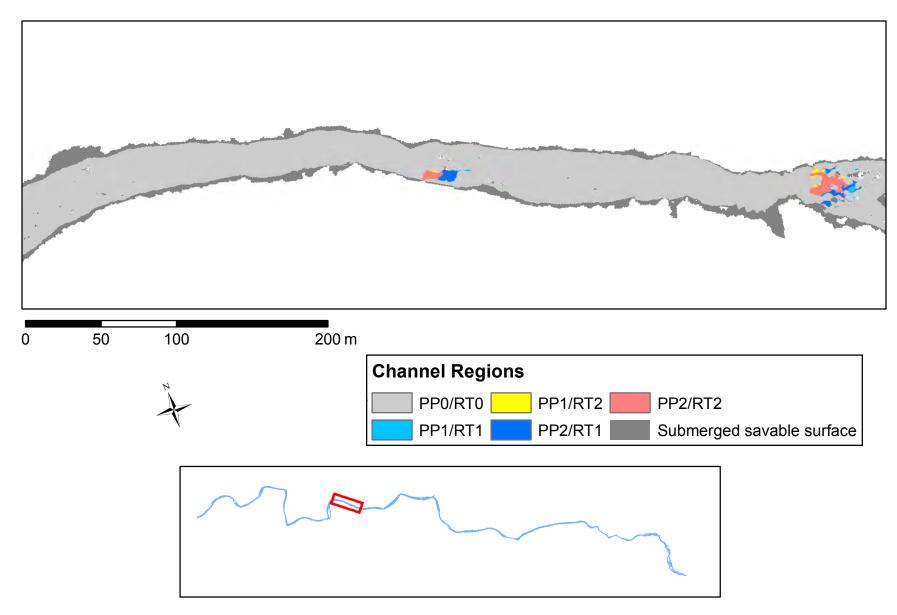


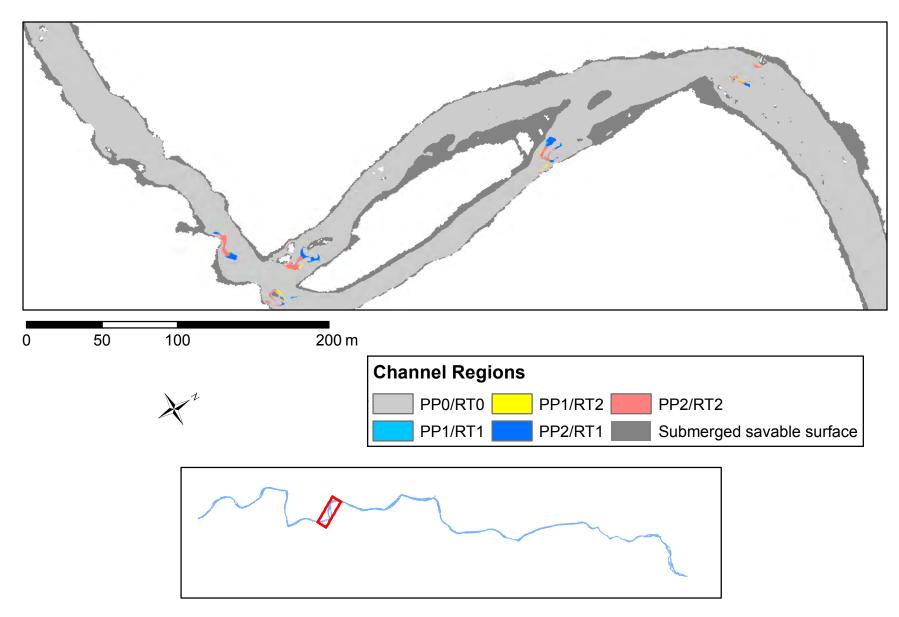


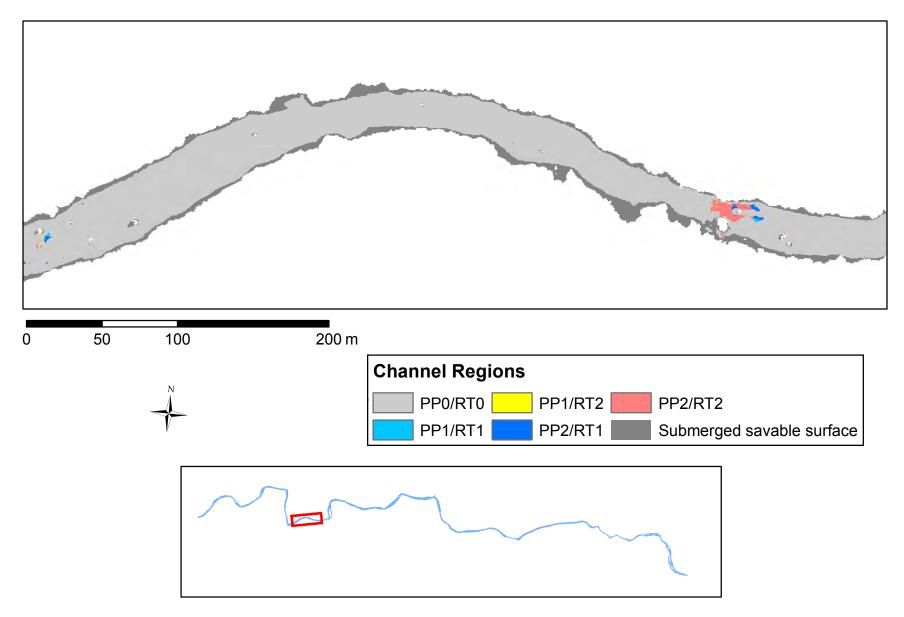


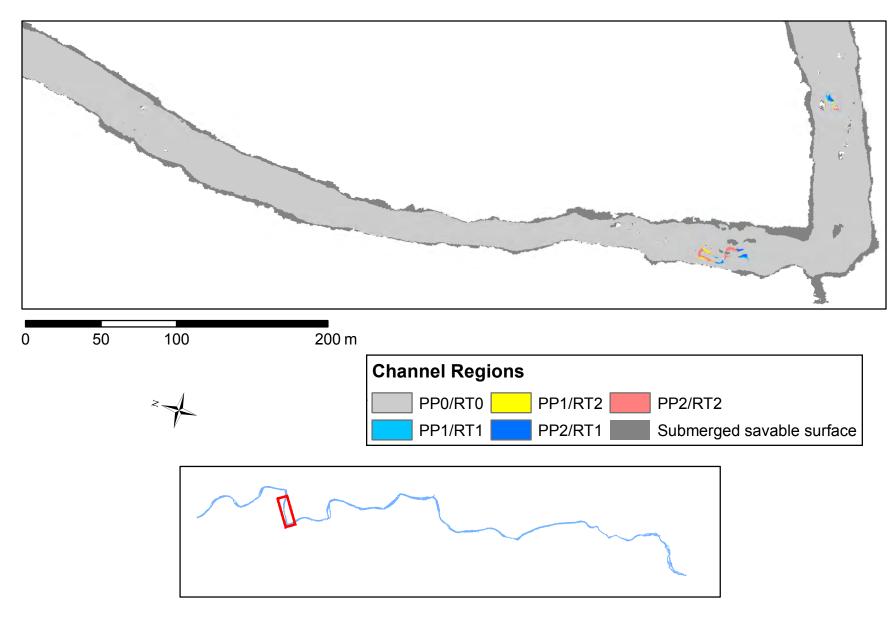


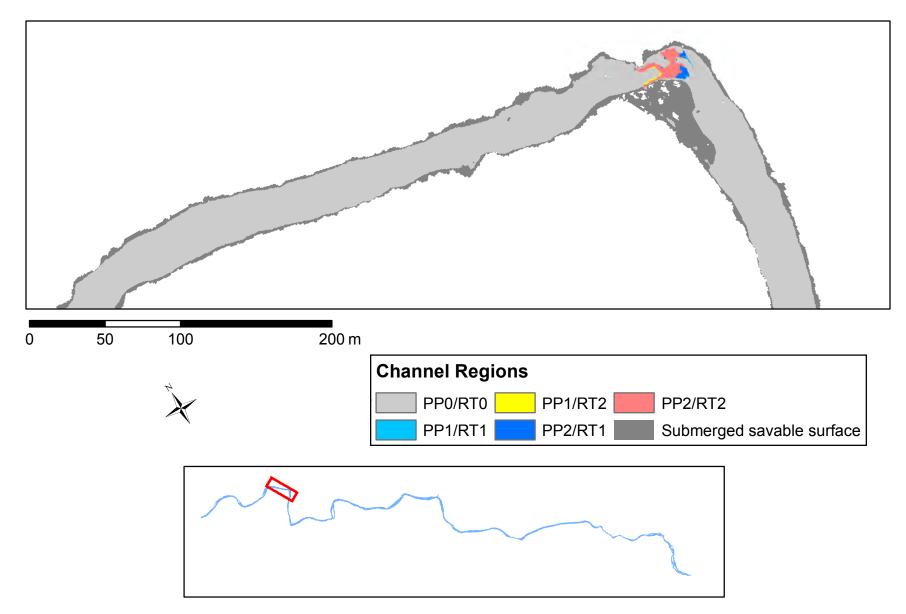


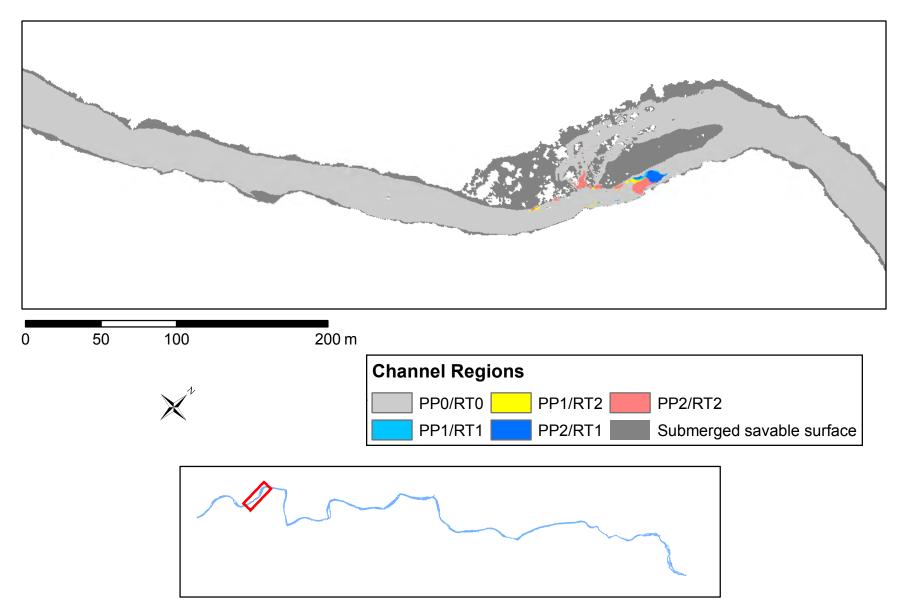


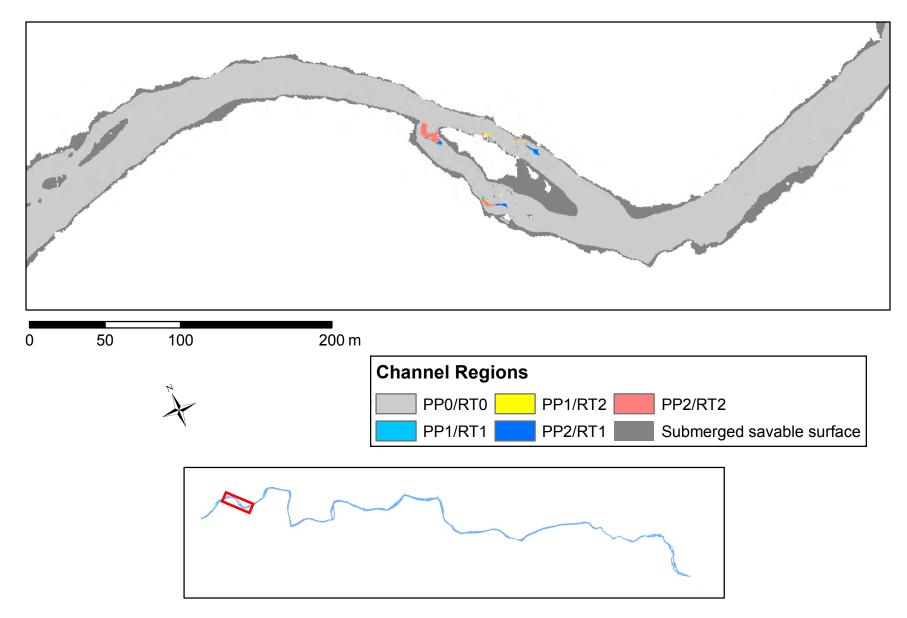


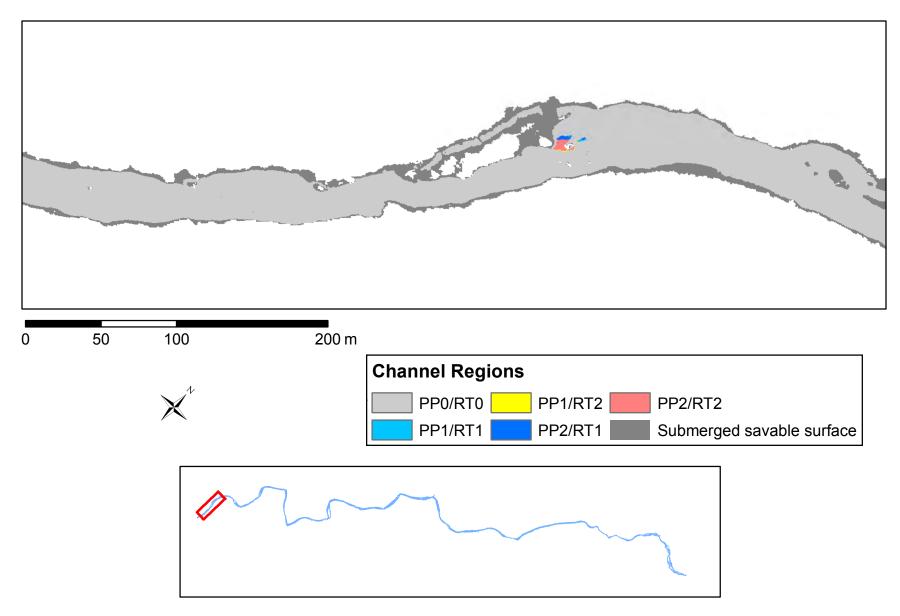


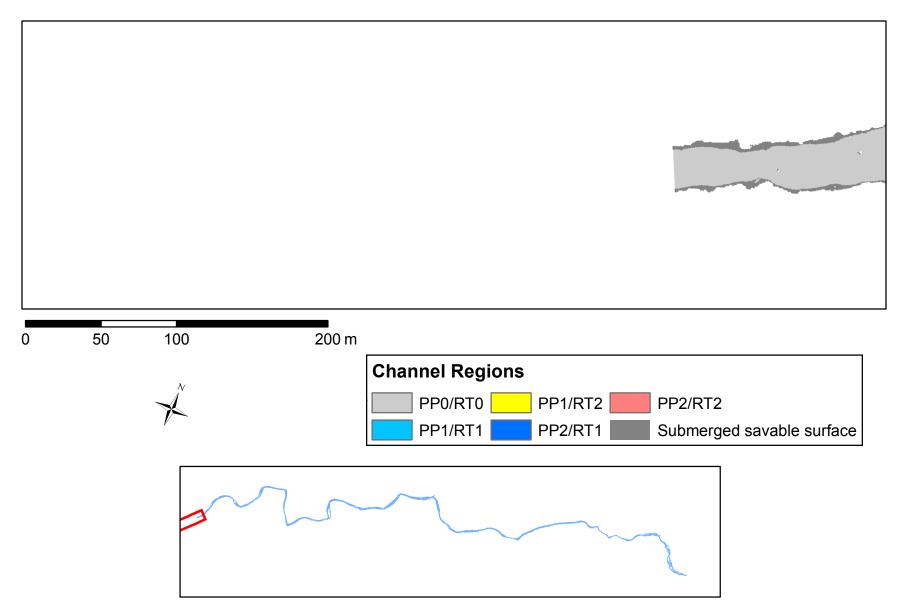


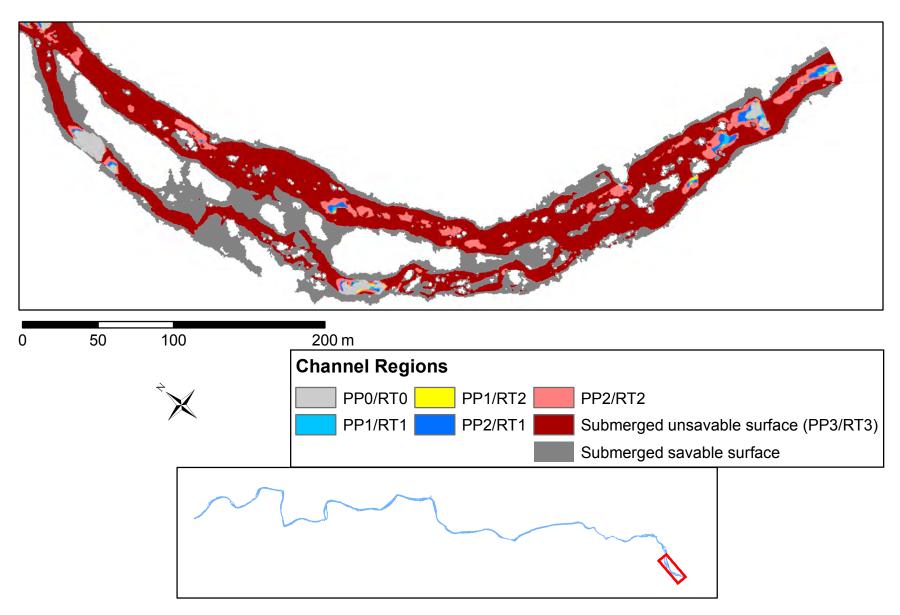


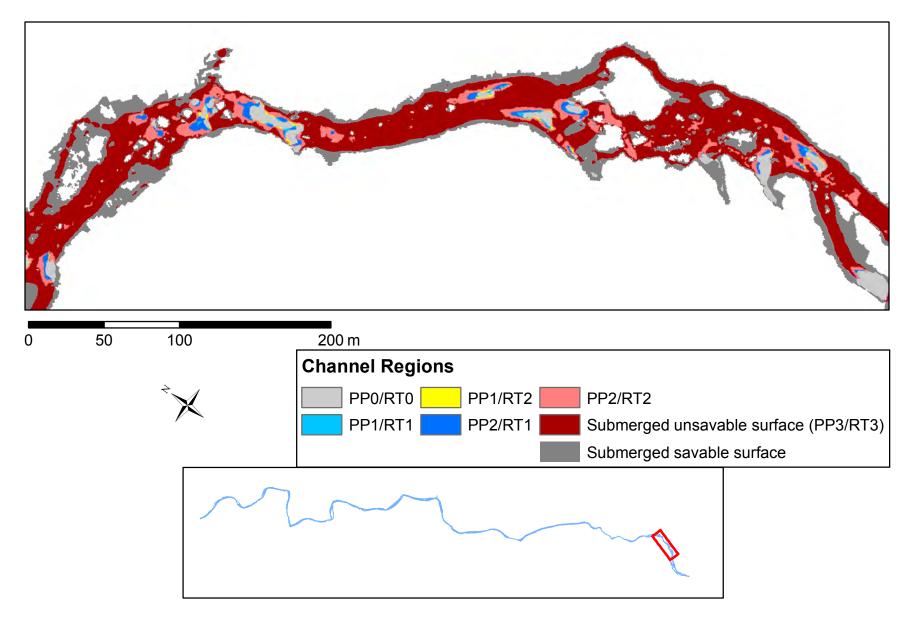


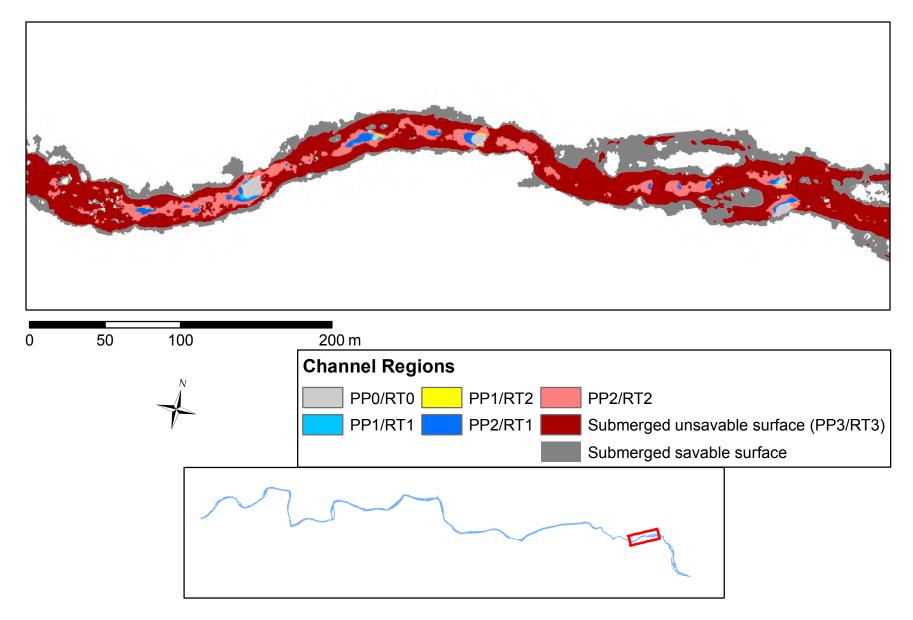




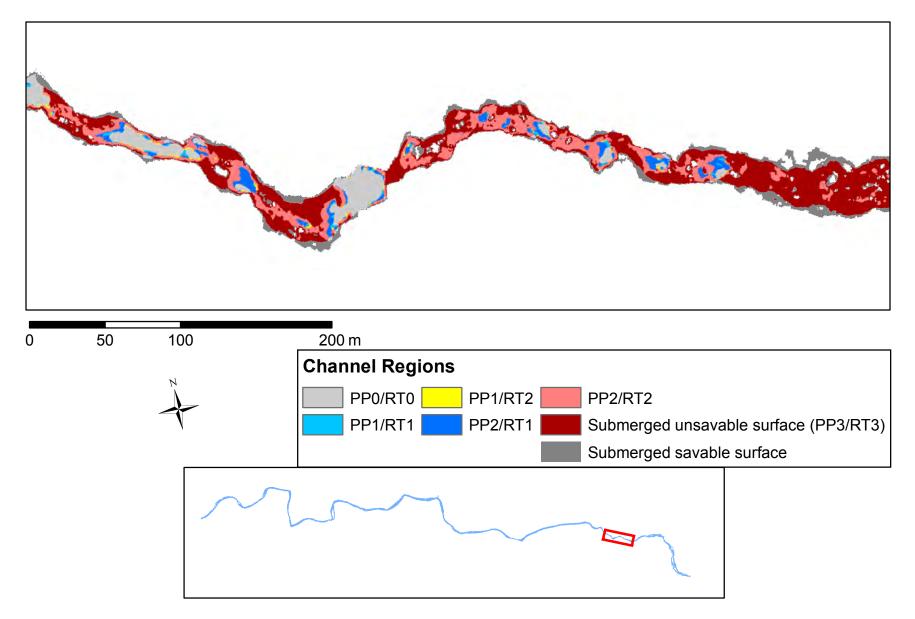


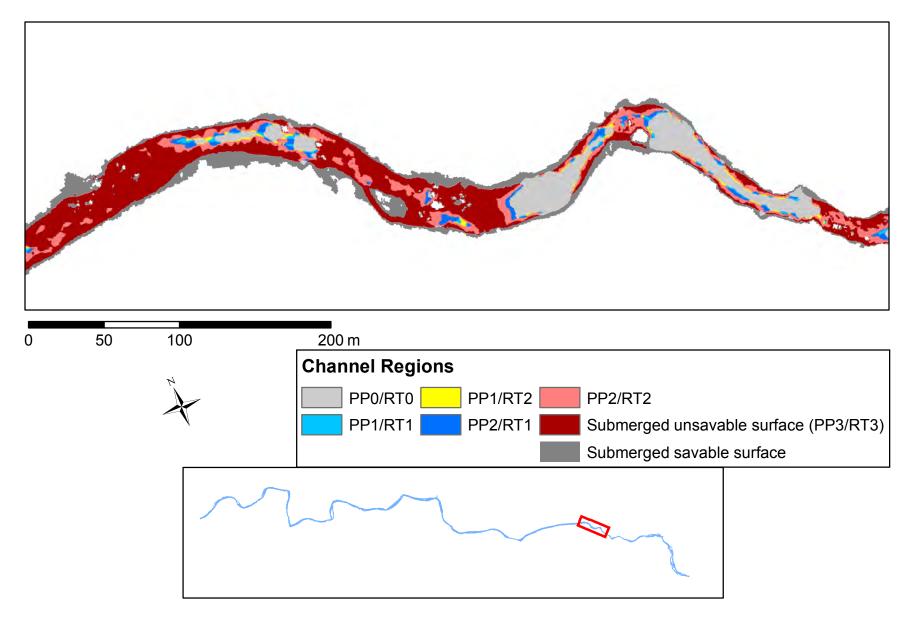


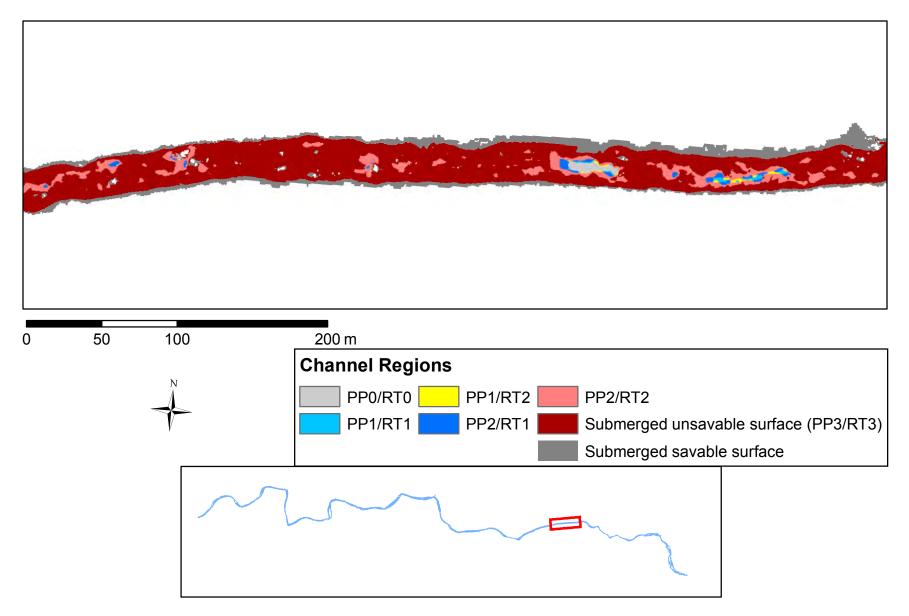


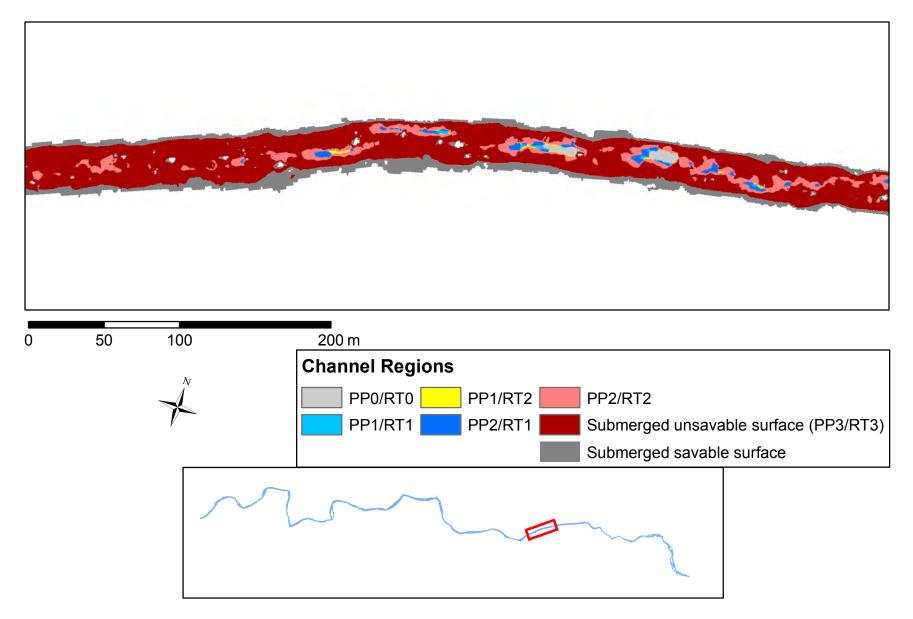


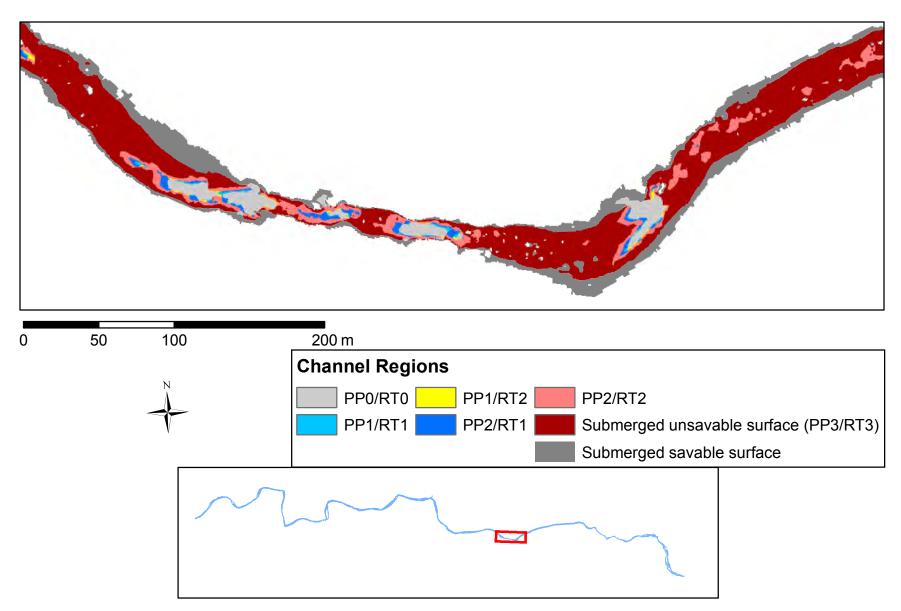
SYR Submerged Unsavable Surface Hazards for Upright Body at 31 m<sup>3</sup>/s, p. 4



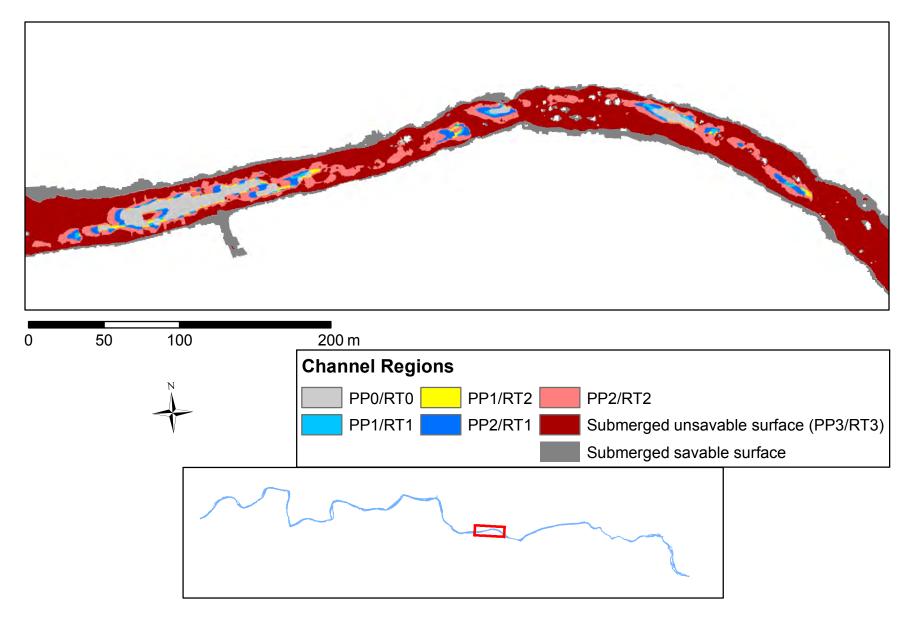


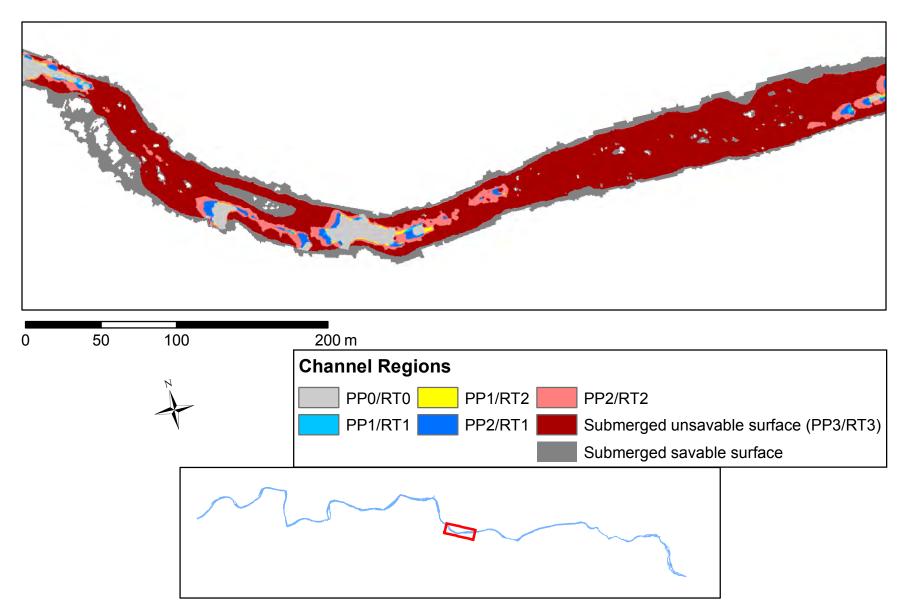


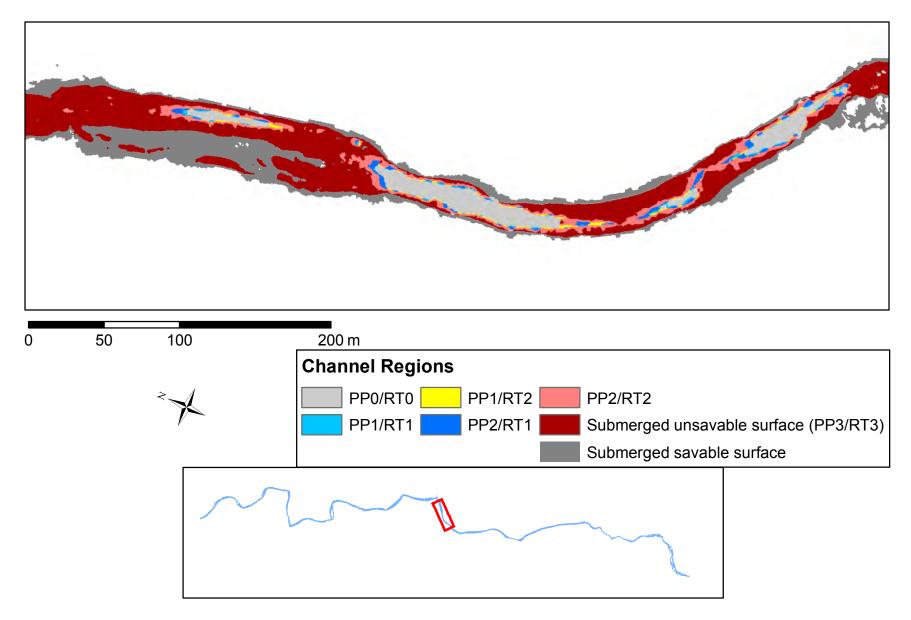




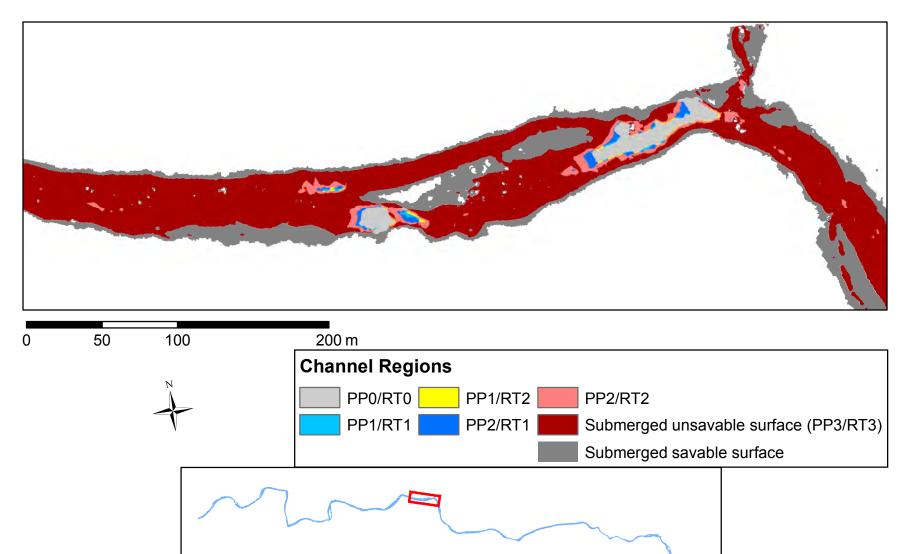
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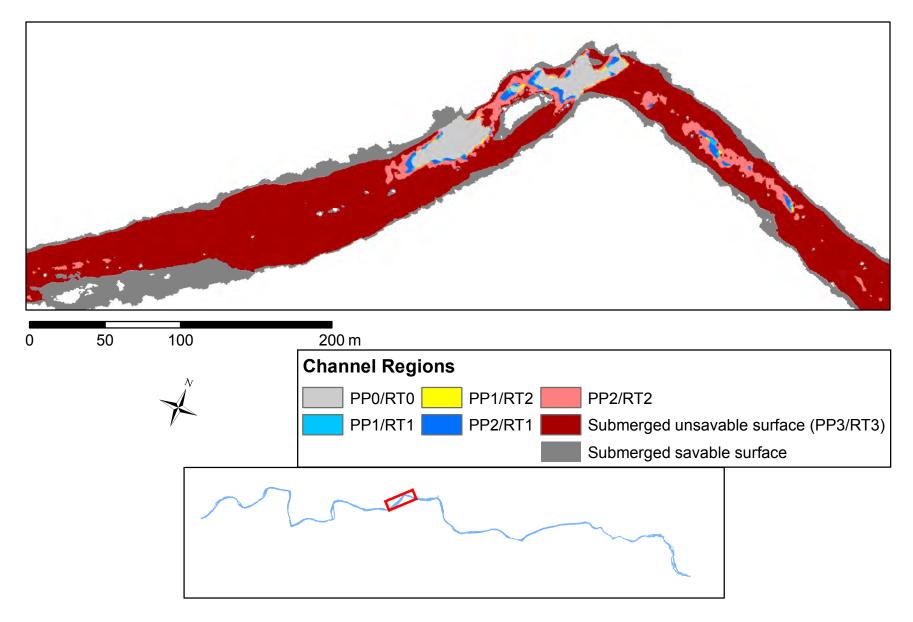


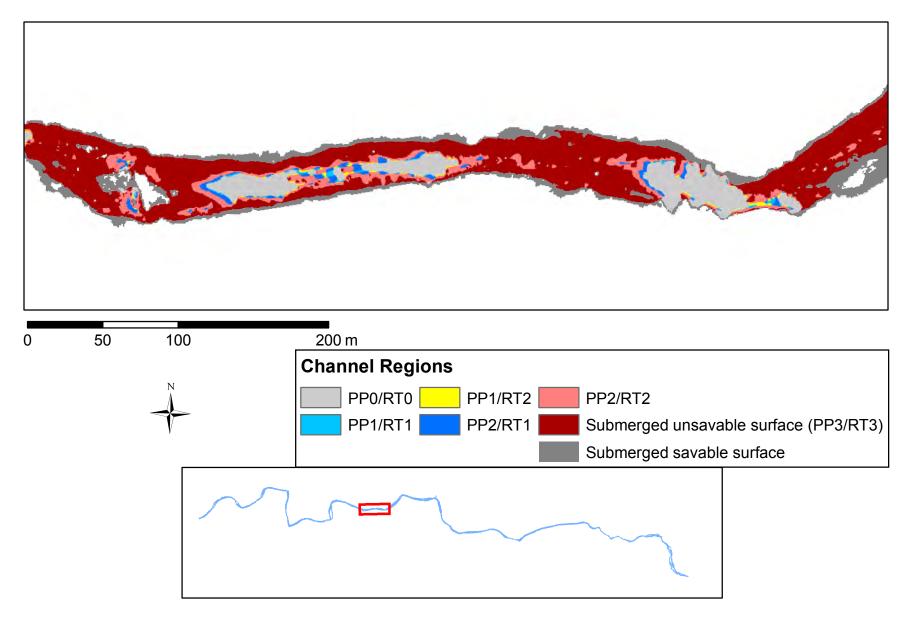


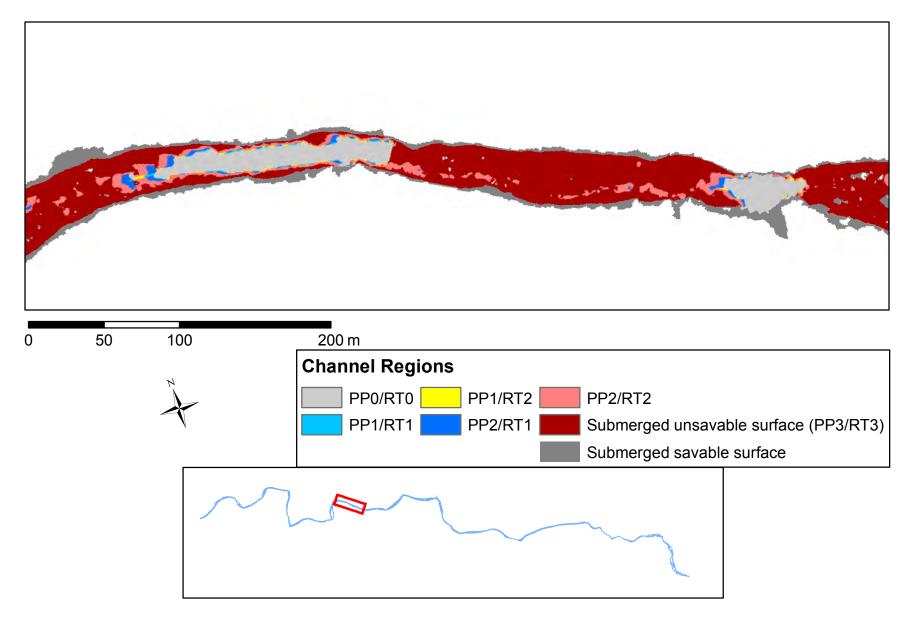


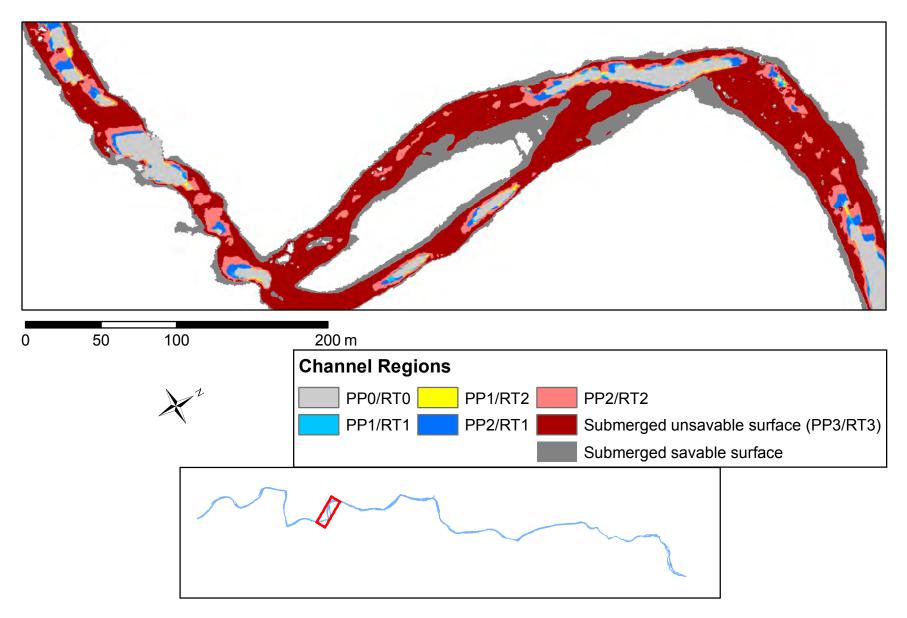
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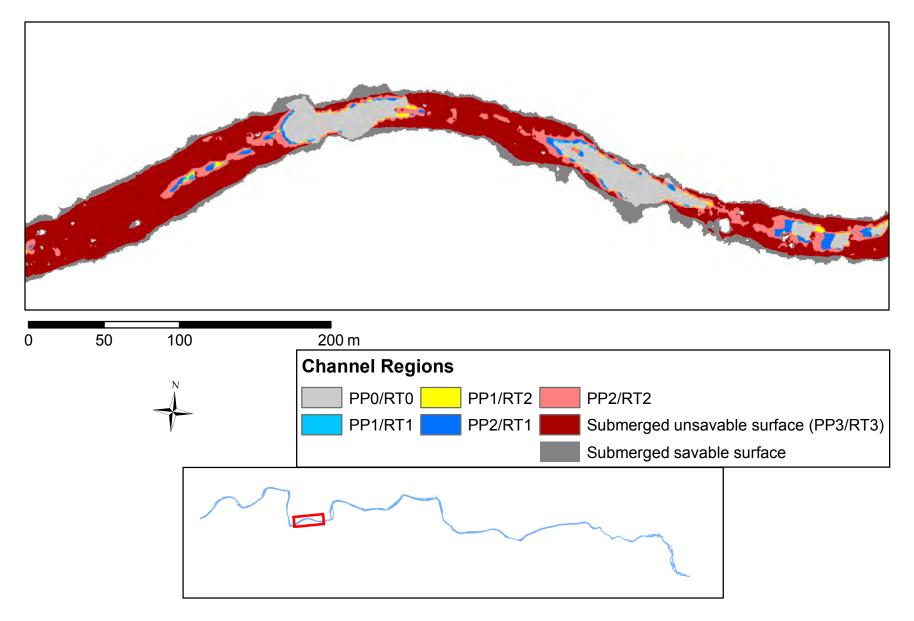


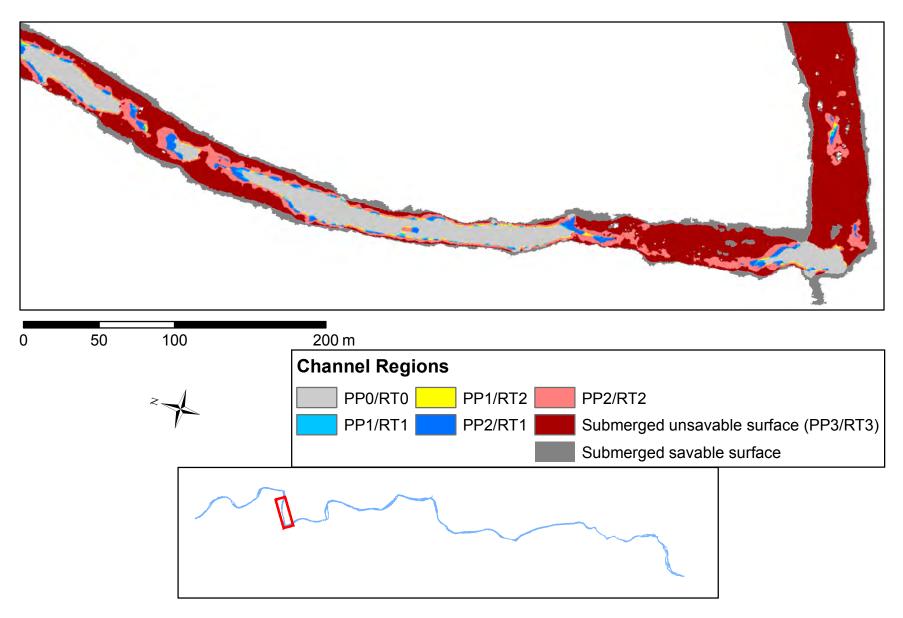


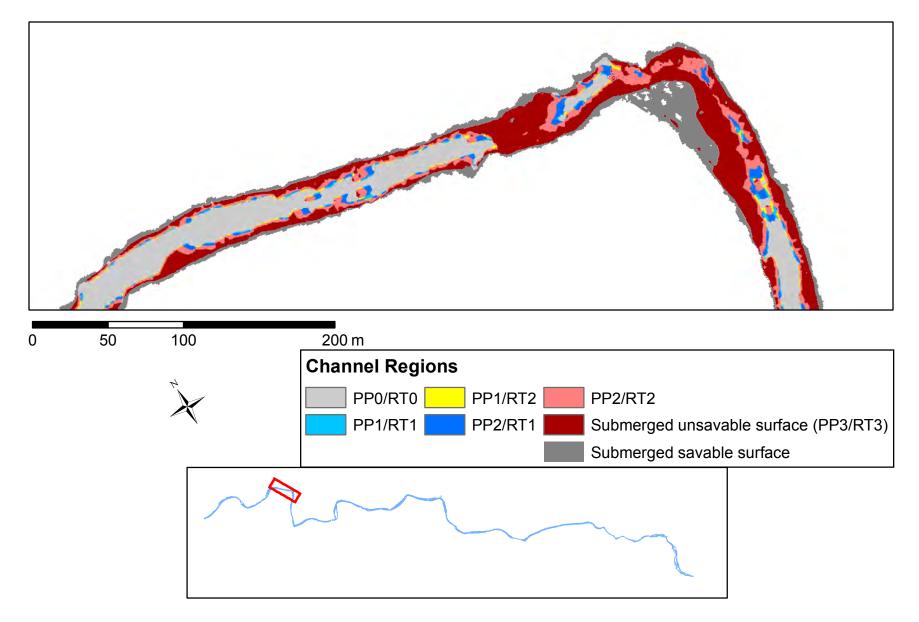


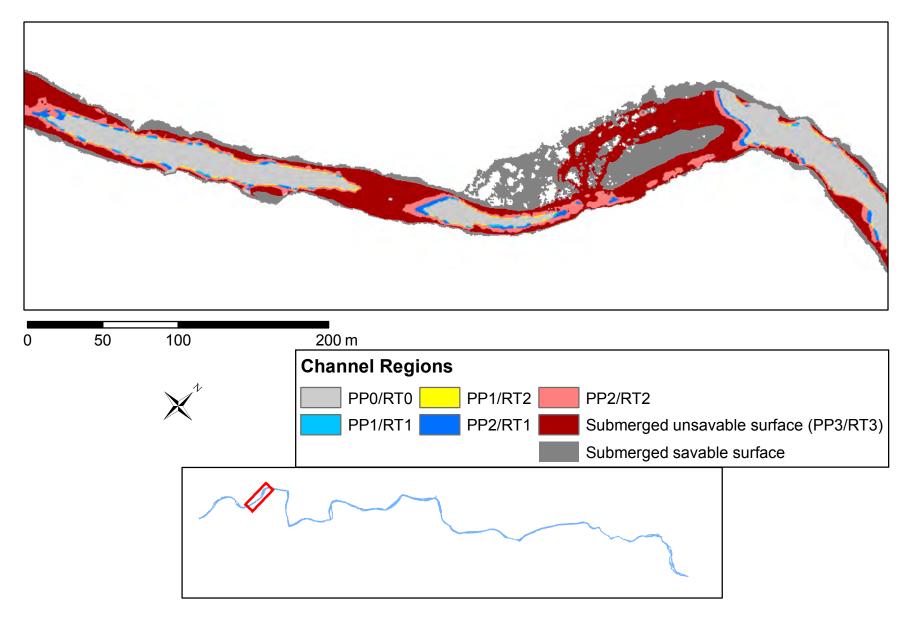


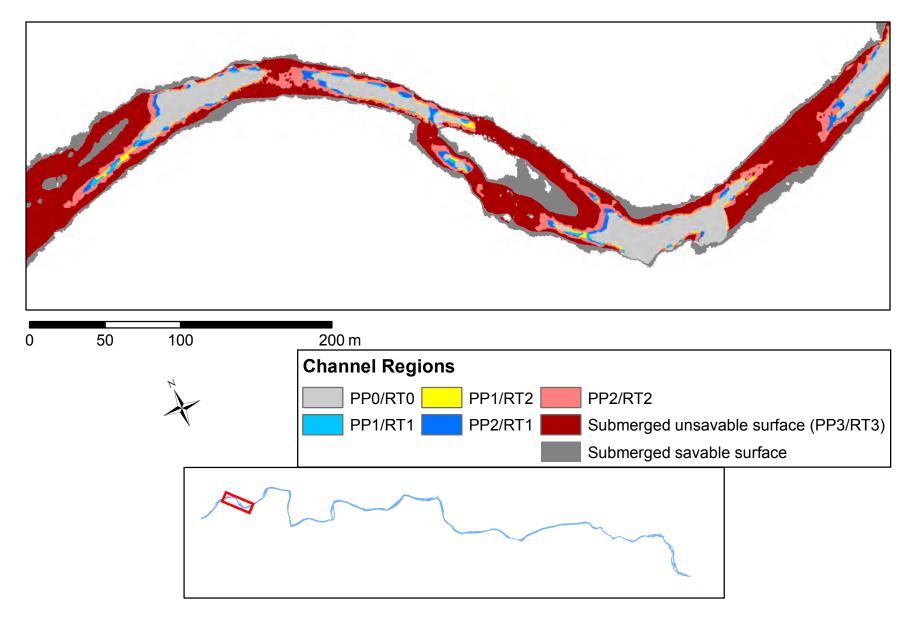




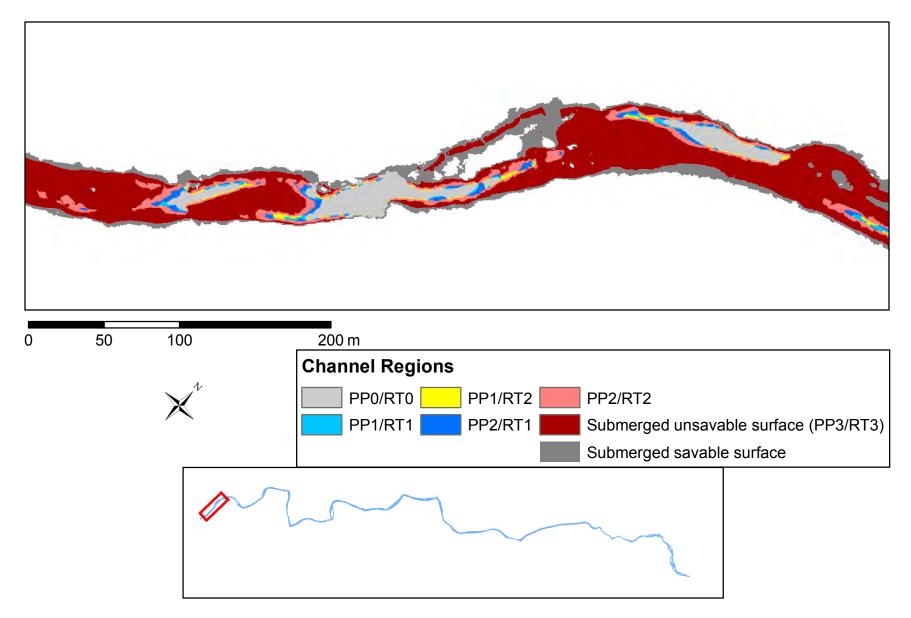


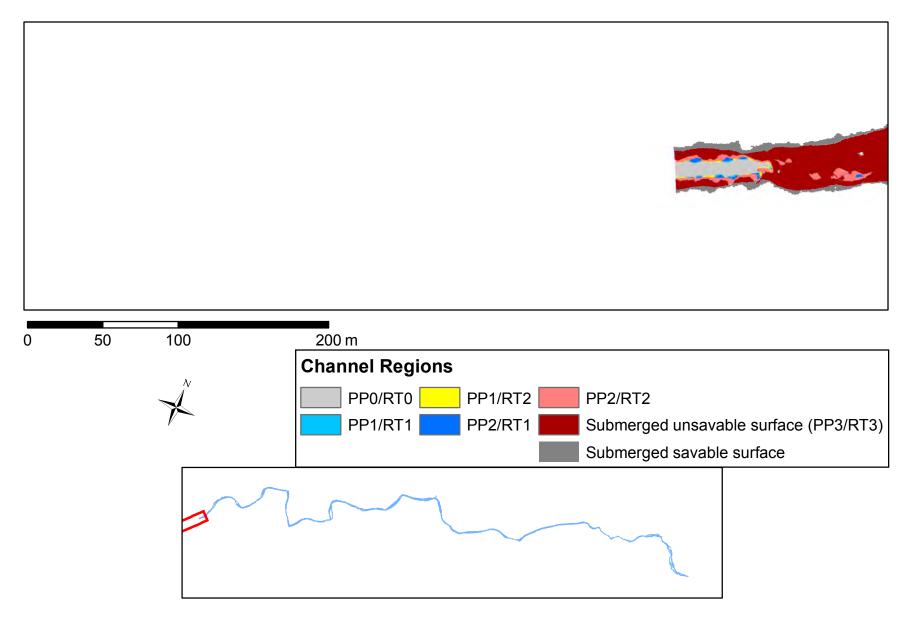




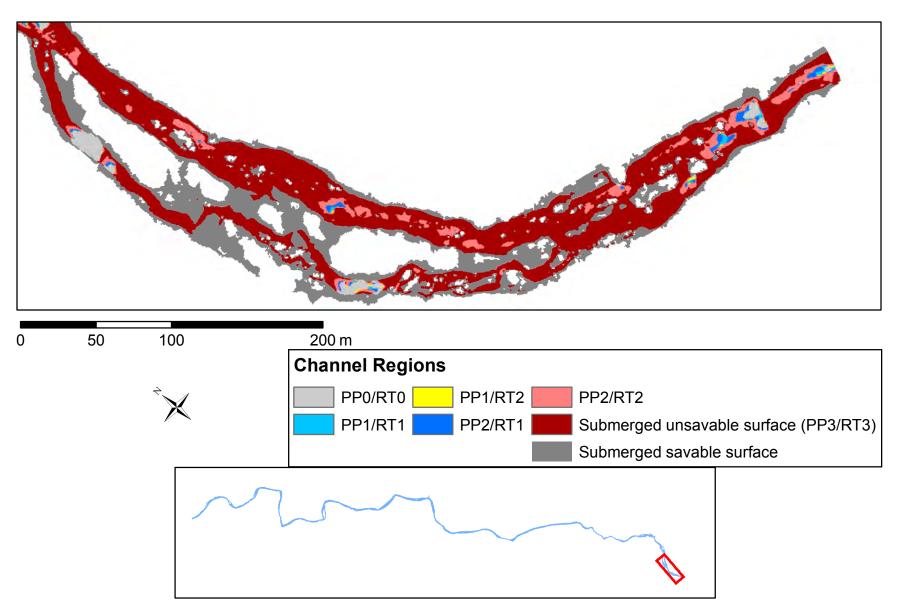


SYR Submerged Unsavable Surface Hazards for Upright Body at 31 m<sup>3</sup>/s, p. 22

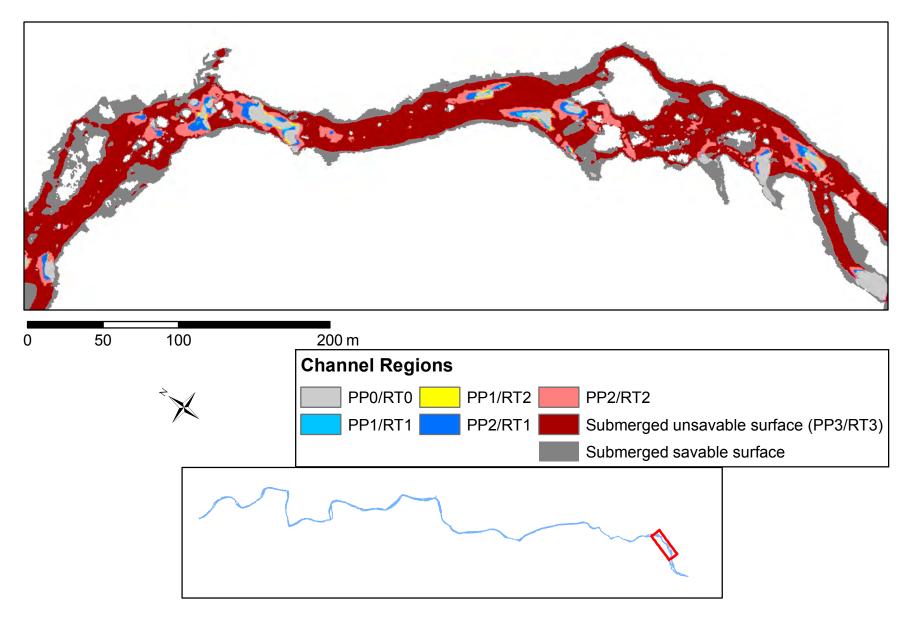




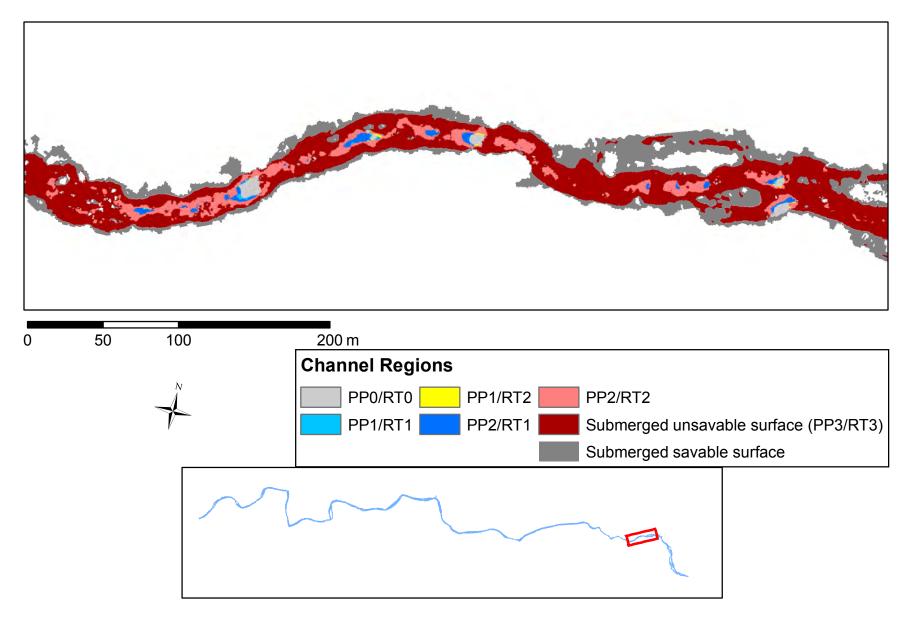
SYR Total Hazards for Upright Body at 31 m<sup>3</sup>/s, p. 1



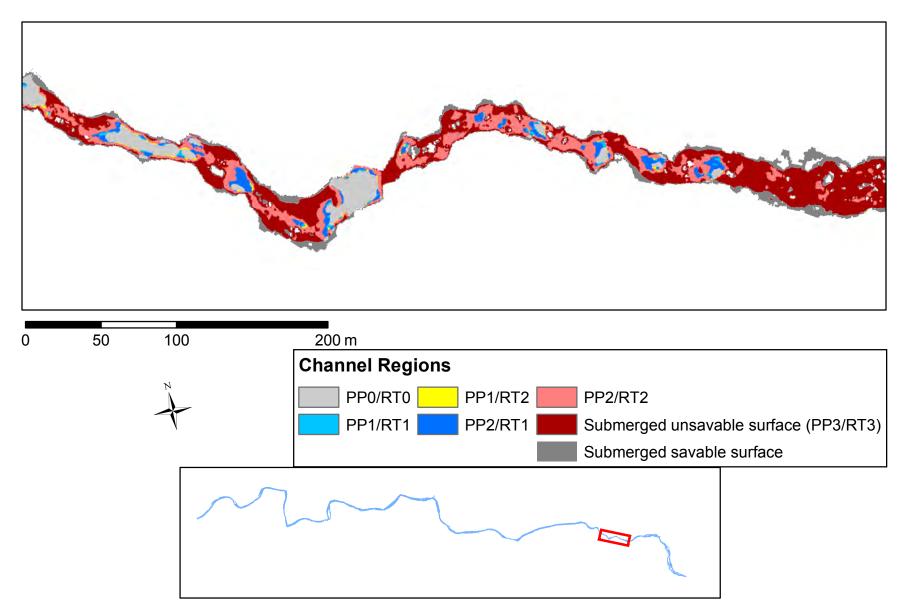
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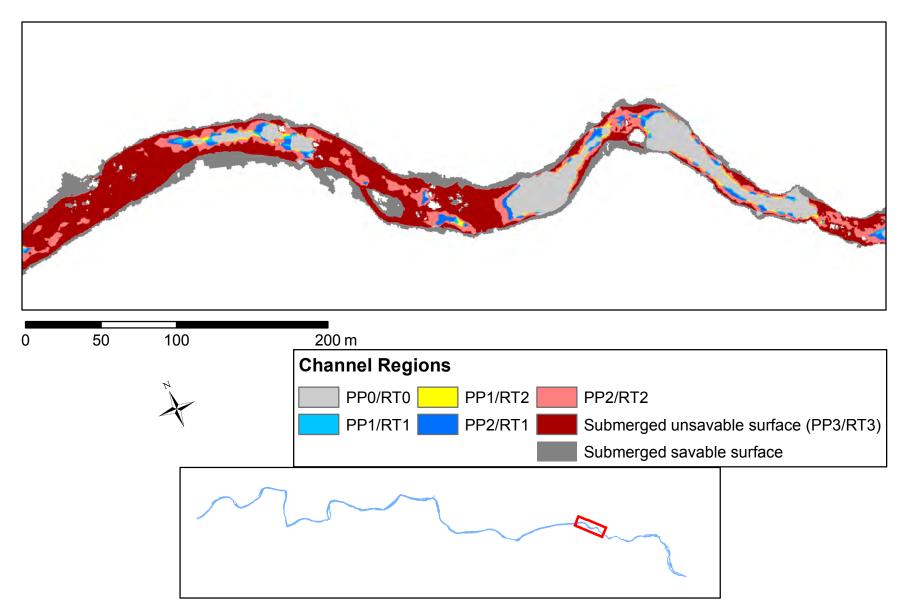


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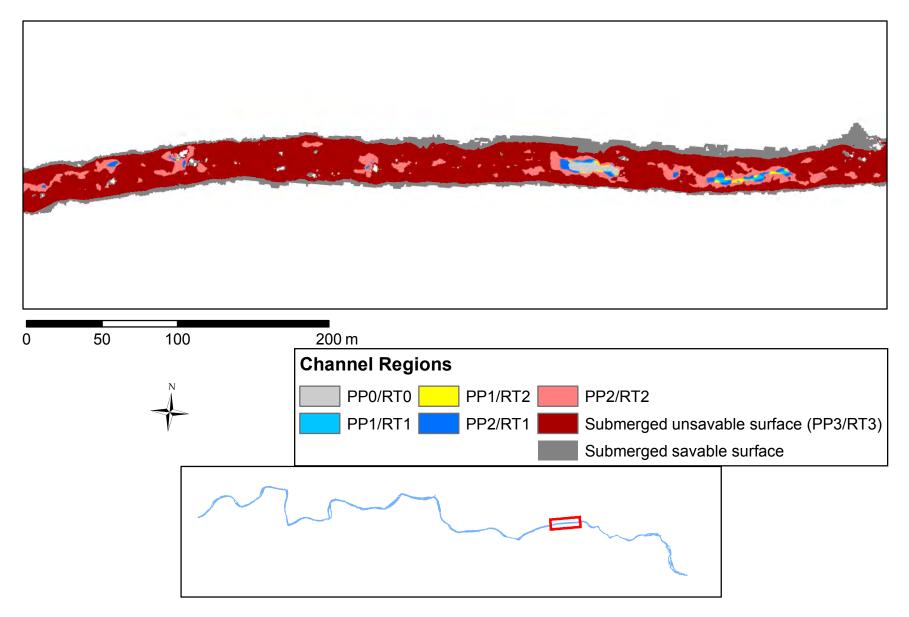


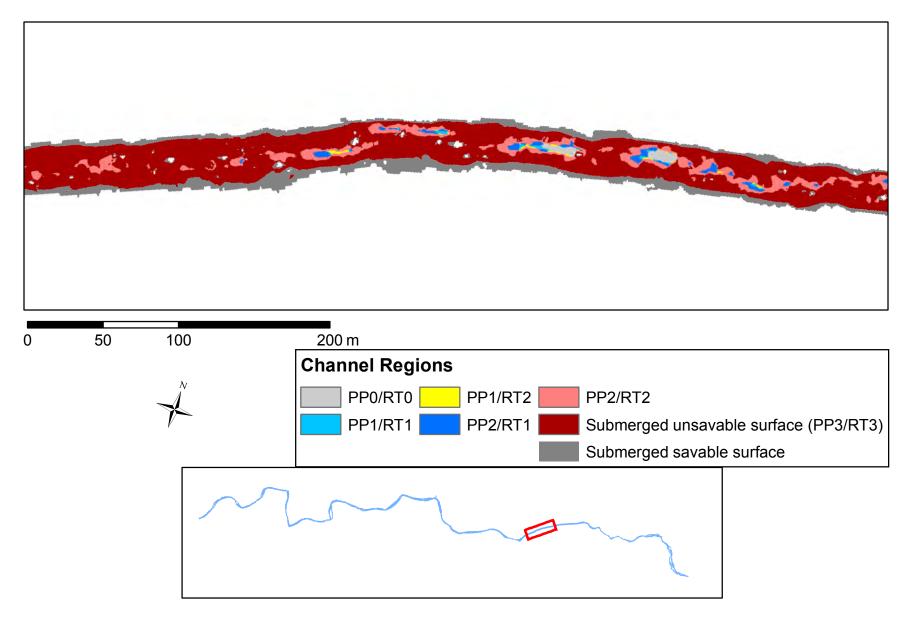
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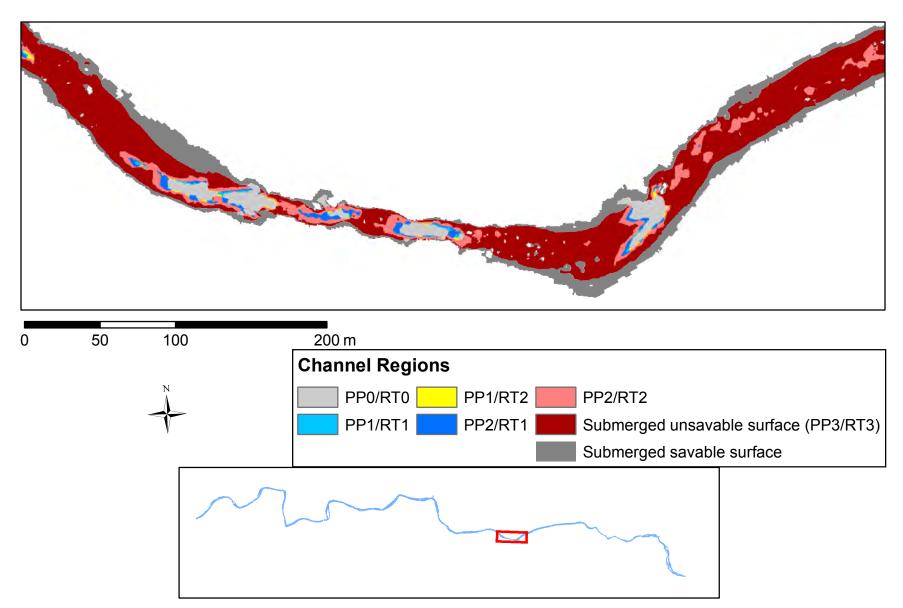


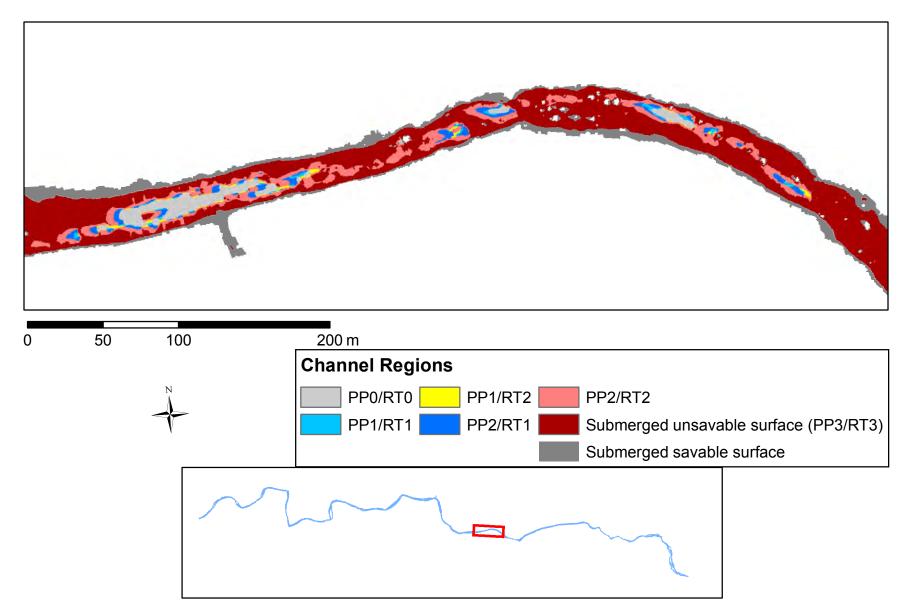


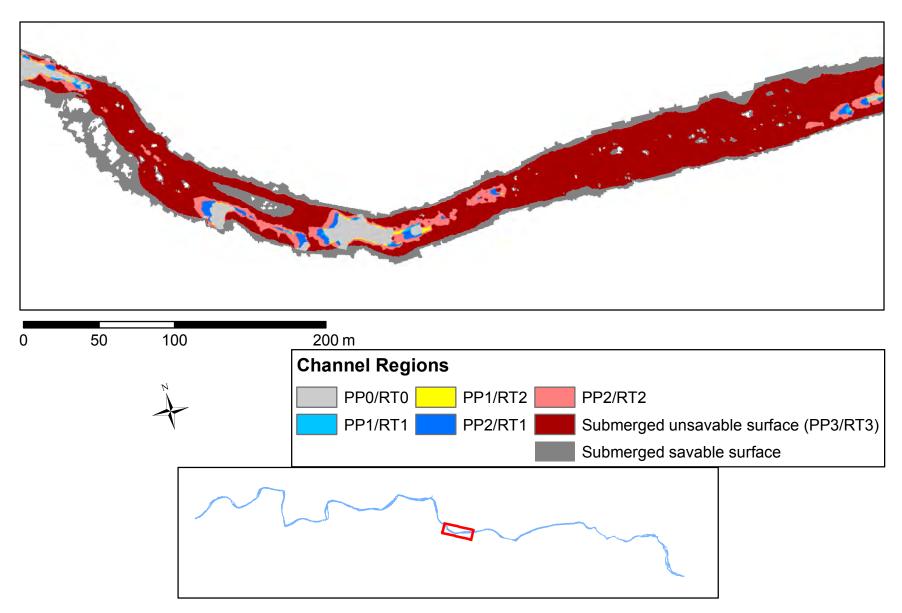
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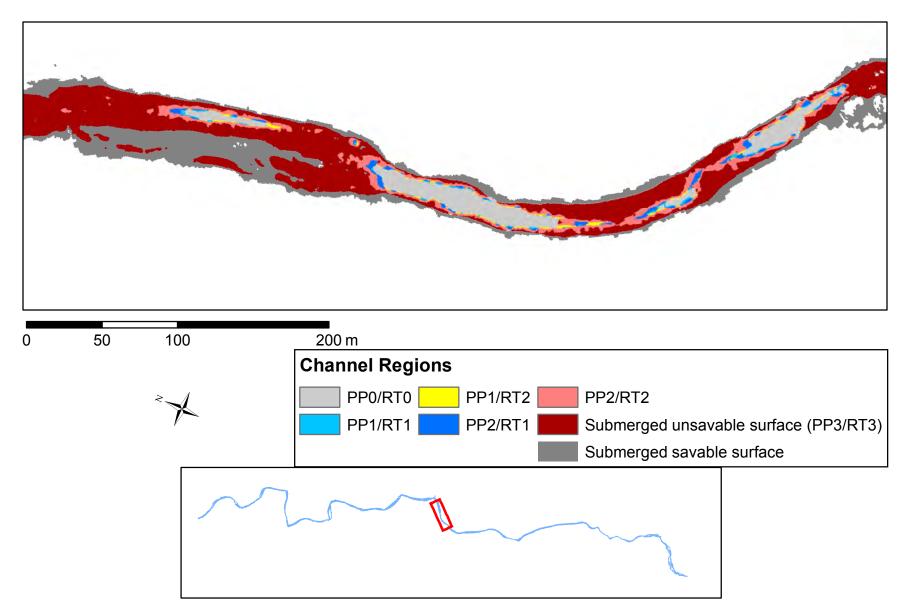


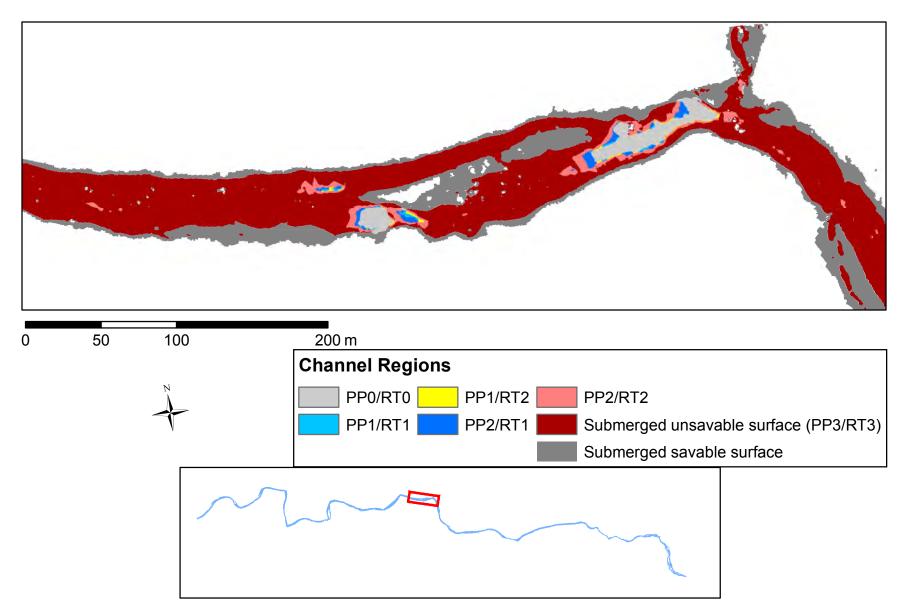


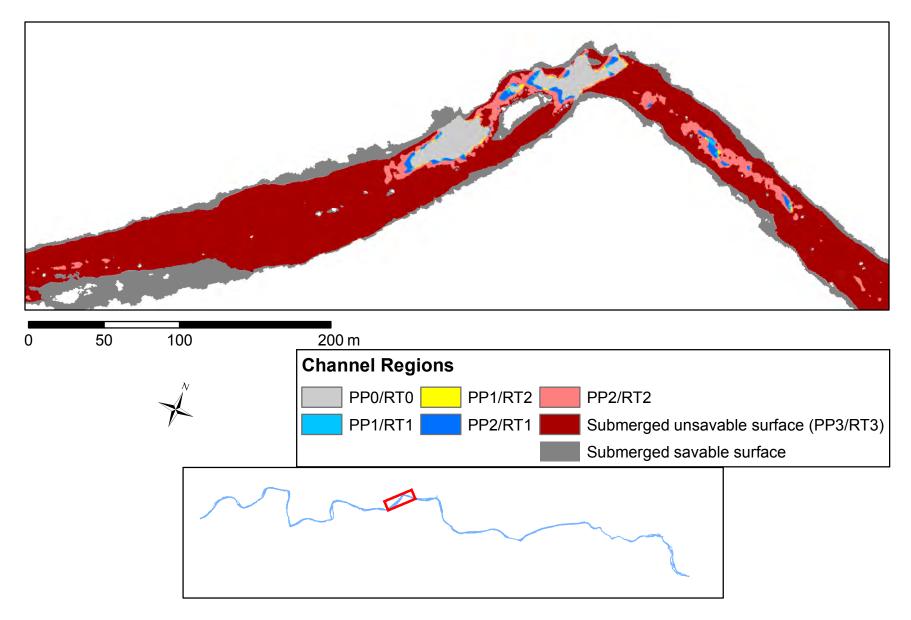


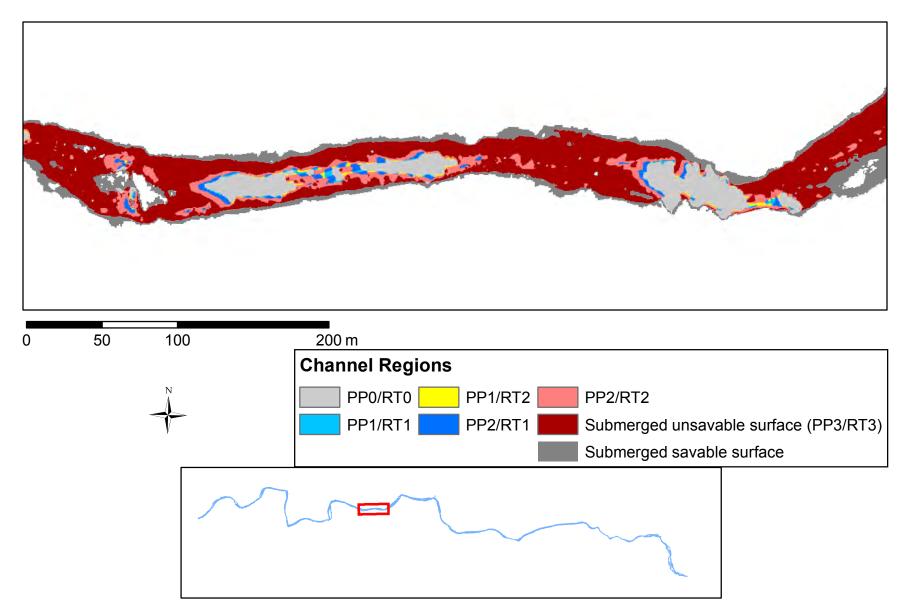


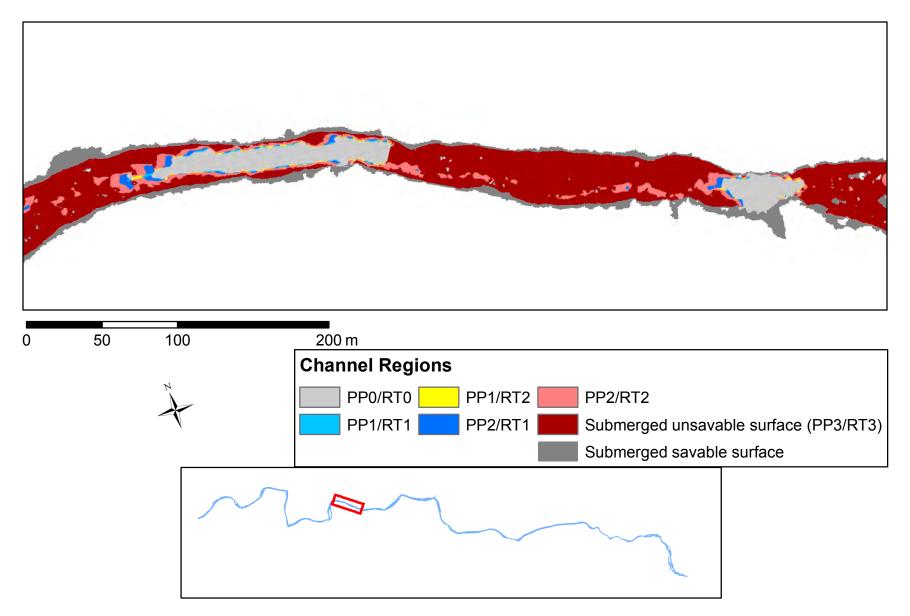
SYR Total Hazards for Upright Body at 31 m<sup>3</sup>/s, p. 11

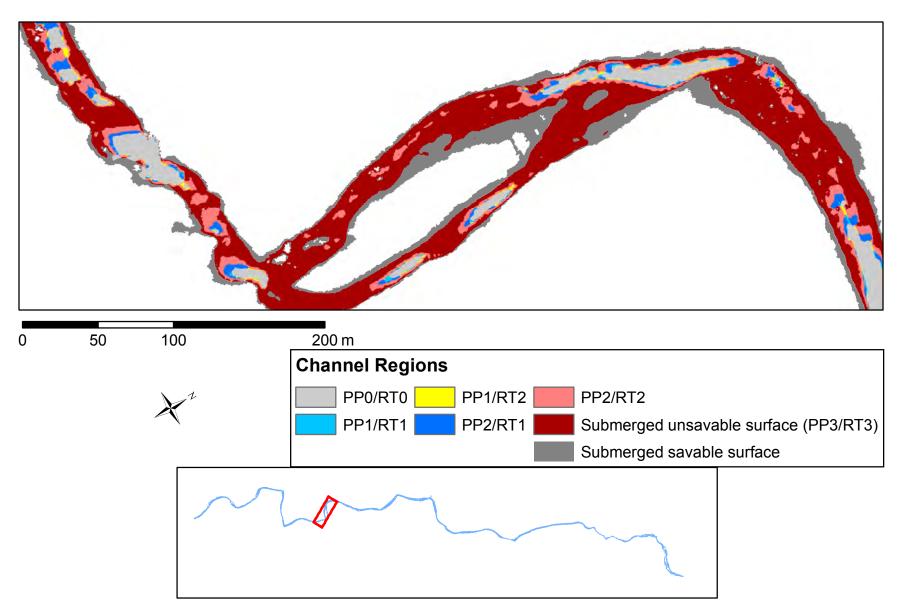


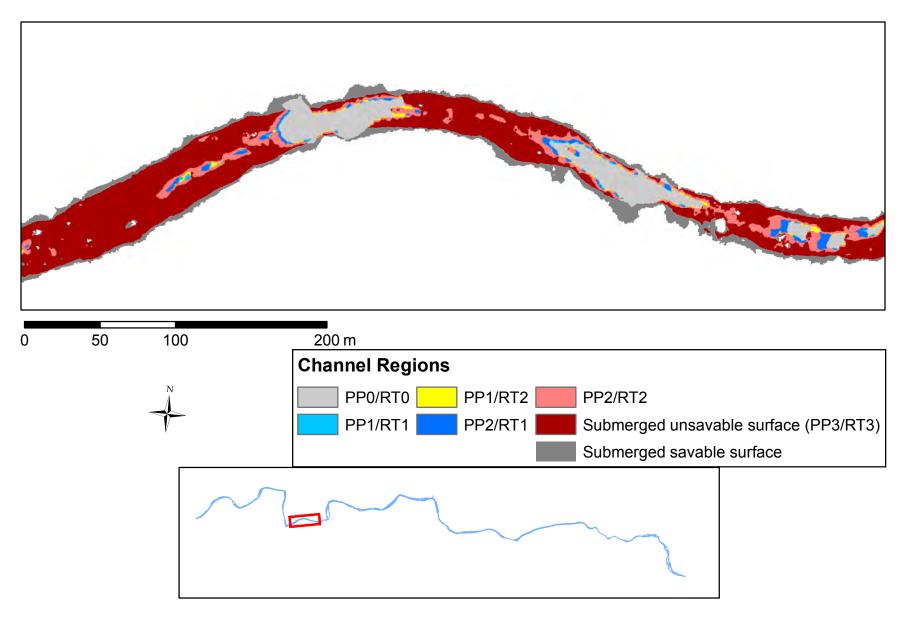












SYR Total Hazards for Upright Body at 31 m<sup>3</sup>/s, p. 18

