

Comprehensive Risk Assessment of Algae and Shellfish in the Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project

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1 Comprehensive Risk Assessment of Algae and Shellfish in the Middle
2 Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project

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24 **Abstract:** Since the main canal of the Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project was put into
25 operation, the species, quantity and biomass of algae and shellfish have responded quickly to the environment, and
26 a single dominant species has appeared in the community, demonstrating the remarkably abnormal proliferation
27 property of algae and shellfish. In order to evaluate the safety risk of abnormal proliferation of algae and shellfish
28 in the Middle Route and realize dynamic analysis of all kinds of influencing factors, a comprehensive risk
29 evaluation system of algae and shellfish in the Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project based on
30 comprehensive weighting and Four-Element Connection Number (MCEN) was constructed by integrating the
31 Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) and the weight assignment theory of CRITIC. The system consists of 21
32 evaluation indexes selected from risk factors and carriers. Taking Henan section in the Middle Route as an example,
33 comprehensive risk evaluation system of algae and shellfish in the Middle Route of South-to-North Water
34 Diversion Project was applied to calculate the partial connection number of each order and obtain the risk
35 development trend of each indicator. The results showed that algae and shellfish in the Middle Route were in a
36 very safe state at the safety risk level of level I. Finally, reasonable measures to reduce the risks facing algae and
37 shellfish in the Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project are given, which effectively make up the
38 deficiency of existing evaluation methods.

39 **Key words:** Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project; set pair analysis; algae and shellfish; risk
40 evaluation; Comprehensive weight; Partial connection number;

41 **1 Introduction**

42 In recent years, along with rapid population growth and economic development, uneven distribution of water
43 resources and imbalance in regional water demand have intensified, which give birth to inter-basin water diversion
44 projects (Chen et al. 2021; Ren et al.2021; Cai et al.2021) . The water diversion projects have not only changed
45 the water resources situation in the receiving area, but also interrupted its ecological balance(Peng et al.2021) by
46 causing fast invasion of algae and shellfish, biofouling, water quality deterioration and other phenomena. Since the
47 middle route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project was put into operation, on the one hand, there has been
48 rapid algae proliferation in a specific period due to changes in nutrient salt and hydrodynamic conditions as well as
49 water pollution accidents; and on the other hand, freshwater mussels have appeared in the main canal of the middle
50 route and showed an increasing momentum along the route, which has broken the ecosystem structure of the

51 middle-route canals and affected waterworks along the route.

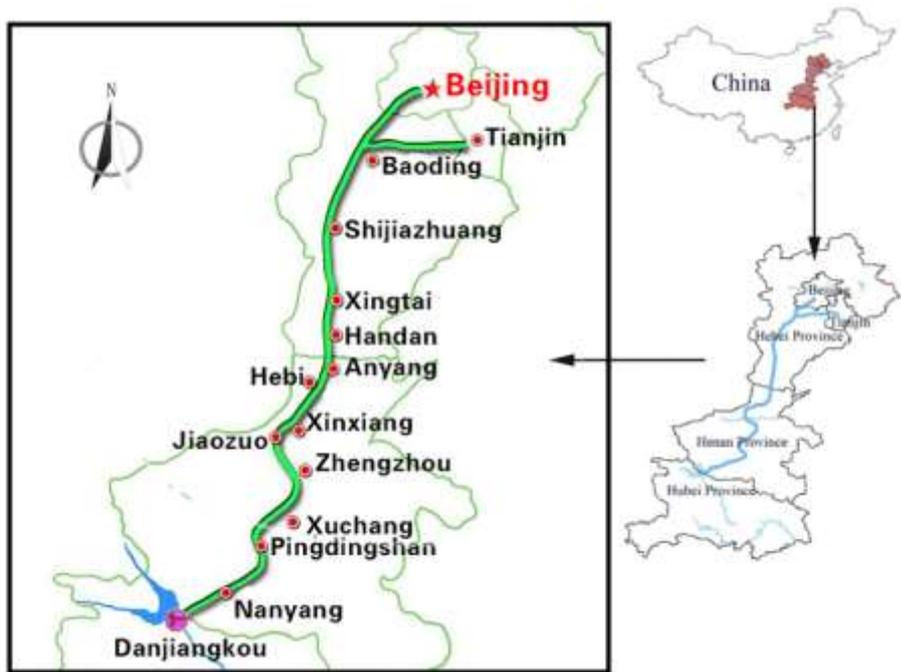
52 In the past decade, the outbreak frequency of algal blooms in Arabian Gulf has elevated remarkably, which
53 has affected drinking water sources and tightened residents' shortage of domestic water (Maryam et al.2014). The
54 outbreak of green algae has become an ecological problem in the southern Yellow Sea(Li et al.2021).Accurate
55 prevention and control of abnormal algae and shellfish proliferation is an urgent task at present, and the premise of
56 accurate prevention and control lies in determining the risk level of abnormal proliferation in a quickly and
57 accurate manner. At present, many scholars both at home and abroad have carried out studies on the middle route's
58 risk assessment. In the sudden water pollution accident in the middle route of South-to-North Water Transfer
59 Project, the index system and comprehensive risk assessment method are adopted, with emphasis on the factors of
60 town scale (Yang et al.2020) . When the emergency management strategies and measures of long-distance water
61 conveyance project are put forward, Mike 11 can be used to establish Bayesian model to simulate the flow field
62 and pollutant transfer process (Tang et al.2016)Algae density increased along the channel and was significantly
63 correlated with COD and Mn, suggesting that algae catabolism was the main mechanism driving the change of
64 COD and Mn(Wang et al. 2022).The midline risk database based on entity relationship diagram is helpful to
65 improve the efficiency of relevant departments in dealing with emergencies (zhou Ning.2021).Establishing an
66 ecological compensation system coordinated to control transboundary water pollution can use the differential game
67 modeling method and improve the effectiveness of water pollution (heng et al.2020). The systematic risk
68 interpretation model of "risk factors → hazard links → hazard modes" is used to evaluate the risk of the main
69 canal(Wang et al.2021).Variance analysis, correlation analysis and principal component analysis are used to
70 analyze the influencing factors of water quality in the middle route of South-to-North Water Transfer Project. The
71 results show that Hg is an important factor affecting water quality and health(Nong et al.2019).The most important
72 parameter of water quality change in one season may not be important to another season. This conclusion is
73 obtained by analyzing the water quality parameters in the middle route of South-to-North Water Transfer Project
74 with principal component analysis (Ouyang et al. 2006). These studies provide favorable information for risk
75 management, but most of them are plagued by single perspectives or lack of comprehensive analysis. The potential
76 risks of algae proliferation should be paid attention to in future research(Nong et al.2020).

77 Given the above-mentioned research needs, this paper, taking the Middle Route of South-to-North Water

78 Diversion Project as the object, established a comprehensive risk evaluation system of algae and shellfish based on
79 comprehensive weighting and Four-Element Connection Number (MCEN) by integrating the Analytic Hierarchy
80 Process (AHP) and the weight assignment theory of CRITIC, in a bid to provide information support for the
81 emergency management system of long-distance water diversion projects.

82 2 Profile of the Target Research Areas

83 The water source area of the Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project is Danjiangkou
84 Reservoir in Hubei province, and its main canals span three provinces of Hubei, Henan and Hebei before flowing
85 to Beijing and Tianjin (Lei et al.2017) . The main canal in the middle route is 1277 km long, involving more than
86 1750 engineering buildings throughout the line (Long et al.2016) . By July 19, 2021, the Middle Route of South-
87 to-North Water Diversion Project had supplied water to Henan, Hebei, Beijing and Tianjin respectively at 13.5
88 billion m³,11.6 billion m³, 6.8 billion m³ and 6.5 billion m³, which totaled 40 billion m³ in water diversion, 5.9
89 billion m³ in ecological water supplement, and 79 million of a cumulative beneficiary population (Hu et al.2021;
90 Chengjing .2021) , as shown in Figure 1(Nong et al.2020).



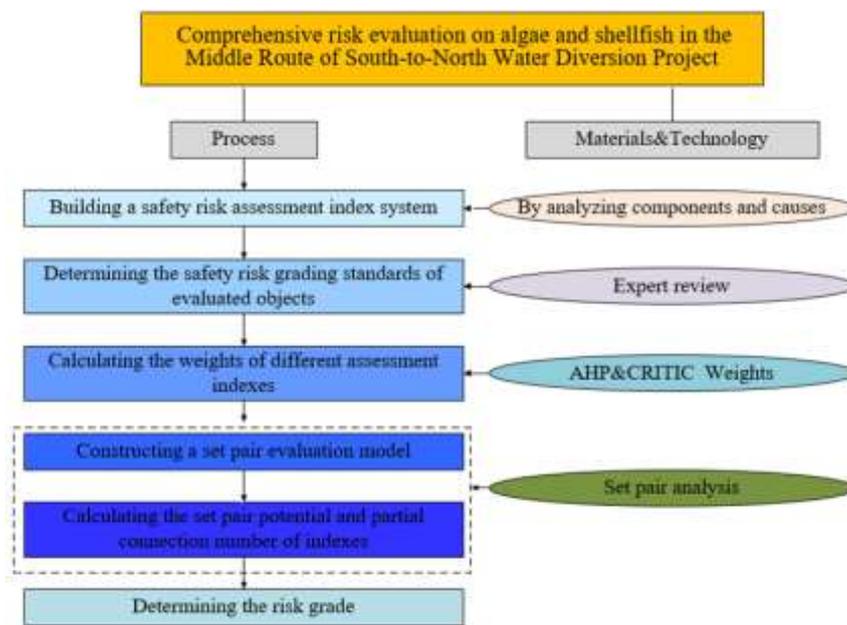
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Figure 1 Sketch Map of the Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project

93 **3 Comprehensive Risk Evaluation Methodology on Algae and Shellfish in the**
 94 **Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project**

95 The comprehensive risk evaluation process of algae and shellfish in the Middle Route of South-to-North
 96 Water Diversion Project includes the following main steps: building a safety risk assessment index system,
 97 determining the safety risk grading standards of evaluated objects, calculating the weights of different assessment
 98 indexes, constructing a set pair evaluation model, calculating the set pair potential and partial connection number
 99 of indexes, and determining the risk grade, as shown in Figure 2.



100

101 **Figure 2** Diagram of Comprehensive Risk Evaluation on Algae and Shellfish in the Middle Route of South-
 102 to-North Water Diversion Project

103 **3.1 Building a Safety Risk Assessment Index System**

104 By analyzing components and causes of the risk system, an evaluation system of algae and shellfish in the
 105 Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project is constructed. This evaluation system encompasses two
 106 categories of factors: hazard factors and carriers. The primary indexes: hazard factors include physical, chemical
 107 and biological indicators; carriers include the degree of damage, exposure and vulnerability of projects. The
 108 secondary indexes include 21 factors, as shown in Figure 3.

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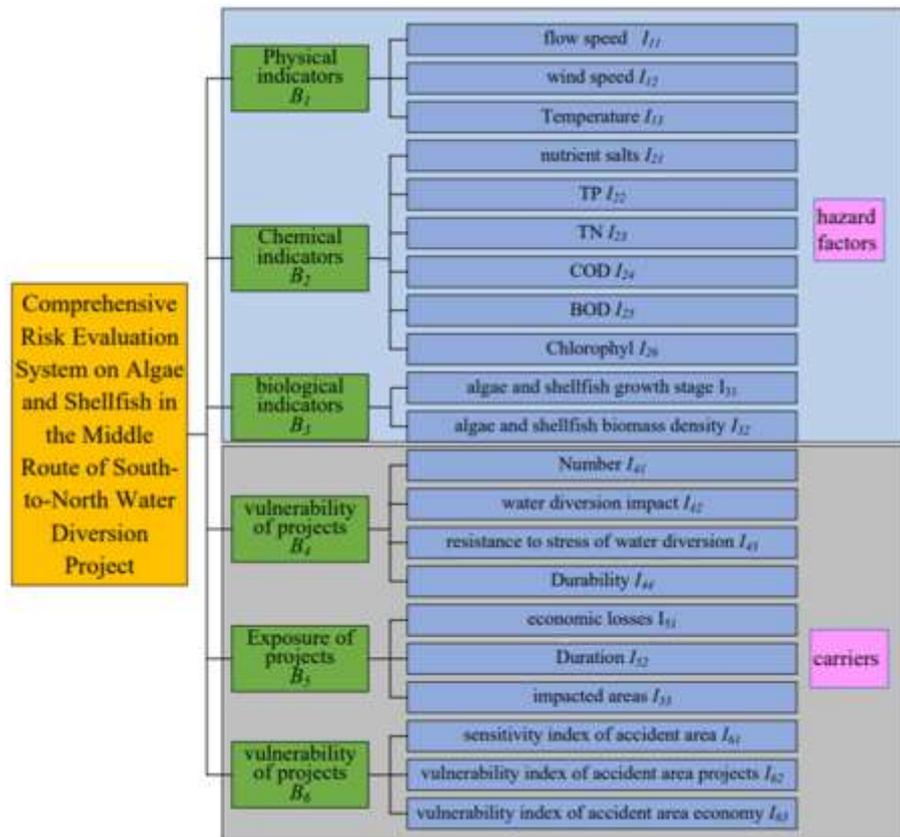


Figure 3 Comprehensive Risk Evaluation System on Algae and Shellfish in the Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project

3.2 Safety Grade Standards

According to the *National Emergency Plan for Environmental Emergencies* revised in 2015, the comprehensive safety risks of algae and shellfish in the Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project is divided into four grades. See Table 1 for detailed classification and connotation.

Table 1 Safety Risk Assessment Grading

safety grade	I	II	III	IV
safety situation	highly safe	relatively safe	safe	unsafe
symbols	1	<i>i</i>	<i>j</i>	<i>k</i>

3.3 Determining Weights of Indexes

Subjective weights are determined by experts with their own experience, which are subject to subjective judgment; objective weights are determined by original data, but they cannot reflect the importance attached by the

124 judges to different factors (Guo2018). Therefore, the comprehensive weight calculation method is adopted. The
 125 subjective weights w_i' are obtained by AHP(Doğan et al.2021) . AHP includes four steps: first, establishing a
 126 hierarchical structure model; second, constructing a judgment matrix; third, examining single sequencing and
 127 consistency; fourth, obtaining the weight. See reference(Doğan et al.2021) for the detailed calculation process.

128 The objective weights w_i'' are obtained by the weight method of CRITIC (Criteria Importance Though
 129 Intercriteria)(Ji et al.2021). CRITIC includes four steps: first, standardizing evaluation indexes; second, calculating
 130 correlated coefficients of the indexes; third, calculating the variability and conflict of the indexes; fourth,
 131 calculating the weight. See reference (Ji et al.2021) for the detailed calculation process. The weights obtained by
 132 AHP and CRITIC are combined into the comprehensive weight w .

$$133 \quad w_i = \lambda w_i' + (1 - \lambda)w_i'' \quad (1)$$

134 Where: λ is the preference coefficient, and usually $\lambda = 0.5$; w_i is the comprehensive weight of the i -th index.

135 3.4 Constructing the Set Pair Evaluation Model

136 There are four grades for the comprehensive risk evaluation of algae and shellfish in the Middle Route of
 137 South-to-North Water Diversion Project. Therefore, the quaternion connection function is adopted for set pair
 138 analysis.

139 The first step is to construct an index evaluation matrix. N experts are asked to determine the risk grade of
 140 each index, among whom n experts think that the risk grade of the index falls in Grade i , then the level I evaluation
 141 result of the index for Grade I is $u_{ij} = \frac{n}{N}$, which constitutes the index evaluation matrix C , whose expression is
 142 as follows:

$$143 \quad C = \begin{bmatrix} u_{11} & u_{12} & u_{13} & u_{14} \\ u_{21} & u_{22} & u_{23} & u_{24} \\ \mathbf{M} & \mathbf{M} & \mathbf{M} & \mathbf{M} \\ u_{n1} & u_{n2} & u_{n3} & u_{n4} \end{bmatrix}$$

144 The second step is to establish the quaternion connection function. The safety grading standard matrix $A=[1,$
 145 $i, j, k]$ is obtained in 3.2. The comprehensive weight matrix $B=[w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n]$ of each index is obtained in 3.3.
 146 And he index evaluation matrix C is obtained in 3.4. The quaternion connection function is expressed as follows:

$$\mu = [w_1, w_2, L, w_n] \begin{bmatrix} u_{11} & u_{12} & u_{13} & u_{14} \\ u_{21} & u_{22} & u_{23} & u_{24} \\ M & M & M & M \\ u_{n1} & u_{n2} & u_{n3} & u_{n4} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \\ j \\ k \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{r=1}^n w_r u_{r1} + \sum_{r=1}^n w_r u_{r2} i + \sum_{r=1}^n w_r u_{r3} j + \sum_{r=1}^n w_r u_{r4} k \quad (2)$$

For convenience of follow-up reference, the above expression is usually represented with:

$$\mu = a + bi + cj + dk \quad (3)$$

3.5 Calculating Set Pair Potential and Partial Connection Number

The changing trends of set pairs is expressed by a/d in formula (3); if $a/d > 1$, it is the same potential, which indicates the unified momentum between risk and ideal state, a low-risk state; if $a/d = 1$, it is the average potential, which means that the risk has an equal status with the ideal state, a medium-risk state; and if $a/d < 1$, it is the opposite potential, which demonstrates that the risk is in the opposite momentum to the ideal state, a high-risk state.

Partial number is a quantitative analysis of deviation trend, which can effectively reflect the dynamic changes of indexes. The calculation formulas of partial connection number of each order are as follows (Hong et al. 2014 ; Zheng et al. 2018) :

$$\text{First-order partial connection number: } \partial\mu = \partial a + i\partial b + j\partial c \quad (4)$$

$$\text{Where } \partial a = \frac{a}{a+b}, \partial b = \frac{b}{b+c}, \partial c = \frac{c}{c+d}.$$

$$\text{Second-order partial connection number: } \partial^2\mu = \partial(\partial\mu) = \partial^2 a + i\partial^2 b \quad (5)$$

$$\text{Where } \partial^2 a = \frac{\partial a}{\partial a + \partial b}, \partial^2 b = \frac{\partial b}{\partial b + \partial c}.$$

$$\text{Third-order partial connection number: } \partial^3\mu = \partial^2(\partial\mu) = \partial^3 a \quad (6)$$

$$\text{Where } \partial^3 a = \frac{\partial^2 a}{\partial^2 a + \partial^2 b}.$$

3.6 Determining the Safety Risk Grade

The weighted average connection degrees of each safety grade are obtained through formula (3) and compared, before determining the final safety grade (Qiu et al. 2020) .

$$\text{e.g. Grade S} \quad S = \max(a, b, c, d) = c \quad (7)$$

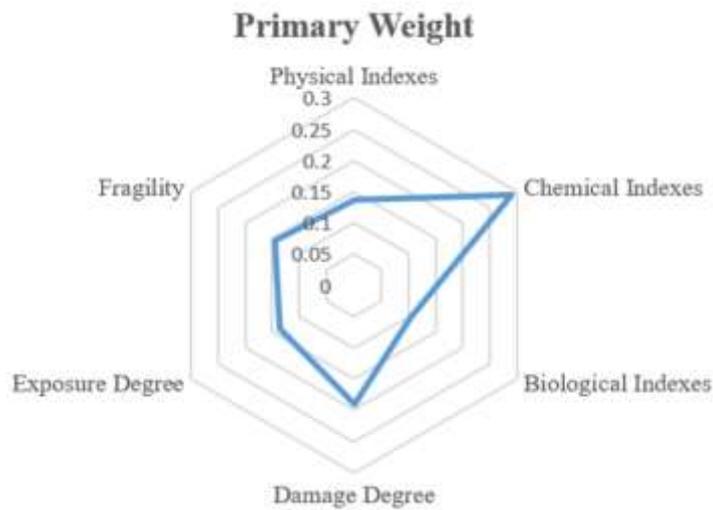
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169 Where c represents Grade III, denoting a safe state.

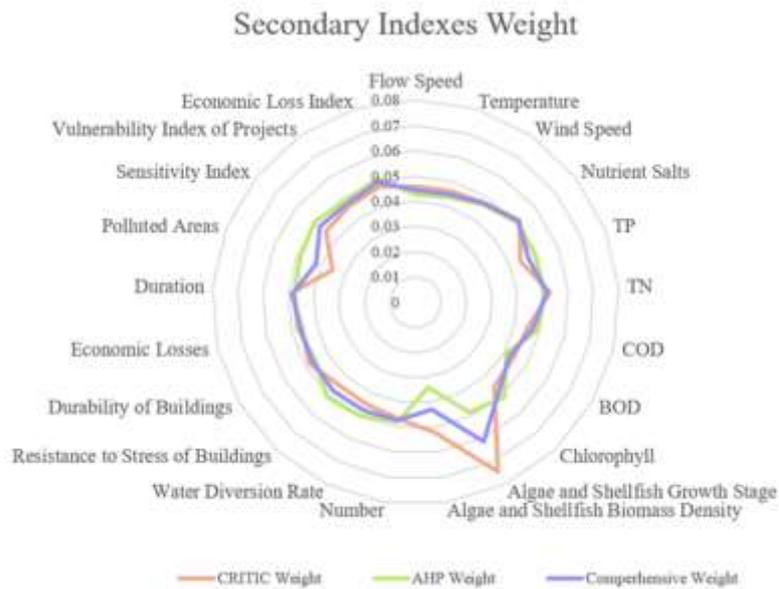
170 4 Case Study

171 4.1 Determining Index Weight

172 The target research area of this paper is the Henan section of the Middle Route of South-to-North Water
173 Diversion Project, and the data are retrieved from April 2016 to April 2019. According to the calculation method of
174 comprehensive weighting, the weights obtained by AHP and CRITIC are combined into comprehensive weights, as
175 shown in Figure 4.



176 (a)



178 (b)

180 **Figure 4** Weights of Algae and Shellfish in the Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project
 181 **4.2 Constructing Set-Pair Connection Function**

182 A questionnaire survey was conducted among 30 experts, who, on the basis of their experience, knowledge
 183 reserve and personal values, evaluated the safety grade of each index in combination with the features of the
 184 Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project, thus forming the index evaluation matrix for algae and
 185 shellfish in the Middle Route, as shown in Table 2 for details. And the quaternion connection function is
 186 established according to formula (2), as shown in Table 3.

187 **Table 2** Index Evaluation Matrix for Algae and Shellfish in the Middle Route of South-to-North
 188 Water Diversion Project

Evaluation Indexes	Highly Safe	Relatively Safe	Safe	Unsafe
Flow Speed	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.3
Temperature	0.15	0.15	0.35	0.35
Wind Speed	0.3	0.35	0.2	0.15
Nutrient Salts	0.25	0.25	0.2	0.3
TP	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
TN	0.25	0.2	0.4	0.15
COD	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
BOD	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1
Chlorophyll	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Algae and Shellfish Biomass Density	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.4
Algae and Shellfish Growth Stage	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1
Number	0.3	0.4	0.25	0.05
Water Diversion Rate	0.35	0.35	0.15	0.15
Resistance to Stress of Buildings	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.1
Durability of Buildings	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.1
Economic Losses	0.25	0.3	0.25	0.2
Duration	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1
Polluted Areas	0.15	0.15	0.3	0.4
Sensitivity Index	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.2
Vulnerability Index of Projects	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.2
Economic Loss Index	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2

189 **Table 3** Quaternion Connection Functions for Indexes at All Grades in the Middle Route of South-
 190 to-North Water Diversion Project

Primary Indexes	Secondary Indexes	Quaternion Connection Function	Potential
Physical Indexes	Flow Speed	$0.3+0.1i+0.3j+0.3k$	same
	Temperature	$0.15+0.15i+0.35j+0.35k$	opposite
	Wind Speed	$0.3+0.35i+0.2j+0.15k$	same
Physical Indexes Totality		$0.25+0.20i+0.28j+0.27k$	opposite
Chemical	Nutrient Salts	$0.25+0.25i+0.2j+0.3k$	opposite

Indexes	TP	$0.3+0.2i+0.3j+0.2k$	same	
	TN	$0.25+0.2i+0.4j+0.15k$	same	
	COD	$0.3+0.3i+0.2j+0.2k$	same	
	BOD	$0.4+0.2i+0.3j+0.1k$	same	
	Chlorophyll	$0.2+0.2i+0.3j+0.3k$	opposite	
Chemical Indexes Totality		$0.56+0.14i+0.12j+0.16k$	same	
Biological Indexes	Algae and Shellfish Stage	$0.1+0.3i+0.2j+0.4k$	opposite	
	Algae and Shellfish Density	$0.4+0.2i+0.3j+0.1k$	same	
	Biological Indexes Totality		$0.22+0.26i+0.24j+0.28k$	opposite
	Number	$0.3+0.4i+0.25j+0.5k$	opposite	
	Water Diversion Rate	$0.35+0.35i+0.15j+0.15k$	same	
Damage Degree	Resistance to Pressure of Buildings	$0.3+0.4i+0.2j+0.1k$	same	
	Durability of Buildings	$0.2+0.5i+0.2j+0.1k$	same	
	Damage Degree Totality		$0.29+0.41i+0.19j+0.11k$	same
	Economic Losses	$0.25+0.3i+0.25j+0.2k$	same	
Exposure Degree	Duration	$0.4+0.2i+0.3j+0.1k$	same	
	Polluted Areas	$0.15+0.15i+0.3j+0.4k$	opposite	
	Exposure Degree Totality		$0.27+0.22i+0.28j+0.23k$	same
	Sensitivity Index	$0.5+0.2i+0.1j+0.2k$	same	
Fragility	Vulnerability Index of Projects	$0.4+0.1i+0.3j+0.2k$	same	
	Economic Loss Index	$0.2+0.2i+0.4j+0.2k$	average	
	Fragility Totality		$0.23+0.16i+0.27j+0.2k$	same
Totality		$0.28+0.25i+0.26j+0.21k$	same	

191 As shown in Table 3, the quaternion connection function of algae and shellfish in the Middle Route of South-
192 to-North Water Diversion Project is $0.28+0.25i+0.26j+0.21k$, and its set pair potential is 1.75, which shows the
193 same potential between the ideal state and actual risk, registering relatively small risks. Among primary indexes,
194 physical and biological ones feature opposite potential; chemical ones feature average potential; damage degree,
195 exposure degree and vulnerability feature same potential. Among secondary indexes, temperature, nutrient salts,
196 chlorophyll, growth stage of algae and shellfish, number of projects, and polluted areas feature opposite potential;
197 economic loss index features average potential; and the rest indexes all feature same potential.

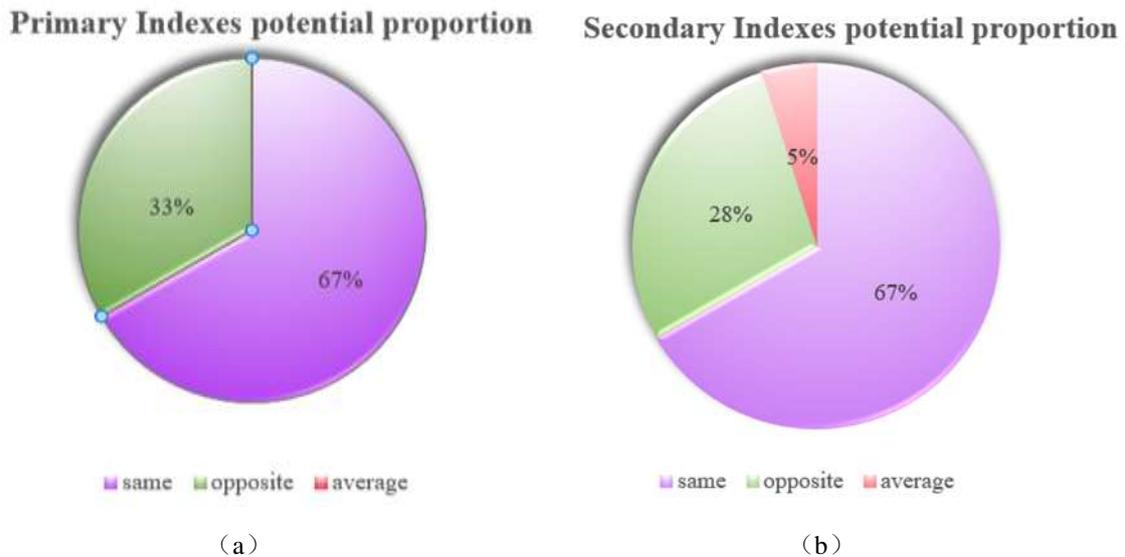


Figure 5 Risk situation proportion chart of the middle route of South-to-North Water Transfer Project

As shown in Figure 5, the ratio of different sets of first-order partial connection number and second-order partial connection number to the situation is calculated. In the partial connection number of the first-level indicators, the opposite potential accounts for 33%; The same trend accounted for 67%; average account for 0%. In the partial connection number of secondary indicators, the opposite potential accounts for 28%; The same trend accounted for 67%; The proportion of average is 5%. The proportion of partial connections of primary indicators is different from that of secondary indicators, because primary indicators are the result of comprehensive consideration of secondary indicators, and primary indicators are closer to the overall trend of partial connections.

4.3 Calculating the Partial Connection Number and Set Pair Potential of Each Order

Risk potential are obtained by analyzing the ratio of a/d according to formulas (4)-(6). See Table 4 for details of partial connection number and set pair potential of each order.

Table 4 Partial Connection Number and Set Pair Potential of Each-Order Indexes for the Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project

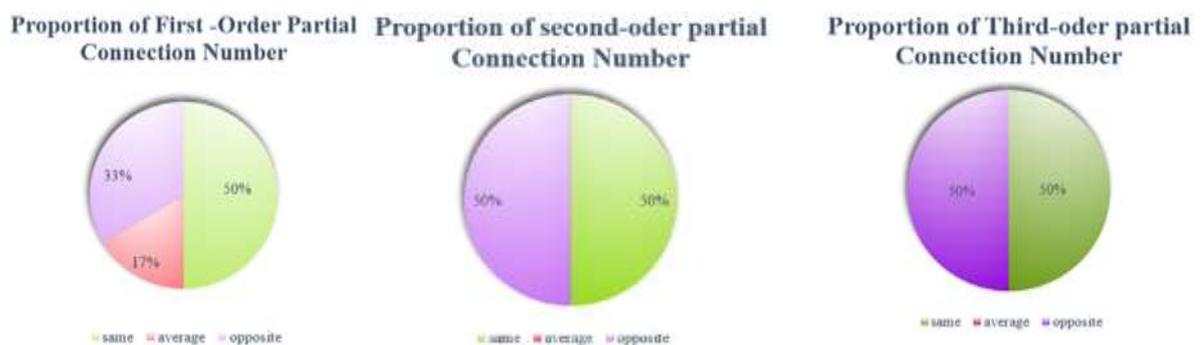
	First-Order Partial Connection Number	Set Pair Potential	Second-Order Connection Number	Set Pair Potential	Third-Order Partial Connection Number	Set Pair Potential
Physical Indexes	$0.56+0.42i+0.51j$	same	$0.57+0.45i$	same	0.56	same

Chemical Indexes	$0.80+0.54i+0.43j$	same	$0.60+0.57i$	same	0.52	same
Biological Indexes	$0.46+0.52i+0.46j$	average	$0.47+0.53i$	opposite	0.47	opposite
Damage Degree	$0.41+0.68i+0.63j$	opposite	$0.38+0.52i$	opposite	0.42	opposite
Exposure Degree	$0.55+0.44i+0.55j$	opposite	$0.56+0.44i$	same	0.56	same
Fragility	$0.59+0.37i+0.66j$	same	$0.61+0.36i$	opposite	0.63	opposite
Totality	$0.53+0.49i+0.55j$	opposite	$0.52+0.47i$	same	0.52	same

213 (1) As shown in Table 4, the first-order partial connection number for comprehensive risk assessment of algae
214 and shellfish in the Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project is $0.53+0.49i+0.55j$, and the set pair
215 potential is 0.96. The ideal state and actual risks feature opposite potential; namely, algae and shellfish in the
216 middle route show a first-order risk rising momentum. Among primary indexes, the safety potential of damage
217 degree features opposite potential; biological indexes and exposure degree feature average potential; and other
218 indexes feature same potential.

219 (2) As shown in Table 4, the second-order partial connection number for comprehensive risk assessment of
220 algae and shellfish in the Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project is $0.52+0.47i$, and the set pair
221 potential is 1.11. The ideal state and actual risks feature same potential; namely, algae and shellfish in the middle
222 route show a second-order risk falling momentum. Among primary indexes, the safety potential of biological
223 indexes, damage degree and fragility feature opposite potential; and other indexes feature same potential.

224 (3) As shown in Table 4, the third-order partial connection number for comprehensive risk assessment of algae
225 and shellfish in the Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project is 0.52. The ideal state and actual
226 risks feature same potential; namely, algae and shellfish in the middle route show a third-order risk falling
227 momentum. Among primary indexes, the safety potential of biological indexes, damage degree and fragility feature
228 opposite potential; and other indexes feature same potential.



229

230

(a)

(b)

(c)

231 **Figure 6** Proportion of each order situation in the middle route of South-to-North Water Transfer Project

232

233 As shown in Figure 6, in the situation of the first-order partial connection number in the middle route of
 234 South-to-North Water Transfer Project, the reverse potential accounts for 50%; The same trend accounted for 33%;
 235 The balance of power is 17%. In the situation of the second-order partial connection number of the South-to-North
 236 Water Transfer Project, the reverse potential accounts for 50%, and the same potential also accounts for 50%. The
 237 third-order proportion is the same as the second-order proportion. Compared with the second-order partial
 238 connection number, the equilibrium of the first-order partial connection number disappears in the second-order
 239 partial connection situation, which is due to the chemical index showing counter potential in the second-order
 240 partial connection situation and showing equilibrium in the first-order partial connection situation. The proportion
 241 of the second-order partial connection number situation and the third-order partial connection number situation has
 242 no obvious change, because there is no change in the second-order partial connection number situation and the
 243 third-order partial connection number situation. The deviation trend of each stage is progressive and calculated in
 244 turn.

245 **4.4 Determining Safety Grade of Algae and Shellfish in Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion**
 246 **Project**

247 The overall risk correlation coefficient obtained from Table 4 is $[0.28, 0.25, 0.26, 0.2]$. The above results
 248 show that for the Henan section of the Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project: the risk
 249 correlation coefficient of Grade I (highly safe) is 0.28, Grade II (relatively safe) is 0.25, Grade III (safe) is 0.26,
 250 and Grade IV (unsafe) is 0.2. According to formula (7), by comparing the risk connection coefficients of different
 251 grades, the risk connection coefficient of Grade I is the largest, so the overall safety grade of Henan section of the
 252 Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project is Grade I, a highly safe state.

253 **5 Conclusions and Implications**

254 **5.1 Conclusions**

255 (1) By combining the growth properties of algae and shellfish in the Middle Route of South-to-North Water
 256 Diversion Project with set pair analysis, it is concluded that the safety risk grade of the middle-route algae and

257 shellfish is Grade I, a highly safe state.

258 (2) The comprehensive risk assessment system of algae and shellfish in the Middle Route of South-to-North
259 Water Diversion Project was established, and the comprehensive weights are obtained by combining AHP and
260 CRITIC weights. The comprehensive risk evaluation model of algae and shellfish in the Middle Route of South-to-
261 North Water Diversion Project was established to grasp the dynamic risk changes of each index by calculating the
262 partial connection numbers of each order: the overall first-order partial connection numbers feature opposite
263 potential, with risks on the rise; the second-order and third-order partial connection numbers feature same potential,
264 with risks in decline.

265 (3) There are both same and opposite potentials in the quaternion connection numbers and partial connection
266 numbers of each order, which comprehensively shows the dynamism of algae and shellfish risk in the Henan
267 section of the Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project.

268 **5.2 Implications**

269 (1) Among the evaluation indexes of the comprehensive risk assessment model of algae and shellfish, the
270 growth stage, nutrient salts and TN occupy the largest weights, which prove to be important indexes affecting the
271 overall risk. Therefore, it is necessary to focus on the growth stage and chemical indexes of algae and shellfish.

272 (2) At present, the comprehensive risk of algae and shellfish in the Henan section of the Middle Route of
273 South-to-North Water Diversion Project is in a highly safe state, and is expected to present a safe momentum in the
274 future. However, in the first-order overall potentials, both physical and biological indexes show opposite potential;
275 namely, the physical factors in the Henan section are suitable for the growth of algae and shellfish. Therefore, it is
276 necessary to strengthen the monitoring of physical indexes and pay close attention to the growth of algae and
277 shellfish.

278 **Ethical Approval**

279 This article abides by academic norms, and there is absolutely no academic fraud.

280 **Consent to Participate**

281 All authors are actively involved in the paper and agree to the specifications of your journal.

282 **Consent to Publish**

283 All authors agree to submit to your journal, one publication, never multiple submissions for one manuscript.

284 **Conflicts of interest**

285 None

286 **Authors Contributions**

287 All authors contributed to the study conception and design. Material preparation, data collection and analysis
288 were performed by Youming Li , Jia Qu and Wei Gao. The first draft of the manuscript was written by Yan Long
289 and Mengjuan Feng, and all authors commented on previous versions of the manuscript. All authors read and
290 approved the final manuscript.”

291 **Availability of data and materials**

292 Appendix A.

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