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### ► To cite this version:

Renaldo Gastineau, Julia de Sigoyer, Pierre Sabatier, Stefano C. Fabbri, Flavio S. Anselmetti, et al.. Active subaquatic fault segments in Lake Iznik along the middle strand of the North Anatolian Fault, NW Turkey. *Tectonics*, 2021, 40 (1), pp.e2020TC006404. 10.1029/2020TC006404 . hal-03106824

**HAL Id: hal-03106824**

**<https://hal.science/hal-03106824>**

Submitted on 1 Feb 2021

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1 Tectonics: <https://doi.org/10.1029/2020TC006404>

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3 **Active subaquatic fault segments in Lake Iznik along the middle strand**  
4 **of the North Anatolian Fault, NW Turkey**

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18

19 **Key points:**

- 20 1. Previously unknown faults that belong to the North Anatolian Fault system have been discovered in  
21 Lake Iznik through geophysical surveys (from multibeam bathymetry and high-frequency seismic  
22 reflection data).
- 23 2. Assessment of the recent activity of the Iznik Fault, based on multiproxy analysis of sediment cores  
24 from each side of the fault.
- 25 3. Evidence for the timing of the last rupture corresponding to the 1065 CE historical earthquake, which  
26 had significantly impacted the city of Iznik.

27 **Abstract**

28 The seismic activity of the middle strand of the North Anatolian Fault (MNAF), Northwestern Turkey, is  
29 debated because of its quiescence during the instrumental period, in contrast to a significant historical activity  
30 documented by several chronicles over the last two millennia. Here, we focus on Lake Iznik, bordered by the  
31 MNAF, to get a new insight into its long-term seismicity and its tectonic setting. The study of lacustrine  
32 sediment cores reveals fourteen earthquake-induced turbidites since their ages correspond to seismic events  
33 during the past two millennia. Bathymetry and high-resolution seismic reflection data allow to describe two  
34 hitherto unknown subaquatic active fault structures (the South Boyalica and Iznik faults) that belong to the  
35 MNAF system. Sediment cores sampled on both sides of the Iznik Fault document an event deposit and a  
36 sedimentary unit vertically offset of ~ 40 cm interpreted as the last rupture during the 1065 CE destructive  
37 earthquake. Older events are supposed on this fault more than thousand years ago. Further studies will help  
38 to estimate the horizontal coseismic offset of this oblique-slip fault and the calendar of older ruptures. The  
39 current seismic gap of thousand years on this segment greatly increases the seismic hazard in this region and  
40 must be considered in the seismic risk assessment of the NAF system.

41 **Plain Language Summary**

42 During large earthquakes, sediments are generally transported from lake slopes to the lake basin. The  
43 resulting event deposits can provide information on the recurrence of past regional earthquakes, which is  
44 crucial for seismic hazard assessment. In this study, we discovered two underwater fault structures in Lake  
45 Iznik, using geophysical methods. Studying the sedimentation on both sides of the southernmost fault, we  
46 observed an increased sedimentation rate on the hanging wall of the fault immediately after an event deposit,  
47 dated to 1077 +/- 77 cal. CE. We interpreted these indicators as resulting from a coseismic displacement  
48 along the fault plane, linked to the 1065 CE historical earthquake, which had significantly impacted the city  
49 of Iznik. We also show that most of the other event deposits in the sediment cores are confidently associated  
50 to 14 historical earthquakes since 2000 years.

51 **Keywords:** North Anatolian Fault, Lake sediment, Fault activity, Earthquake, Turbidite,  
52 paleo-seismicity.

## 53 1. Introduction

54 Earthquakes are the costliest and deadliest natural events in Turkey with about 100,000 deaths in the last  
55 century (Öcal, 2019). Despite their lower frequency compared to other events such as floods, the impact of  
56 earthquakes cannot be ignored in this densely populated part of the world. The seismic hazard in the  
57 northwestern part of Turkey is mainly linked to the North Anatolian Fault (NAF), a 1500 km-long right-  
58 lateral strike-slip fault, which accommodates the westward migration of the Anatolian microplate, away from  
59 the Eurasian/Arabian collision (Reilinger et al., 2006).

60 In its western termination, the NAF zone displays a complex organization as it is divided into three branches  
61 (**Fig. 1**). Its northern strand (NNAF) continues south of Istanbul through the Marmara Sea (e.g. Armijo et al.,  
62 2005). Its middle strand (MNAF) borders the south of two successive basins, known as the Geyve-Pamukova  
63 Basin and the Iznik Basin, which hosts Lake Iznik and continues through the Gemlik Bay to the southern  
64 shore of the Marmara Sea (**Fig. 1**). Its southern strand (SNAF) is less pronounced in the landscape and extends  
65 across the Bursa Province (**Fig. 1**). With a relative horizontal motion estimated around 5 mm/yr by GPS  
66 (Ergintav et al., 2014), both MNAF and SNAF show a deformation rate 5-fold smaller than the NNAF (~ 25  
67 mm/yr) (Reilinger et al., 2006). This is also reflected by the recent seismicity of the NAF: from 1939 to 1999,  
68 a sequence of great earthquakes (moment magnitude  $M_w > 6.8$ ) shifted westward from Erzincan to Düzce  
69 and Izmit (**Fig. 1**; Stein et al., 1997). The last major earthquake on the NNAF occurred in 1999 along the  
70 Izmit-Sapanca rupture and was a 7.6  $M_w$  event. A ground-motion study revealed that this fault segment broke  
71 with a supershear velocity during the earthquake (Bouchon, 2002). This destructive event caused extensive  
72 liquefaction-induced ground deformation on the shores of Lake Sapanca triggering the submergence of a  
73 hotel (Cetin et al., 2002). The succession of the earthquakes on the NNAF is explained by the cumulative  
74 Coulomb stress along the fault (Stein et al., 1997). According to this concept and several studies with  
75 complementary methods, a seismic gap is inferred on the NNAF segment in the Marmara Sea, which was  
76 seismically inactive since the 18th century (Hubert-Ferrari et al., 2000). This future rupture may lead to a  
77  $M_w > 7$  earthquake and strike Istanbul (e.g. Parsons, 2000; Armijo et al., 2005; Bulut et al., 2019; Lange et  
78 al., 2019). However, these different models only encompass the recent seismicity (since 1700 CE) on the  
79 NNAF branch, but do not take into account either the MNAF or the SNAF. While the NNAF produced  
80 several major earthquakes since that time (Ambraseys, 2002), the SNAF produced a 7.3  $M_w$  earthquake in  
81 1953 and a 6.9  $M_w$  earthquake in 1964 (Ambraseys, 2002). However, no major earthquake ruptured on the

82 MNAF for several centuries, and a very low seismicity has been recorded during the instrumental period.  
83 The last big earthquake on the MNAF may have occurred between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries CE (Ambraseys,  
84 2002). This long quiescence strongly contrasts with a significant historical tectonic activity on the MNAF.  
85 Several chronicles and archaeological studies report the partial destruction of the city of Iznik (previously  
86 called Nicaea) and surrounding areas following ~ 15 major earthquakes within the last 2000 years with  
87 unknown rupture segments (Ambraseys & Finkel, 1991; Ambraseys & Jackson, 2000; Ambraseys, 2002;  
88 Benjelloun et al., 2020). The quiescence of the MNAF in recent times may hide a longer seismic recurrence,  
89 which possibly is just as hazardous as the NNAF (according to their span of quiescence), but has been  
90 underestimated by the models. This study aims to specify the earthquake catalogue in the Iznik area to  
91 determine the seismic cycle of the MNAF and to provide new data for the tectonic setting of this fault strand.  
92 This study is the first to use the sedimentary record of the Lake Iznik to document past earthquakes along the  
93 MNAF. It complements previous studies done close to different fault segments of the NNAF in different sub-  
94 basins of the Marmara Sea through sediment analysis (e.g. McHugh et al., 2006; Çağatay et al., 2012; Drab  
95 et al., 2012; Eriş et al., 2012). It will bring new paleoseismic informations in this region.

96 Lake sediments are continuous archives used to reconstruct past earthquake history (Monecke et al., 2004;  
97 Strasser et al., 2006; Beck, 2009; Strasser et al., 2013; Van Daele et al., 2015; Avşar et al., 2015; Wilhelm et  
98 al., 2016; Moernaut et al., 2017; Rapuc et al., 2018). Compared to historical and terrestrial archives, lake  
99 sediments provide a complementary and more continuous paleoseismic record (e.g. Strasser et al., 2013;  
100 Wilhelm et al., 2016). Combining on-fault studies such as trenching with studies investigating earthquake-  
101 induced turbidites in lakes not only provides direct evidence for fault displacement in the case of surface  
102 ruptures (e.g. Beck et al., 2015), but also allows to document seismic events off-fault without surface ruptures  
103 (Brocard et al., 2016). We propose here to investigate Lake Iznik using a combined geophysical and  
104 sedimentological approach to provide new insights into the seismicity of the Iznik region over the past  
105 millennia. These methods have been already used on submarine ocean-floor faults such as in the Marmara  
106 Sea or in the Lesser Antilles (e.g. Armijo et al., 2005; Beck et al., 2012; McHugh et al., 2014).

## 107 2. Context

### 108 2.1 Geological settings and previous studies on the MNAF

109 The NAF originated some 11-13 Ma ago within a wider pre-existing shear zone, which became progressively  
110 narrower through time (Şengör et al., 2014). While most of NAF segments are known to have a right-lateral  
111 kinematics, several segments show oblique (transtensional) kinematics with local deformation partitioning  
112 between right-lateral strike-slip and extensional regimes (Kurt et al., 2013; Doğan et al., 2015; **Fig. 2**). The  
113 origin of the Iznik Basin is still under debate: it has been interpreted as a superimposed basin evolved due to  
114 the intersection of the younger NAF and the Thrace Eskişehir Fault (Yalıtırak, 2002; Öztürk et al., 2009) or  
115 as a more complex transtensional basin due to MNAF activity (Doğan et al., 2015). The geological  
116 inheritance is reflected by the relatively high lithological heterogeneity and tectonic complexity within the  
117 watershed (**Fig. 2a**). The Gürle Fault (a segment of the MNAF) has a normal component (Doğan et al., 2015),  
118 which explains the current location of the deepest depocentre of Lake Iznik (~ 75 m depth b.l.l.; **Fig. 2a**).  
119 This normal component is also expressed by the 100 m-high triangular facets on Lake Iznik's southern shore  
120 (**Fig. 2b**). Fault partitioning thus certainly exists; whereas the onshore Gürle Fault accommodates most of  
121 the normal component, another fault segment should somewhere accommodate the dextral component (**Fig.**  
122 **2b**).

123 At least fifteen earthquakes were documented in historic chronicles in Iznik during the last two millennia,  
124 (Ambraseys & Finkel, 1991; Ambraseys & Jackson, 2000; Ambraseys, 2002; Benjelloun et al., 2020).  
125 According to these archives, the epicenter of some of them is located on the MNAF (29-32; 121; 368 and  
126 1065; the 1419 CE earthquake was also recorded on the SNAF so the epicenter location is still under debate).  
127 More than 20 trenches carried out on different segments of the MNAF confirmed its activity (e.g. Honkura  
128 & Işıkara, 1991; Barka, 1993; Uçarkuş, 2002; Doğan, 2010; Özalp et al., 2013; see **Fig. 2a** for their  
129 locations). One to three ruptures were identifying on them but very few of them gave reliable ages. It is  
130 therefore difficult to conclude on the precise rupture ages on the different segments of the MNAF, and on  
131 their earthquake recurrence rate. The city of Iznik hosts many archeological remains affected by past  
132 earthquakes, such as the recently discovered submerged basilica in Lake Iznik (Şahin, 2014; Şahin &  
133 Fairchild, 2018). Through a systematic survey of Earthquake Archeological Effects (EAE) on Iznik's  
134 buildings, Benjelloun et al., (2020) showed that three damage episodes are recorded: between the 6<sup>th</sup> and late  
135 8<sup>th</sup> centuries CE, between the 9<sup>th</sup> and late 11<sup>th</sup> centuries CE and after the late 14<sup>th</sup> century CE. The second

136 episode is clearly related to an earthquake in 1065 CE that was well described in many local chronicles and  
137 caused several damages in Iznik, whereas the two other episodes could be explained by different earthquake  
138 scenarios.

## 139 **2.2 Lake catchment**

140 Lake Iznik (83.5 m a.s.l, 40°26'N, 29°32'E), formerly known as Lake Askania, is located southeast of the  
141 Marmara Region (Bursa Province), east of the Gemlik Bay (**Fig. 1**). It is the fifth-largest lake of Turkey, and  
142 the largest of the Marmara Region with a N-S and E-W extent of 12 and 32 km, respectively (**Fig. 2a**). The  
143 lake has a catchment area of ~ 1257 km<sup>2</sup> and a surface area of 313 km<sup>2</sup>. The watershed shows a heterogeneous  
144 geology, with a northern part relatively rich in volcanic, metamorphic rocks and carbonates, while the  
145 southern part is mostly composed of siliciclastic sediments with only sporadic carbonate and volcanic  
146 sections. Iznik has been an important city throughout history. Different archaeological excavations in the  
147 area suggest that the first farming activities began 6000-5400 BCE (Roodenberg, 2013). Since the first  
148 humans settled in the watershed, the land has been cultivated: cereals, olives, and walnuts were among the  
149 most important crops in the Iznik area (Miebach et al., 2016). The lake is peanut-shaped with a non-regular  
150 shoreline (**Fig. 2a**). A rough bathymetry of the lake, assembled by the General Directorate of Turkish  
151 Hydraulic Works (DSI), shows that the lake comprises three sub-basins, reflecting its tectonic complexity  
152 (**Fig. 2a**). One isolated sub-basin is located in the western part of the lake, whereas two sub-basins form the  
153 central and eastern parts, with one in the North and the deepest one in the South separated by a E-W elongated  
154 ridge (**Fig. 2a**). The main inflows are the Sölöz, Nadir, Kuru, Kara and Kiran rivers (**Fig. 2a**). The only outlet  
155 of the lake is the Karsak River, which discharges the waters westward to the Marmara Sea through the Gemlik  
156 Bay. The Iznik Basin is bordered by two mountain ranges: The Samanlı Mountains (max. elevation 1227 m  
157 a.s.l.) to the North, and the Katırlı Mountains to the South (1275 m a.s.l.) (**Fig. 2a**). Previous studies of Lake  
158 Iznik's sediments have provided an up to 36 kyr-long paleoclimatic archive (Roeser et al., 2012; Ülgen et al.,  
159 2012; Viehberg et al., 2012; Miebach et al., 2016). In these past studies of Lake Iznik's sedimentary archives,  
160 no event deposits (except tephra layers), were identified in the sedimentary sequence.

161 **3. Methodology**

162 **3.1 Bathymetry**

163 The bathymetric survey was completed in April 2019 using a fishing boat with a Kongsberg EM2040  
164 multibeam echosounder (Kongsberg Maritime, Horten, Norway, provided by University of Bern) in a single-  
165 head configuration (1° by 1° beam width, 300 kHz standard operating frequency; 400 depth detections per  
166 ping). The angular coverage was 148° maximum, with a coverage of up to ~ 3 times water depth on a flat  
167 bottom. The transducers and auxiliary sensors Kongsberg Seatex MRU5+ motion sensor (Kongsberg Seatex,  
168 Trondheim, Norway), a Trimble SPS361 heading sensor (Trimble Navigation Limited, Sunnyvale, CA,  
169 USA), a Leica GX1230 GNSS receiver (Leica Geosystems, Heerbrugg, Switzerland) using the TUSAGA  
170 Aktif GEO real-time positioning service (national active fixed GNSS, Turkey; typical position accuracy 2 to  
171 3 cm) and a Valeport MiniSVS sound velocity sensor (Valeport Limited, Totnes, UK) were used. The  
172 transducers, motion sensor and mini sound velocity sensor were incorporated in a rigid mounting attached to  
173 the bow of the ship. The ship speed ranged from 7-9 km/h.

174 The vertical sound velocity in the water column was recorded daily by a Valeport Sound Velocity Profiler  
175 (SVP) that recorded pressure, temperature and the sound velocity in the water column. Sound velocity  
176 depends on the temperature and the salinity of the water. The absolute depth accuracy depends on the  
177 correctness of the water velocity profiles, the motion sensor's capability to compensate for ship movements  
178 due to waves, positioning accuracy, the water depth and is in the range of centimeters (shallow waters) to a  
179 few decimeters (>50 m depth). Data were recorded using Kongsberg's SIS software and processed in  
180 HIPS/SIPS 10.4.13 software (University of Bern), then interpreted using ArcGIS 10.4.1.

181 **3.2 Seismic acquisition**

182 The seismic profiles were acquired using a 3.5 kHz system (Geopulse, Geoacoustic) in 2005 with a single-  
183 channel streamer (20-elements AE5000, GeoAcoustics) and an array of four sub-bottom profiling transducers  
184 (Mod. TR-1075A, Massa, USA) as receivers. Shot interval was 1 second. For navigation, a 3x4 m UWITEC  
185 aluminum platform ("R/V Helga") equipped with 4 inflatable tubes for flotation and a 25 HP outboard engine  
186 were used. The average speed of the vessel was 5 km/h. All 3.5 kHz data were digitized (Octopus 360,  
187 Octopus Marine Systems, UK) and processed (15 to 5000 Hz filtering) using Reflex software (Sandmeier  
188 Software, Germany). All profiles were interpreted using IHS Markit® Kingdom v.2015.



### 189           **3.3 Coring and lithological description**

190 Five short cores (registered in the French national cyber-core-repository <https://www.cybercarotheque.fr> and  
191 the open international database [www.geosamples.org](http://www.geosamples.org) as IZN19\_03 (1.37 m; IGSN: [TOAE0000000310](#)),  
192 IZN19\_04 (1.60 m; IGSN: [TOAE0000000311](#)), IZN19\_16 (1.25 m; IGSN: [TOAE0000000322](#)), IZN19\_21  
193 (2.70 m; IGSN: [TOAE0000000297](#)) and IZN19\_31 (2.79 m; IGSN: [TOAE0000000307](#))) were collected from  
194 Lake Iznik in April and July, 2019, using a UWITEC gravity corer with hammering. The cores were sampled  
195 on strategic points, depending on the first bathymetric and seismic results. In the laboratory, the cores were  
196 split into two halves. Each core was photographed after oxidation and a detailed sedimentological description  
197 was performed. The lithological description of the sequences allowed the identification of different  
198 sedimentary structures and facies, which were then correlated between the cores. Colors were assigned  
199 according the Munsell's color chart (Munsell Color, 1994).

### 200           **3.4 Sedimentological analysis**

#### 201           **Grain-size analysis**

202 The grain-size distribution of the sediment was determined following a mean of 5 cm sampling step all along  
203 the longest sequence (IZN19\_21; **Fig. 3** for location). As the sequence contains sporadic mm-thick sandy  
204 deposits, the resolution in these parts was increased to 0.5 cm. A Beckman Coulter Life Science 13 230 XR  
205 laser particle-size analyzer was used (EDYTEM Laboratory, University Savoie Mont Blanc) with sonication  
206 to avoid particle flocculation. Two runs with a 30s-long measurement were applied for each fresh sample.  
207 Results of the grain-size distribution were processed with MATLAB R2016b software and presented in a  
208 contour plot with a color-scale according to the abundance of particles in percentage for each grain-size class.

#### 209           **Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) and Energy-Dispersive Spectroscopy (EDS)**

210 To complete the core description, a representative 8 cm-long slab including two coarser-grained deposits was  
211 resin-embedded to make 1 mm-thick thin sections of the sediment, which were analyzed with a Vega3 Tescan  
212 Scanning Electron Microscope (ISTerre Laboratory, University Grenoble Alpes) following covering with a  
213 graphite layer of 20 nm. Representative areas of the thin section were additionally analyzed with an Energy-  
214 Dispersive Spectroscopy (EDS) probe (Rayspec with SamX's electronic system and software, ISTerre  
215 Laboratory) to examine the elementary composition and to map chemical elements on specific lamina.

## 216 **Loss on ignition**

217 The loss on ignition (LOI) analysis was performed on the IZN19\_31 sequence (**Fig. 3** for location), with a  
218 10-cm sampling interval all along the sequence to estimate organic matter (OM) and carbonate proportion in  
219 the sediment, following the protocol described by Heiri et al., (2001).

## 220 **3.5 Geochemistry**

221 The relative contents of major and trace elements were analyzed with an X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) at 1-  
222 mm resolution on the surface of each sediment core with an Avaatech Core Scanner (EDYTEM Laboratory).  
223 The split core surface was first covered with a 4- $\mu$ m-thick Ultralene film to avoid contamination and  
224 desiccation of the sediment. Element intensities are expressed in counts per second (cps). Different settings  
225 were used with 10 kV and 0.2 mA during 15 s to detect Al, Si, S, K, Ca, Ti. and at 30 kV and 0.3 mA during  
226 20 s for Mn, Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Br, Rb, Sr, Zr, Pb (Richter et al., 2006). A Principal Component Analysis (PCA)  
227 was performed on the geochemical results using R software version 3.5.1 (R Core Team, 2018) to determine  
228 correlations between the different measured elements and to identify principal sediment end-members, which  
229 are used to better constrain each sedimentological facies (e.g. Sabatier et al., 2010).

## 230 **3.6 Chronology of the cores**

231 Eleven  $^{14}\text{C}$  analyses of eleven organic plant macro remains were performed by accelerator mass spectrometer  
232 (AMS) at the Poznan Radiocarbon Laboratory. The  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages were calibrated using the Intcal20 calibration  
233 curve (Reimer et al., 2020). Calibrated ages are expressed in the Common Era (CE) timescale: years before  
234 the CE are denoted BCE (Table 1). The age model and the sedimentation rate were calculated using the R  
235 code package *clam* (Blaauw, 2010). The best fit was obtained by applying a smooth spline model with 0.35  
236 and 0.40 for the smooth parameter (for IZN19\_21 and IZN19\_31 cores respectively).

## 237 **4. Results**

### 238 **4.1 Lake Bathymetry**

239 One third of the surface area of Lake Iznik (~ 80.5 km<sup>2</sup>), was mapped in high-resolution (**Fig. 2a**). Two  
240 prominent lineaments were discovered on the bathymetric data. One is located to the north, parallel to the  
241 onshore Boyalica Fault and strikes NE-SW. This lineament separates the northern sub-basin and the  
242 shoreward underwater terraces (**Fig. 3c**).

243 The other lineament, striking NW-SE, has been discovered on the southeastern part and mapped over a  
244 distance of 9 km (**Fig. 3a**). It separates the southern sub-basin from the central ridge (**Fig. 2**) in the middle of  
245 the lake. This lineament presents two kinks separating it into three segments: IFS1, IFS2 and IFS3 (**Fig. 3a**).  
246 IFS1 and IFS3 are ~ 3 km length (**Fig. 3a**). The bathymetric profile perpendicular to the IFS1 shows a ~ 1 m  
247 vertical offset of the lake floor (profile P1; **Fig. 3d**), extending over a distance of ~ 100 m. These segments  
248 are linked by IFS2 those scarp is barely visible on the bathymetric data (**Fig. 3a**). Furthermore, numerous  
249 pockmarks are visible along the fault trace at the transition from IFS2 to IFS3, indicating fluid escapes (**Fig.**  
250 **3b**). The size of these depressions varies from few centimeters to 6 m diameter and reaches ~ 60 cm deep  
251 (**Fig. 3d**). Where the lineament extends ashore, it merges into the main branch of the MNAF, close to the  
252 village of Dırızali. However, the surface expression of the fault is masked by human activity, mainly due to  
253 fields of olive and fruit trees. According to these observations, we interpreted this lineament as a fault, termed  
254 Iznik Fault.

#### 255 **4.2 Seismic reflection data**

256 High-resolution seismic profiles were acquired across IFS2 and IFS3 (**Fig. 3a**). These single-channel  
257 reflection sections show maximum acoustic penetration of ~ 10 ms two-way travel time or ~ 7.5 m (assuming  
258 acoustic velocities of 1500 m/s), after which signals become weaker and difficult to interpret due to high gas  
259 content of the sediment. Chaotic-to-transparent acoustic seismic facies is interpreted as turbidite deposits or  
260 mass-movement deposits indicating a slope failure at the location of IFS3 on the seismic section supporting  
261 the fault nature of the lineament and its location (Profile P2; **Fig. 4**) (e.g. Cukur et al., 2013). Although it is  
262 difficult to assess the vertical offset on the different seismic profiles, the continuity of the seismic reflections  
263 is affected across the fault. The second seismic section parallel to IFS2 (Profile P3; **Fig. 4**), does not show  
264 any clear slope failure but only slight vertical offsets of the seismic reflections and a series of closely-spaced  
265 incipient faults displacing steeply the uppermost meters of sediment.

#### 266 **4.3 Sedimentary sequences**

##### 267 **Sedimentary facies**

268 Lake Iznik sediments consist mainly of clays and silts (Roeser et al., 2012; **Fig. 5**). In the here investigated  
269 short cores, very fine to fine sand laminae appear very sporadically at the millimeter scale in the finer matrix

270 of background deposits. Based on macroscopic observations and confirmed by geochemical analysis, four  
271 main lithological facies were identified.

272 - Facies I is composed of brown (5Y/4/4) silt (D50 = 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and occurs at the top of each core. The  
273 organic proportion (LOI550) of this facies amounts to ~ 9 % and the carbonate proportion (LOI950)  
274 to 6 %.

275 - Facies II occurs at different depths in the sequences and consists of slightly coarser light brown  
276 (2.5Y/5/4) silt (D50 = 15  $\mu\text{m}$ ). Facies II has the highest proportion of organic matter (~ 10 %) and  
277 carbonate (~ 10 %).

278 - The majority of the sedimentary sequence consists of Facies III, which is a more heterogeneous  
279 facies with olive grey color (5Y/6/2) clayey silt (D50 = 8  $\mu\text{m}$ ). This facies is interrupted by a total  
280 of 15 and 18 few-mm-thick (max 2 cm-thick) silt (to sandy) laminae in cores IZN19\_31 and  
281 IZN19\_21, respectively, denoted as Facies IV and termed 'event deposits' (D50 = 20  $\mu\text{m}$  in general).  
282 This facies shows the lowest proportion in organic matter (~ 7 %) and carbonates (~ 7 %).  
283 Nevertheless, LOI values do not vary much over the entire sequence. The fraction of non-carbonate  
284 ignition residue (NCIR) is higher than 80 % for the whole sequence (**Fig. 5a**). All event deposits  
285 appear to the naked eye as mm-thick levels of very fine sand or silty lenses within the continuous  
286 sedimentation of Facies III. The detailed SEM observations show that these sandy laminae have an  
287 erosive base incising into clayey sediments and a fining-upward trend. Bioturbation with vertical  
288 burrows is present throughout their base. Burrow length varies from 1 to 4 mm, and they are filled  
289 with particles to the overlying laminae (**Fig. 5c**). Moreover, a comparison of the oxide composition  
290 of two event deposits compared to the background sedimentation has been performed with the EDS  
291 sensor (**Fig. 5c**). These maps show that Facies III and IV have the same major element compositions  
292 and that all carbonates within the Facies IV are sometimes composed by Ca and Mg and reach 50  
293  $\mu\text{m}$  (**Fig. 5c**). Facies IV laminae are thus distinct from Facies III due to their fining-upward trends,  
294 their erosive base and the coarse-grained Ca/low-Mg-carbonates (**Fig. 5**).

## 295 **Geochemistry**

296 PCA was conducted on the XRF geochemical data of both IZN19\_31 and IZN19\_21 cores located on both  
297 sides of the fault (**Fig. 5b**). Dimensions 1 and 2 (denoted as Dim 1 and Dim 2) explain 85.17% and 80.12%  
298 of the total variability for IZN19\_31 and IZN19\_21 cores, respectively. From the variables factor map, two

299 end-members could be identified. The first one, denoted as "terrigenous", shows high positive loadings with  
300 Dim 1 (e.g. Al, Si, Ti, K, Rb; in green in **Fig. 5a, b**). The second end-member is interpreted as "in-lake  
301 processes" (Ca, Sr, Br). It displays negative loadings on Dim 1 and positive loadings on Dim 2 (red in **Fig.**  
302 **5a, b**). We link it to the endogenic carbonate production and organic matter (Guevara et al., 2019). The  
303 individual factor map highlights the characteristics of each facies. Facies II is dominated by the endogenic  
304 process end-member, which correspond the higher LOI550 values (**Fig. 5b**). In contrast, Facies III is  
305 influenced by terrigenous input. Facies I is in an intermediate position with relatively higher Ti counts than  
306 Facies II (**Fig. 5a**). Facies IV shows a similar geochemical characteristic and are nearly always occurring  
307 within the Facies III (**Fig. 5c**).

#### 308 **Core-to-core correlation**

309 On the basis of the lithological description and XRF measurements, a correlation between the cores across  
310 the Iznik Fault is proposed (**Fig. 6**). The IZN19\_03 Core has been excluded from the comparison to limit  
311 uncertainties because of its distance to this transect (IZN19\_03 Core is presented **Figure S1** in the supporting  
312 information). On **Fig. 6**, the Dim 1 (terrigenous supply vs. in-lake processes) and the Ca signal are displayed  
313 to highlight the stratigraphic units' correlation. Five different stratigraphic units (from top to bottom: purple,  
314 green, orange, dark blue, grey) were correlated on the P1 profile across IFS1 (**Fig. 3d**). Thickness of these  
315 units varies significantly, particularly between cores in the immediate vicinity of the fault, IZN19\_31 on the  
316 hanging wall and IZN19\_21 on the footwall of the fault. Based on the stratigraphic correlation, it was possible  
317 to correlate the radiocarbon dates (**Table 1**) to IZN19\_21 and IZN19\_31 cores and use all of them for age  
318 modeling.

#### 319 **4.4 Radiocarbon dating and age models**

320 Eleven organic terrestrial plant macroremains were dated (**Table 1**) and stratigraphically correlated between  
321 cores IZN19\_31 and IZN19\_21. This allowed us to use all dates on both cores for age modeling (**Fig. 7**).  
322 Both cores have almost the same length (279 cm and 270 cm, respectively) and they were taken very close  
323 one to the other (200 m apart) on each side of the fault. The core located north of the fault (IZN19\_21) spans  
324 a larger period of time and reach at the base ~ 640 cal. BCE, whereas the core south of the fault (IZN19\_31)  
325 encompasses a shorter time period with the base reaching ~ 210 cal. CE. These different basal ages clearly  
326 document the higher sedimentation rates south of the faults. Core IZN19\_31 shows more pronounced  
327 variations in the sedimentation rate, and four periods can be differentiated (**Fig. 7**). (1) a period with a

328 relatively high sedimentation rate from 200 to 350 cal. CE. During this period, the sedimentation rate is  
 329 almost constant (~ 1.8 mm/yr); (2) The sedimentation rate show a significant increase from 350 to 600 cal.  
 330 CE reaching 5.6 mm/yr; (3) The sedimentation rate decrease at 0.7 mm/yr around 1300 cal. CE; and (4)  
 331 Sedimentation rate increases from 1300 cal. CE until the modern period (1.1 mm/yr at the top). Core  
 332 IZN19\_21 shows almost the same trends, but with less pronounced variations (**Fig. 7**).

333

| Sample name | Core            | MCD (cm)   | Radiocarbon age (yr BP) | Age cal BCE/CE<br>2 $\sigma$ range | Sample type          |
|-------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Poz-118626  | IZN19_03        | 68         | 1170 +/- 35             | 772 – 977 CE                       | Plant remains        |
| Poz-118628  | IZN19_03        | 122.5      | 1555 +/- 30             | 429 – 579 CE                       | Plant remains        |
| Poz-118629  | <b>IZN19_03</b> | <b>136</b> | <b>1460 +/- 230</b>     | <b>63 – 1032 CE</b>                | <b>Plant remains</b> |
| Poz-118561  | IZN19_16        | 68.3       | 1205 +/- 30             | 704 – 941 CE                       | Plant remains        |
| Poz-118973  | IZN19_21        | 70.5       | 1345 +/- 30             | 643 – 775 CE                       | Plant remains        |
| Poz-118627  | IZN19_21        | 245.5      | 2385 +/- 30             | 719 – 393 BCE                      | Plant remains        |
| Poz-118972  | IZN19_31        | 82.7       | 1015 +/- 30             | 987 – 1153 CE                      | Plant remains        |
| Poz-118562  | IZN19_31        | 97.8       | 1070 +/- 30             | 893 – 1026 CE                      | Plant remains        |
| Poz-118563  | <b>IZN19_31</b> | <b>229</b> | <b>1700 +/- 30</b>      | <b>254 – 419 CE</b>                | <b>Plant remains</b> |
| Poz-118570  | IZN19_31        | 273.5      | 1820 +/- 30             | 130 – 326 CE                       | Plant remains        |
| Poz-122240  | IZN19_04        | 93         | 515 +/- 30              | 1328 – 1447 CE                     | Plant remains        |

334 *Table 1: Radiocarbon ages for the Lake Iznik sediment cores, in bold the rejected age for age model*  
 335 *computation. BP denotes Before Present, i.e. before 1950 CE. MCD denotes Meters Composite Depth.*

## 336 5. Discussion

### 337 5.1 Event deposits versus seismic historical archives

338 The LOI analysis of the cores shows that almost 80% of the whole sediment sequences are composed of  
 339 terrigenous siliciclastic constituents (**Fig. 5a**), whereas the in-lake carbonate production represents only a  
 340 minor fraction. Roeser et al., (2014, 2016) showed that Sr is strongly correlate to aragonite, which is closely  
 341 linked to endogenic precipitation in Lake Iznik’s water. In contrast, calcite is linked to both endogenic and  
 342 detrital input. The terrigenous component is expressed by high Ti counts, which are characteristic of

343 siliciclastic and felsic volcanic rocks in the southern part of the catchment (**Fig. 2a; Fig. 5a, b**). Our study  
344 reveals evidence for multiple thin Ti-rich sandy normally graded laminae termed event deposits (Facies IV  
345 in **Fig. 5**). The turbidites are defined by their lithological and textural characteristics. They show fining-  
346 upward patterns and a higher content of terrigenous elements as indicated by the Ti/Ca ratio and the PCA  
347 (**Fig. 5a, b**). Moreover, they show higher values of detrital carbonates shown by the Ca/Sr ratio and the  
348 presence of low-Mg coarse-grained carbonates (**Fig. 5a, c**).

349 Turbidites can be triggered by several processes such as hyperpycnal flows related to river flooding (e.g.  
350 Wilhelm et al., 2015), remobilization of superficial lacustrine slope sediments due to seismically induced  
351 subaquatic failures of lateral slopes (e.g. Schnellmann et al., 2005; Hage et al., 2017), or spontaneous slope  
352 failures due to high surcharge in sediments of submerged delta slopes (e.g. Girardclos et al., 2007; Hilbe &  
353 Anselmetti, 2014). The last hypothesis is less probable as slope angles are gentle in this area (less than 5°),  
354 which significantly reduces the probability of such spontaneous slope failures (Schnellmann et al., 2005).  
355 Turbidites are getting thinner from SW to NE (**Fig. 6**) and some of these deposits are absent in Core  
356 IZN19\_16, which is farther away from the closest significantly sediment contributing delta (**Fig. 3a**). The  
357 frequency of these turbidites and in particular the fact that no deposit has been observed over the last 1000  
358 years is difficult to explain with the “flood hypothesis”. However, given the active tectonic context of the  
359 region, it is plausible that such turbidites are related to shallow slope destabilizations by recurrent  
360 earthquakes, as previously proposed for thin turbidites in a similar context of Lake Hazar (~ 900 km  
361 southeastward on the East Anatolian Fault; Hage et al., 2017; Hubert-Ferrari et al., 2020). To evaluate this  
362 potential seismic cause, the age of the turbidites, deduced from age models of cores IZN19\_21 and IZN19\_31  
363 are compared with those of the historical earthquakes in a broader area (Ambraseys & Finkel, 1991;  
364 Ambraseys & Jackson, 2000; Ambraseys, 2002; Guidoboni et al., 2005; Ambraseys, 2009; Table S1 and S2  
365 in supporting information). The sensitivity of Lake Iznik to record regional earthquakes can be characterized  
366 by the Earthquake-Sensitivity Threshold Index (ESTI) (Wilhelm et al., 2016), for which the sedimentation  
367 rate is critical in controlling the ability of a lake system to record earthquake-induced deposits: the higher the  
368 sedimentation rate is, the greater the ESTI and the more likely it is to record earthquakes. As the  
369 sedimentation rate changes through time (**Fig. 7**), the ESTI of Lake Iznik might also have changed  
370 accordingly. A weighting of earthquake magnitudes by the sedimentation rate over 100 years prior to the

371 event is performed, thus the relationship between the sedimentation rate and the turbidites occurrence is  
372 explored in **Fig. 8**.

373 In Core IZN19\_21 that spans a longer time period till 640 cal BCE, nineteen distinct event deposits are  
374 observed. Six of them are older than 0 cal CE; thus predate the first historical seismicity records for this area.  
375 For the thirteen remaining sandy deposits, twelve historical earthquakes can be related to turbidite deposits  
376 (**Fig. 8; Table S1** in supporting information). The last event deposit, which have not been correlated with a  
377 historical earthquake is identified in the higher sedimentation rate period (350 to 600 cal CE) probably related  
378 to enhanced erosion by intense human activities during Roman time (Arnaud et al., 2016; Bajard et al., 2017)  
379 such as agriculture as reflected in high amounts of olive-tree pollens (Miebach et al., 2016). These fields  
380 were abandoned around 650 CE when Pinus pollen increased (Miebach et al., 2016). This rise in the  
381 sedimentation rate explains the increased sensitivity of the lake to record ground-shaking (Wilhelm et al.,  
382 2016; Rapuc et al., 2018). During such periods, the lake is prone to record earthquakes with significantly  
383 smaller magnitude, which might not be reported in historical accounts. We cannot exclude that the deposit  
384 could also be related to another triggering mechanism such as flood, considering that at least one flood is  
385 mentioned in a historical archive for that time period during the reign of Justinian (527-565 CE) (Evans,  
386 2005).

387 In Core IZN19\_31, fifteen event deposits are described, all of them in the time span of historical accounts.  
388 Eleven are associated with earthquakes (Table S1 in supporting information). The four others also appear in  
389 the high sedimentation rate period during which the lake sensitivity was high.

390 Overall, this approach shows conclusive results as twenty-three thin turbidites can be associated with  
391 earthquakes in both cores, corresponding to fourteen independent earthquakes (**Fig. 8**). Three of them  
392 correspond to earthquakes recorded on the MNAF segments (29-32 CE, 121 CE, 1065 CE (**Fig. 8c, f**). In  
393 turn, some historically known earthquakes such as the 368 CE or 740 CE that strongly damaged Iznik, were  
394 not recorded in our sedimentary sequences. The 368 CE may be preceded by two close older events. Two  
395 sandy deposits visible in Core IZN19\_31 at 232 cm depth, respectively 128 cm in IZN19\_21 Core (**Fig. 5**),  
396 could correspond to two of the three historical earthquakes known from that time: 358, 362 and 368 CE  
397 (Table S2 in supporting information). According to their distance to the lake and magnitude (**Fig. 8c, f**), 358  
398 and 362 CE earthquakes, located on the NNAF at ~ 40 km from Lake Iznik (Ambraseys, 2002), are supposed  
399 to be recorded as they are up to the threshold. Hence, the 358 CE earthquake, recorded in the Gulf of Izmit



400 (Çağatay et al., 2012), could have been recorded as a thick deposit (2 cm i.e. more than four times thicker  
401 than all other event deposits). The overlying thinnest coarse-grained laminae could corresponds to the 362  
402 CE earthquake but it was never recorded in the Marmara Sea (Çağatay et al., 2012; McHugh et al., 2014;  
403 Drab et al., 2015; Yakupoğlu et al., 2019). The lack of a third deposit marking the 368 CE earthquake thus  
404 likely indicates that the slopes did not have enough time to replenish the re-mobilizable sediment stock to  
405 form a new turbiditic deposit within only a few years after two earlier earthquakes. Another explanation is  
406 that the 362 CE has not been recorded, or its related-turbidite could have been eroded by the one of the 368  
407 CE earthquake, in particularly since historical data (e.g. Guidoboni et al., 1994) indicate that Iznik was mostly  
408 destroyed during the earthquake of 368 CE. Uncertainties still remain for the assignments of historical events  
409 during this period, more data are needed in the lake to document this point.

410 Furthermore, Iznik was highly damaged or destroyed by other events in 29-32 CE, 740 CE and 1065 CE with  
411 earthquake magnitudes estimated between 6.8 and 7.2 (Ambraseys, 2002). These magnitudes were calculated  
412 from the spatial distribution of intensities around the maximum intensity zone (Ambraseys, 2002), which in  
413 turn were estimated from historical accounts. Hence, variable population, changes in building vulnerability  
414 over time, and exaggeration in the historical sources are difficulties affecting these estimations.

415 The 740 CE earthquake has been documented in several places within the Marmara Sea (e.g. Çağatay et al.,  
416 2012; McHugh et al., 2014; Drab et al., 2015; Yakupoğlu et al., 2019), as the epicenter is supposed to be  
417 located on the NNAF (Ambraseys, 2002). According to epicentral distance and to its magnitude (**Fig. 8**), it  
418 should also be recorded in our sedimentary sequences. However, we could not find any evidence supporting  
419 it. McHugh et al., (2014) argue that seismo-turbidite cannot be triggered far from the ruptured segment. On  
420 the contrary, the 358 CE earthquake that we recorded was only recorded in the eastern part of the Izmit Gulf  
421 (Çağatay et al., 2012) and not in the other Marmara Sea Basin (e.g. Yakupoğlu et al., 2019). The presumed  
422 location of the 358 CE epicenter is near Izmit (Ambraseys, 2002).

423 Concerning the instrumental period, ~ 8500 earthquakes (from 1935 to 2019; **Fig. 8c, f**) occurred in an area  
424 200 km around Lake Iznik and with magnitudes (reported magnitude types vary) ranging from 2.5 to 7.6  
425 (USGS catalogue; <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/search/>). Among these earthquakes, only the  
426 1959 CE event is close to the sensitivity threshold of the lake for Core IZN19\_31, while it is below the  
427 detection limit for Core IZN19\_21. Near the top of the Core IZN19\_31, only one turbidite is observed, which  
428 could correspond to this earthquake (**Fig. 8d**). However, four recent earthquakes (1719, 1894, 1995 and 1999)

429 are not recorded in the sedimentary sequences, even though they are near the sensitivity threshold. However,  
430 there are likely many more variables affecting the detection limit and a sharp threshold is not expected in  
431 such a natural system (**Fig. 8f**).

432 Finally, if we consider the historical location and magnitude ( $M_s = 6.8$ ) of the 1065 CE earthquake, more  
433 than 20 km east of Iznik (Ambraseys, 2002), it should be below the detection limit of Lake Iznik and hence  
434 should not be recorded in our cores. Furthermore, it is not recorded in the Marmara Sea (e.g. Yakupoğlu et  
435 al., 2019). According to our study and the discussion below, we suggest a reconsideration of either its  
436 epicenter location or its magnitude.

437 The other events (989 CE, 869 CE, 554 CE, 478 CE, 447 CE, 407 CE) have been documented in the  
438 Kumburgaz Basin of the Marmara Sea, therefore they could be related to NNAF ruptures (Yakupoğlu et al.,  
439 2019). The 989 CE and 478 CE are also documented in the Çınarcık Basin (Drab et al., 2015).

440 The strong correlation between historical and instrumental recordings and our sedimentary records support  
441 the reliability of this conceptual approach. These results indicate that Lake Iznik's sediments record the past  
442 regional seismicity on the different branches of the NAF system. Upcoming studies should take into account  
443 sediment cores from different sub-basins of Lake Iznik. They will help to distinguish more accurately the  
444 source(s) of such coarser grained deposits, their synchronicity in different independent locations being a  
445 strong argument for their seismic trigger (e.g. Van Daele et al., 2015).

## 446 **5.2 Discovery of hitherto unknown subaquatic faults**

447 The bathymetric survey carried out in the lake allows to identify two subaquatic faults (**Fig. 2 and Fig. 3**).  
448 The first one is located in the northern sub-basin; striking SW-NE. It is characterized by a sharp vertical scarp  
449 of ~ 5 m (**Fig. 3c**), forming the northward edge of the northern sub-basin and the shoreward underwater  
450 terraces (**Fig. 2a and Fig. 3c**). This fault segment runs parallel close and south to the Boyalica Fault so that  
451 we consider it is a segment of it. The terraces, with depths of 20, 40, and 45 m b.l.l., interpreted as markers  
452 of past low lake levels as documented in the Gemlik Bay (Eriş et al., 2019) are offset by the fault.  
453 Microseismic data document a normal slightly dextral movement on this fault during a  $M_s$  2 earthquake  
454 (Gurbuz et al., 2000) and previous seismic study described this fault as a dextral P-shear or secondary  
455 synthetic shear fault (Öztürk et al., 2009). Many SW-NE faults are observed at the regional scale (**Fig. 1**),  
456 suggesting they are inherited structures. The kinematic of the South Boyalica Fault may have change thought

457 time as suggested by the left-lateral shift of the shorelines along the South Boyalıca Fault which gives a  
458 peanut shape to the lake.

459 The second fault identified in Lake Iznik, previously unknown - termed Iznik Fault - strikes E-W and  
460 separates the southern sub-basin from the central ridge (**Fig. 2**). The high-resolution seismic profile across  
461 IFS2 shows a series of steep faults interpreted to be arranged en-echelon manner (**Fig. 4, Profile P3**)  
462 suggesting that it presents mostly a strike-slip movement. The Iznik Fault seems to cross the entire lake; its  
463 eastern prolongation joins the dextral Dirazali Fault system onshore and potentially the dextral Gemlik Fault  
464 to the west (**Fig. 2**), which would suggest a right-lateral component for this fault. Besides, the smaller en-  
465 echelon faults on the border between IFS2 and IFS3 is related to small depressions, which (due to the fault  
466 orientation) indicate a right-lateral component. The vertical component of this fault is small as suggested by  
467 its small scarp (1 m).

468 These two subaquatic faults are most likely still active as expressed by the morphological step observed on  
469 the lake floor. The present activity of the Iznik Fault, in particular, is indicated by the change in sedimentation  
470 rate across the structure and the occurrence of many pock marks indicating fluid escape along the fault. Such  
471 fluid venting likely indicates by deep-seated pathways along the buried fault plane (**Fig. 3b**).

### 472 **5.3 Identification of the last earthquake rupture on the Iznik Fault**

473 The core-to-core correlation across the Iznik Fault (IFS1 on **Fig. 3a**) allows to identify thicknesses variations  
474 of sedimentary units across the structure. For the present-day profile (**Fig. 9a**), the topography is deduced  
475 from the multibeam bathymetry (Profile P1 on **Fig. 3a**). From the sediment-core analysis we retrieved the  
476 paleotopography and sedimentological features at different moments by removing unit by unit from the top  
477 to the bottom of the cores. For each depth, the age is determined from the age models of cores IZN19\_21 and  
478 IZN19\_31 (**Fig. 7**); the total uncertainty range of the different ages allows to encompass the time span. After  
479 removing the pink and green units (**Fig. 9b**), the residual topography is assumed to be the paleo topography  
480 at 1000/1154 cal CE. Compaction and erosion are neglected on this reconstruction, as we suppose a similar  
481 effect on both sides of the fault as well as similar erosional processes (e.g. deep currents). This reconstruction  
482 highlights a sediment thickness variation of ~ 40 cm between the hanging and the footwall of the fault for  
483 the green unit as opposed to only a minor relative difference in thickness for the orange unit just below (**Fig.**  
484 **9**). This thickness variation reflects the fault activity. The co-seismic vertical offset created an  
485 accommodation space on the footwall of the fault which then has been gradually filled (**Fig. 9b**). Part of this

486 thickness variation on both side of the fault can also be due to the dextral co-seismic offset that bring finer  
487 sediments on the northern compartment of the fault compare to more proximal and thicker ones in the  
488 southern compartment. The observation of an event deposit at the base of this green unit also supports this  
489 interpretation of fault rupture (**Fig. 8a**). The turbidity current-induced deposit is a co-seismic marker while  
490 the sedimentary thickness variation is a syn- to post-seismic indicator. This co-seismic event deposit is dated  
491 between 1000 to 1154 cal. CE and thus coincides with the well-documented 1065 CE earthquake (Ambraseys,  
492 2009). The independent archeo-seismological study of Benjelloun et al., (2020), documents an important  
493 phase of reconstruction of Nicaea's buildings (formerly Iznik) between 858 and 1097 CE. According to the  
494 original historical archive (Michael & Attaleiatēs, 2012), the 1065 CE earthquake has strongly damaged the  
495 city of Iznik (formerly Nicaea/ Nikaia): "It happened at Nikaia in Bithynia and brought almost total  
496 devastation and ruin to the place. Its most important and large churches [...] and the one of the Holy Fathers,  
497 where the Council of the most Holy and Orthodox Fathers against Areios confirmed its decisions [...] those  
498 churches, then, were shaken and collapsed as did the walls of the city along with many private dwellings.".   
499 No other locality seems to have been damaged as strongly as Iznik during this earthquake, which suggests a  
500 proximal event rupturing the MNAF. The ~ 40 cm vertical co-seismic offset associated to the dextral one and  
501 the co-seismic turbidites could have triggered a destructive wave (tsunami). This 1065 CE earthquake may  
502 have also induced ground-level variation that led to the destruction and submersion of the basilica of Nicaea  
503 (Şahin, 2014), explaining why this basilica has never been rebuilt.

504 As shown in **Fig. 8**, the 1065 CE earthquake should not be recorded in our cores if we consider the epicenter  
505 location deduced from historical archives >20 km east of Iznik (Ambraseys, 2002) and it has not been  
506 documented neither in other lake (e.g. Sapanca) nor in the Marmara Sea basins (e.g. Yakupoğlu et al., 2019).  
507 However, we show in this study that both an event deposit and a sedimentary unit with a vertical offset by ~  
508 40 cm are dated to that period. As this earthquake clearly ruptured the Iznik Fault up to the lake floor we  
509 propose to relocate the position of its epicenter in the lake (black arrow on **Fig. 8**). As McHugh et al., (2014)  
510 reported, the location of historical earthquakes can present big errors since the fault segments within the  
511 Marmara Sea and the different lakes were not known before the 1999 CE Izmit Earthquake.

512 The most recent unit (pink in **Fig. 9a**) postdates 1470/1777 cal. CE and shows a thickness increase of ~ 44  
513 cm in the southernmost shore-proximal Core IZN19\_04. Bathymetric data suggest a recent delta-derived

514 clastic contribution to explain this thickness variation. The recent increase of erosion and sediment supply to  
515 the lake is likely related to agriculture revival in the catchment (Geyer et al., 2001).  
516 The lowermost stratigraphic unit found in our cores, the unit marked in grey, is 62 cm thicker on the southern  
517 side of the fault (62 cm vs. <130 cm) (**Fig. 9c**). Such a variation could be also caused by movements of the  
518 fault during former earthquakes before the common era, suggesting thousand years of recurrence on this fault  
519 segment. But longer sequences are required on both side of the fault to retrieved the base of the grey unit and  
520 infer the pre-grey unit topography to confirm this hypothesis. Further seismic acquisitions could also help to  
521 highlight and image stratigraphically deeper units in the hanging wall (e.g. Beck et al., 2012), and to identify  
522 the horizontal offset along the fault. The core locations are ideal to identify the rupture on the Iznik Fault,  
523 but cores in the deepest sub-basins could be more prone to record and earthquake catalogue (e.g. McHugh et  
524 al., 2014).

#### 525 **5.4 Regional tectonics**

526 Looking at a larger scale, the identification of an earthquake rupture on the Iznik Fault in 1065 CE is of major  
527 importance as it belongs to the MNAF system. According to the synthesis of Drab et al., (2015), a sequence  
528 of earthquakes is observed from 865 to 1063 along the NNAF, with a seismic gap within the central Marmara  
529 Sea, quite similar as the one we observed presently. The 1065 CE earthquake that occurs on the MNAF  
530 accommodates part of the accumulated stress at the NAF scale, showing the complexity of this system of  
531 faults. The fact that this Iznik Fault has not ruptured since almost thousand years (last rupture in 1065 CE)  
532 and that a gap of seismicity is observed all along the MNAF, the seismic hazard increases a lot in this area.  
533 Linear strike-slip faults such as the Iznik Fault are important tectonic structures as shown by the one  
534 discovered along the NNAF within the Izmit-Sapanca segment during the Izmit 1999 earthquake (Michel &  
535 Avouac, 2002). The rupture along this straight segment was of supershear nature and caused strong damages  
536 amplified by ground liquefaction (Bouchon, 2002). The presented newly discovered faults provide essential  
537 data showing that the MNAF should be seriously consider in the assessment of seismic hazard of the region.  
538 The description of the whole active fault system in and around Lake Iznik also improves tectonic knowledge.  
539 The Gürle and Orhangazi normal faults bounded the underwater Iznik and South Boyalica faults, resulting in  
540 a negative flower structure linked to the MNAF system, as shown on the simplified NS cross section of the  
541 lake (Demirel et al., 2020; **Fig. 10b**). Lake Iznik exhibits three sub-basins that cannot be explained in a simple  
542 pull-apart process approach (Wu et al., 2009; Dooley & Schreurs, 2012). The South Boyalica Fault presented

543 in this study seems to delimit the western sub-basin from the two others (**Fig. 10a**), when the Iznik Fault  
544 delineates the southern basin. Models of transtensional pull-apart basins, due to an oblique and divergent  
545 displacement at a  $\theta$  angle with the main strike-slip fault show similar sub-basins delineated by faults (Wu et  
546 al., 2009; Dooley & Schreurs, 2012; **Fig. 10a**). This hypothesis of transtension is supported by the GPS data  
547 along the MNAF in this area (Akay & Ozener, 2009).

548 The discovery of the Iznik strike-slip Fault also suggests fault partitioning of the MNAF close to Lake Iznik.  
549 The onshore Gürle Fault accommodates mostly the normal component and controls the deepest basin of the  
550 lake whereas the Iznik Fault accommodates the right-lateral component of the MNAF system, controlling the  
551 shape of the southern sub-basin (**Fig. 10**). Two smaller N-S extensional fault segments were observed on the  
552 western sub-basin (Öztürk et al., 2009) and to the East of the city of Iznik (the Ebeyli Fault) (Benjelloun et  
553 al., 2018). Scarps with similar strike are observed in the bathymetric map from the DSI that need to be studied  
554 more closely (**Fig. 10a**). Further bathymetric and seismic surveys will provide key elements to understand  
555 the timing of these tectonic controls. Airgun seismic data could also provide more information on the fault  
556 activities over time and image the subsurface continuation of the fault (e.g. de La Taille et al., 2015).

## 557 **6. Conclusions**

558 The sedimentary study done on the cores sampled in the Lake Iznik revealed fourteen earthquake-induced  
559 turbidite deposits since their ages correspond to historical regional seismic events during the past two  
560 millennia, allowing to refine the calendar of historical seismicity in this region (29-32, 69, 121, 269, 358, 362  
561 or 368, 407, 447, 478, 554, 869, 989, 1065, 1959 CE). At least three of them are related to the MNAF rupture  
562 (32, 121, 1065 CE).

563 The combined geophysical and sedimentological approach in Lake Iznik allows to discover two active  
564 subaquatic faults, the South Boyalıca and Iznik faults, that form part of the middle strand of the North  
565 Anatolian Fault system and that are responsible for some of the recorded earthquakes in the lake. The  
566 sedimentological study focused on both part of the Iznik Fault shows paleo-seismological evidences for a  
567 last rupture that occurred during the devastating 1065 CE earthquake. Longer sequences from the same  
568 locations associated to on-fault studies are needed to determine the earthquake recurrence interval on the  
569 Iznik Fault which seems to be close to 1000 years. The seismic gap since 1065 CE of this Iznik Fault segment  
570 strongly increases the seismic hazard in the region of Iznik and must be taken into account for the seismic  
571 risk assessment of the NAF system. At the scale of the NAF system the 1065 CE earthquake could belongs

572 to the sequence of earthquakes from 865 CE to 1065 CE, when a seismic gap was subsisting along the NNAF  
573 within the central Marmara Sea, showing that the MNAF takes an active part in the seismic cycle of the NAF.  
574 Finally, our findings provide a better understanding of the Lake Iznik tectonic context that presents a negative  
575 flower structure with a transtensional component.

## 576 **Acknowledgments**

577 This investigation was conducted in the framework of “BASILIZNIK-SECRETS” project funded by the  
578 French ANR CE03-2019 BASILIZNIK-SECRETS, the IRS-IDEX UGA project “BASILIZNIK”, and the  
579 INSU ALEAS program (France) Basiliznik. The Kingdom Suite license was provided by IHS Markit through  
580 a University Grant Program. The authors would like to thank the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism  
581 for permitting core sampling and geophysical surveying in Lake Iznik; the archeological research team of  
582 Prof. M. Şahin, his colleague D. Ünsal and all the students (K. Kayacan, S. Cura, M. Çınar) from the  
583 archaeological laboratory of the Uludağ University of Bursa for their precious support in the field. We are  
584 also grateful to the excellent services of Captain C. Çelikkilek who maneuvered us on his Vessel safely across  
585 the lake. The authors would like to thank EDYTEM laboratory for the X-ray fluorescence analyses and F.  
586 Soufi for his involvement in the realization of the thin sections. We also thank N. Findling for his precious  
587 help during the SEM observation sessions at ISTerre laboratory and I. Akalan Gündüz for our discussions  
588 dealing with the historical data and her help on the field. We thank C. McHugh and M. Van Daele for their  
589 constructive reviews and M. E. Rusmore for editing this manuscript.

## 590 **Data availability**

591 Supplementary data reported in this study are given in the supporting information, and all core and  
592 geophysical data are stored in Pangaea database (at <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.924472>,  
593 <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.924476>, <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.924477>,  
594 <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.924479>, <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.924482>,  
595 <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.924483>, <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.924489>,  
596 <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.924492>, <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.924495>,  
597 <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.924496>, and <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.924497>).

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599

600 **Author contributions**

601 RG performed the analysis and wrote the main manuscript file and figures. JS designed the research project.  
602 PS dynamically assisted throughout the whole research process, during all stages of analysis and  
603 interpretations of the cores. SF and FA led the bathymetric campaign and assisted the geophysical data  
604 processing. RG, JS, SF, FA, SG sampled the cores. ALD assisted acquisition and interpretation of XRF  
605 analysis. MŞ and SG provided invaluable assistance during the different field campaigns. CG and FN  
606 provided the seismic data from a previous field campaign. JS, PS, SF, FA and CG actively corrected and  
607 improved the manuscript. Each author has proofread and corrected the manuscript at least once.

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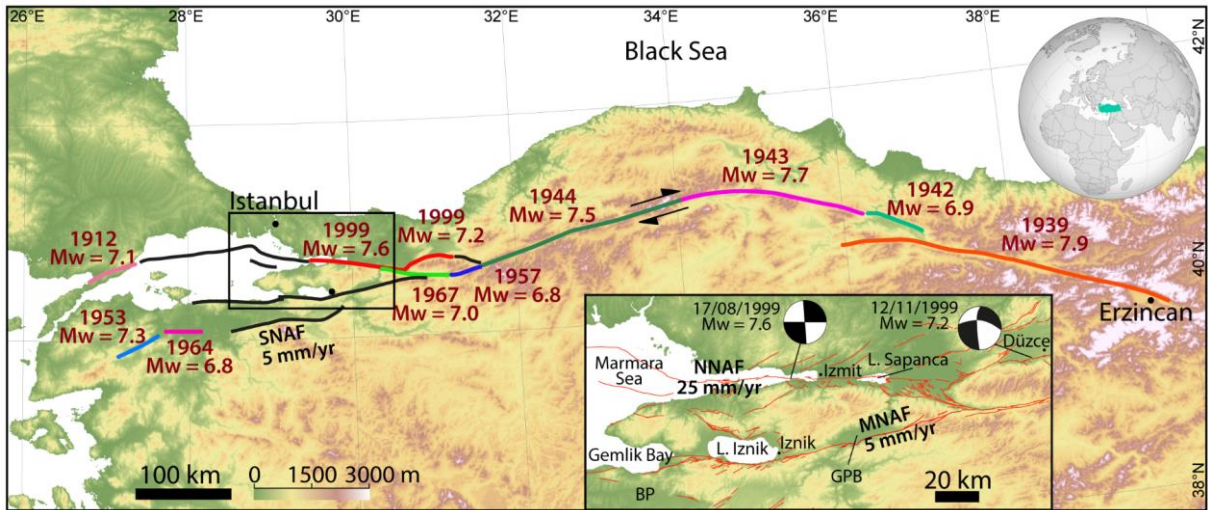
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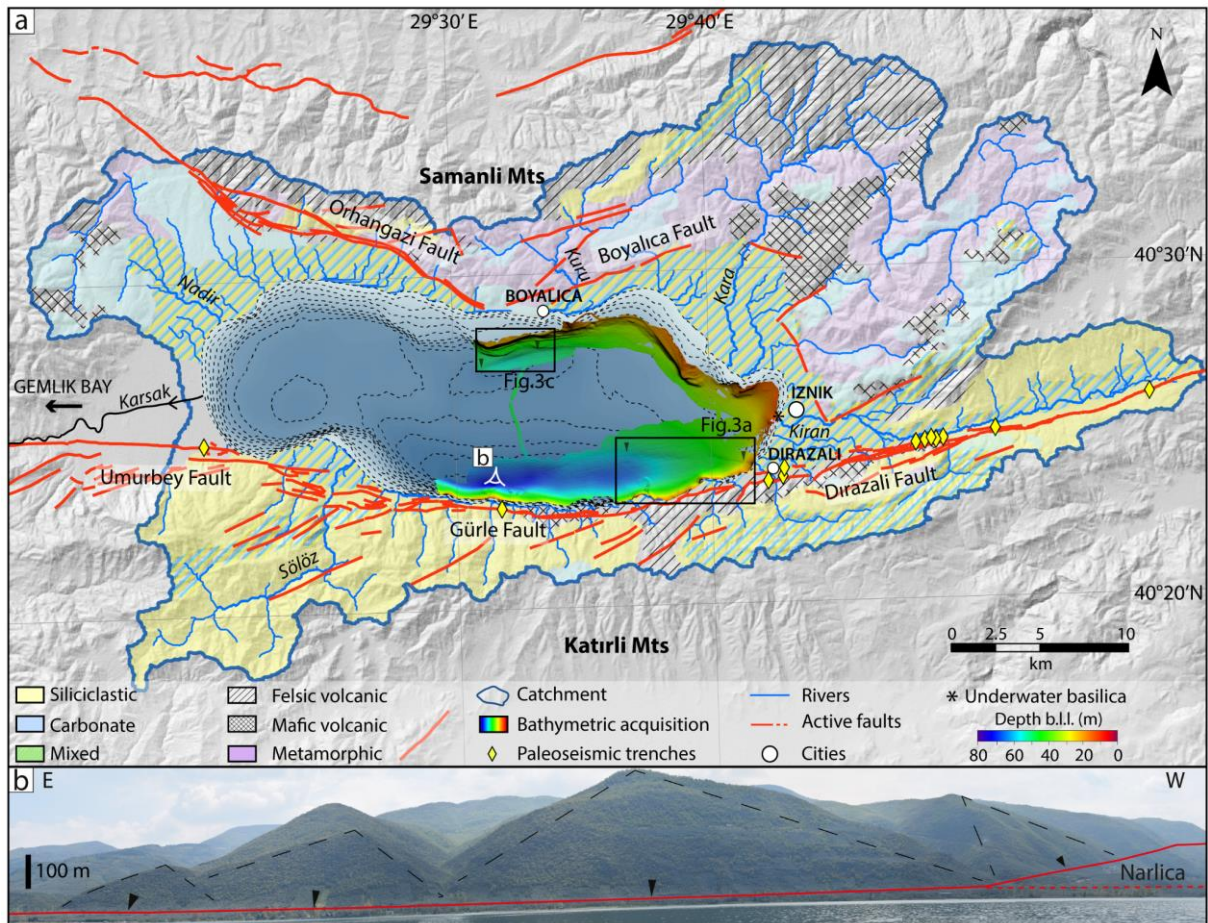


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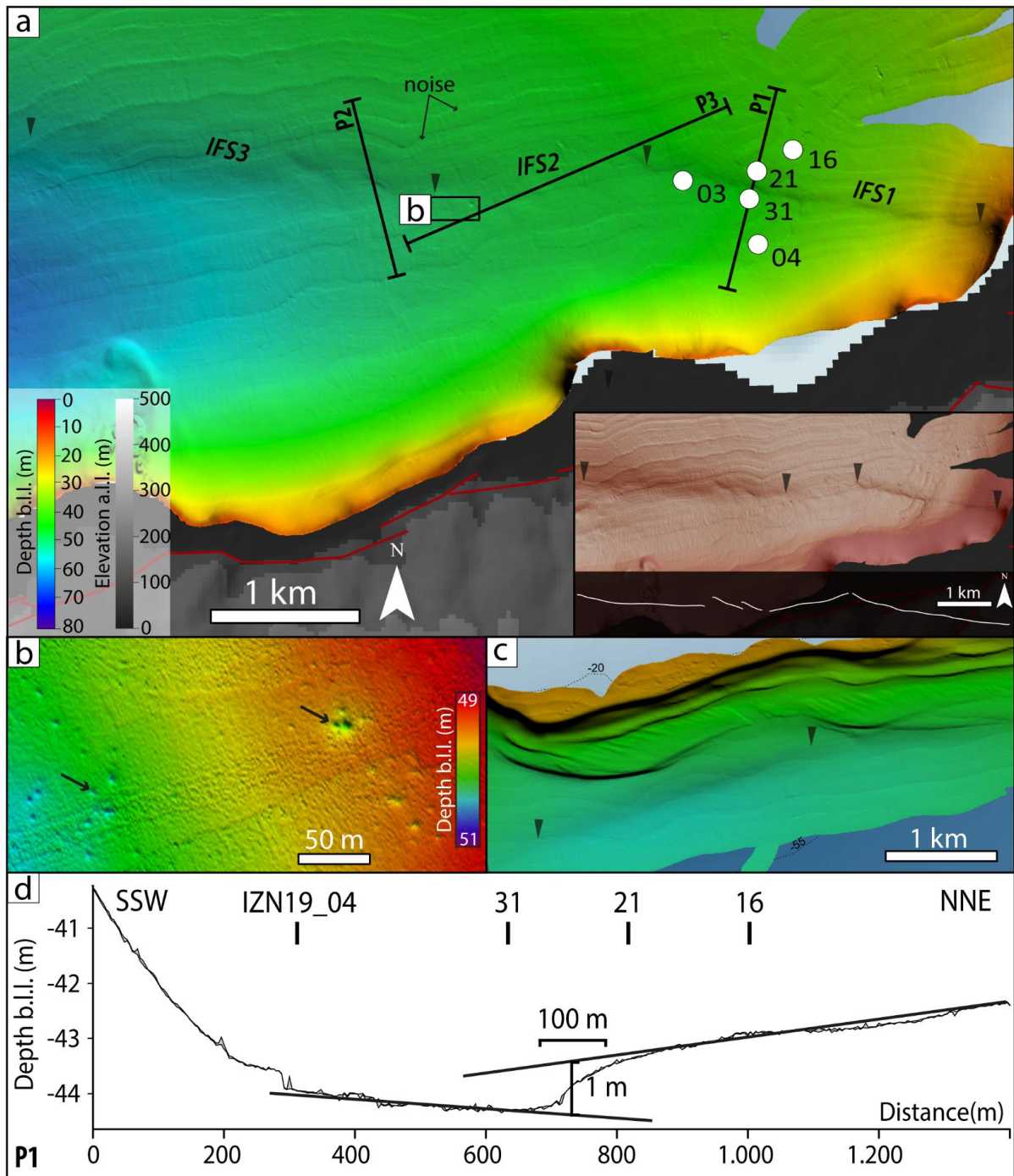
859

860 **Fig. 1:** Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM - 1 arc-second resolution; <https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>)  
 861 digital elevation model (DEM) with the different fault strands that ruptured during the major earthquakes of  
 862 the 20th century (respective age, location and moment magnitudes indicated from USGS earthquake catalog;  
 863 <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/search/> and Stein et al., (1997)). The seismic gaps at the western  
 864 termination of the NAF are shown as black lines. Inset is a zoom of the studied part with the different strands  
 865 of the NAF. GPB refers to the Geyve-Pamukova Basin, BP to the Bursa Province. Focal mechanism solutions  
 866 are retrieved from Tibi et al., (2001). Active faults are shown in red (Benjelloun, 2017; Emre et al., 2018).



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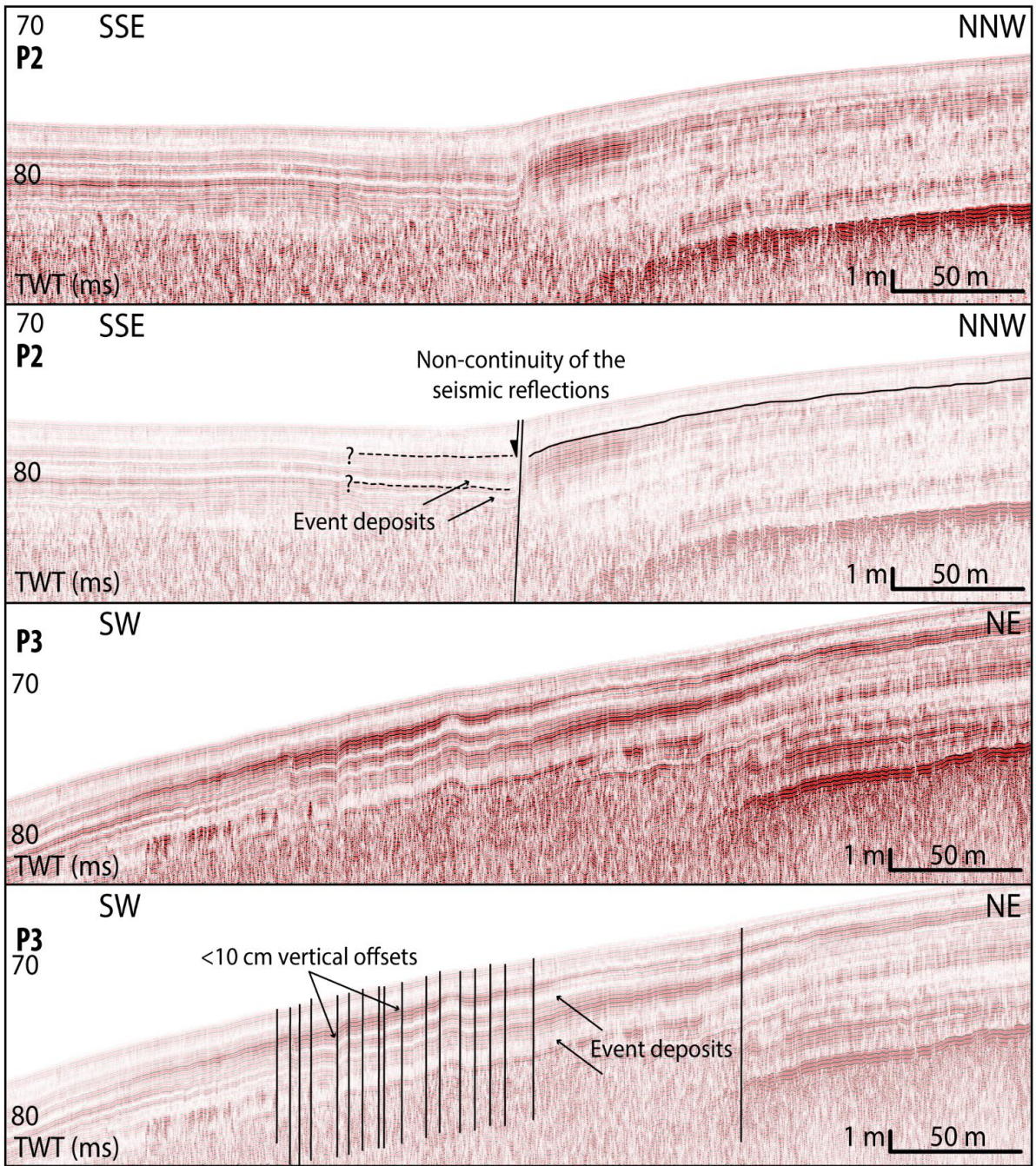
868 **Fig. 2:** (a) Lithological map of the watershed of Lake IzniK (modified from Viehberg et al., (2012)) and limits  
 869 of its catchment (dark blue line). The hillshade relief is generated from the SRTM DEM (1 arc-second  
 870 resolution). The main rivers are drawn in blue. The MNAF and other active faults are represented in red  
 871 (Öztürk et al., 2009; Doğan et al., 2015; Benjelloun, 2017; Emre et al., 2018). The bathymetric contour lines  
 872 in the lake represent 5-meter intervals (DSI), superimposed by the hillshaded bathymetry acquired in this  
 873 study (2 m grid), with a sun illumination angle/elevation of 20°N/45° respectively. A vertical exaggeration  
 874 of 15 was applied. The color scale represents the depth below lake level (b.l.l.), based on a long-term  
 875 reference lake level of 83.5 m above sea level. The black arrows show the visible extremities of the two  
 876 newly discovered faults. The black rectangles indicate the location of **Fig. 3a and c**. (b) Photography of the  
 877 southern shore of the lake taken from the lake and facing southward, showing triangular facets (black dashed  
 878 lines) along the Gürle Fault (black arrows). These patterns highlight the significant normal tectonic  
 879 component in this area.



880

881 **Fig. 3:** (a) Hillshaded bathymetric map (5 m grid) of the southeastern part of the lake (**Fig. 2** for location). A  
 882 vertical exaggeration ( $ve = 20$ ) is applied to highlight the Iznik Fault trace. The black arrows denote the  
 883 extremities of the different visible segments of the Iznik Fault, termed as IFS1, IFS2 and IFS3 from east to  
 884 west. White dots represent the core locations (IZN19\_03, 04, 31, 21, 16). Black lines indicate topographic  
 885 P1 (**Fig. 3d**) and seismic section locations (P2 and P3; **Fig. 4**). Subaerial elevation is derived from the SRTM  
 886 model (1 arc-second resolution). The bathymetric and topographic scales are relative to the lake level, below  
 887 and above (denoted as b.l.l. and a.l.l., respectively). Active faults ashore are shown in red (Benjelloun, 2017;

888 Emre et al., 2018). Inset is an overlay of hillshade and slope maps to emphasize the fault traces. Black arrows  
889 indicated the termination of IFS1 and IFS3. In the lower part, an interpretative sketch of the fault geometry  
890 is shown. (b) Zoom of the pockmarks along the fault, indicating fluid escapes (1 m grid; ve = 10). Location  
891 is shown as a black rectangle in the main figure. (c) Hillshaded bathymetric map of the northern basin,  
892 showing the northern lineament, limited by the black arrows (5 m grid; ve = 10; **Fig. 2** for location). (d)  
893 Topographic profile P1 derived from the bathymetric data, with a 2-m horizontal resolution and consists of  
894 two lines, the min-max values. Core locations are indicating above the profile (IZN19\_04, 31, 21, 16). The  
895 fault is characterized by a ~ 1 m step on a ~ 100 m-wide area. Hillshaded maps (a, b, c) have a sun  
896 angle/elevation illumination of 20°N/45°. Ve increases the noise in the data especially the swath traces.



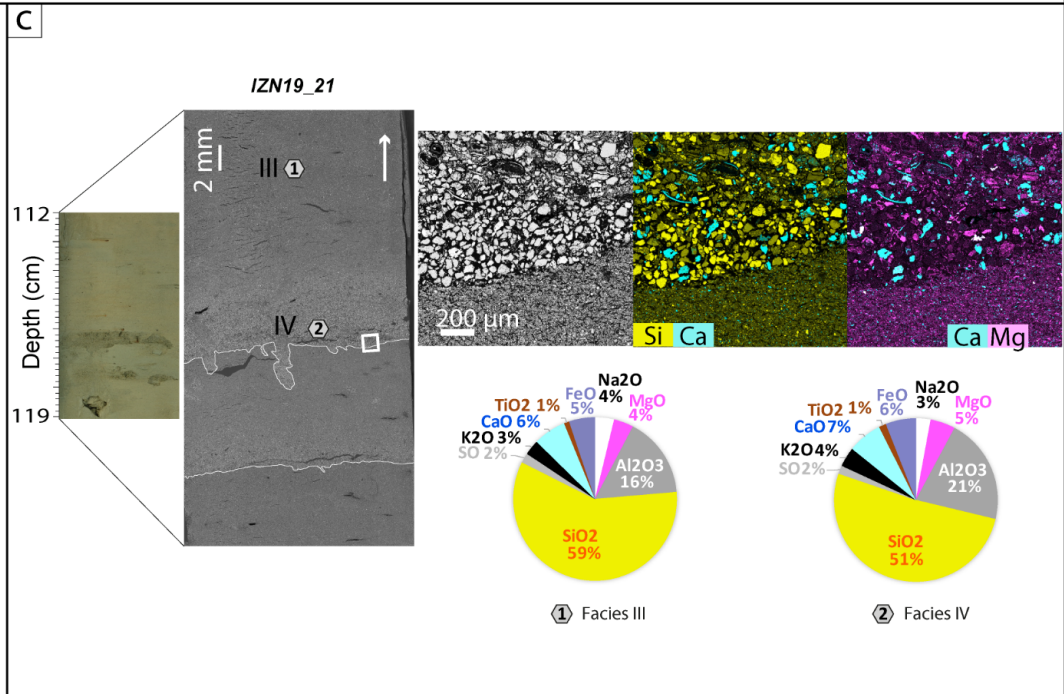
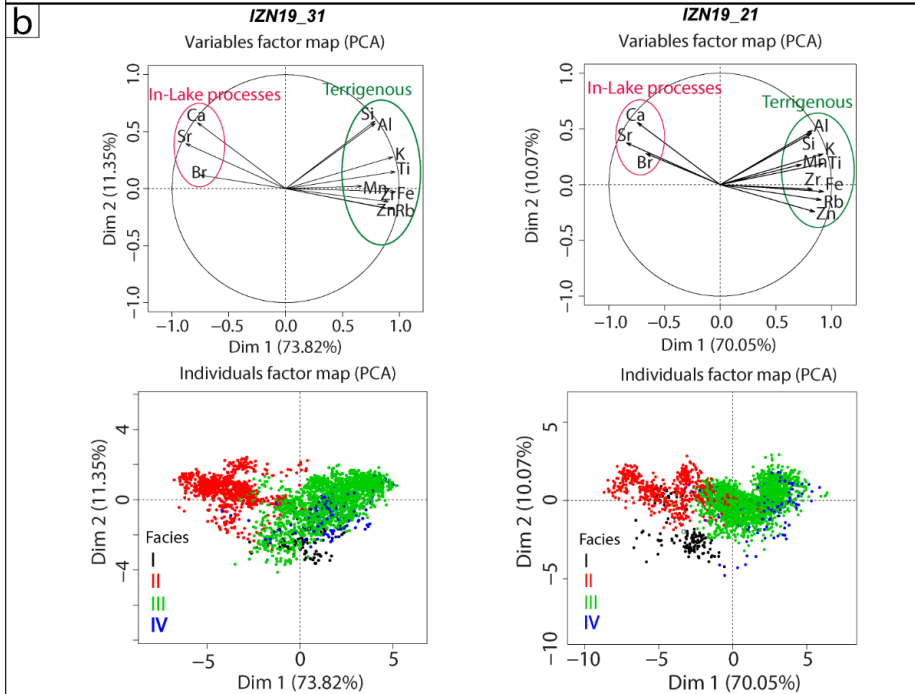
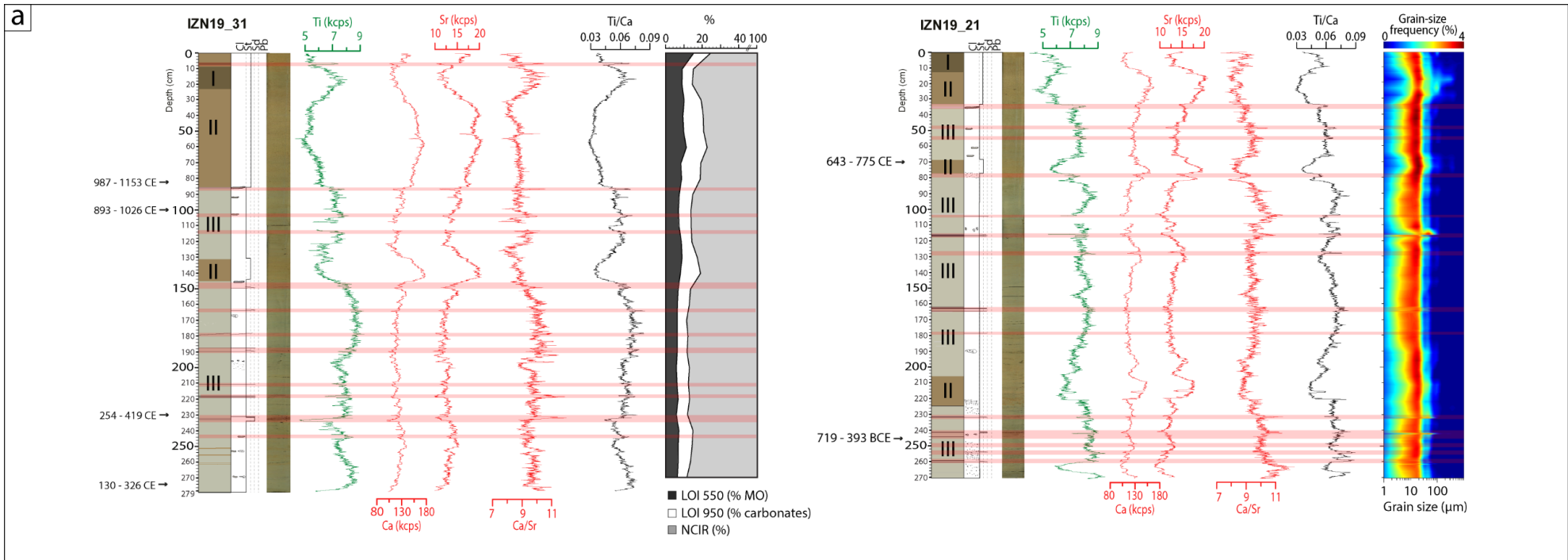
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898 **Fig. 4:** 3.5 kHz single-channel pinger seismic profiles P2 and P3 (locations in **Fig. 3a**). A raw and an

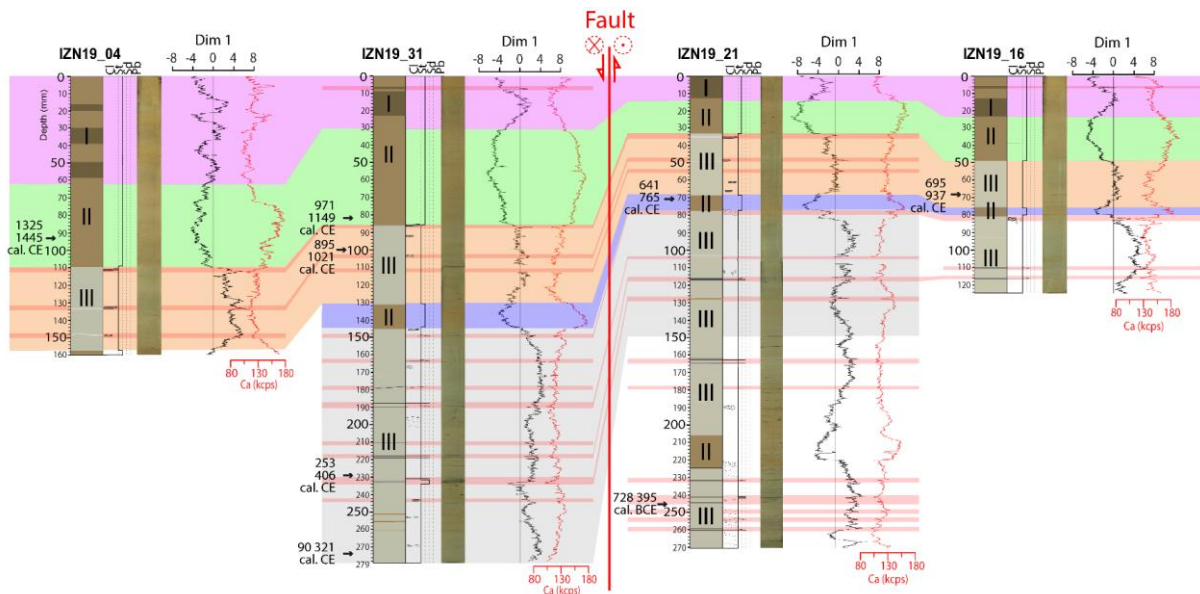
899 interpreted version is presented for each profile.

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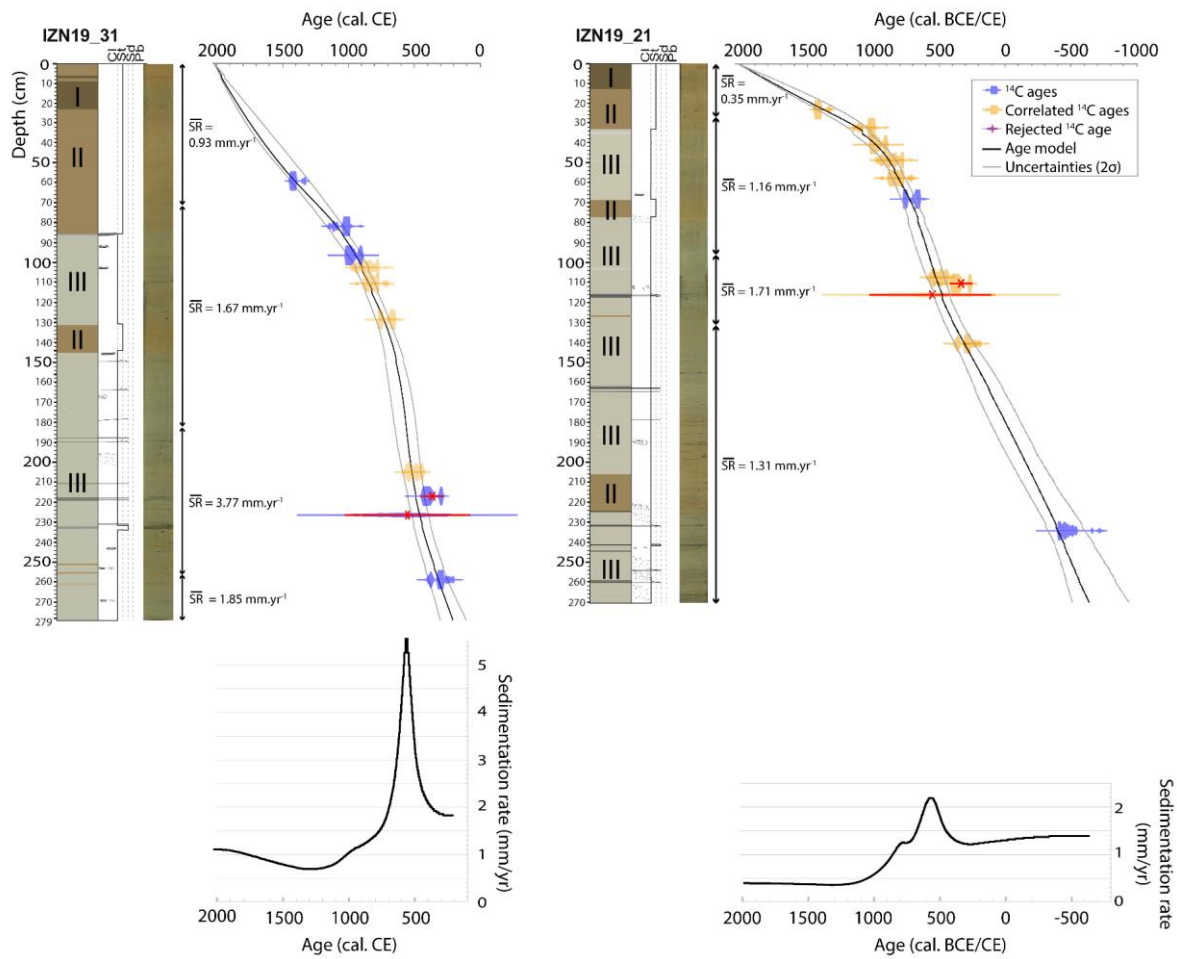
901 **Fig. 5** (next page): Main sedimentological and geochemical results of IZN19\_31 and IZN19\_21 cores. (a)  
902 Macroscopic description, photography, XRF data (Ti, Ca, Sr, Ca/Sr and Ti/Ca). Ia, Ib, II denote the different  
903 facies types, sandy event deposits (Facies IV) are displayed in red. Cl, St, Sd and Pb abbreviations refer to  
904 the grain size observations: clay, silt, sand and pebble respectively. The LOI results are presented for the  
905 Core IZN19\_31 while the grain-size contour plot is displayed for the Core IZN19\_21 (b) PCA for cores  
906 IZN19\_31 and IZN19\_21. The respective variables factor maps show that two end-members are defined, one  
907 representing the in-lake processes and one corresponding to the terrigenous inputs. The individual factor  
908 maps show the correlations of each facies type with the different end members. (c) Detailed coupled  
909 SEM/EDS analysis of Facies III versus Facies IV. Optical and SEM photos (left), geochemical mapping  
910 (right) show the relative abundance of major elements (Si, Ca, Mg) within the area studied (white box on the  
911 SEM photography). The relative oxide compositions between Facies III and IV are shown below.





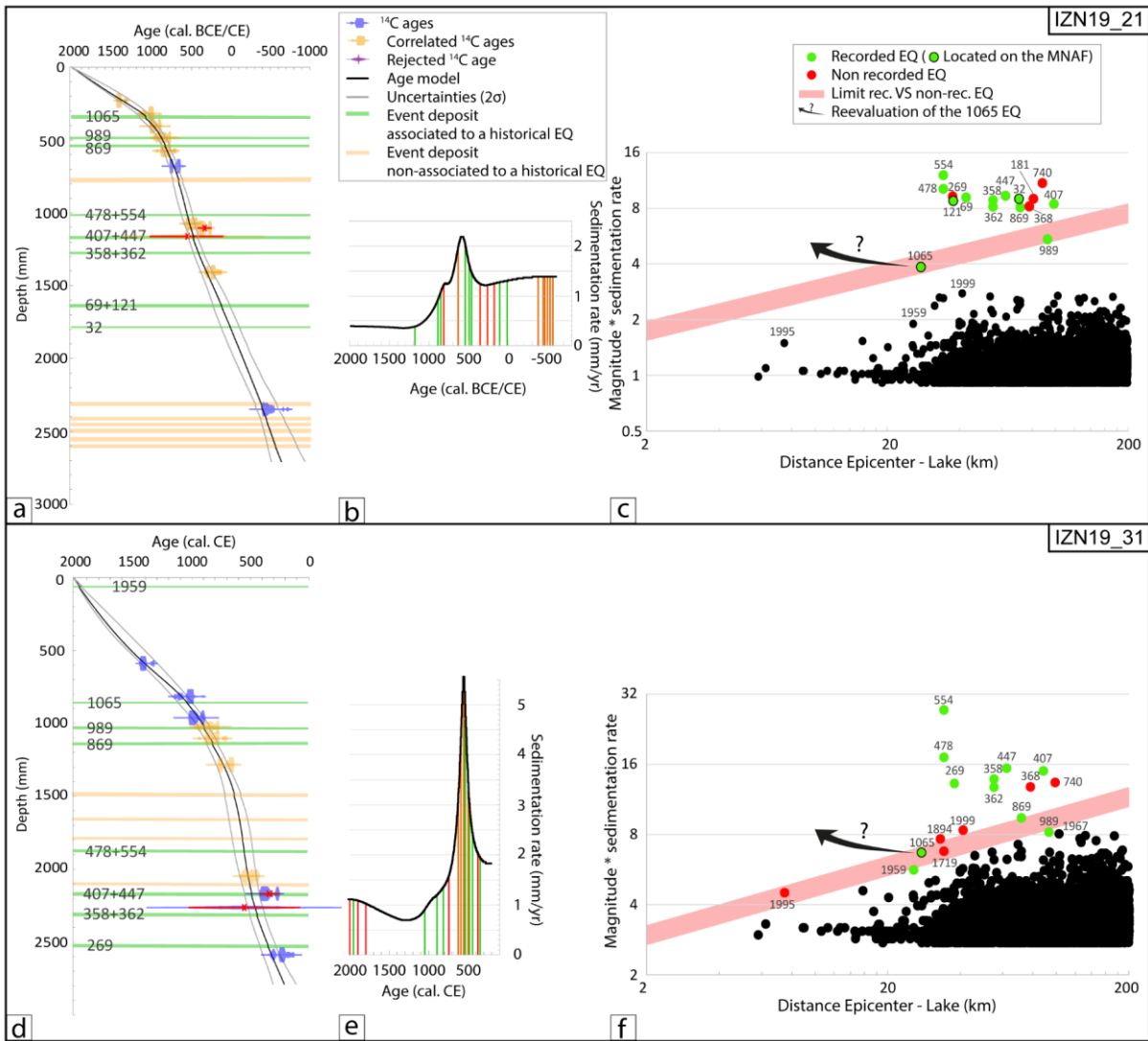


1  
 2 **Fig. 6:** Core-to-core correlation of the transect across IFS1 (**Fig. 3a**). Topography is neglected. For each core:  
 3 lithological description, photography, Dim 1 and Ca signal are displayed. The different colors represent five  
 4 stratigraphic units. Event deposits are shown in red. Individual radiocarbon dates are shown with black arrows  
 5 (**Table 1** for details). I, II, III represent the names of the different facies types defined in the text.



6

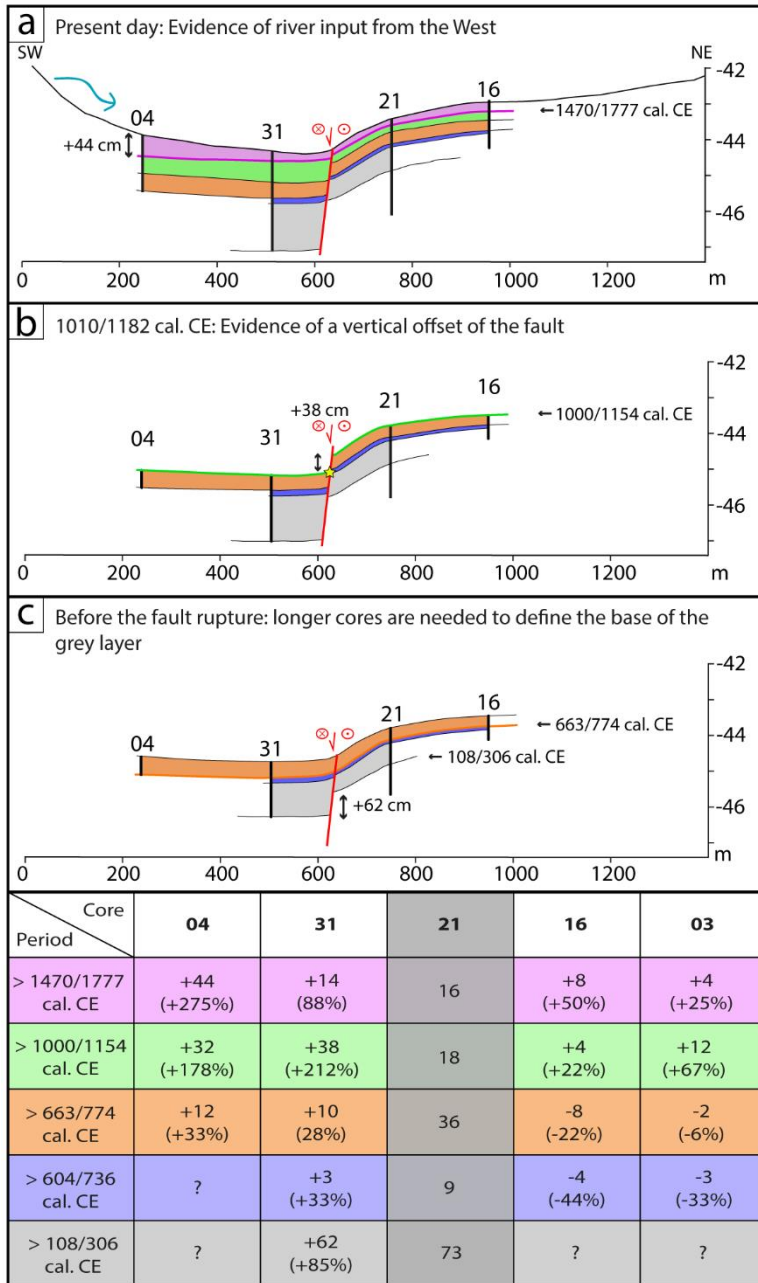
7 **Fig. 7:** Lithological description, photography, age model for cores IZN19\_31 and IZN19\_21 and their  
 8 respective sedimentation rate variation curve through time. The age models are computed with Clam R  
 9 package (Blaauw, 2010) using the radiocarbon data (**Table 1**). The blue dates origin in the displayed core  
 10 itself; the orange radiocarbon ages are those which are correlated from other sequences (**Fig. 6**). One  
 11 radiocarbon age has been rejected for the age model computation due to its large uncertainty (marked in red,  
 12 details in **Table 1**).  $\overline{SR}$  denotes the average sedimentation rate within a given period (refer to the text for  
 13 details).



14

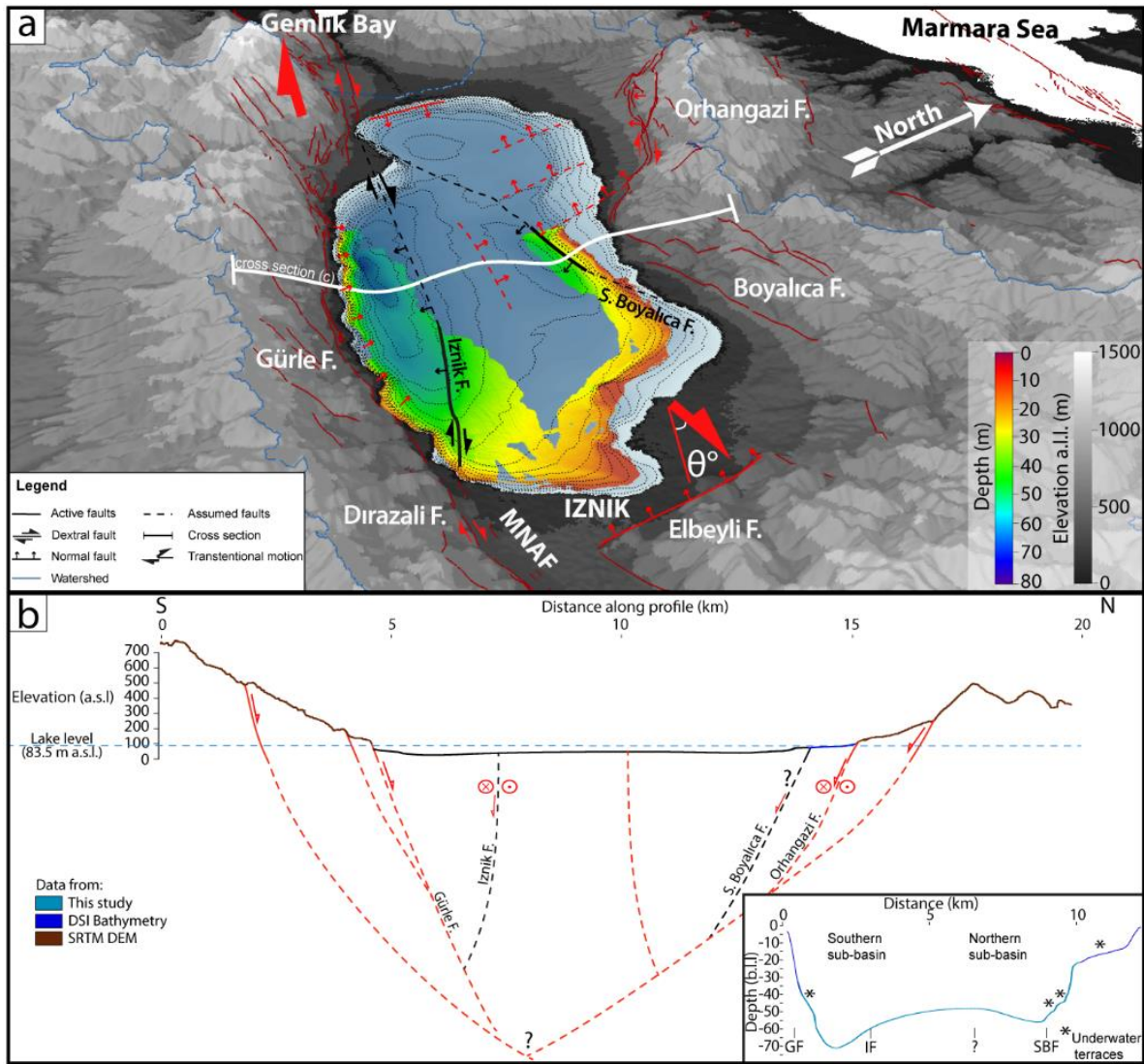
15 **Fig. 8:** Diagrams displaying for cores IZN19\_21 and IZN19\_31 (a, d) the interpreted age models. (b, e) The  
 16 sedimentation rate variations through time. The green lines represent the event deposits associated to an  
 17 earthquake as opposed to the orange lines. Red lines represent times at which earthquakes happened without  
 18 event deposit in the sediment cores. (c, f) Conceptual plots presenting the distance of earthquake epicenters  
 19 to Lake Iznik (40.406N, 29.673E as reference) versus earthquake magnitudes multiplied by the sedimentation  
 20 rate averaged over the previous 100 years. The red thick line delimits the best fit versus recorded and non-  
 21 recorded earthquakes. Black dots represent earthquakes below the best fit line that are not recorded in the  
 22 lake. The black arrows show where the 1065 CE earthquake should be located in the diagram as the Iznik  
 23 fault ruptured in the lake at that time (see below in the text).

24



25

26 **Fig. 9:** Conceptual diagrams presenting the (paleo)topography and sedimentological reconstructions at three  
 27 different times. The location of the cores, the distance between each core, their length and the thickness of  
 28 the different units are drawn to scale. (a) Present day: evidence of river input from the West. The topography  
 29 is obtained from our bathymetric data (b) at 1000/1154 cal. CE: evidence of a ~ 40 cm vertical offset on the  
 30 fault (c) before the last fault rupture. The table represents the deviation in sediment thicknesses (in cm) for  
 31 each core and stratigraphic unit relative to Core IZN19\_21. The colors are the same as in **Fig. 6**.



32

33 **Fig. 10:** (a) 3D visualization derived from SRTM DEM (1 arc-second resolution) of the Iznik Basin with

34 tectonic interpretation. The bathymetry carried out in this study is superimposed on the DSI bathymetry. The

35 red solid lines are active faults from the literature (Öztürk et al., 2009; Doğan et al., 2015; Benjelloun, 2017;

36 Emre et al., 2018), whereas the red dashed lines represent presumed faults. The black lines represent newly

37 discovered fault structures documented in this study. The blue line represents the limit of the catchment of

38 Lake Iznik. A vertical exaggeration of 3 is applied on each dataset. (b) N-S profile across the lake (see (a)

39 for location), with tectonic interpretation. The black fault lines represent the two faults documented in this

40 study. Inset is a zoom of the lake bathymetry. GF: Gürle Fault; IF: Iznik Fault; SBF: South Boyalica Fault;

41 \*: Underwater terraces.