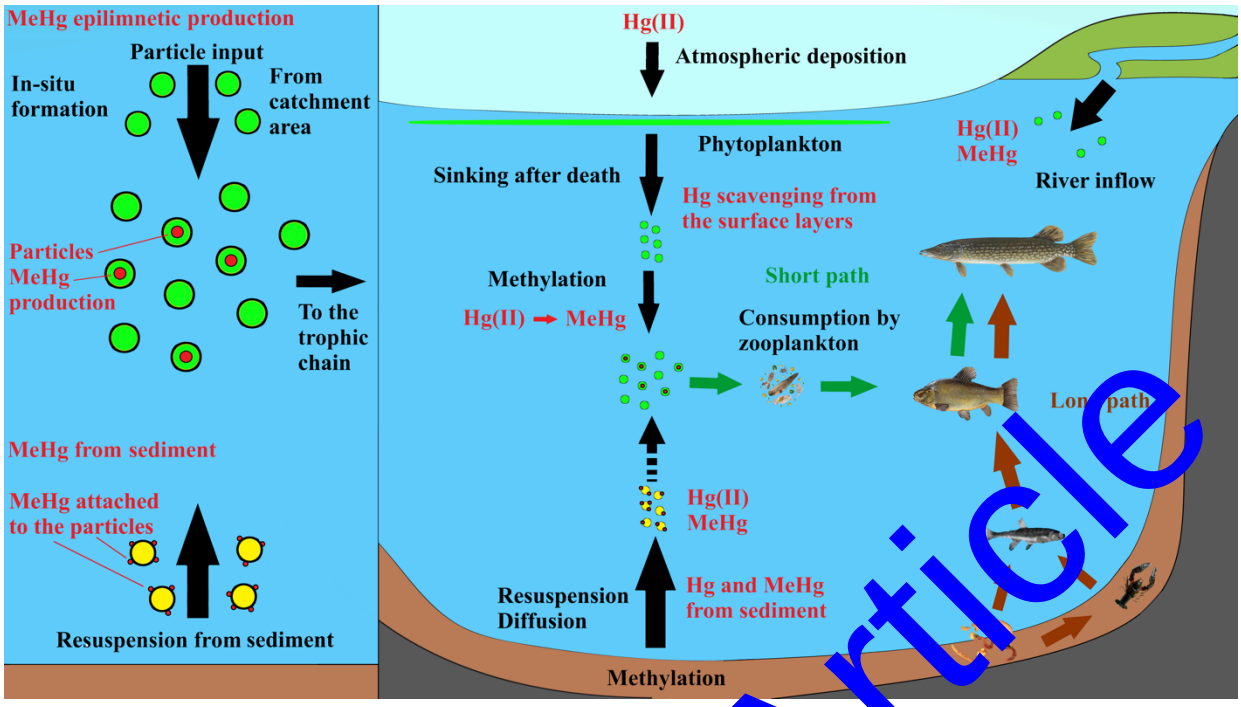


**Figure 1.** Schematic summary of the role of suspended particles for Hg incorporation into the food chain in a freshwater environment. Settling particles (green circles) produce MeHg (red dots) at a shallower depth in respect to the classic source in the bottom sediments (brown), determining two different transfer paths in the trophic chain: short (green) and long (dark brown) paths. On the left, the epilimnetic production zone (settling particles) is represented in detail. Resuspended particles (yellow circles) can transport MeHg from the bottom sediment zone of methylation to the epilimnetic one, making it very difficult to quantify the relative importance of the two sources. However, the deeper a water body is, the less important becomes the effect of the sediment resuspension due to distance between the primary production zone to the bottom sediments, so depth can play a major role in separating these two sources of MeHg. Moreover, depth could affect the amount of MeHg that arrives into the surface layers from the long-path trophic chain, in turn giving more importance to epilimnetic methylation.