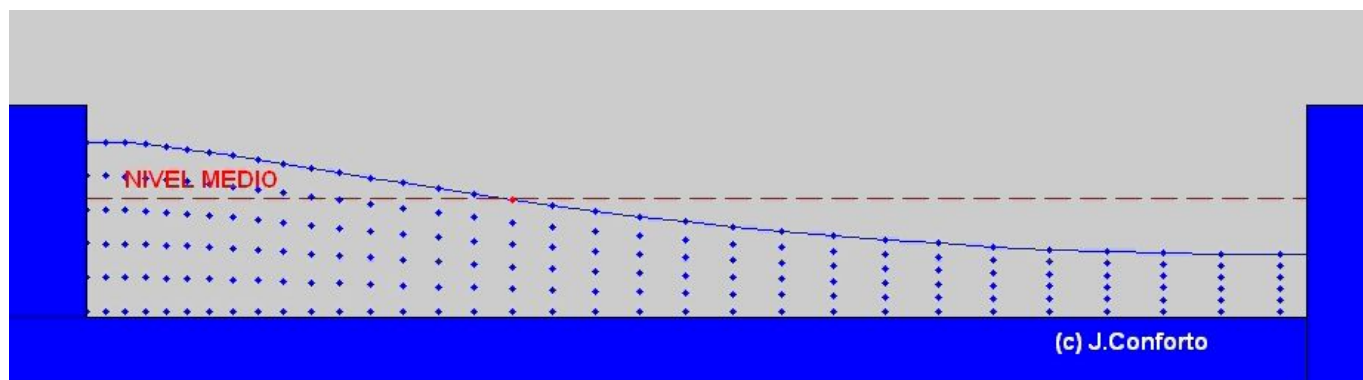


Seiches originate from the natural oscillation of a closed basin or a part of the sea caused by a meteorological disturbance, although they can also occur due to the presence of strong and sustained winds blowing to or from the coast that suddenly subside.

These oscillations are more frequent in shallow water basins, and although they can also occur in deep waters, they will only produce noticeable effects in coastal areas. The oscillation that occurs will not continue indefinitely but will quickly decay due to friction damping. The duration typically lasts a few days on average, although they can be reactivated if the cause that generated them recurs.

Seiches can occur in lakes, bays, roadsteads, coves, and ports, as well as in small areas of a given sea.



In Spain, the seiches that occur in the port of Ciutadella on the island of Menorca are famous. These seiches are known by the Menorcan name 'rissaga' and consist of rapid oscillations of the sea level of up to 2 meters in amplitude over a period of 10 minutes.



At the port, a sudden drop in the water level is observed, with shallow areas becoming dry within minutes.

After about ten minutes, the sea level rises again, causing a sudden and violent flood with a strong incoming current. The surge of water leads to flooding in the area adjacent to the port, affecting boats, buildings, businesses, and vehicles.





These Rissagas also occur in other ports of the Balearic Islands, such as the port of Palma itself, although due to the different dimensions of this port, their effects, while striking, usually do not cause damage.

