

Interactive comment on “HESS Opinions “Integration of groundwater and surface water research: an interdisciplinary problem?”” by R. Barthel

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Thank you, Gabriele, for your encouraging and helpful comments. In particular, I was pleased to see that you liked my discussion of the difficulties of doing interdisciplinary research.

I absolutely agree with your first comment. It is clear that integration and interdisciplinary research in the water sector must not and cannot be limited to groundwater and surface water or groundwater and surface water hydrology respectively. However, the scope and objective of this discussion paper is not so much to point out the need for

C1099

integration and interdisciplinarity (other authors, cited in the paper have done this very convincingly long before me). The objective of my paper is mainly to point out that a problem exists through the apparent closeness of GW and SW research. The “farther” away two branches of science are, the more obvious is the need for interdisciplinary approaches. This is often ignored for GW and SW as they are so close. The discussion is therefore limited to this selected aspect. I will point this out more clearly in the section that describes the scope and objective of the paper.

Comment 2: This is a great suggestion and I couldn't agree more. However, again, a thorough discussion of this topic would yield enough material for another discussion paper and is beyond the scope of the present one. In any case I might take up this suggestion in the conclusions.

Comment 3: My reply to this comment is more or less a combination of the replies to comment 1 and 2: This discussion is not about the necessity or usefulness of integration as such (which can be debated) nor does it strive to give recommendation of how IWRM etc. should be done. That is far beyond the scope of the discussion. Its scope is the relation between GW and SW research or better the GW and SW research community. Of course this touches upon issues of the much wider field of integration and interdisciplinarity. Thanks for the very interesting reference!

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 11, 2011, 2014.

C1100