

Interactive comment on “Flooding in river mouths: human caused or natural events? Five centuries of flooding events in the SW Netherlands, 1500–2000” by A. M. J. de Kraker

Anonymous Referee #2

Received and published: 10 March 2015

This paper is a very thorough analysis of the specific historical flood risks for the low-lying lands at the estuaries in the SW Netherlands. For those unfamiliar with Dutch history it offers new insights into the role, human agency can play in a seemingly natural event. By using exemplary flood events the paper describes the mechanism (meteorology, tides, dike maintenance and human response) involved in natural storm-related floods as well as the factors (military strategy, economic cost) involved in man-made war-related floods. A table listing all storm floods for the region during the last millennium and another listing war-related strategic flooding are attached to the paper. This study of the SW Netherlands estuary flooding is well contextualised in the greater body

C524

of flood research in Europe, and its causes, seasonality and impact are compared to river floods and regions in central Europe. It is a comprehensive and meticulous paper that fits the scope of the special issue very well. I have no reservations in recommending this paper for publication. As a minor point, the author may consider to rephrase the first part of the title into: ‘Estuarine flooding: events caused by humans or nature?’

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 12, 1437, 2015.