

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

C. Rohr (Referee)

christian.rohr@hist.unibe.ch

Received and published: 17 March 2015

This is a really well-elaborated and fascinating paper showing that flooding in the Southwest Netherlands could have had various reasons, both natural (e.g. by storm surges) and anthropogenic (e.g. during war as a means of offensive or defensive strategy). The author starts with an introduction into the natural preconditions and the development of settlements in the former delta area of the rivers Meuse and Eastern and Western Scheldt, and then discusses his sources, in particular accounts and other reports on the floods, but also modern soil maps. In his main part, he focuses on some examples, such as the series of floodings in 1509-1511 or those during the Eighty

C591

Year's War (1568-1648). Some of the narrative sources are cited verbatim (including an exact reference), but historians as one of the intended readerships might be interested in even more references to the sources (please add some more footnotes). This paper is really innovative in including also strategic flooding both in the 17th and 18th centuries and during World War II. It fits well into the HESS journal and will be very useful both for hydrologists and historians. I strongly recommend accepting it subject to minor technical corrections. Addendum: I agree with the comments of reviewer 1 (Neil Macdonald) on language and style. Just one little comment on table 1a: The flood event of 25 Dec 1488 (old style) took place in 1489 (not 1498) according to new (Gregorian) style.

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