

***Interactive comment on “The co-production of a “relevant” expertise – administrative and scientific cooperation in the French water policies elaboration and implementation” by J. F. Deroubaix***

**Anonymous Referee #3**

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Focusing on the case of the implementation of the principle of integrated management in the French water policies, the article raises the question of the relationship between scientists and agents of administration in this process. The author stresses that, according to the existence or not of a political community, the construction of an integrated expertise is, or is not, possible. The existence of a political community depends itself of various factors, for example, the necessity of a policy evaluation. The demonstration relies on empirical evidence drawn from three case studies that have been conducted

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in France.

The whole article seems to me both interesting and very stimulating, and should be published in the HESSD. The study of the production of an integrated discourse on governance and research on hydro system is particularly interesting and convincing. Yet, some recommendations can be made on a few points.

- (1) The first occurrence of “ PIREN ” page 3777 (note 3) should be developed (it is, but only page 3788) ;
- (2) The discussion about the development of new modes of public action at the very beginning of the paper could be completed with more detailed bibliographical references.
- (3)The very definition of what should be understood by “ political community ”, its frontiers, etc, could be explicitly mentioned.
- (4) Page 3779 - 3780 : The process of construction of a demand of research in the name of potential users is not clear. Who makes this demand visible ? How ? Where ?
- (5) Actually, the reasons why the building of political communities concerning the case of wetlands was possible, whereas not in other cases, remain quite unclear. This point should be addressed more directly, and the core of the demonstration should be sum up, at the end of the article.
- (6) Finally the link between political community and political opportunity is not clear. Is the first one an element of the second ? Or can we speak of a political opportunity as soon as a political community does exist ? In this last case, should not we speak of “ policy window ”, rather than political opportunity ?

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