

# **Deltares**

## Modelling long-term morphological development of the NL Wadden Sea

Application and development of the aggregated model ASMITA

Ymkje Huismans, Carola Seyfert, Zheng Bing Wang

Quirijn Lodder, Bert Jagers, Edwin Elias, ...

# Content

- Introduction various modelling approaches
- Application ASMITA models for the Wadden Sea
- Model development / improvement ASMITA
  - Implementation of mud
  - Extension with saltmarsh element
  - Calibration
- Hybrid model Delft3D-ASMITA
  - Model formulation
  - Implementation
  - First applications
  - Future plan
- Concluding discussions & outlook



Modelling approaches for long-term morphological development in tidal systems

# Two existing modelling approaches



## ASMITA

(Aggregated Scale Morphological Interaction between Tidal basin and Adjacent coast)





# Various types models

- Process-based vs (semi-) empirical
- Detailed vs Aggregated
- Complex vs Reduced complexity



Realistic vs Idealized

# Predictability morphodynamics related to scales & modelling approaches





## History model development at Deltares (/Delft Hydraulics)

Morphostatic models based on EMPREL • hydrodynamic model from others TRISULA – DelMor 1989 Delft3D-MOR ESTMORF ٠ Delft3D-RAM ASMITA Delft3D-SedOnline Delft3D FM / D-Morphology **Delft3D-ASMITA** 2024

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# ASMITA application to Wadden Sea

- Sediment exchange between North Sea and Wadden Sea
- Development of intertidal areas under various rates of SLR

# **ASMITA** history

- Developed since end last century
- First applied in the EIA study for gas mining
- Evaluation effect of SLR (van Goor e.a., 2003)
- Morphological time scales (Kragtwijk e.a., 2004)
- Integrale bodemdalingsstudie
- EIA salt mining
- PONTOS-ASMITA
- Applications elsewhere (than NL Wadden Sea)
- Kustgenese 2.0 (Lodders e.a., 2019, 2023; Huismans e.a., 2022)
- ZSS Zandige kust
- ...

## Response to sea level rise





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# Modelling for future transport to Wadden Sea (Lodder e.a., 2023)

- Delayed response to acceleration SLR
- Different responses by the different tidal inlet systems due to
  - Difference in size of the system, thus in morphological time scales
  - Difference in morphological state with respect to equilibrium
- The differences in the projected import rates between the five sea level rise scenarios until 2100 are not as large as the differences in sea level rise rates may suggest.
- The projected increase of the import rate until 2100 with respect to the present situation (2020) is significant but not substantial.



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# Effect on the tidal flats (Huismans e.a. 2022)



#### Highlights

- Sensitive to the rate of sea level rise:
  - 2x SLR rate  $\rightarrow$  ~2x losses
- Intertidal flats larger basins most vulnerable.
- Larger basins: area, smaller basins: height.
- Largest losses in areas furthest from inlet.
- Texel and Vlie: 40% loss in area for 17mm/yr in 2100











# Insights from theoretical analysis



Dimensionless sea level rise rate r=R/Rc

- Dynamic equilibrium only if SLR rate lower than a critical level
- Critical SLR rate different for different tidal inlet systems
- Dimensionless SLR rate (= SLR rate / critical SLR rate) determines the development. Different parts of the Wadden Sea will show different response to accelerated SLR
- Time to achieve dynamic equilibrium increases non-linearly with SLR rate
- Similar (drowning) behaviour for SLR rate above ~80% of critical level
- Linear behaviour for SLR rate below ~40% of critical level

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## More extreme SLR scenarios & Simulations for new scenarios till 2200

Predict the bathymetry of the Wadden Sea after 1m, 2m and 5m SLR, to determine the hydraulic boudary conditions for flood defense design





# Simulated sediment import to Wadden Sea



- The import rate develops to a maximum when drowning occurred.
- The maximum value depends on SLR development. Higher maximum value for lower SLR scenario (causing later drowning)
- The maximum import just before drowning is thus not the transport capacity of the system.



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# Effect of tidal range change

Increase of tidal range reduces sediment demand in the Wadden Sea



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# Empirical relation for the equilibrium channel volume What should be used in ASMITA ?

- Channel volume proportional to a power around 1.5 of tidal prism, derived from field data of various tidal basins
- The 1.5<sup>th</sup> power is supported by theoretical consideration based on geometric law
- However, this relation should not be used in the (present) ASMITA models!
- A linear relation between equilibrium channel volume and tidal prism is used.





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# LT development tidal range



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## SLR → morphological development ⇔ tidal range change



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# Projected sediment import to NL Wadden Sea



Constant tidal range

Increasing tidal range

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# Update critical SLR for drowning



Bekken	Marsdiep	Eierlandse	Vlie	Amelander	Pinkegat	Zoutkamp
		Gat		Zeegat		er-laag
C <sub>E</sub> (-)	0,0002	0,0002	0,000	0,0002	0,0002	0,0002
			2			
w <sub>sf</sub> (m/s)	0,0001	0,0001	0,000	0,0001	0,0001	0,0001
			1			
S <sub>f</sub> (km <sup>2</sup> )	133	105	328	178	38.1	65
$S_c$ (km <sup>2</sup> )	522	52.7	387	98.3	11.5	40
S <sub>d</sub> (km²)	92.53	37.8	106	74.7	34	78
	1550	1500	1770	1500	1060	1060
ิ⊿ <sub>dc</sub> (m³/s)	2450	1500	2560	1500	1290	1290
	980	1000	1300	1000	840	840
R <sub>c</sub> (mm/jr)	7,0	18,0	6,3	10,4	32,7	17,1

### Wang e.a. (2018)

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- Complete model calibration only for Zoutkamperlaag
- Parameter setting revisited based on the theoretical analysis by Wang e.a. (2008), and geometric relations
- → Critical SLR rate less sensitive to basin size than earlier published

$$\delta_{cf} \propto \sqrt{S_b} \qquad \qquad \delta_{dc} \propto S_b$$

Bekken	Marsdiep	Eierlandse	Vlie	Amelander	Pinkegat	Zoutkamper-
		Gat		Zeegat		laag
	7317	1762	7987	3087	673	1290
	2001	982	2090	1299	607	840
<i>R<sub>c</sub></i> (mm/jr)	9,7	18,7	8,8	13,4	25,6	17,1





# ASMITA model development

- 1) sand & mud
- 2) marshes

















$$V_{equilibrium} = \alpha P^{\beta}$$

$$c_e = c_E \left(\frac{V_{equilibrium}}{V}\right)^n$$













# Validation of mud-implementation





Ana Colina Alonso Ymkje Huismans Zhe

-10

2.2

×10<sup>5</sup>

Zheng Bing Wang

+ various others for valuable advice!

#### Hindcast: case



# Validation of mud-implementation



+ various others for valuable

advice!

Hindcast: case & data





#### Data: corings











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Zheng Bing Wang

+ various others for valuable advice!



#### Schematization: area and volume of each element





Ana Colina Alonso Ymkje Huismans Zhe

Zheng Bing Wang

+ various others for valuable advice!



#### Schematization: area and volume of each element

Hydrodynamics: tidal range and SLR





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Zheng Bing Wang + various others

for valuable advice!



#### Schematization: area and volume of each element

Hydrodynamics: tidal range and SLR

Equilibrium parameters: from literature & hindcast





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Schematization: area and volume of each element

Hydrodynamics: tidal range and SLR

Equilibrium parameters: from literature & hindcast

Sediment concentration: field data & calibration



Ana Colina Alonso Ymkje Huismans Zhe

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Schematization: area and volume of each element

Hydrodynamics: tidal range and SLR

**Equilibrium parameters:** from literature & hindcast

Sediment concentration: field data & calibration

Sediment size: sand = 100-150 um, mud = 35 um
### **Parameter choices**



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+ various others for valuable advice!



Schematization: area and volume of each element

Hydrodynamics: tidal range and SLR

Equilibrium parameters: from literature & hindcast

Sediment concentration: field data & calibration

Sediment size: sand = 100-150 um, mud = 35 um

Horizontal exchange: from basin dimension & calibration

$$\frac{D}{UH} = \varepsilon \frac{U}{w_s} \qquad \delta = \frac{DA}{L}$$

### Validation of mud-implementation





+ various others for valuable advice!







2040

### Validation of mud-implementation

Delta

2000

Asmita: sand

Asmita: mud

measured: sand

2020

delta

Asmita

2040



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advice!





### Implementation of marshes



Marloes Bonenkamp Ymkje Huismans Zheng Bing Wang Jasper Dijkstra Peter Herman Master student @ TUD



### Implementation of marshes



Marloes Bonenkamp Ymkje Huismans Zheng Bing Wang Jasper Dijkstra Peter Herman Master student @ TUD



## Salt marsh development depends on horizontal and vertical processes.



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## Vertical salt marsh development (accretion) consists of three processes.



### Mineral sedimentation is the largest contributor to accretion.





Range of contributions to salt marsh accretion

## Salt marsh development depends on horizontal and vertical processes.



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## Horizontal salt marsh development is excluded from the ASMITA model extension.



### Implementation of marshes

#### Study-area



#### Hindcast data ~1995 - present

1. SEB-plots: point measurements for changes in height and sedimentation for period 1995 - present



#### 2. AHN (LIDAR): DTMs for

AHN1: 1997-2004 || AHN2: 2007-2012 || AHN 3: 2014-2019 || AHN 4: 2021-2022 Limited relevance, likely because of poor filtering vegetation height.





### 1-element model: background on implementation



Volume of water flowing onto the marsh (derived from 10-years of water level data)



### 1-element model: flattening of the marsh



### 1-element model: Validation

Results for a sediment concentration of fine sediment (mud) of 0.5 mg Cl/l



(b) c = 0.5 g/L

### 1-element model: Sensitivity analysis





#### A lot less sedimentation?!



A lot less sedimentation?!





In the basin: tidally averaged conditions for sediment concentration

A lot less sedimentation?!





In the basin: tidally averaged conditions for sediment concentration On the marsh: extreme conditions for sediment concentration

### 3+1 element model







# The salt marsh element has a negligible impact on the morphological development in the tidal inlet system.



# For a larger salt marsh element, the effect of the outgoing sediment flux becomes more evident.



### Conclusions



 Salt marsh development by mineral sedimentation can be modelled by the ASMITA model, provided that information on the sediment concentration is present.

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#### 2. For the Dutch Wadden Sea,

and limited SLR rates, salt marshes have a **limited impact** on the morphological development in the rest of the tidal inlet system.

### Conclusions



 Salt marsh development by mineral sedimentation can be modelled by the ASMITA model, provided that information on the sediment concentration is present.





and limited SLR rates, salt marshes have a **limited impact** on the morphological development in the rest of the tidal inlet system.



3. The model can be used to gain quick insight in global long-term salt marsh morphodynamics, but does not provide a detailed description.

### Recommendations



Correlation between water levels and sediment concentration

### Recommendations



Correlation between water levels and sediment concentration



Improve marsh implementation 1) an integrated 4 element model 2) add cliff erosion

### Recommendations



Correlation between water levels and sediment concentration Improve marsh implementation 1) an integrated 4 element model 2) add cliff erosion **1** 

Measurements on sediment concentration and marsh elevation

### Outlook

2024: Reporting on validation of mud

2024-2028: PhD within WadSed (NWO perspectief).

- Improve processes river discharge, sediment fractions, marshes, changing basin area, ...
- Higher spatial resolution Delft3D-Asmita hybrid, more elements Asmita
- Probabilistic modelling
- International cases Likely US, collaboration USGS?
- Coupling with ecology and flood safety



### Delft3D-ASMITA hybrid model

- Model principle, formulation & implementation
- Application to the Wadden Sea

### Setting up the hybrid model: start simple



### Setting up the hybrid model: start simple, add water



### Setting up the hybrid model: add a grid (from Delft3D)



# Setting up the hybrid model: introduce equilibrium (from ASMITA)










#### Disturbed equilibrium



#### Disturbed equilibrium



#### Disturbed equilibrium



#### Disturbed equilibrium



 $\rightarrow$  equilibrium bed level for each grid cell: limits applicability, but works very well for e.g. SLR scenarios

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→ ASMITA formulation for the sediment exchange between bed and water column: empirical relation based on *morphological equilibrium* instead of empirical formulation based on sediment transport capacity

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→ ASMITA formulation for the sediment exchange between bed and water column: empirical relation based on *morphological equilibrium* instead of empirical formulation based on sediment transport capacity

 $\rightarrow$  Delft3D hydrodynamic module and suspended sediment transport module

$$\frac{\partial h\overline{c}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \alpha_x \overline{u} h\overline{c}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \alpha_y \overline{v} h\overline{c}}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( D_x h \frac{\partial \overline{c}}{\partial x} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( D_y h \frac{\partial \overline{c}}{\partial y} \right) = E \quad \text{with} \quad E = \gamma w_s \left( c_e - c \right)$$

where instead of  $c_e = F(u, ..., D_{50}, ...)$  used for regular Delft3D simulations, we use  $c_e = C_E\left(\frac{h_e}{h}\right)$ 

for Hybrid modelling

 $\rightarrow$  equilibrium bed level for each grid cell: limits applicability, but works very well for e.g. SLR scenarios

$$\rightarrow \text{ASMITA formulation}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{ASMITA formulation}$$

$$\text{based on morphologic}$$

$$\text{capacity}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Delft3D hydrodyna}$$

$$\frac{\partial h \overline{c}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \alpha_x \overline{u} h \overline{c}}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\text{Equivalent to running a normal Delft3D simulation}$$

$$\dots \text{ just using a different transport formula concept}$$

$$\text{where instead of } c_e = F(u, ..., D_{50}, ...) \text{ used for regular Delft3D simulations, we use } c_e = C_E \left(\frac{h_e}{h}\right)^n$$

$$\text{for Hybrid modelling}$$

## Hybrid concept: stable SLR implementation



- ASMITA equilibrium relations are only valid in the tidal inlet system.
- Sediment import only happens through open boundaries.
- Raising water levels at boundaries: sediment gets deposited offshore (close to the open boundaries).
- Sea level rise can also be modelled as subsidence: only apply subsidence where ASMITA is valid.
- Subsidence in foreshores: smooth transition.
   Nourish in foreshores to counteract SLR.

## Hybrid model: some results (work in progress)



constant Sea Level Rise: 10.4 mm/y over two centuries

## Hybrid model: some results (work in progress)



ramping up SLR: from 2 mm/y to 10.4 mm/y (by 2070) over a century in total

 $\rightarrow$  68.5 cm SLR in total

## Functionalities currently under development

Functionality	working	under development	planned
time varying SLR	Х		

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Functionality	working	under development	planned
time varying SLR	Х		
two sediment fractions		Х	

### Hybrid model: extend to the Wadden Sea



### Hybrid concept: first results for the Wadden Sea model

2 mm SLR over two centuries ("business as usual").

Slow sand, settling velocity: 0.1 mm/s Equilibrium concentration: 320 g/m^3



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## Functionalities currently under development

Functionality	working	under development	planned
time varying SLR	Х		
two sediment fractions		Х	
cross-sectional analysis (watersheds)			Х

## Functionalities currently under development

Functionality	working	under development	planned
time varying SLR	Х		
two sediment fractions		Х	
cross-sectional analysis (watersheds)			Х
spatially varying equilibrium bathymetry			Х



# Concluding discussions & outlook

## Summary

- Model application
  - − Sediment exchange North Sea coast Wadden Sea → Nourishment requirement & LT strategy
  - Future (e.g. after 2 m SLR) bathymetry of the Wadden Sea → Future flood defense
  - Future development of intertidal flat → ecological value
  - Effects of subsidence due to gas and salt extraction
- Model development
  - Adding functionalities
  - Narrowing the gap with process-based models
- Fundamental research
  - On model concept for supporting model development
  - Obtain system understanding using the model

The aggregated models are competitive but complementary to the process-based models

## WadSED





## Pathways for Realising Climate Adaptation in the Wadden Sea - PaRCA

INterventions for a sustainable Wadden Sea

A joint NL-D-DK initiative



NIOZ

for Sea Research



Rijkswaterstaat, Staatsbosbeheer, Waddenvereniging, Ecoshape, NLWKN Brake-Oldenburg, NLWKN Norden, LKN.SH, WSA Weser-Jade-Nordsee, GDWS, NPV LS, WWF Wadden Sea Office, WSF, BfG (Federal Institute of Hydrology), Danish Coastal Authority, Uni Rostock

Royal Netherlands Institute SENCKENBERG

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C A U OGlobal Climate Forum

## Measures / Interventions





#### Management Options

- Indirect nourishments of the tidal flats a)
- b) direct beach and basin nourishments)
- combination with coastal realignment c) (islands and mainland).



Sediment pathways



Intertidal areas

Subtidal areas

Extraction areas













### **Concluding discussions & outlook**

- Extended ASMITA with mud and marshes
- A new LT morphodynamic modelling approach implemented in Delft3D, combining process-based and aggregated (semi-empirical) approaches, meant for studying effects of relative sea-level rise. The first results look promising.
- Advantage & disadvantages
  - Compared to ASMITA: (+) it provide more detailed info concerning e.g. spatial variation of the effect of subsidence caused by gas or salt mining; (-) no ready to use empirical relations for morphological equilibrium available.
  - Compared to (process-based) Delft3D: (+) robustness, saving computational time as coarser grid can be used; (+) no spin-up problem; (-) fixed channel-shoal structure, cannot simulate e.g. channel migration.





- Many things about the new approach still need to be explored
  - Response coastal area (seawards of the inlet) to SLR
  - Influence depth within the basin on response to SLR
  - Multi-fraction sediment
  - Further aggregation in time (tide-averaged mode)
- Studying the relation between Delft3D and ASMITA
  - Determining dispersion coefficient in tide-averaged mode

parameter	value	unit
$\Delta t$	3	days
$w_s$	1e-3	m/s
$ ho_s$	2650	kg/m <sup>3</sup>
n	0.80	-
$A_{marsh}$	1.01e7	$m^2$
$\delta_0$	7.60	m³/s



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## The salt marsh model extension has a different computational procedure compared to the existing ASMITA model.

Model Extension

Results & Discussion





#### Deltares

## The salt marsh model extension has a different computational procedure compared to the existing ASMITA model.



Model Extension

**Results & Discussion** 

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Research Goal

## For the salt marsh, the tidally averaged hydrodynamic conditions can not be employed for the morphological equilibrium condition.



Model Extension

**Results & Discussion** 

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### The model extension is based on c<sub>e</sub> = 0: all sediment that flows onto the salt marsh is captured.



Model Extension

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## Deltares

## The morphological change is calculated based on the aggregated advection-diffusion equation.



Model Extension

## The marsh volume change depends on sedimentation and sea level rise.



salt marsh volume change sedimentation

sea level rise
## The governing model parameters for sedimentation are $\delta, w_s$ and $c_{\text{E}}.$



salt marsh volume change sedimentation

sea level rise





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## 1-element model: how the sediment is distributed over the marsh



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