

Interactive comment on “Effects of water discharge and sediment load on evolution of modern Yellow River Delta, China, over the period from 1976 to 2009” by J. B. Yu et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

Received and published: 30 June 2011

The Yellow River delta is a newborn delta in warm temperate zone of China. It is the most complete, extensive and young wetland ecosystems in China while it is also one of zones with high biodiversity in the world. In recent decades, runoff and sediment load discharged into sea decreased greatly due to climate warming, soil and water conservation engineering in the milled reaches and uncontrolled water use for city and irrigation and this has constrained the evolution process of Yellow River delta. Most prior researches are qualitative and this is adverse to estimate the effects of climate change and human activities on evolution of the delta. In this paper, authors analyzed the runoff, sediment load into sea and variations of shoreline of Yellow River delta and estimated the effects of runoff and sediment load decrease on evolution of Yellow

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River delta. This article is novel and the topic of the present study is pretty timely and worth publishing. It is instructive for estimating effects of climate change and human activities on estuarine wetlands. Advice: This paper will more significant if authors could distinguish and determine weights of climate change and human activities on runoff and sediment load reduce respectively.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 8, 4107, 2011.

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