

University of Groningen

Biophysical self-organization of coastal wetlands

van de Vijssel, Roeland Christiaan

DOI:
[10.33612/diss.160081233](https://doi.org/10.33612/diss.160081233)

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are advised to consult the publisher's version (publisher's PDF) if you wish to cite from it. Please check the document version below.

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:
2021

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):
van de Vijssel, R. C. (2021). *Biophysical self-organization of coastal wetlands: Unraveling spatial complexity on tidal flats and marshes, from the Precambrian to today*. [Thesis fully internal (DIV), University of Groningen]. University of Groningen. <https://doi.org/10.33612/diss.160081233>

Copyright

Other than for strictly personal use, it is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

The publication may also be distributed here under the terms of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act, indicated by the "Taverne" license. More information can be found on the University of Groningen website: <https://www.rug.nl/library/open-access/self-archiving-pure/taverne-amendment>.

Take-down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

Downloaded from the University of Groningen/UMCG research database (Pure): <http://www.rug.nl/research/portal>. For technical reasons the number of authors shown on this cover page is limited to 10 maximum.

Acknowledgements

With great pleasure, I look back at my past years as a PhD student at NIOZ in Yerseke. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the many wonderful people that have helped to make my time as a PhD student such a positive experience.

I am very thankful for the great team of supervisors I had. Johan, I have learned so much from you: how to develop a numerical model “from scratch”, how to write papers with a clear end goal in mind, how to make my presentation slightly less “educating” and slightly more “storytelling”, how to sometimes let go of perfectionism and just dare to take a leap forward, ... Tjeerd, you have broadened my way of thinking, from my background as a physicist, to include an ecologist’s way of thinking, for example when I was designing and carrying out my very first lab experiment. Your everlasting enthusiasm and optimism have always been a great support. Daphne, your critical, concise and constructive feedback has always greatly improved my work. I highly appreciate your involvement and your very fast response. Johan, Tjeerd, Daphne, the serious but pleasantly informal way in which we have been working together over the past years has been great. I look forward to continuing our collaboration in the future!

Jim, I can’t imagine what my PhD project and thesis would have looked like without you and your help. It has always been a pleasure to share the office with you, brainstorm on “cool science” and go to Ketenisse and other field sites together. I arrived at NIOZ as a physicist and you taught me to become a biogeomorphologist: how to wade through muddy tidal flats, cultivate algae in the lab, deal with statistically “impossible” data sets, ... But it has also been great to get to know you better as a colleague and a friend, from discussing the ups and downs of a career in science, to talking about fun things to do with Lego and where best to find fossil shark teeth. And we still have so many cool sciency ideas to work on, we’ll surely keep in touch!

Valentina, Sam, Max, Bas, Loreta and Stijn, thank you so much for being my co-authors and for your valuable input. Valentina, your help with field and lab experiments and feedback on the manuscript has been very helpful for my first paper. I wish you good luck with your research! Sam, it has been great to learn more about geology from you and it was a very nice surprise to meet you in person at IAS in Rome! It would be great to explore future collaborations. Max, having you on board as self-organization expert has greatly improved my work. I also am happy that we discussed postdoc opportunities together, as that indirectly made me find my project on Mallorca. Bas, I appreciate your enthusiasm and it was very useful to critically review the marsh model together. Let’s keep in touch! Loreta, you already made me feel at home at NIOZ from the day you gave me a tour through the institute after my application interview and it has been so nice to become friends and to share the office for some time. I have learned very much from the stream models you have developed and it’s great to work on marsh

models together! Stijn, it has been a pleasure to get to know you, at first during meetings for the Hedwige-Prosperpolder project and later as a co-author. Your feedback has greatly improved the manuscript and I hope we can keep collaborating in the future!

Annabel Belliard, Ewout Kamp, Ian Chambers and Matteo Mikos, thank you for your work and involvement during your internships with me at NIOZ.

I would like to thank Huib de Swart, Leo Maas, Henk Dijkstra and other staff and students at IMAU for inspiring me to pursue a career in science. Henk, Huib and Leo, your supervision during my bachelor's and master's thesis has taught me many skills that I could apply during my PhD and hope to continue in the future. Huib, I greatly appreciate your feedback and our discussions about my PhD work. I hope to keep in touch and visit the IMAU again in the future.

Andrea D'Alpaos, Massimiliano Ghinassi (Gino), Alvise Finotello, Marta Cosma and Elena Bellizia, discussing my work with you in Padova, visiting the marshes in Venice Lagoon and spending time together at the IAS meeting in Rome has been both very inspiring and fun. Thank you and hope to meet you again!

My work at NIOZ wouldn't have been so enjoyable without all the great people I have met. James, thank you for coordinating so much at NIOZ and in De Kêête. Anneke, Annette, Bert, Christine, Daniel, Elly, Hans, Jan Thijs, Jeroen, Joke, Lennart, Peter, Yvonne and many others, thank you for supporting my work and creating a pleasant ambience at the institute. A warm "thank you" to all early career scientists and students that I met at NIOZ and in De Kêête, and that became not just colleagues but friends as well: Alex, Alice, Aimée, Anna, Bas, Bea, Bori, Celine, Chiu, Coco, Delia, Dunia, Emil, Evert, Greg, Haobing, Jaco, Jerry, Jetze, Jildou, Jim, Justin, Koen, Lander, Laura, Lauren, Lixia, Long, Loran, Loreta, Mareike, Maria, Marieke, Marte, Natalie, Núria, Oliver, Paolo, Rebecca, Rick, Rosanna, Sam, Sarah, Siti, Stanley, Thiri, Tim, Tim, Tisja, Tri, Werna, Yan, Zhenchang, Zhengquan, and many, many others.

Chiu and Tim, a special thank you for your friendship and for wanting to be my paranympths during my defense!

Thank you Alexandru, Anna and Felix, Claudia and Lars, Elisha, Jip, Johan, Yoeri, Quinten and my other friends from Utrecht and surroundings, for keeping in touch despite the distance between Yerseke and the rest of the country.

Lieve Papa, Mama en Annemarie, zonder jullie steun en liefde was ik nooit zover gekomen. Papa, al van jongs af aan heb ik ontzettend veel dingen van jou geleerd die me nu, tijdens mijn PhD project, hebben geholpen. Ik weet nog goed hoe je me uitlegde wat een "elevator pitch" is en hoe ik presentaties voor de middelbare school oefende

met jou als kritische toehoorder. We waren alle vier zo verdrietig toen het niet goed met je ging en je naar het ziekenhuis moest. Maar zelfs daar toonde jij je altijd betrokken en trots als ik je vertelde over mijn PhD. Het is en blijft moeilijk te accepteren dat we je nu moeten missen, maar in gedachten blijf je bij ons. Mama en Annemarie, ik prijs mezelf gelukkig met de steun die we aan elkaar hebben, nu Papa er niet meer is en ook in deze ingewikkelde corona-tijden. Mama, jouw lieve en bemoedigende woorden zijn altijd een steun in de rug. En de talloze keren gezellig samen wandelen, fietsen of gewoon even bijpraten, zijn altijd erg fijn. Dat blijven we doen, hoe en waar dan ook – desnoods videobellend. Annemarie, ik ben heel blij met zo'n lieve zus als jij. Dank je wel voor je wijze woorden en de "tips en tricks" die jij bij de uni hebt opgedaan. En natuurlijk voor de gezelligheid samen, met Papa en Mama of met z'n tweeën op vakantie of als je op bezoek kwam in Yerseke. Ik ga jullie missen als ik op Mallorca ben, maar we houden contact.

Carolina, meu amor, obrigado por tudo! So wonderful to have met you and to get to know you better every day, in normal times and during corona-lockdown. I look forward to learning Portuguese and I hope that learning Dutch (step by step, no pressure) will make you feel even more at home. I am very thankful for your everlasting support, especially during the last hectic months of my PhD. Your good advice, help with compiling my final reference list and, mostly, your love and patience have been all the support I could wish for. I'll be there for you too. Carô, I am curious what the future will bring us, happy to have you by my side.

