

This paper from a very strong research group describes a study on the effects of the presence of the islands around the gorge of a tidal inlet on the morphodynamics of the tidal inlet systems using idealized numerical modelling. Basically, it is about the role of the geological constrains on the morphodynamics of tidal inlets, an interesting and important subject. The study already provides some useful insights and the paper is well written. Therefore, I support the eventual publication of the paper.

Obviously, the subject dealt by the paper is a wide one. I would consider the study described by the paper as a start for studies on the subject. Many suggestions for extending and / or improving the study can be made. I would appreciate if the authors can consider the following suggestions for revising the manuscript. I would understand if not all suggestions can be implemented before finishing the present paper, but then please consider them in the discussion section of the paper.

1. In the introduction section two pairs of nearby tidal inlets have been presented for a comparison between tidal inlets with and without islands near the inlet gorge. Can this part be extended by elaborating more on what we learn from the comparison? What are exactly the different characteristics of the geomorphology of inlets with islands from those without islands? How are the results from the comparison linked to the present modelling study?

2. Can you present something about the morphology of the Dongshan Bay, the reference tidal inlet system for the idealized modelling? Would it be possible to make a comparison between the model results and the real morphology of this bay? Even for idealized modelling study I think it is important to present some validation of the used model.

3. It seems to me that the major effect of the islands in the idealized model is narrowing the gorge of the inlet. Therefore, please discuss on what really matters, the varying width at the inlet gorge or the number of islands?

4. The model results show that sediment export takes place in all cases. Can you please discuss on the mechanism(s) causing this seawards residual sediment transport? Is this due to the residual flow velocity caused by the river discharge and the flow compensating Stoke's drift?

5. More detailed, at what time are the flow velocity and sediment transport presented in Fig.14? Please consider changing the scales of the vertical axes of pictures a and c. Picture a does not show any differences between the four cases seemingly in in contradiction with the results presented in e.g. Fig.13. The relative differences in sediment transport between the cases should be much larger than those in flow velocity because of the non-linear relationship between sediment transport and velocity. However, picture c does not show this, most likely because of the used scale of the vertical axis.

Details:

Line	remark
27	I would remove "empirical"
39	I think that you mean "anthropogenic" instead of "anthropologic"
93	Replace "under" by "with"?
138-139	Is it not prescribed that the bed level is not changing?
143-145	"which suggests"? I cannot follow the reasoning.
151	"the shape of rectangular prism"?

188	Replace “higher” by “stronger”?
189	Replace “show” by “shown”.
195	“continue”?
380-381,	What do you mean by “horizontal” and “vertical” redistribution? In the model only horizontal sediment transport (from one grid cell to another) is simulated.
393	Remove “as”?
410	“integrated averaged”? Consider removing “integrated”.
468-469	I am not quite sure if you can claim “hence providing ... systems”. No discussion is on this is provided in the manuscript.