

Review of: "Larache's Coastal in Morocco: Evaluating Dredging's Impact on Fisheries and Shorelineevolution"

El Hacen Mohamed El-Hacen¹

¹ University of Groningen

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Major comments

This article showed changes in shorelines in a coastal area in Morocco based on Google Earth images from the archive. The paper makes the point that these changes are due to coastal dredging and goes further to claim that these changes possibly caused the observed decline in landing catches of fisheries.

- I found the results obtained here (changes in coastline over time) insufficient to establish cause-and-effect relationships with dredging and the collapse of the fishery. The article did not show any quantitative data on dredging (frequency, quantity), neither spatially nor temporarily! So, the link with changes in the coastline can't be established with the info at hand!
- The same goes for the fishery! Without Fyke net data linked to different locations (or time) with different dredging regimes, it is unrealistic to make a link to the collapse of the fishery. The observed decline in the fishery could be simply related to overfishing!
- The methodology is unclear and focused only on how to use Google Earth! !
- What I found a bit strange is the long list of proposed Mitigation Measures (9), but there were no results in the article to back them up! For example, it is suggested to limit dredging to 0.5 m, but based on what!

Minor comments

Unfortunately, the draft lacks line numbering, thus it is inconvenient to point out remarks, but generally:

- The abstract did not contain the methodology used in this article, as well as the conclusions!
- The writing style is a bit odd as it is mainly a seemingly disconnected series of paragraphs in a bullet point style, with many redundancies to the same ideas: In many cases, I read the same idea written in different ways and presented as different facts!
- The article presented many facts/ideas without references!
- The Biography list is not presented in a logical order (chronological or alphabetic order)!!

Recommendation

This article highlights an important topic that is not studied at all in the region, with potentially significant impacts on coastal geomorphology and biodiversity. However, in order to make the case on the cause-effect relationship of dredging

on the changes in coastal sediment and shoreline dynamics, as well as on the fishery, quantitative data is needed. Quantitative and spatial data on dredging is needed, as well as fishery data in different areas with different dredging regimes! Finally, the free satellite imagery archive (e.g., Landsat, Sentinel-2) could help in getting more quantitative data on shoreline dynamics!