

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Review comments on LA99QQ "Larache's Coastal in Morocco: Evaluating Dredging's Impact on Fisheries and Shoreline Evolution"

1. The title needs proper spacing between words as well as a few linguistic changes.
2. Page 2 – introduction – section 1.1 - "within it raises concerns regarding its potential effects onThe cause of a significant retreat of the northern part of" – This particular line appears to comprise two sentences, one incomplete and the other complete. The authors are asked to check whether they have mistyped or partially pasted a sentence that needs to be addressed properly.
3. Page 3 – introduction – section 1.2 – "Dredging can have a significant impact on benthic fauna, which includes organisms that live at the bottom of the water" – the phrase "benthic fauna" is self-explanatory; hence, the rest of the sentence becomes rhetorical unless the authors are actually specifying the epibenthic/epibenthic/hyperbenthic life forms etc. individually. It is also better to write 'bottom of water bodies' than simply "bottom of water" because the latter becomes a dimensionless aspect.
4. The introduction section could have been structured and compiled better in light of the selected topic of the article, using more information from articles published in the past 10-15 years in addition to the ones already cited, as there must be quite a few suitable articles to choose from. It also lacks a consolidated objective since the ending paragraph appears more a summary of a speech than a scientific article that future readers will use as a reference. The authors are asked to look into these aspects to render their article more in tune with the very important topic they have chosen to deal with.
5. Figure 1 legend "*Sedimentology and Distribution of Sedimentary Facies Three major sedimentary facies have been identified in this area (JAAIDI, E., 1994)*" requires proper punctuation.
6. Page 7 – section 2.2.2 – The authors are asked to adhere to the basic norms of writing scientific names of organisms by italicizing them, even if they fail to provide proper author citation when mentioning such names for the first time within the body of the manuscript, though it should be.
7. Same page – Why haven't the authors provided the actual GPS co-ordinates of "coastline of the Larache coast, particularly the Ras R'mel beach"?
8. Page 8 - 3.2 - Methodology – Instruction to use Google Earth cannot be considered as a methodology used to generate data for a scientific publication since the process itself is too public and needs no detailed elucidation as part of a scientific paper, especially for conducting diachronic studies. To create a map of the study area, Google Earth can

be used, but the present article demands a different approach than simply to visualize the area.

9. Why haven't the authors used GIS software such as ArcGIS to vectorize raster data obtained from satellites such as MODIS or Sentinel, etc.? This could have served them in a far better way in fulfilling their objectives.
10. Figure 5 and 7 are appreciable, but at the same time, too generalized to solely be able to carry a manuscript intended to discuss the effects of dredging on coastal geomorphology.
11. The Discussion section, although categorized under subsections, could have used a good deal more of earlier published articles as cited references to the observations made during the present study. The authors have done a good job in discussing the mitigative approaches and in delineating potential causes to the existing problem of shoreline changes that might have been triggered by dredging activities, but the data obtained from their observations would have been better validated by earlier but similar trends observed in coastal or estuarine regions similar to theirs, in addition to their own views about it.
12. Section 5.2 – Is the quantity of landed fish per year solely dependent on the impact of dredging on shoreline change? Obviously not. Hence, the authors are asked to add data on the more relevant water quality variables as well if they are to use fish landing as an indicator to their hypothesized objective.
13. The conclusion needs to be more succinct yet unique in closing out the paper than be just a repetition of what has been discussed within the body of the manuscript the readers have already gone through.
14. Instead of a bibliography, the authors could do better to have added a reference list which appears more a part of a scientific article and not a book.

Verdict: The approach by the authors to shed light on such a significant topic, as selected for the present study, is highly commendable. However, the article itself has quite a few shortcomings, most of which have been pointed out above, and it lacks the overall outlook of an acceptable research paper in its present iteration. Should the authors decide to modify and update their article by incorporating the intended changes and corrections, they can expect a better result in their article being accepted for publication.