

Interactive comment on “Late Holocene evolution of a coupled, mud-dominated delta plain–chenier plain system, coastal Louisiana, USA” by Marc P. Hijma et al.

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The new work from Hijma and others uses a collection of new Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) and Radiocarbon (C14) ages to examine and conceptualise the timing of chenier-plain development to the west of the Mississippi delta, USA. The work is comprehensive and scientifically defensible. The work is well illustrated and it will likely be of interest to a wide range of practitioners globally who have interests in fluvio-deltaic and coastal processes, Holocene coastal evolution, sea level change, coastal sediment dynamics and to a lesser extent geochronology.

The work builds nicely on previous studies in the region and considerably improves the chronological framework for the evolution of the delta plain at this important site

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thus making it an important contribution. The timeliness of the work is also noteworthy given management plans for the area. The authors are also correct to note that building a detailed insights into the pace and sedimentary characteristics that govern the evolution of coupled delta-coastal plain systems has clear implications for improving management and constraining the effects of sea-level rise, changes in fluvial sediment budgets and human activities in such systems.

This paper is almost suitable for publication after minor revisions however the abstract and introduction both need a bit more bite in terms of why people working elsewhere should care to read and cite this paper. What I would like to see is that the work is placed in a context of some bigger questions. What can we learn from this system that can be applied in other similar systems globally? The work is a little Americo-centric so it would be good to add more international context. What can we glean from this improved understanding for working in similar muddy deltaic systems elsewhere? This should only take a few lines in the introduction and discussion and some additional global references.

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