

# Kennis voor Klimaat Knowledge for Climate



## HZ01 Negotiating uncertainties: defining climate proofing and assessing associated uncertainties in the Dutch Southwest delta

### Background

The South West Delta region is important as strategic **freshwater reservoir** for many economic activities. The societal wish to rehabilitate some of the estuarine characteristics of the delta and prospected **climate change** require that policy makers need to reconsider current water management and land use in the Delta.

**Uncertainties** about future climate change and economic development play an important role within the **decision making** process.

### Objective

To map the patterns of certainties and uncertainties in expert judgment by scientists and practical experts regarding future salt damage risks.

### Method

Historical patterns of (un)certainties are mapped for the strategic environmental assessment (Plan-MER) of project "**Improvement Water Quality lake Volkerak-Zoom**" in the period 2000-2010. This is done by interviews, analysis of policy documents and quantitative questionnaires.

### Findings phase 1

About 30 uncertainties were identified and clustered around 2 long term policy objectives (1) rehabilitation of estuarine dynamics, (2) climate change adaptation and (3) issues about the effectiveness of the proposed short term measures to improve water quality.

Salt damage risks for agriculture is **contested knowledge** in the strategic environmental assessment procedure for lake Volkerak-Zoom.

### Product

A prototype method for mapping qualitative and quantitative uncertainties in expert judgment about salt damage risks, described in a report for policy makers and in a scientific paper.

### Project team

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## Uncertainties about future salt damage risks in freshwater resources management



*Old Mussel company in Yerseke along the salt Eastern Scheldt (July, 2010)*



*Irrigation of onions in West-Brabant with freshwater (July 2010)*