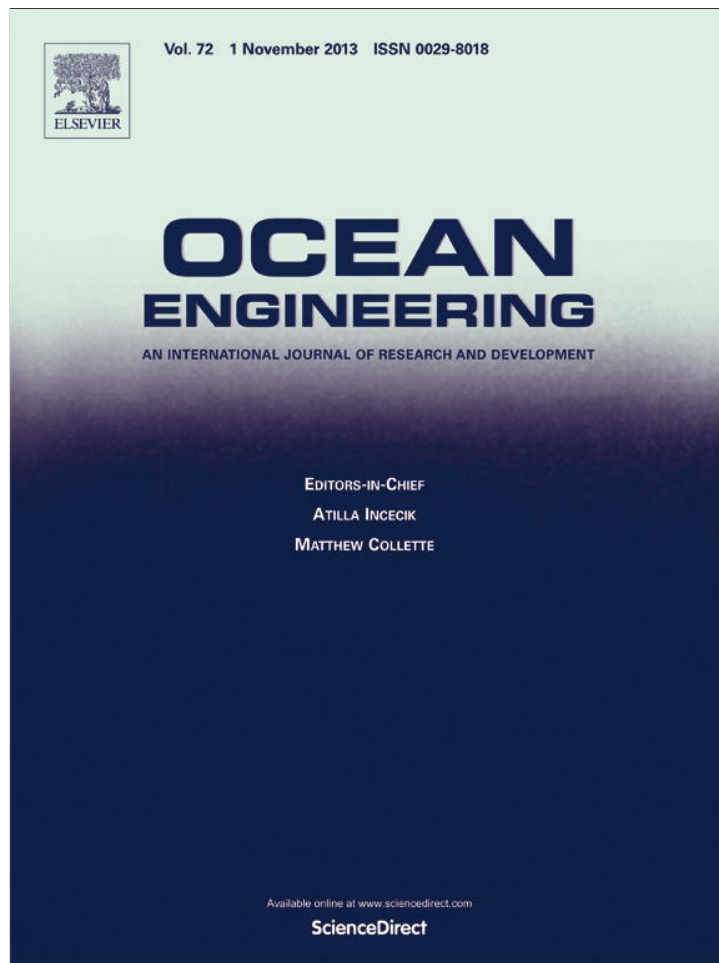


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## Reply to “Discussion of ‘Towards a global regionally varying allowance for sea-level rise’ by J.R. Hunter, J.A. Church, N.J. White, X. Zhang [Ocean Engineering 71 (1) 17–27 (1 October 2013)]”



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The ‘Comment’ by Watson and Parker on our paper ‘Towards a global regionally varying allowance for sea-level rise’ (Hunter et al., 2013) is not a comment at all. It is a collection of the authors’ personal views masquerading as a Comment, the only papers cited in support of the authors’ claims being first-authored by Parker (who incidentally also publishes under the name of ‘Alberto Boretti’). The ‘Comment’ should not have been published.

The ‘Comment’ is irrelevant to the material presented by Hunter et al. (2013), being largely an ill-informed discussion of whether observational sea-level records exhibit a long-term acceleration, and whether estimates of this acceleration are corrupted by temporal variability. On the other hand, Hunter et al. (2013) presented a series of global sea-level allowances, based on current regional projections of sea-level rise and on the statistics of storm tides estimated from tide-gauge records. Hunter et al. (2013) made no mention of the ‘acceleration’ of sea level, nor depended on making any assumption about historic acceleration of sea level. Although we are not prepared to enter into a technical discussion of Watson and Parker’s ‘Comment’, we point out that the claim

that current observational estimates of sea-level acceleration are inconsistent with model-based projections of sea-level rise has been discussed and refuted by Hunter and Brown (2013). It is also noteworthy that the keywords in Hunter et al. (2013) were ‘sea-level rise’, ‘storm tide’, ‘climate change’ and ‘climate projection’; in the ‘Comment’, these have transformed into ‘sea level rise’, ‘sea level acceleration’ and ‘multi-decadal oscillations’, indicating again that the ‘Comment’ is not a comment at all, but an unrelated statement of Watson’s and Parker’s idiosyncratic views.

### References

- Hunter, J., Brown, M., 2013. Discussion of “Boretti, A., 2012. ‘Is there any support in the long-term gauge data to the claims that parts of Sydney will be swamped by rising sea levels?’”. *Coastal Eng.* 64, 161–167”, *Coastal Engineering* 75, 1–3, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.coastaleng.2012.12.003>.
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