

Study of the Changing of the Position of the Principal Fairway on the River Scheldt Between Terneuzen and Hansweert by Means of Old River Charts.

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Key words: Cartography; Coastal Zone Management; History; Hydrography; Positioning

SUMMARY

Between 1955 and 1965 the fairway “Middelgat” leading the ships from Terneuzen to Hansweert on the right river bank got silted up in favour of the “Overloop van Hansweert” lying on the left river bank.

This alteration occurred spontaneous without and human interference. A study of the position of this fairway and the silting up was carried out based on old river charts. The oldest chart used date from 1804 with different charts on various dates until today. This charts were scanned and georeferenced with a gis program based on the different church towers showed on these charts.

Afterwards the charts could be placed on top of each other and the fairway and the river border could be compared in time, allowing us to make a study of the movement of the fairway.

With these georeferenced charts is was also possible to establish the accuracy of the older charts and to compare the reference horizontal waterlevels as a lot of this older charts are based on other reference planes and other units as the modern charts.

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FIG Working Week 2017
Surveying the world of tomorrow - From digitalisation to augmented reality
Helsinki, Finland, May 29–June 2, 2017