Interactive comment on “The temperature sensitivity of organic matter decay in tidal marshes” by M. L. Kirwan et al.

T. Bouma (Referee)
Tjeerd.Bouma@nioz.nl

Received and published: 15 July 2014

I have read the paper “The temperature sensitivity of organic matter decay in tidal marshes” by M. L. Kirwan, G. R. Guntenspergen, and J. A. Langley with great pleasure. In my opinion, this manuscript makes an important contribution to the research field in the questions it raises: what is the impact of global warming on (1) soil-organic matter decay in tidal marshes and (2) the balance between the production and decomposition rate of soil-organic material, and thereby the ability of marshes to cope with sea-level rise.

The methods and analyses used are straightforward, and in the discussion the authors recognize the limitations of their experimental approaches. Within these limitations, I think the results are well interpreted and relevant. Most importantly, I find the research inspiring for further research, and hence definitively worth publishing. I expect it to be followed by more research on this topic.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 11, 6019, 2014.