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The effect of successive storm events and seagrass coverage on sediment suspension in a coastal lagoon

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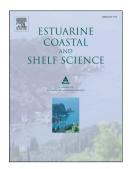
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

1	Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science
2	The effect of successive storm events and seagrass coverage on sediment suspension in a
3	coastal lagoon
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10	
11	Abstract
12	The effect of a succession of eleven storm events (hourly averaged wind speeds exceeding 10.8 m s
13	1) on the sediment suspension was investigated in a coastal lagoon through in situ measurements of
14	hydro- and sediment dynamics from a mobile jack-up platform. Results showed that wave-driven
15	bed shear stress (0.1-0.7 N m ⁻²) was the main driver for sediment suspension in contrast to large-
16	scale flushing, which did not trigger sediment suspension. The suspended particulate matter concen-
17	tration (SPMC) reached a maximum of 200 mg l ⁻¹ . A meteorologically-driven lagoonal seiche effect
18	was identified, which could be the driver for advective sediment transport in the lagoon. Two major
19	findings for the suspension of sediment can be drawn from the results. First, the energy applied to
20	the bed during successive high-energy storm events caused a reduction in the vegetation cover dur-
21	ing a particular strong storm event. This increased the SPMC relative to the bed shear stress, sug-
22	gesting that the sediment availability increased. Second, successive high-energy storm events de-
23	creased the bed shear stress threshold for sediment suspension subsequent to initial consolidation of

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