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#### ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

# Cross-shore stratified tidal flow seaward of a mega-nourishment

Saulo Meirelles<sup>a</sup>, Martijn Henriquez<sup>a</sup>, Ad Reniers<sup>a</sup>, Arjen P. Luijendijk<sup>a,b</sup>, Julie Pietrzak<sup>a</sup>, Alexander R. Horner-Devine<sup>c</sup>, Alejandro J. Souza<sup>d</sup>, Marcel J. F. Stive<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Hydraulic Engineering, Delft University of Technology, Delft, the Netherlands.

<sup>b</sup>Deltares, Delft, the Netherlands.

<sup>c</sup>Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Washington Seattle, USA.

<sup>d</sup>National Oceanography Center, Liverpool, the United Kingdom.

#### Abstract

The Sand Engine is a 21.5 million  $m^3$  experimental mega-nourishment project that was built in 2011 along the Dutch coast. This intervention created a discontinuity in the previous straight sandy coastline, altering the local hydrodynamics in a region that is influenced by the buoyant plume generated by the Rhine River. This work investigates the response of the cross-shore stratified tidal flow to the coastal protrusion created by the Sand Engine emplacement by using a 13 hour velocity and density survey. Observations document the development of strong baroclinic-induced cross-shore exchange currents dictated by the intrusion of the river plume fronts as well as the classic tidal straining which are found to extend further into the nearshore (from 12 to 6 m depth), otherwise believed to be a mixed zone. Estimates of the

Email address: s.meirellesnunesdarocha@tudelft.nl (Saulo Meirelles)

<sup>\*</sup>Saulo Meirelles

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