

Interactive comment on “Vulnerability, resilience and adaptation of societies during major extreme storms during the Little Ice Age” by Emmanuelle Athimon and Mohamed Maanan

A. El M'rini (Referee)

aelmrini@gmail.com

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The paper “Vulnerability, resilience and adaptation of societies during major extreme storms during the Little Ice Age” deals with a topic of global interest, and aims at the reconstruction of extreme events on the French Atlantic coast during the Little Ice Age, the risk perception of people of this region and their adaptation strategies. In general, I find that the approach adopted by the authors is original, with a huge documentation work (review of 19691 French historical documents from 14 French archive centers according to the authors), which allows the authors to provide the first historic database of storms dating back more than 700 years. So I find this work interesting and contains

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all the necessary to be published in the journal "Climate of the Past". However, I have some minor remarks to be considered in order to improve it. - First, Instead of the term “climate hazard” I prefer the term “meteorological hazard” when authors talk about storms. - At line 49, authors talk about global warming as a threat that present people have to face, and how the ancient peoples (in this case the people who lived during LIA) could be a source of inspiration for present communities. Then, at the line 50, authors say that the LIA (which is a cold period) was characterized an increased frequency in the number of storms. Can the authors explain how warming and cooling could both lead to an increase in the number of storms?

- The conclusion needs to be further developed; it is elaborated rather like perspectives, and does not specify the main finding of this paper and if the objectives were reached.

- Authors speak about the perception of risk and collective memory, and that the experience of the ancient people could be a source of inspiration for recent societies. However, when they relate “Societies’ reactions and responses” they do not put the link with the recent time, and if the collective memory still active, especially knowing that this region was recently damaged by storms that caused deaths (cf. Xynthia).

Finally, the reconstruction of the past extreme events dating back centuries from documents remains a very delicate task, and I endorse the authors when they concluded that there will be other works using other proxies and correlations with coastal sediments to assert.

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