



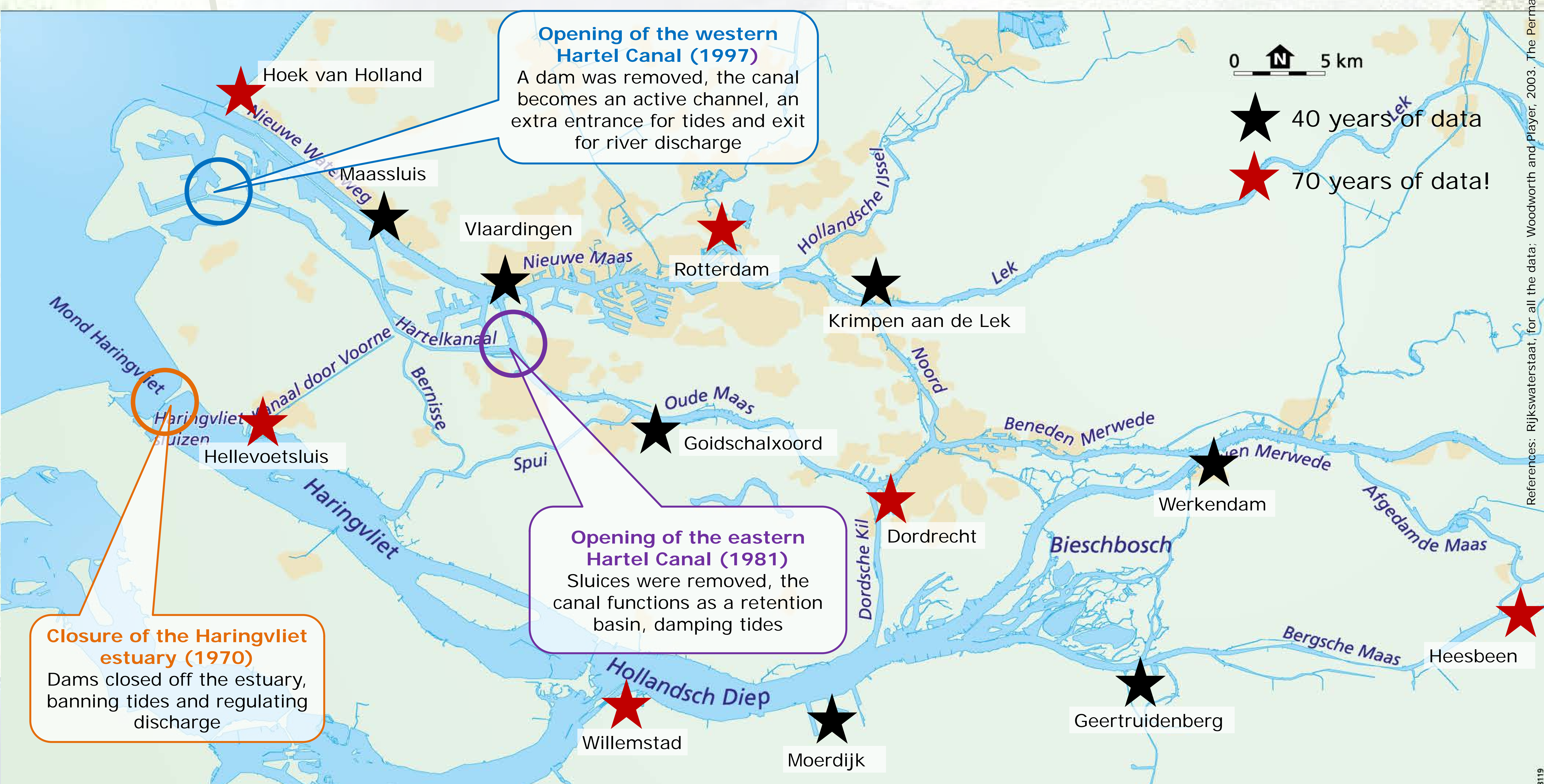
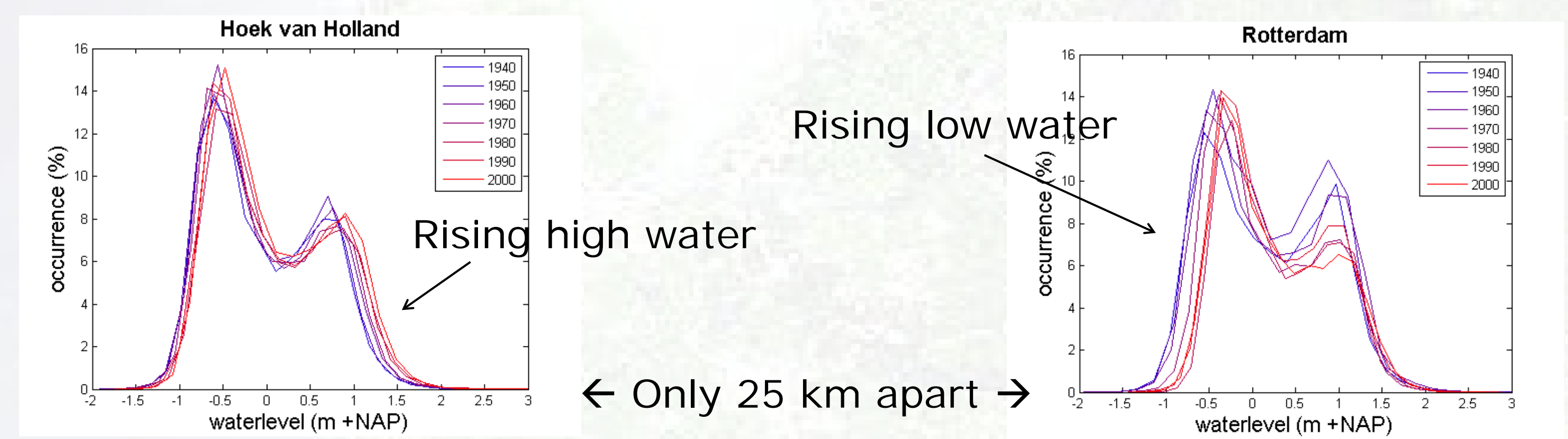
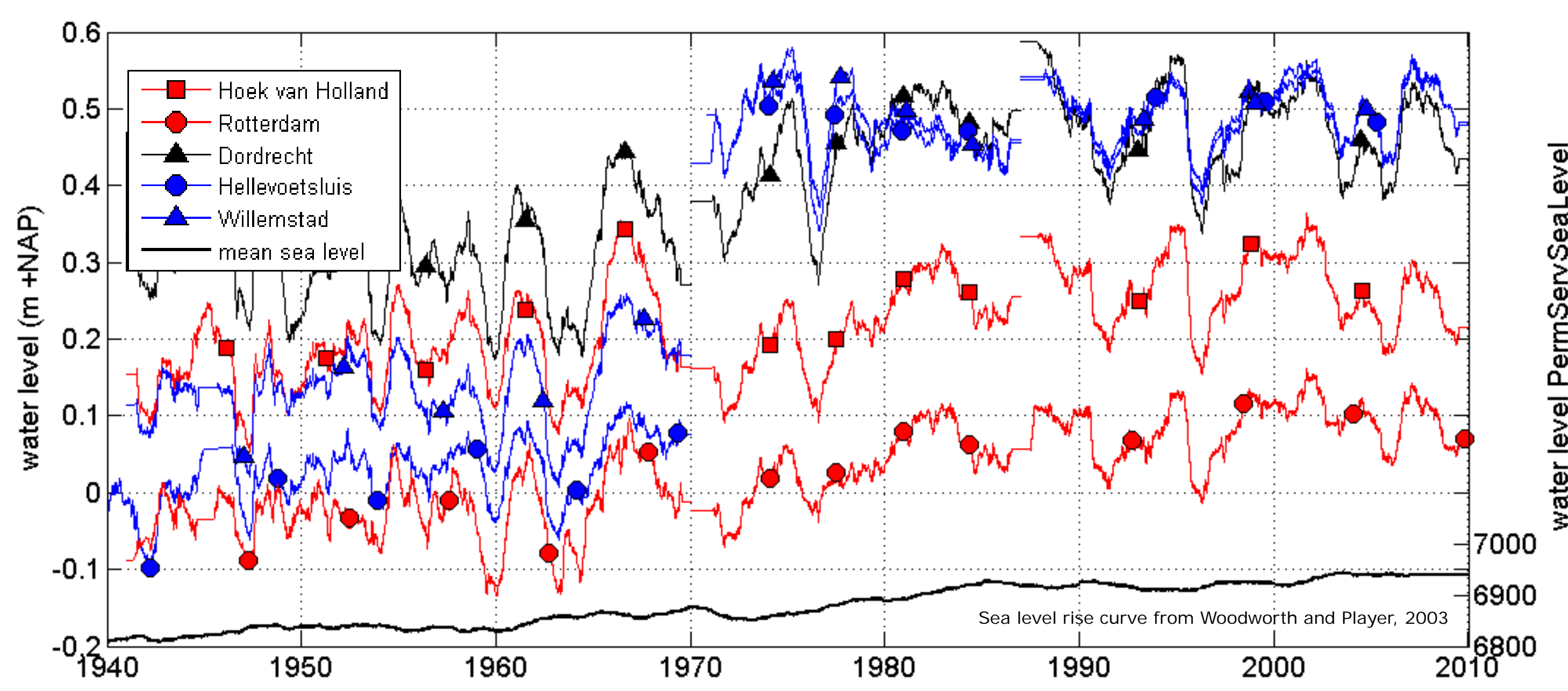
Tidal and subtidal water level variation in the Rhine-Meuse tidal river network: changes and links to human interference

Nynke Vellinga (n.e.vellinga@uu.nl) Ton Hoitink (ton.hoitink@wur.nl) Maarten van der Vegt (m.vandervegt@uu.nl)

Only the mean water level shows a uniform rise...

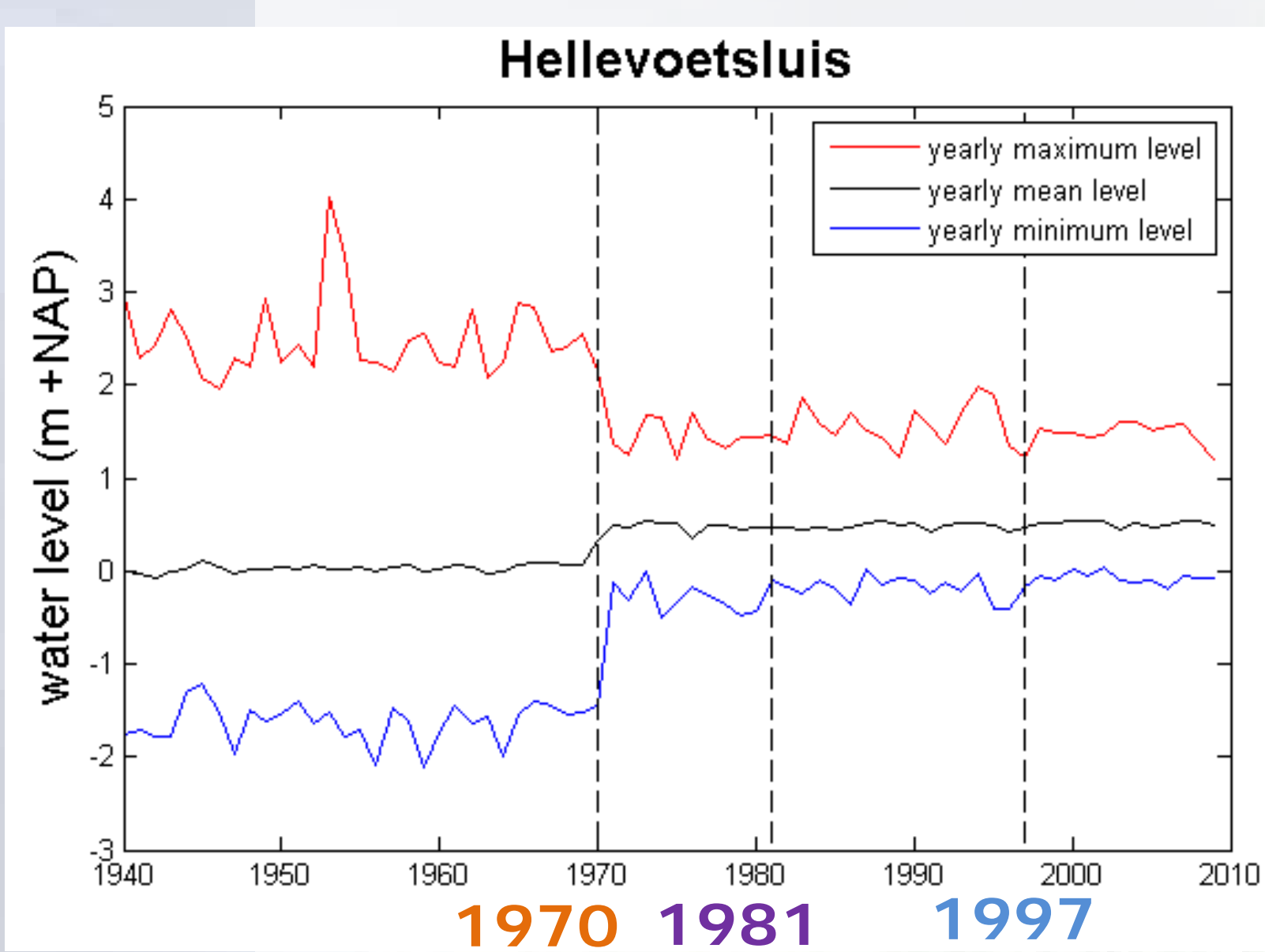
Change in mean water level equals sea level rise:

But high- and low water levels show no uniform rise and the water level distribution is spatially variable. For example:

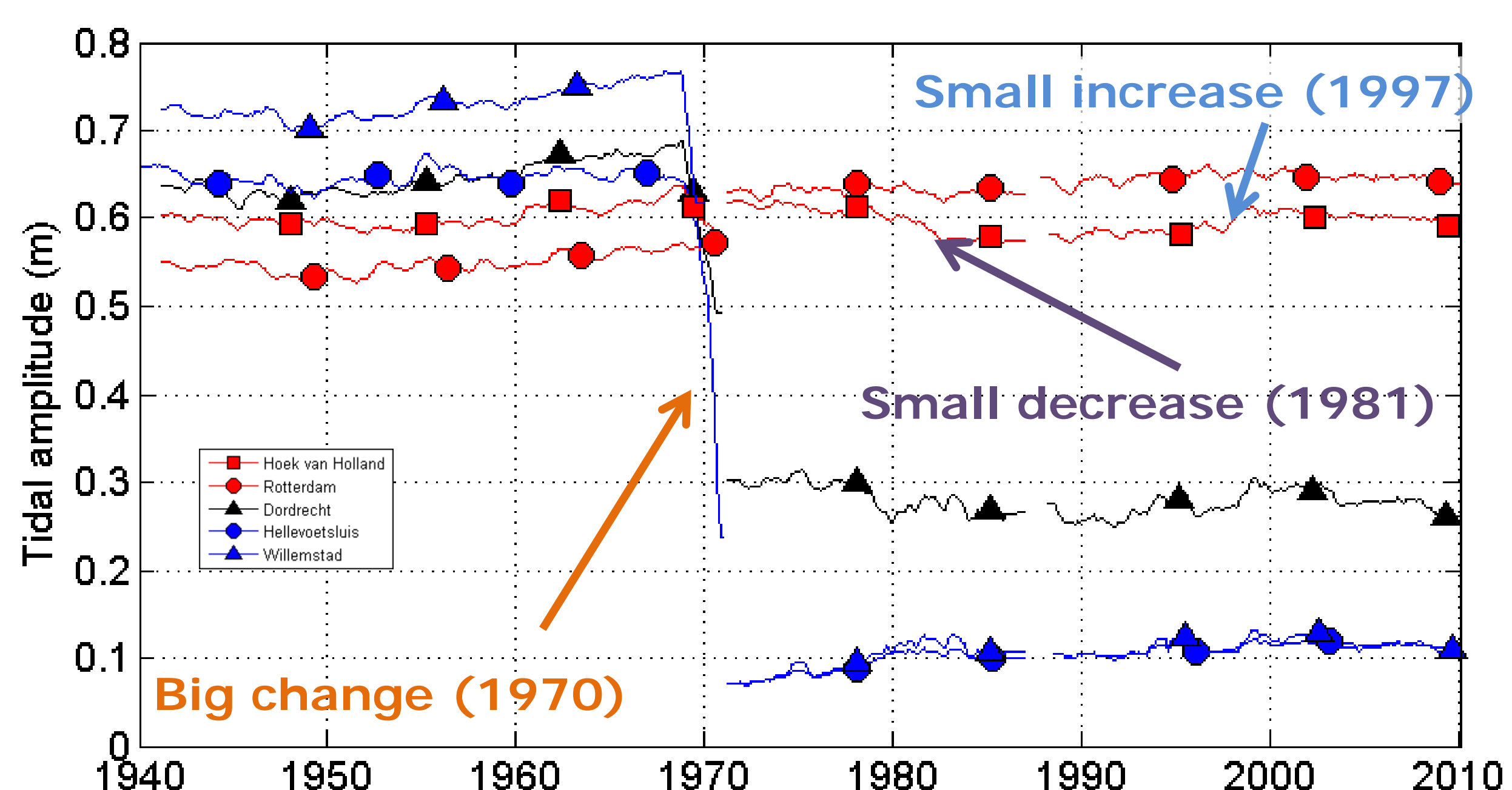


Change-point analysis: three changes

Wavelet analysis: changing tidal amplitudes



Trend analysis and change-point analysis was carried out for yearly maximum, minimum and mean water level. Extreme water levels generally decrease. Three significant change-points were found: 1970, 1981 and 1997.



Tidal amplitudes derived from wavelet analysis show all changes in amplitudes, large and small. Three moments of sudden change stand out: 1970, 1981 and 1997.

Conclusion: human influences overwhelm sea level rise

Human engineering has a profound effect on water levels. These effects are known for large engineering measures, but not for smaller ones. However, several small measures have a bigger effect than sea level rise and should not be overlooked.