

**2nd International Conference on
Climate Change -
The environmental and socio-economic response
in the southern Baltic region
Szczecin, Poland, 12 to 15 May 2014**

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3. Natural dynamics of the coastal zone and the socio-economic response from pre-historic to recent times
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5. Changing Baltic Sea coasts and their sustainable protection
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The violent mid latitude storm hitting Northern Germany and Denmark, 28 October 2013

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1. The event

A heavy storm passed over all of Northern Europe in late October 2013 (Deutscher Wetterdienst, 2013). We examine this event in some detail with respect to the emergence of record breaking wind speeds in Germany and Denmark on 28 October 2013, and how often such events are to be expected in this part of the world. The analysis makes use of local observations as well as a comparison within the homogeneous “re-analysis” CoastDat (Geyer, 2013).

2. Assessment

At least at one station, the recorded wind gusts were larger than what has been observed earlier. At other locations the winds were also very strong, but not beyond what have been recorded previously. According to CoastDat, the storm was among the 10 strongest since 1958, but not the strongest.

3. Conclusion

We conclude that this storm, which got the name “Christian” in Germany, was a very heavy and rather rare event. Such an event on average may be expected every five years or so. However, such storms show a weak tendency of clustering, so that some storms followed each other within a few years, whereas it happened also that a full decade was free of such strong events.

References

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