**Table 2**

**Panel 2, Political, Psychological, Public Health and Ethical Response to SLR**

**Wiebke Lamer**

**Jan-Joel Andersson**

***Question 1****: Politically, how can the U.S. and the EU move beyond gridlock in addressing sea level rise?*

***Answer/Notes:* Dutch example: almost the whole country is affected, so everyone is affected. But even if you happen to be not affected, you’ll be affected by the fact that the fate of the rest of the country affects you. The Netherlands will not be safe for investments and that could be a similarly effective way of framing the issue in Hampton Roads.**

**Difference between US and Netherlands: level of trust in the government. Americans don’t like government overreach. Also, the average American thought process lasts about 2 weeks. How often do we react to an event? That’s what we do, we’re not proactive, as opposed to Dutch attempts at trying to preempt.**

**Boundaries mentality in Hampton Roads: The prevailing mentality that what VA Beach does, doesn’t affect Norfolk etc.**

**1953 flood, disaster of the kind we never had over here.**

**Level of trust? Who enjoys highest? Military, what the naval base decides to do will probably have more credibility than what the Norfolk city council decides to do.**

**Starting with the military and take it as a stepping stone for change in the Hampton Roads region, because the region depends on the military so much economically. So the military could be a good change agent in this region. But we should keep in mind that it’s a huge bureaucracy and who knows how long it will take them to make changes.**

**But they US military is also globally affected, so they might have some incentive.**

**But is it good to make the military a driving force on this issue? Might actually be not so bad, because military = supported in red states, who are opposed to climate issues. So political boundaries might be able to be crossed if the military leads.**

**National discussion in European states is easier to push down to the local level. Not as easy in the US, but the military might be able to do that.**

**What about funding/taxes issue? Funding creates more party divides, distracts from the problems. Different perspectives/mentality in Europe on taxes that does not apply to the US. Loss of trust in the government, has underlined the need to focus on the state and local level.**

***Question 2:*** *In what ways can the discussion move beyond politics* *in order to address environmental, social, spatial, and economic risks?*

***Answer/Notes***

***NGOs can educate people about risks without getting caught up in political issues, but that does usually not apply to the bigger ones, who have become politicized. In the Hampton Roads area, the military could be instrumental in moving the discussion past the political gridlock and move it towards more practical solutions.***

***Question 3:*** *What role should citizens’ perceptions of risk play in the conversation about sea level rise, its impacts and in adapting to it and how can we broaden their understanding of the issues?*

***Answer/Notes***

***No time***

***General Question:*** *Given what you've learned during this panel, what types of collaborative research and action might be most useful in affecting adaptive policy?*

***Answer/Notes***

***No time***

*Consensus Points: Even if you are not affected by the SLR, the perception by other people that the region is not safe, has effects on the people that live in the area.*

*Military might be effective in getting this point across in Hampton Roads because it has such great impact on the economy of the region. Although once you militarize such a big issue, there might be unintended consequences. It could be very difficult to get out of it again, an example is airport security.*

*Takeaways/Action Items: Educating students about the risks of SLR and environmental issues*

*Connecting taxes or other costs of SLR preventing measures to day-to-day issues/improvements that matter to people can change their minds on it.*

*Points of dissent: Taxes*

*Miscellaneous/Interesting: It’s very valuable to hear from the Dutch perspective and see what they have learned.*