

Interactive comment on “Coastal complexity of the Antarctic continent” by Richard Porter-Smith et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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This is a novel first attempt to characterize the coast of Antarctica, using techniques normally used for non-icy coasts. The significance of this technique is that it will allow the changes in coastal margins as the glacier/ice shelves retreat/change to be monitored. Problems may be that it is not clear how the “complexity” of an icy coastal margin relates to glacial processes. In the ‘normal’ coast, the recognition of bays etc is important for coastal erosion and deposition but within this icy sphere the link is not so obvious. So leading on from this, how frequently should the resurvey take place (daily, seasonal, annual decadal?), and how would you test the significance of the changes? Overall, I think this is a significant increase in knowledge about Antarctica and so should be published. I suggest the authors add more detail on – how the complexity adds to glacial processes, and plans for future resurvey.

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