

Interactive comment on “The Mediterranean Sea system: a review and an introduction to the special issue” by T. Tanhua et al.

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We thank the reviewer for rating the scientific significant as good. This article is supposed to be a review article and an introduction to the special issue; setting the scene for the special issue where new concepts and ideas can be presented in more specialized articles. We thank the referee for pointing us to additional references related to the important findings during the POEM experiment. We have now added appropriate references in the section discussing the EMT. However, we deliberately wanted to avoid a long list of important research projects that have been carried out in the Med. If we attempted to do this, we would almost certainly forget some, which would be unfair. But we agree that POEM was such a remarkable achievement in the understanding of the physical oceanography of the EMED that it deserves a place in this manuscript. We

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edited and improved on the wording of particularly the introduction (and reduced the number of times the word Mediterranean was used). Regarding Figure 1: For clarity in this map, we have only marked the CTD stations carried out by the three cruises and marked those with different symbols on the map. For the POS414 cruise, there was some steaming before they reached their first station in southern Adriatic Sea. The CTD stations in the Ionian Sea (marked with blue crosses) were selected to map out the deep overflow as well as possible. We are, of course, well aware that the deep water from the Adriatic does not enter the Messina Strait; Messina was simply the port where the cruise ended. Similar for the Urania cruise EF11; Bari and La Spezia are only the start and end ports of that cruise, the CTD stations that were conducted are marked by black dots on the map, although stations were conducted very close to each other in many places, that it looks more like a thick black line on the map at that scale. We still think it gives the reader a good description of the station net-work for the coordinated cruises in 2011.

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