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## Interactive comment on "Decadal variability of heat content in South China Sea inferred from observation data and an ocean data assimilation product" by W. Song et al.

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This paper discussed the decadal variability of the OHC of SCS, and tried to found the main mechanism. It is a very interesting issue. The SCS OHC behaves four periods, and the authors analyze the heat budget to found the major factor. While there are still some issues need to say clearly. 1. This paper selected three boxes to discuss the spatial differences, while the reasons are not indicated. Each box should be related to a key physical oceanography phenomena, and I want the authors point out the behind phenomena and whether this phenomena determines the local decadal variability. 2. As the paper shown, the variability has spatial differences. Which area is the mainly

C543

contribution to the integral variability character (fig 2) should be clearly. 3. In table1, this paper calculated the ADV, e.g. the strait flux. I suggest the author calculated the fluxes separately, which can give us more information.

Interactive comment on Ocean Sci. Discuss., 10, 1329, 2013.