

## ***Interactive comment on “The RADMED monitoring program: towards an ecosystem approach” by J. L. López-Jurado et al.***

**Anonymous Referee #3**

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This manuscript presents the objectives, strategy, some results, and the relevance with respect to the MFSD of the RADMED observing systems. It provides a clear description of the regular and extensive monitoring programs of the Spanish Mediterranean waters performed since 2007, which integrate different existing monitoring programs.

My main comment concerns the relevance of the present observations with the MFSD needs for monitoring the state of the marine ecosystems. No real argument is given on the usefulness of the current observations, their relevance with the various criteria and indicators, the probable gaps in term of parameters. The few results presented in the text do not clearly show the applicability of the current system to the proposed or foreseeable monitoring within the framework of the MFSD. It seems to me that the question about the adequacy of observation systems in response to new legislative de-

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mands is an important and critical point. It would be interesting if the the authors could give a critical opinion on this and how they see the inconsistencies between what they are able to provide and what would be valuable and urgent to put in place to properly understand the many major challenges (spatial and temporal variability of the core parameters of the ecosystem, effects of climate change, ecosystem management).

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