

## ***Interactive comment on “Transient residence and exposure times” by E. J. M. Delhez***

**E. J. M. Delhez**

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The main message of this manuscript is twofold.

- First, it provides a theoretical interpretation of the *exposure time*, a slightly modified version of the residence time allowing tracer parcel to re-enter the control domain. This is shown to provide a diagnostic which is particularly appropriate to describe the total (integrated) dose of pollution affecting the control domain in an hypothetical pollution case.
- Second, the manuscript provides a theoretical interpretation of the *transient results* obtained with the backward integration method described by Delhez et al. (2004).

The readers who are interested in the applications of the concepts in a ‘real-sea’ should read the initial paper by Delhez et al. (Estuarine Coastal and Shelf Science, 2004)

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where the method is applied to two control regions on the Northwestern European Continental Shelf.

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Interactive comment on Ocean Science Discussions, 2, 247, 2005.

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