

***Interactive comment on* “MEDARGO: A drifting profiler program in the Mediterranean Sea” by P.-M. Poulain et al.**

Anonymous Referee #1

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Review of

"MEDARGO: A drifting profiler program in the Mediterranean Sea"

by P.-M. Poulain et al.

MS-NR: osd-2006-0058

Scientific contents

This work describes the characteristics of the Mediterranean Sea drifting profiler system and dataset, set up in the framework of the EU-funded MFSTEP ocean forecasting project. It is mainly a technical paper which thoroughly illustrates the general scheme, details, problems and possible applications of the system. I find that this paper's value

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resides in making the ocean community aware of this extremely useful dataset, its novelty residing in the large number of drifters deployed, thus greatly enhancing the space-time in situ coverage of the basin at relatively low cost. The paper is also very useful in that it provides all the references relatively to data availability, as well as the system's technical specs. Finally, it might be viewed as a set of guidelines in the realization of such systems elsewhere.

Form

In general the paper is well written and well organized, and the figures support adequately the text. However, the axis, palette, etc. values in many figures are illegible: one has to enlarge the .pdf version to at least 300%. The same holds for buoy trajectory inlaid plots (e.g. Figs. 8-12). Such items should be written (plotted) in larger font (thicker lines). As a result, I recommend that the paper be improved (minor revisions) following the above suggestions and the corrections below before it can be published in JGR.

Particular comments

Page 1905, line 21. Replace "ascent" with "ascend".

Page 1905, line 23. Replace "data, to" with "data to".

Page 1905, line 25. Replace "descent" with "descend".

Page 1907, line 16. Replace "while" with "during which".

Page 1908, line 1. Replace "that" with "than".

Page 1913, line 2. Replace "parking depth of and" with "parking depth and".

Page 1918, lines 2-4 and Fig. 7a. The distinction into two potential temperature groups in the Western Mediterranean seems to occur only below 600 m and not 100-200 m.

Page 1918, lines 10-12 and Fig. 7b. Same as above, for salinity.

Page 1919, line 12 and Fig. 12. Possibly give a geographic reference in the text, relatively to the deployment site of APEX WMO 1900630.

Page 1905, line 26. Replace "operational models of MFSTEP" with " MFSTEP operational models".

Page 1920, line 13. Replace "man power" with "manpower".

Interactive comment on Ocean Sci. Discuss., 3, 1901, 2006.

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