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***Interactive comment on “Structure of
phytoplankton (Continuous Plankton Recorder
and SeaWiFS) and impact of climate in the
Northwest Atlantic Shelves” by S. C. Leterme and
R. D. Pingree***

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This paper makes use of a rather novel approach using remote sensing data (i.e. Sea Surface Height, Sea Surface Chlorophyll-a Concentrations (SeaWiFS) and Sea Surface Temperature) as well as a simple Phytoplankton Chlorophyll Index measured by the Continuous Plankton Recorder to monitor seasonal and annual variability in phytoplankton biomass and its geographical distribution. One of the interesting object of the paper is to compare the results obtained from SeaWiFS data with the simple PCI index and show that the two method lead to consistent variability although SeaWiFS

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levels tend to be higher than PCI level at low concentrations of chlorophyll-a. This results shows that the CPR dataset, being the longest and most extensive ecological time series in the world is indeed a valuable resource and monitoring should continue; generally this also shows that advanced technologies should not replaced the simple monitoring using simple technologies such as the PCI index from the CPR, but the two should run in parallel. Generally I think the article is of a good quality and should be published in the journal; my only small concern is the difficulty in reading the cumulative sums graphs.

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