

## ***Interactive comment on “An oceanographer’s guide to GOCE and the geoid” by C. W. Hughes and R. J. Bingham***

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As the *Ocean Science* topic editor in charge for this manuscript, I am very grateful to the many colleagues (referees or not) who have sent in their comments, most of which are extremely constructive.

The issue of whether a paper like this is publishable in *Ocean Science* has been discussed before, and some key requirements have been outlined (comment by D. Webb). I tend to agree with those colleagues who hinted that such a review paper would be very useful; the statement, by some of them, that they are ready to adopt it for their own uses, to me indicates clearly that this paper fills an important gap in the review (and refereed) literature. The sheer amount of the comments and suggestions that

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were stirred by its publication in *Ocean Science Discussions* shows that the topic is a very current one; as a matter of fact, I consider this one additional merit of the review - it comes at the right time, when the oceanographic community is starting to take advantage of the new geoid models from the GRACE mission and is looking forward to exploiting the potential of the forthcoming, highly accurate GOCE data. Therefore it is not a surprise that ESA welcomes this study (comment by M. Drinkwater).

One remaining issue is the lack of references, or the difficulty of collating and distilling information from hard-to-find grey literature. On this particular point, I find the request by the authors to the referees to provide pointers to suitable references a legitimate one, and I encourage everyone to send them to the authors.

Finally, in their response, the authors explain in full detail how they will take on board most of the suggestions made by the referees. Taking all the above into account, my judgement is that this paper has the potential of being a very useful reference to many researchers, and therefore I encourage the authors to submit a fully revised manuscript to *Ocean Science*.

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