

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

Anonymous Referee #2

Received and published: 9 January 2007

Scientific contents

The manuscript describes the technical aspects of implementation of the first operational profiling float program in the Mediterranean. While this is relevant information, it does not provide any scientific results nor novel techniques or approaches. It essentially is the "methods" section of a science paper and should therefore be presented as part of one. If too long, one would include it in an appendix.

The inclusion of some trajectories, T/S diagrams, and time-depth contour plots does not change the overall character of the paper since there is no new scientific information in those. The authors themselves use expressions like "shows the expected seasonal variation" or "we have the expected LIW maximum".

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Interactive Discussion

Discussion Paper

For these reasons, I cannot endorse publication of this paper as long as its essential contents remains as at present.

Form

The presentation is clear and figures are illustrative, even though occasionally too small.

Specifics

I do not think it is correct to say that a parking depth of 350 m follows the core of the LIW. Its depth changes a lot along its path and from subbasin to subbasin, even within basins. So to really follow the LIW would require a float that actively seeks out the salinity maximum.

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

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