

## ***Interactive comment on “The improvements of the Ships Of Opportunity Program in MFSTEP” by G. M. R. Manzella et al.***

**G. M. R. Manzella et al.**

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The referee required the following improvements: - the description of quality control procedures adopted internationally for a Ship Of Opportunity Program - the description of improvements in quality control in the Mediterranean system - specification on temperature characteristics of the areas

These have been done by introducing some paragraphs and giving more details on methodologies and on local characteristics. In particular, in the paragraph 2.1 is described the q.c. strategies followed in a first phase, following the general guidelines of the international Ship Of Opportunity Programm; in the same paragraph is explained the reason for changing the methodology. In paragraph 2.2 we describe the new method for data transmission and the consequences in quality control procedures.

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In the last sentence of para2, it is explicitly said that data have been collected out the coastal and shelf areas, as a consequence high temperature values (e.g. the 34°C cited by the referee) have never been found.

Probably this confusion was caused by the lengthy description of data in the different transects, and the description of 'services' done in the same paragraph. For this reason, a new section was added, addressing only on 'services'.

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Interactive comment on Ocean Sci. Discuss., 3, 1717, 2006.

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