

Interactive comment on “Seasonal variability of phytoplankton fluorescence in relation to the Straits of Messina (Sicily) tidal upwelling” by F. Azzaro et al.

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Received and published: 4 July 2007

We are very grateful to the reviewers comments. General comments: We hope to better clarify the study hypothesis, that starts from the attempt to describe the hydrobiological characteristics regard to the seasonal trends of the tide currents, more strong in the summery seasons regarding those winter ones. Moreover, we'll see to revise the manuscript by a native English.

Specific comments: We'll perform a shortening of the introduction and focus on the important facts only, in order to provide the description of the study area and to address related reference literature. In material and methods we have erroneously indicated in this study a local strategy of sampling as methodology, and we'll see to correct it.

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Unfortunately, the satellite images for a so restricted area are not in a position to supply sufficient detail to the thermal and chlorophyll fields. Instead, we have to use the images obtained simultaneously to the measures at sea from MIVIS in the short period of the airplane passage because are superimposable to a survey lasted three hours adopting the lagrangian method in order to follow the wave of tide in the Strait. About the described correlation we wish to refer it only to the period indicated in the text, in which the data of the nutrients were available also. The relationship between fluorescence and chlorophyll could become non-linear, so we'll check if linearity influence the reported analysis respect to the collected samples even if theirs concentrations are generally in the considered range. Also, we'll try if the wind, the incident irradiance, the advection from adjacent areas have influenced in modulation the hydrological conditions established from the course of the tides.

Other comments: We'll made another table for the statistical analysis in order to clarify the relationship reported between thermohaline parameters and chlorophyll.

Interactive comment on Ocean Sci. Discuss., 4, 415, 2007.

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