

Interactive comment on “Optical tools for ocean monitoring and research” by C. Moore et al.

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This review is comprehensive, up-to-date and covers a broad variety of the optical tools available to oceanographers. It is written with the non-specialist in mind and as such will be a valuable source of information for a wide audience.

The two referees and one non-specialist commentator have made a number of helpful suggestions and are all very supportive of this manuscript.

One of the suggestions is to include a section on imaging as one important optical tool. It has been omitted by the authors of this manuscript as it will be one of the subjects of another manuscript in this special issue of Ocean Science. This manuscript, "Observing using sound and light - a short review of underwater acoustic and video-based methods" will be submitted shortly. The suggested topic of underwater holography will also be treated in that manuscript.

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The addition of a section on refractometry could be quite timely as this could well turn out to be an upcoming area. The "construction of a comprehensive and accurate optical equation of state" has been identified by the International Association for the Properties of Water and Steam as a research need and accurate measurements of the refractive index are a prerequisite for that.

In situ refractometers are, on the other hand, currently not a tool available to the researcher off the shelf. Ultimately the choice of topics lies with the authors and a review like this one has to be selective when dealing with a broad subject area.

Interactive comment on Ocean Sci. Discuss., 5, 659, 2008.

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