

***Interactive comment on “Metrics of hurricane-ocean interaction: vertically-integrated or vertically-averaged ocean temperature?” by J. F. Price***

**Anonymous Referee #1**

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I have some qualms about introducing another incomplete descriptor of the intensity of ocean-hurricane interaction into the literature. The author makes a good case that T100 is superior to OHC, and foresees a long sequence of such scalar fields eventually converging on the "best" one. Such an intellectual journey is fun for scholars, but I think that the reality is that these metrics tend to get a life of their own, particularly among forecasters who are mostly not well trained in oceanography. They get plugged into multivariate statistical predictors and then used. Since we know that a single number is a very incomplete measure of the ocean-storm interaction, approaches like that in (3) are likely to be more useful, at the cost of complexity.

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Nevertheless, this is an excellent paper and addresses an important issue in hurricane-ocean interactions and can be published as is.

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Interactive comment on Ocean Sci. Discuss., 6, 909, 2009.