

Interactive comment on “Pre-operational short-term forecasts for the Mediterranean Sea biogeochemistry” by P. Lazzari et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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The manuscript presents an overview of the efforts invested so far for the achievement of Mediterranean biogeochemical forecasting system. This is beyond a classical scientific manuscript in which a specific problem is studied in detail. Instead it describes technical details, methodology of the forecasting system. This paper therefore can only be useful for the operational oceanographic community.

The authors present a short "Results and Discussion" section in which they provide comparison of model chlorophyll with that retrieved from the satellites. As expected, this comparison is sometimes good and sometimes bad, and it is hard to claim that the model is good or bad in terms of predicting the observed surface chlorophyll. This is however understandable to a certain extent because the model does not currently assimilate the satellite chlorophyll.

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Comment

BFM is a sophisticated ecological model and includes so many other features apart from chlorophyll. The authors do not however mention anything about the forecasting of secondary production that is very critical as it serves a linkage to the higher trophic (fish) system. If the purpose is to predict the surface chlorophyll, a much simpler model would be sufficient and maybe even more adequate. Therefore some justification is necessary why they use the BFM and what will be their expectation from such a complex model.

As I have already stated above, it is hard to comment further on the manuscript for me because of the lack of any science in it but a good description of the forecasting system. I am in favor of its publication with minor revisions on the Results and Discussion section which may be put into a more comprehensive form in terms of biogeochemical forecasting.

Interactive comment on Ocean Sci. Discuss., 6, 1223, 2009.

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