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## ***Interactive comment on “The 2007 North Atlantic spring bloom in operational analysis from the TOPAZ system” by A. Samuelsen et al.***

**Anonymous Referee #1**

Received and published: 10 June 2009

Review of the manuscript: The 2007 North-Atlantic spring bloom in operational analysis from the TOPAZ system A. Samuelsen, L. Bertino, C. Hansen. Submitted for publication on Ocean Science (MERSEA project special Issue). Ref: osd-6-343-09mersea

The manuscript describe the results of the simulation of the north atlantic phytoplankton dynamics carried out with the NORWECOM biogeochemical model coupled to the TOPAZ modelling system. The simulation set-up makes use of a EnKF data assimilation scheme, assimilating data relative to sea surface elevation, SST and ice distribution. The simulations were carried out in a simili-forecast mode and the major focus of the manuscript is on the simulation of the spring bloom. The results of the simulation with and without data assimilation are described. Although the implementation of the assimilation scheme did not produce a dramatic improvement in the simulation of

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the biogeochemical dynamics, and the manuscript is mostly descriptive (no in-depth analysis) of the model system behaviour, the material upon which the manuscript is based is interesting and can be considered as a starting point towards the development of an operational system for the north-atlantic Ocean including the biogeochemical dynamics and can be published.

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Interactive comment on Ocean Sci. Discuss., 6, 343, 2009.

**OSD**

6, S157–S158, 2009

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