

Interactive comment on “What are “ecogenomic sensors?” – a review and thoughts for the future” by C. A. Scholin

C. A. Scholin

Received and published: 3 September 2009

Thank you for your positive and constructive comments. Your point about using the term "ecogenomics" is well taken. I chose that in an attempt to be consistent with terminology coming from those involved with the U.S. Ocean Observatories Initiative (after Figure 1), but I admit that choice is somewhat arbitrary and will point that out in the revised version of the paper.

I also agree that my definition of an "ecogenomic sensor" should not exclude exploration of the unknown. There are clearly ways to discover new molecular signatures using autonomous systems. Even in my own work I have seen positive reactions on probe arrays that do not match those known from reference strains and natural sam-

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ples. This is but one example of deducing something "new" based on a deviation from that which is known. I will alter the text to reflect such possibilities.

Moving novel sensors from the research and development domain to the "real world" is a grand challenge, no doubt. This deserves additional commentary in the paper. An update since I submitted the manuscript: the ESP has been licensed by a company known as Spyglass Biosecurity. Spyglass, in partnership with McLane Research Laboratories, now offers the instrument commercially.

Interactive comment on Ocean Sci. Discuss., 6, 191, 2009.

OSD

6, S177–S178, 2009

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