

## ***Interactive comment on “MERIS-based ocean colour classification with the discrete Forel–Ule scale” by M. R. Wernand et al.***

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Received and published: 31 December 2012

General Comments:

The paper describes the Forel–Ule MERIS (FUME) algorithm and its application to MERIS imagery followed by a comparison of MERIS to in-situ derived FU numbers, as a means of validation, and then an analysis of MERIS FU numbers alongside historical data.

To link this paper to the wider community's activities I think it would be helpful to mention the often undertaken classification of waters as Case 1 or Case 2 and the research of Moore et al (2009). For me, I see the FU scale as a natural companion of this research as it allows for the grouping of waters/pixels with similar optical characteristics.

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Moore, T. S., J. W. Campbell, and M. D. Dowell, 2009: A class-based approach to characterizing and mapping the uncertainty of the MODIS ocean chlorophyll product. *Remote Sensing of Environment*, 113, 2424-2430.

Specific Comments:

- Abstract: there is no summary of the MERIS versus in-situ validation result (i.e. whether it was positive or negative) plus the historical comparisons are not mentioned.
- Page 2824 Line 11 – I find the sentence “Next to the North. . .” strangely worded and Figure 5 doesn't help as it doesn't show the location of the sampling points.
- Page 2828 Line 4– than instead of then?
- For Figure 5 it would be helpful to view the FU map alongside a Level 2 pseudo-true colour composite as an indication of the information held within the spectral data. This would also aid my understanding of the transect results.

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Interactive comment on Ocean Sci. Discuss., 9, 2817, 2012.

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