

***Interactive comment on* “Oil spills prediction in the Bonifacio strait area, western Mediterranean” by A. Cucco et al.**

Anonymous Referee #2

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General comments:

This paper presents some examples of the use of an integrated oil spill fate prediction system for the Bonifacio Strait. The system is briefly described, but the description seems adequate given the reference to other papers. Example applications include simulation of a historical event, mapping of risk areas based on scenario runs and backward investigation (usually called backtracking).

The abstract, introduction and conclusions seem to be a bit misleading as far as the subject of the paper is concerned. The reader is told that the paper deals with the implementation of the system, while it seems that the real purpose is to present some sample applications. Indeed the implementation of the system has apparently already been documented in Cucco et al., 2012. The authors should rework the text to make

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clear the distinction between the two papers and show that there is no overlap.

The system is purported to be innovative, inasmuch as models with unstructured grids are used; the advantage is said to be the avoidance of using nesting techniques. However, the system apparently does use nesting from basin-scale to sub-basin scale on regular grids before nesting to the FE grid. Why? It could be helpful to have a figure showing the nested grids.

The paper needs improvement of English grammar. Section 3.2 is obviously written by someone with a good command of English. He/she should clean up the rest of the paper!

Specific comments:

Section 3.1: I don't understand the connection between the first paragraph (describes an ordered set of scenarios) and the rest of the section (describes a simulation of a single real event). I'm lost.

Technical comments:

- I am unable to see Fig 3 in the pdf. - Fig. 4: change "hh" to "hr" - Fig. 5: Color codings are mixed up. The caption and the text in section 3.1 are wrong.

Interactive comment on Ocean Sci. Discuss., 9, 585, 2012.

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