

Interactive comment on “The Mediterranean Ocean Colour Observing System: system development and product validation” by G. Volpe et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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This article presents the Mediterranean Ocean Colour Observing System and particularly the operational validation of MERIS and MODIS products. On one hand, this paper is interesting and develops, in a very well structured and convincing way, the main features of the processing and validation chains. On the other hand, the weak point of this paper is that it doesn't address any new scientific issue. However, the results shown in the text appear to be excellent. For example, the r^2 coefficient between the satellite estimations and their in-situ counterpart is very high but what is the contribution of coastal Case 2 observations to the data set? It is clear that these results are of great quality but is this paper appropriate for publication in Ocean Science, considering the poor scientific novelty of its matter? I should say yes in a MyOcean

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special issue as it may contribute to illustrate the difficulties that a production chain of Ocean Colour may encounter in its daily processing. On that point the effect of the MODIS drift observed in the blue channels in the reliability of the Chl-a estimations is interesting. This issue is well addressed in this text.

Some minor remarks: D'alimonte et al. , 2003 is missing in the reference list. Line 24 : depends 26 : by several impacts of 91: such as those used to 121: Through a dedicated . . . 122 delay time or delayed time? 406: with the those previously . . . 435 the quality target expectations, in the Mediteranean basin. The comma is useless. (Same at line 597). 536 The number increase 598 Moreover, there is also evidence for the SeaWiFS sensor calibration to insufficiently asses the issue of the sensor degradation with time.

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