**Ocean Science
Discussions**

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

Anonymous Referee #2

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The manuscript by Volpe et al provides a description of the Ocean Colour (OC) component of the Mediterranean observing system, detailing the operational implementation of OC data-streams for the ocean monitoring within the MyOcean project. Approaches for the assessment of the quality of the satellite Chlorophyll data are presented and discussed.

A major shortcoming of the manuscript is the use of SeaDAS version 6.1 (often referred in the manuscript as the "latest version of SeaDAS"), for the analysis of MODIS AQUA data. SeaDAS 6.1 (released February 2010) corresponds to the NASA Reprocessing R2009.1. The Authors are apparently unaware that SeaDAS 6.2 was released in

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January 2011 (with a corresponding NASA Reprocessing R2010.0) explicitly to solve some of the issues identified by the findings of this manuscript (see Meister et al. 2011. in TGRS for details). SeaDAS 6.3 (released in November 2011) still corresponds to R2010.0, as this release only took care of other programming issues. I strongly recommend to perform the offline validation analysis (section 3.1, Fig 3, tables 3,4, and 5) with the current SeaDAS release (6.3). The ability of the online validation approach (section 3.2, Figures 4 & 5) to identify the accuracy issues introduced by SeaDAS 6.1 would be of interest to the community of users. So they authors may want want to present in the revised version Figure 4 & 5 for both SeaDAS versions (6.1 and 6.3).

Minor issues: - The definition of several acronyms is missing in the manuscript (i.e GRID, NCEP, DINEOF). Some acronyms seem to be used interchangeably: are the OCTAC and the GOS OCOS one and the same? - What is the difference between the RPD and the APD? - The reference list needs a careful editing, as several reference are missing or are incomplete.

Interactive comment on Ocean Sci. Discuss., 9, 1349, 2012.

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