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Ocean Science Discussions

Interactive comment on "Long-term monitoring programme of the hydrological variability in the Mediterranean Sea: a first overview of the HYDROCHANGES network" *by* K. Schroeder et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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The manuscript "Long-term monitoring programme of the hydrological variability in the Mediterranean Sea: a first overview of the HYDROCHANGES network", by Schroeder et al., presents the concept and priorities of the HYDROCHANGES initiative, describes the observational network and initial results at key points in the Mediterranean Sea and attempts a first combination of the observed time series (in the western Mediterranean Sea). The HYDROCHANGES network and the dataset generated by a long-term monitoring of the hydrographic characteristics of deep waters in the Mediterranean Sea can be valuable for better understanding the dynamics of the region and resolve the variability at various time scales. Although the monitoring techniques are not homogeneous (the vertical resolution of the observations is not always well defined/explained)

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and key points are missing from the network, the long-term character of the observing network can balance these planning deficits. The article is well written, with appropriate english and includes an overview of the known facts of the Mediterranean Sea circulation and water mass structure. Thus, I recommend it for publication. I would suggest that section 3 is reduced (especially the sub-sections that are not used in the section 4 - combining the observations), since at the present form its is really very long and sometimes tedious. Further justification of the monitoring depths and their ability to resolve the variability of the water mass characteristics is also desirable.

Interactive comment on Ocean Sci. Discuss., 9, 1741, 2012.