

## ***Interactive comment on “An Ensemble Observing System Simulation Experiment of Global Ocean Heat Content Variability” by Arin D. Nelson et al.***

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As pointed out by both reviewers, there appeared to be much fewer XBT profiles used in our analyses than expected. Following their logic, we found that there was indeed a shortcoming in our observational procedure. All casts that terminated shallower than 700m were rejected from our analysis, which was not the case in the ISAS13 data set. Therefore, we request a time extension to re-run our computations. The computations will take roughly 4-6 weeks, and then we will need time to revise our manuscript. We do not expect our conclusions to significantly change, but we do agree that the computations need to be redone. We therefore request an extension until August 18, 2017 to provide the time to make the necessary revisions.

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We thank both reviewers for pointing out this error, and we will send the revised manuscript when this error has been rectified. We also thank you for your consideration in allowing us to fix our error before our manuscript is rejected. The revised manuscript will also include our responses to the previous rounds of reviewer comments, and so we choose to not respond to these comments at this time.

With thanks and warm regards, Arin Nelson and co-authors

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