

Interactive comment on “Tracking the Mediterranean Abyss” by Simona Aracri et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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This is a short manuscript that describes the trajectories of 7 deep drifters (MERMAIDS) in the Northwestern Mediterranean Sea. The use of these new devices is interesting and I have no doubts about the applications but, unfortunately, the material presented in the manuscript is insufficient (both in terms of quality and quantity) for an article to be published in Ocean Science. The title is appealing although too ambitious for the contents included in the manuscript. It is not possible to track the Mediterranean Abyss with only 7 drifters deployed in a specific location and time! This has to be addressed with a higher significant number of drifters, combined with observations from other sensors and numerical simulations. A few more specific comments: The introduction is not well written (different paragraphs are disconnected). Data and Methods: More details are needed to better understand the functioning of MERMAIDS, as this is a non standard instrument. P. 4: detection of a seismic wave: add a reference or explain. Results: ‘It is assumed that the instrument descends vertically’: justify. I have also serious concerns about the significance of Pseudo-Eulerian statistics with only one

drifter. In my opinion it does not make any sense. I must confess I am disappointed of such a low quality manuscript written by very well known authors. A more in depth analysis with a more comprehensive dataset is needed.

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