

***Interactive comment on* “Spatial variations in zooplankton community structure along the Japanese coastline in the Japan Sea: influence of the coastal current” by Taketoshi Kodama et al.**

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Anonymous Referee 1

We appreciate your careful and insightful comments on our paper. We consider our revised manuscript is significantly improved based on your comments. The revised parts were marked with yellow marker.

By the way, we apologize that we have find inappropriate part in our R program: we should treat “year” as categorical values to remove in the partial db-RDA analysis, but we had treated as numeric values in the previous ms. This means that the yearly

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variation had been removed from the partial db-RDA analysis by linear function; we considered that the yearly variation is not always linear, and thus revised in this ms. In addition, Day of May were also removed from the analysis to focus on the spatial variation. As the results of this revision, the major variation (RD1) was unchanged, but the minor variation (RD2-4) was significantly changed. The results and discussion (session 4.1) were revised with this revision. We considered this revision make our message clearer: the spatial variation more clearly shown in the revised ms. The revised parts were marked with blue marker concerning to this revision. The response to the specific were described in the supplemental information.

General comments: However, the graphical presentation of results as well as the discussion of findings need to be revised. Especially, the evidence presented to support the effect of the coastal current is not convincing in its present form.

We deeply appreciate your many valuable comments on our ms; we revised based on your comments and we feel our ms is improved very much. In particular, we revised figures and discussions. The details were noted in the supplemental information.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://www.ocean-sci-discuss.net/os-2017-91/os-2017-91-AC1-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Ocean Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/os-2017-91>, 2017.

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