

Interactive comment on “An integrated open-coastal biogeochemistry, ecosystem and biodiversity observatory of the Eastern Mediterranean. The Cretan Sea component of POSEIDON system” by George Petihakis et al.

Anonymous Referee #3

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The manuscript proposed by G. Petihakis et al. aims giving a detailed overview of the POSEIDON observing system.

The article introduces this observing system for the Eastern Mediterranean sea. Following this aim, no specific scientific question is addressed in the manuscript but it is more dedicated to the description of the POSEIDON objectives and components.

The manuscript is well written and describes briefly each components of the network, including links with ongoing European and international initiatives on Ocean Observing

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Systems. A specific focus also appears on the representativeness of the Cretan Sea to monitor Eastern Mediterranean Sea.

As general comments, I suggest that the manuscript would benefit from some illustrations/examples of POSEIDON recent measurements. There are very few examples in the manuscript and it doesn't highlight the potential of such observing system. Furthermore, authors take care of showing the interest of this observatory in this region. It would be interesting to mention how past measurements have contributed to the scientific knowledge of processes in the region.

As the paper aimed to be published in Ocean Science with a wide reading audience, it would be important to be more explicit in acronyms as a lot of projects, initiatives, programs are mentioned in the manuscript. As I'm familiar with this community, I can follow the ideas but for a reader less familiar with those initiatives, it can be difficult to follow in some parts.

Considering the limited needed improvements included in general and specific comments, I recommend this paper for potential publication after minor revisions more related to illustrating more the paper contents.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://www.ocean-sci-discuss.net/os-2018-3/os-2018-3-RC3-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Ocean Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/os-2018-3>, 2018.

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