



## ***Interactive comment on “Seasonal cycling of phosphorus in the southern bight of the North Sea” by C. van der Zee and L. Chou***

**C. van der Zee and L. Chou**

Received and published: 28 December 2004

We thank anonymous referee #1 for his/her interest in our manuscript and for his/her comments and suggestions. Please find here below our responses.

### Abstract

We will rewrite the abstract accordingly.

### Methods & Results

The roles of POC and Chl a have been strengthened. The POC:Chl a and POC: SPM ratios have now been used to untangle the contribution of resuspended sediment to the SPM in fall and winter and the contribution of phytoplankton to the SPM in spring and summer. This is then used to argue that the increase in POP content of the SPM in spring and summer is due to the phytoplankton bloom and not due to changes in the contribution of resuspended sediment to the SPM. The decrease in PO4 is thus

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

Discussion Paper

EGU

linked to the increase in POP. These arguments are important as the POC and POP concentrations alone are not easy to interpret due to large fluctuations in the total suspended matter load.

We will add all DOC data or leave all of them out in our revised manuscript.

Results, p 688, line 5. Yes. It has been changed to November 2002.

Figures. The figures with more than 6 panels have been revised.

---

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discussions, 1, 681, 2004.

**BGD**

1, S456–S457, 2004

---

Interactive  
Comment

[Full Screen / Esc](#)

[Print Version](#)

[Interactive Discussion](#)

[Discussion Paper](#)