

***Interactive comment on “The Gela Basin
pockmark field in the strait of Sicily
(Mediterranean Sea): chemosymbiotic faunal and
carbonate signatures of postglacial to modern
cold seepage” by M. Taviani et al.***

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We are grateful to the referee # 1 for the effort in providing a critical review of the present ms and for the useful remarks. While the evaluation is overall positive, the referee however correctly points out that there are some problems in defining the DE-CAMOL skeletal facies. In fact, while the coarse component is really peculiar and largely reflects the chemo-habitats as a source factory, it is nevertheless a matrix (clay)-supported sediment, as seen in cores. This makes questionable its treatment as a distinct skeletal assemblage in the Hayton’s classification as proposed by us in

C1217

the text. Therefore, the text will be modified accordingly. We agree that the use of the haul was a ‘curious’ way to prepare the ground to further operations. However, it was really the only strategy (and quite risky also) to work on this site once we consider that, as described in the article, the sea bottom there is literally peppered by hundreds if not thousands such ‘cannizzi’ (with concrete bases and drifting shreds) making hazardous the deployment of any standard gear (corers, grabs, CTD, SSS and the like) with the very possibility to get it entrapped and lost.

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