

Interactive comment on “Seasonal dissolved inorganic nitrogen and phosphorus budgets for two sub-tropical estuaries in south Florida, USA” by C. Buzzelli et al.

M. Murrell

murrell.michael@epa.gov

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This manuscript assembles quite detailed LOICZ budgets for the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee River Estuaries in south Florida, on the east and west coast of the Florida peninsula. Both systems have considerable anthropogenic alterations and receive seasonal drainage from Lake Okeechobee and local runoff. The authors have done a good job of assembling the numerous data sources required to construct such budgets, and shown the results in a variety of ways. I found this part of the ms very well done, as it provided clear description of the data sources used and how they were assembled. My overall sense is that these sorts of budgeting exercises are most useful

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for the people who assemble them, but their utility to a wider audience is sometimes elusive. Because of that, I found the discussion to be largely a rehashing of the results with little substantive interpretation. I think the ms would be improved if the discussion was broadened a bit, emphasizing to the reader what has been learned from this analysis and where this analysis leads one to look towards future studies. I realize this is a rather vague comment, but that is the general impression that I came away with.

As for editorial quality, I found the manuscript well written overall. The results section was rather wordy with overuse of imprecise, relative terms (e.g., remarkably consistent, subtle, slightly, dramatically, depressed, minimal, near zero, generally, etc).

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