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Interactive comment on "Time-series measurements of biochemical and physical properties in the southwestern East/Japan Sea during the spring transition in 2010" *by* Y.-T. Son et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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This paper presented a detailed high-resolution record of various biological and physical properties in the Ulleung Basin. I believe it is for the first time documented. However, it looks like that the authors intended to report everything. I have to admit that reading the manuscript to the end requires patience. Meanwhile, I do not think attributing the onset of the spring bloom to the ESIW is convincing.

I do not think it is suitable for publication on BG as its current form, although the data collected is certainly of value.

Specific comments:

1. On the title

   Can a better title be derived? The current one looks like a data report.

2. On the abstract

   It looks carrying a bunch of information. It should be more concentrated after you get to one point, the sole of which would be the title. Please also note the typo in Line 27.

3. On the introduction

   This part is not written well. Readers can't see one clear scientific question following your logic.

4. On the data and methods

   I do not think it is necessary to explain everything, particularly the details of the WQM. One sentence noting that valid data were not available due to sensor damage would be enough.

5. On the results and discussion

   There are too many subtitles in the results but no subtitles in the discussion. If the point is interpret the mechanism triggering the bloom, I would like to suggest to focus on variations of CF at 30 m and also at the other two layers (as mentioned in the methods, there were two more fluorometers above and below the 30 m WQM), and put the physical variations and the basin scale pattern (say, satellite observations) in the discussion. The most important is to convince people that the ESIW played a critical role. I do not think the current discussion (P7852-7853) did. It is hard to believe that anomalously cool water at 100 m could be a solid indicator of ESIW intrusion.

6. Line 7854, Line 17-18, what happened to the symbols you use for vertical velocities (now they were three circles)?

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Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 10, 7831, 2013.