

## ***Interactive comment on “Nutrient dynamics in tropical rivers, estuarine-lagoons, and coastal ecosystems along the eastern Hainan Island” by R. H. Li et al.***

**Anonymous Referee #2**

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The manuscript reports nutrient concentration and distributions in rivers and coastal systems on and off Hainan Island. Without going into detail this manuscript still needs much work to be suitable for publication in “Biogeosciences”. In addition to the abundant spelling and grammatical issues the manuscript in its current form needs to be restructured and condensed significantly, which is beyond the role of a reviewer. Here are some general suggestions to start.

Have a map that clearly (and large enough) shows the rivers and lagoons that have been studied (may be focus on big river systems), write out river names and do not use abbreviations in this figure.

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The tables 1-4 should focus on river systems where all data to be presented are available. In the current version table 1 lists 9 rivers, but table 2-4 show results for only a few rivers from table 1 along with other rivers that are not listed in table 1. Again, may be focus on fewer river-lagoon systems.

The figures are way too busy with labels that are much too small. Significantly reduce the number of figures and the number of panels per figure. Significant data reduction is needed for this manuscript to be appropriate for “Biogeosciences”.

Results and discussion sections need to be clearly separated; currently the authors have a blend of results and discussion in both sections.

For a study that includes so many aspects, influence of agriculture (fertilizers), aquaculture, ground water discharge, and typhoons the manuscript needs to be structured well and focus on the most important points. Presenting all the data in figures and tables gives the manuscript the character of a data report, which is not what journals like “Biogeosciences” typically publish.

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