

Interactive comment on “Formation and maintenance of high-nitrate, low pH layers in the Eastern Indian Ocean and the role of nitrogen fixation” by A. M. Waite et al.

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Received and published: 14 April 2013

[Please see attached PDF for figures]

Anonymous Referee #1 Received and published: 12 March 2013 We thank Anonymous Referee for their comments.

Abstract: Line 1. "We investigated...." — Past tense,.. ok

Line 2. What are interleaving regional water masses? — In a sense, the whole paper is a description of these. Regional water masses (Gyral Current, ITF flow, STSW) meet and mingle in the study area to form the headwaters of the Leeuwin Current. As they do

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so, significantly different densities (which change both temporally and spatially) cause the water masses to interleave in multiple layers, rather than a) mixing or b) layering one above the other in a more simple fashion. We will clarify this more fully in the manuscript.

Line 6. Define LODHN in the abstract Pages aren't numbered! – LODHN will be defined; Pages will be numbered In Materials and Methods state when the Primary Cruise took place – 10 May to 22 May 2010

â– In next page. You measured "particles" with the transmissometer. Could the transmissometer have measured inorganic as well as organic particles and also CDOM? You are assuming it is only measuring POM, but that may not be a valid assumption. – This is a fair question - however, in Case 1 waters such as these, in very oligotrophic environments, POC and transmission are linearly correlated, with most of the scatter contributed by particles between 0.5 and 10 microns (Loisel and Morel, 1998). There are few, if any, sources of inorganic matter or CDOM. We are currently working on a POC vs transmission relationship for the eastern Indian Ocean (as yet unpublished); this work confirms that POC is the best predictor of transmission in these waters.

â– In page describing the early Transit Voyage the location of the Trichodesmium bloom is only vaguely described. I think that a figure showing the area of the bloom as well as where you saw the LODHN layers would be helpful.

– I observed the bloom, present continuously over ~2 days' steam when transiting between Ningaloo and Broome between 7 and 13 April 2010. Satellite data show a bloom associated with a warm plume from the north (see green 28-29 degree water in figures from Giovanni in attached PDF).

Figure 1 is pretty tiny. I suggest a larger and clearer figure. –We will make the figure larger

In discussion section 4.1, you talk about a "hot spot" for remineralization. Please be

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more specific about what you mean by remineralization.....of what? – Particulate organic matter, originating in a significant part from N₂ fixation

Section 4.2 Be more specific about what these "particles" are. Could they be inorganic as well as organic? o we have addressed this above

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<http://www.biogeosciences-discuss.net/10/C947/2013/bgd-10-C947-2013-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 10, 3951, 2013.