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Interactive comment on "Ecosystem function and services provided by the deep sea" *by* A. R. Thurber et al.

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All of the reviewers provided some excellent guidance and criticism that we have now used to improve the manuscript. We have in most cases followed the reviewers' suggestions and, in a few instances, explained why we did not. Two of the reviewers found the manuscript a useful addition to the literature with minor changes - all of which were incorporated to strengthen the manuscript. While the third reviewer was most critical, we feel that their criticism stemmed from our choice of following the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and our need to more carefully apply the framework to our manuscript and ultimately made the manuscript better. In response to reviewer 3 we have both specifically addressed their concerns within our response, but also expanded on our reasoning for choosing the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment framework as the most

appropriate to use for deep-sea habitats. Our intention was not to provide a new classification of ecosystem services, but rather an overview of functions, processes and ecosystem services resulting from those function in the deep sea. This step is identified in the more 'cutting edge' frameworks (i.e. the TEEB) as the first step needed toward evaluating ecosystem worth and we feel we provide that. The result of all three reviews is that we have modified this manuscript to appeal to a broader audience as it now provides some important points for the economic evaluation field, while being more approachable and balanced.

In this revision we have rewritten a large portion of the manuscript, updated the reference section with some pertinent new references, remade two figures and removed a table to assuage the concerns of the reviewers. We feel this is a stronger paper than it was upon its initial submission.

Our responses follow ">" and placed in 'reply' to the specific reviews.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 10, 18193, 2013.