

Interactive comment on “Molecular insights into the microbial formation of marine dissolved organic matter: recalcitrant or labile?” by B. P. Koch et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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General comments:

This is a nice paper with novel and useful findings. The work advances the prior reports and efforts of the authors, and so is a valuable contribution. The authors test various important hypotheses, and come to sometimes surprising conclusions.

Specific comments:

Abstract: the fact that priming was not observed should be noted in the abstract.

3068/9-23. The term “TEP” is used, but the description in part appears to be that for microgels; certainly the reference to Verdugo papers suggests gels while the mention

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of aggregation and vertical flux suggests TEP. Is “TEP” being used for both true gels and standard TEP particles? Please revise for clarity.

3069/6: the word “transformations” should be singular

3069/7-11: I do not understand “a better mechanistic understanding of kinetics”. Kinetics deal with rates, not mechanisms. The use of the word “kinetics” in this section is confusing. How are “kinetics..crucial for . . .conservation..”?

3069/14: only one goal is given yet “main goals” is written.

3078/25: “(Fig. 4)” should be Fig. 5, right?

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