

Interactive comment on “Poor correlation between phytoplankton community growth rates and nutrient concentration in the sea” by A. Regaudie-de-Gioux et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

Received and published: 11 November 2014

This paper addresses whether natural phytoplankton communities follow Monod's model when growing to conclude it does not follow it because changes in the community composition and size structure.

The paper is highly relevant as it implies the need to change phytoplankton growth parameterization in NPZD models. Or at least in those that consider phytoplankton as a whole. Even for models with several species it is important to understand if they reproduce something similar to a community in the range of sizes. It is interesting to observe that the fact that a community does not grow like one species has been overlooked for so long time. With phytoplankton accounting for half of the planets primary production this is an important result. The paper is simple, generally well

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written and illustrated.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 11, 14797, 2014.