

## ***Interactive comment on “Phytoplankton community structure in the North Sea: coupling between remote sensing and automated in situ analysis at the single cell level” by M. Thyssen et al.***

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We thank the reviewers for their substantial comments that enable to improve the paper and the message we want to deliver. We would like to express our surprise concerning the fact that the majority of the questions is about PHYSAT while the main part of our work is about cytometry measurements analysis (at high frequency). PHYSAT maps are shown as a first preliminary test to show the high potential of coupling such innovative in situ data with remote sensed observations. We do not claim that we propose a new PHYSAT version in this paper (even if we hope it will be the case in the

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future based on this first work). We just show that two distinct situations detected with the flow cytometry approach can be linked with two different anomalies from remote sensing. We suppose that the title was not clear enough so that we have changed it to clarify this point. We have added some sentences in the text in order to decrease reader's expectations about this aspect. We hope the paper fulfills the reviewer's expectations now we have clarified some points and we are waiting for a positive decision for publication in Biogeosciences.

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