

Interactive comment on “Structural and functional study of the nematode community from the Indian western continental margin with reference to habitat heterogeneity and oxygen minimum zone” by R. Singh and B. S. Ingole

Anonymous Referee #3

Received and published: 25 August 2015

I've read the manuscript with great interest, provided specific comments directly in the manuscript and afterwards read the reviewer's comments to note that I do not disagree with any of the suggestions for improvement made by the other two other reviewers.

This study provides a thorough analyses of the nematode communities sampled along a bathymetric gradient that crosses an OMZ in the Arabian Sea. The exploration of meiofauna in this area is novel and adds valuable knowledge to what is already known on the effects habitat heterogeneity on both functional and structural characteristics of the marine benthos. However, the authors need to recognize the limitations of their

C4673

sampling effort (few replicates, no true control for the OMZ) and consider their results in a broader framework of the available knowledge on macro- and meiobenthos at OMZ (references suggested by other reviewer). The latter entails a more focused approach around clearly formulated hypotheses and less overinterpretation of the own results in the discussion section. The comments I made directly on the manuscript contain further major and minor corrections/suggestions.

I recommend the acceptance for publication of this manuscript after considerable revision.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:
<http://www.biogeosciences-discuss.net/12/C4673/2015/bgd-12-C4673-2015-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 12, 11537, 2015.

C4674