

Interactive comment on “Direct and indirect metabolic CO₂ release by humanity” by Y. T. Prairie and C. M. Duarte

Y. T. Prairie and C. M. Duarte

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There are two concerns expressed in this review. First, similarly to reviewer #1, is the question of whether the calculated fluxes should be considered net emissions or a recycling mechanism. Again, our interpretation is that, in a steady-state situation, these fluxes can only be considered an intensification of the recycling mechanism and cannot be accounted as a new source. However, this analysis provides a more direct indication of the pathways for these emissions, as knowledge of this pathways is critical to formulate mitigation strategies. This will be made much clearer in the revised version of the manuscript. One direct consequence of having to feed humanity has been the land use conversion for agricultural practices and the ensuing loss of C sink, as we alluded to in the original manuscript. While a quantitative estimation of the loss in C sink are beyond the scope of this manuscript, the sheer magnitude of the metabolic

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CO₂ release related to human activity remains highly relevant. In our revision, we will make sure to discuss what portion is likely implicitly included in current depiction of land use change and which are not.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 3, 1781, 2006.

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