

## ***Interactive comment on “Effects of increased atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> on small and intermediate sized osmotrophs during a nutrient induced phytoplankton bloom” by A. I. Paulino et al.***

**A. I. Paulino et al.**

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Authors answer to Anonymous Referee #2: We agree with the anonymous referee #2 that it is valuable for the reader to know the identity of the mesocosms (1XCO<sub>2</sub> = mesocosms #7, #8 and #9; 2XCO<sub>2</sub> = mesocosms #4, #5 and #6; 3XCO<sub>2</sub> = mesocosms #1, #2, #3) relative to the data shown in the Schultz et al. Discussion paper, and will include this in Material and Methods in the revised version of the manuscript.

The referee is also right that mesocosm #3 (which has an odd salinity structure compared to the other mesocosms) was given 3XCO<sub>2</sub> and that 3XCO<sub>2</sub> has the largest differences between mesocosms (which is also revealed by the SD). However, inspection of each of the time series subjected to a given treatment reveals that for all os-

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motrophic groups described in the current paper the data for mesocosm #3 draws the mean values for treatment 3XCO<sub>2</sub> closer to the mean values of the other two treatments rather than the opposite. Therefore if the other two mesocosms that was given 3XCO<sub>2</sub> (mesocosms #1 and #2) display a more "correct" picture of the actual effect that elevated CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations exert on the osmotrophs, the CO<sub>2</sub> effect is in fact stronger than what it seems like in the current paper. We will include a comment on this in the Discussion in the revised version of the manuscript. We still believe, however, that presenting 3 sets of data for each treatment instead of means of three mini-ecosystems will make it hard for the reader to read the figures and prefer to leave the figures as they are (which is also the standard for all the other manuscript within this special issue and for the paper recently published by Riebesell et al. (Nature 450, 545&#8211;548, doi:10.1038/nature06267, 2007). We believe the differences between mesocoms within each treatment group is presented by showing the SD.

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**BGD**

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