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Interactive comment on “Diel variability of heterotrophic bacterial production and UV doses in the South East Pacific” by F. Van Wambeke et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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The authors describe the investigation of heterotrophic bacteria production in the South East Pacific during a cruise in 2002. This is certainly of interest since biomass production and turnover is important for CO₂ uptake and global climate change. I wonder if the authors verified that their method (measuring leucine incorporation) is really a good measure for bacterial frequency. At least this should be proven by standard fluorescence counting methods. I am disappointed by the statistics. Of course you can calculate a SE from two data points, but this is mathematically incorrect, since in the equation you divide by $(n-1)$ which gives you 1 degree of freedom. Thus at least three measurements are required to do meaningful statistics. There is something wrong with the calibration of the light sensor. Values around 1000 W m⁻² for the PAR range sound excessive. There are numerous repetitions between the results and discussion section

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which should be eliminated.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 5, 435, 2008.

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