

## ***Interactive comment on “Biogeochemical processes and microbial diversity of the Gullfaks and Tommeliten methane seeps (Northern North Sea)” by G. Wegener et al.***

**G. Wegener et al.**

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We thank the reviewer for extensive criticism here.

Referee #2 subsumed the results we presented very well and outlined the scientific achievements of this work. No general scientific problems with the text were stated.

However, the length of the manuscript as well as the appearance of redundant statements was criticized. Addressing these critics we shortened the manuscript especially in the descriptive part which can be partly also found in the BG article of Niemann et al., 2005. With this, mixing of own results with prior finding from Niemann et al. 2005 was avoided. Thanks for this remark, it makes the manuscript easier to read and highlights the own contribution.

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It was suggested to delete the conclusions &#8211; however I would like to keep this section in the. The result section was shortened strongly and has a rather listing character. From our perspective a real conclusion seems to be necessary to summarize the findings and highlight the most important points.

All technical correction which were stated were fulfilled.

I want to thank the referee for this fruitful review and especially for the remark of tightening the results section. After rewriting the manuscript it feels much easier to read.

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Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 5, 971, 2008.

**BGD**

5, S649–S650, 2008

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