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***Interactive comment on* “Detection of low bottom water oxygen concentrations in the North Sea; implications for monitoring and assessment of ecosystem health” by N. Greenwood et al.**

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This is a very well written paper, and one that I find difficult to suggest any changes at all. It is concise, and speaks very clearly on its subject matter. I only have two overall comments to make regarding the manuscript. Firstly, I think the discussion is well written, however there are a lot of points coming across and that makes it difficult to follow. The discussion on the potential mechanisms for oxygen depletion may be better followed with the use of a diagram /flow chart showing the influence on the various factors(temp, remineralisation of organic matter and suspended matter). This could also be a good way to show the differences in sites. Secondly the authors discuss the

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need for modeling future scenarios, but I would like to see a bit more on the discussion of any other papers which may have linked a disturbance to the depletion of DO in the Oyster banks. I agree with authors that this most likely due to natural forces, but more discussion on the potential impacts (if any have been shown or modelled) is warranted.

Other than that, a fine paper, and one that I enjoyed reading. At a time of much discussion on the impacts of eutrophication on a more global basis, it raises some very interesting points. Indices of eutrophication may be useful to apply within near shore areas, but the application of these same indices may not be appropriate for the open ocean areas, where a combination of temperature, extreme weather conditions, turnover rates may indicate some new thought required in the structure of the assessment metric.

I do apologise to the authors and the editors for the lateness of my review. regards
Michelle Devlin

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