

***Interactive comment on “Is global warming
already changing ocean productivity?” by
S. A. Henson et al.***

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This is an interesting paper that complements several others (listed in the bibliography) which showed apparent trends in satellite chlorophyll concentration since the launch of SeaWiFS and in one case, between the CZCS and SeaWiFS eras. This manuscript points out that the interpretation of these relatively short time series, particularly the SeaWiFS time series, is difficult in part because of significant interannual variability including the 1997+ major ENSO event which coincided with SeaWiFS launch and had a major impact on ocean productivity throughout the global ocean for several years. Estimating just how long a time series (40 years) will be required to sort out the effects of interannual variation from a long-term trend is a particularly valuable conclusion of this manuscript. This is a timely calculation and contribution, since the international

C3088

space agencies are struggling with decisions related to how much effort should be expended on new technology and approaches for observing Earth versus the resources that are required to sustain proven measurements required for understanding changes that may be occurring in the ocean and on the land.

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