

***Interactive comment on “Summer microplankton
community structure across the Scotia Sea:
implications for biological carbon export” by
R. E. Korb et al.***

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We thank the reviewer for their positive comments. We agree entirely with their comments as regards our nutrient deficits calculations. We are aware of the limitations of the methods we have used that were originally detailed by Jennings et al. (1984). We alluded to these limitations with our comment on line 27 of section 2.5 “These calculated deficits should be regarded as an index...”. We maintain that the deficits as calculated allow us to make regional comparisons – we do not claim to be able to make an empirical measurement of nutrient deficit. To justify our approach we will expand the second paragraph of section 2.5 so as to clearly state the limitations (and advantages)

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of the method we have used and to include references to other papers that have used this method. As regards the reviewer’s comments on the stations straddling fronts, the simple line representations of front locations refer to mean position only. We will reconsider our station positions in relation to concurrently collected physical oceanography and discuss as appropriate.

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