

Interactive  
Comment

***Interactive comment on “Regional and temporal variability of sinking organic matter in the subtropical northeast Atlantic Ocean: a biomarker diagnosis” by I. J. Alonso-González et al.***

**K. Suzuki (Editor)**

kojis@ees.hokudai.ac.jp

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Dear Dr. Alonso-González,

We now have three reviews of your manuscript. All reviewers admit the scientific significance of your work indeed. However, Referees #1 and #3 point out that more attention must be paid for the interpretation of the data on amino acids and algal pigments as biomarkers. Ideally, verification of your explanations would be necessary for increase in their reliability. For example, Referee #2 suggests the use of amino acid-derived carbon and nitrogen to POC and PON, respectively, for estimating the freshness of sinking particulate matter as well as C/N ratio. Although these issues are often accompanied

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with biomarker studies, please try to justify the results and conclusions obtained from this study as much as possible.

We look forward to receiving your revised manuscript, along with a detailed response to each of the reviewers' comments and concerns. After receiving the revised manuscript, we will consult the reviewers again for the decision of your manuscript.

Thank you for submitting your manuscript to Biogeosciences.

Sincerely,

Koji Suzuki

Editor, Biogeosciences

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Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 6, 11089, 2009.

**BGD**

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