

***Interactive comment on “<sup>234</sup>Th measured particle export from surface waters in north-western Mediterranean: comparison of spring and autumn periods” by S. Schmidt et al.***

**S. Schmidt et al.**

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The two referee #2 and #3 agree that study of particle export during periods where production is not expected to be large could be of interest (whereas most works in the literature focus on bloom period). But both point out severe drawbacks with the present presentation of the results. The initial objective of this article was to present briefly the main results of the autumn cruise, and to compare them to a previous work in the same area done during the spring transition period. As indeed the particulate fluxes were low during the observed period, the article was built like a short note, considering that it is part of a special issue devoted to the autumnal cruise. It is the reason for which some data are not presented in details as already discussed more in details in the accompanying articles. The same choice was made for the comparison with the

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spring results, already published in Schmidt, DSR, 2002, where details on profiles, methods (steady state, non steady state modeling, U data, chemistry) were presented more in details. So the present version is presented only as a short note. Regarding the referee's comments, we admit that the shortcut is too important to allow a good understanding of the work, of the sampling conditions and of the fluxes estimates. By example the referee # 2 points out several questions regarding the methodology. There is a reference to a recent work conducted during the Medflux program from which the assumption of weak advection at dyfamed site could not be always considered as valuable. So we will consider the critical points underlined by both co-authors, and will exchange with k. Cochran which was involved in medflux project to decipher if it is valuable to improve the article in order to re-submit an improved version.

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