

***Interactive comment on “Short scale (6 h)
temporal variation of sinking fluxes of planktonic
and terrigenous lipids at 200 m in the NW
Mediterranean Sea” by L. Méjanelle and J. Dachs***

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Dear Dr. Méjanelle,

in view of the referees' comments I am afraid I will not be able to accept your manuscript for publication in Biogeosciences. As pointed out by all 5 referees, while the impressive data set and the high temporal resolution of the lipid flux data obtained in your study have the potential to make a very useful contribution to this area of research, the data analysis and interpretation and the discussion of your results are pre-mature at this stage. Most importantly, to gain useful insights from this remarkable data set requires evaluating the measurements in a broader context, involving "the inclusion of additional

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but essential background data" (see referees' reports for specific suggestions). This cannot be done in a simple revision of the present manuscript, but obviously requires a complete reorganization and rewrite of the paper. I therefore cannot invite you to resubmit a revised version of this manuscript to Biogeosciences.

Should you decide to reanalyze your flux data in the context of other supporting data sets and broaden the data interpretation along the lines suggested by the referees, you are welcome to submit your work as a new submission to Biogeosciences, either as part of the special issue "Short-scale temporal variability of physical, biological and biogeochemical processes in the NW Mediterranean Sea" (if submitted before its closing date) or in the journal's normal route.

I am sorry I can't give you a positive decision at this point.

Best regards, Ulf Riebesell

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 6, 1229, 2009.

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