

## ***Interactive comment on “Determination of the metabolically active fraction of benthic foraminifera by means of Fluorescent in situ Hybridization (FISH)” by C. Borrelli et al.***

**J.-P. Gattuso**

[gattuso@obs-vlfr.fr](mailto:gattuso@obs-vlfr.fr)

Received and published: 9 November 2010

The only purpose of the present comment is to address the salinity and pH data reported in the BGD paper of Borrelli et al. (2010).

### 1. Salinity

The method used to measure salinity is not described and values are reported with unit ‰. A new salinity definition was introduced in 1978, the Practical Salinity Scale 1978 (Unesco, 1981). It is defined as the ratio of two conductivities and therefore has no unit. Interested readers can refer to the short statement of

C3702

Ridout (1997).

I suggest that the method used to measure salinity must be described in the Material and methods section. If the Practical Salinity Scale 1978 was used, then all instances of "PSU" should be deleted.

### 2. pH

The scale used to report pH should be indicated (Dickson, 2010; Pörtner et al., 2010).

These two issues are minor in the context of this paper but should be corrected anyway.

### **Reference cited**

Dickson, A.: The carbon dioxide system in seawater: equilibrium chemistry and measurements. In: Riebesell, U., Fabry, V. J., Hansson, L. and Gattuso, J.-P. (Eds.), Guide to best practices for ocean acidification research and data reporting, pp. 17-40. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2010.

Ridout, P.: Salinity units, *Ocean Challenge*, 7(1), 4, 1997.

Pörtner, H.-O., Dickson, A. and Gattuso, J.-P.: Terminology and units for parameters relevant to the carbonate system. In: Riebesell, U., Fabry, V. J., Hansson, L. and Gattuso, J.-P. (Eds.), Guide to best practices for ocean acidification research and data reporting, pp. 18-19. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2010.

Unesco: Background papers and supporting data on the Practical Salinity Scale 1978, *Unesco Technical Papers in Marine Science*, 37, 1-144, 1981.

---

Interactive comment on *Biogeosciences Discuss.*, 7, 7475, 2010.