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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.

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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

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has no unit. Interested readers can refer to the short statement of 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. We used a refractometer in order to measure salinity in culture vessels. The measure unit of the instrument was a weight one, so parts per thousand (‰). We expressed our salinity values according to the measurements of our equipment.

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. PH values has been measured with a pH meter. This instrument, thanks to an electrode, measures pH values after a calibration with two solutions, one at a pH of 4.01 and another one at a pH of 7.01. After that, pH readings were automatically temperature (°C) compensated and expressed on a scale from -2.0 to 16.0 pH, with a resolution of 0.1 and an accuracy of ± 0.1 .

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