

Interactive comment on “Phytoplankton distribution in the Western Arctic Ocean during a summer of exceptional ice retreat” by P. Coupel et al.

P. Coupel et al.

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Received and published: 25 November 2011

Dear Editor,

We have addressed all comments, suggestions and issues that the referees have raised. In particular, we have followed suggestions by the referees to split our manuscript based on oceanographic in situ data obtained during the CHINARE 2008 cruise into two distinct manuscripts. -The first manuscript (M1), entitled now “The role of freshening in controlling the productivity in the Pacific sector of the Arctic Ocean” presents the productivity, biomass and nutrients data and discusses the impact of the freshening on primary production and biomass in the Arctic Ocean.

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-The second manuscript (M2), entitled “Phytoplankton distribution in unusually low sea ice coverage over the Canadian Basin” will present the spatial distribution of the phytoplankton communities obtained through microscopy count and pigments analysis. This second paper will document for the first time phytoplanktonic groups in the Pacific sector during recent strong ice melting conditions. We decided to split our manuscript to increase clarity in reducing drastically its length and number of figures. In doing so we will allow a stronger focus on each manuscript. Changes in the list of co-authors have occurred because of the separation of the manuscript and the inclusion of new taxonomic data:

-M1: P. Coupel, D. Ruiz-Pino, J. F. Chen, S. H. Lee, F. Jardon, H.L. Li, M. Rafizadeh, V. Garçon, J.C. Gascard

-M2: P. Coupel, H. Y. Jin, B.C. Booth, J. F. Chen, H. M. Joo, A. Bouvet, V. Garçon, M.A. Sicre, J.C. Gascard, D. Ruiz-Pino

An individual reply to the general and more specific comments is provided to each referees.

We would like to sincerely thank you for your advices and constructive comments and looking forward to hearing from you,

Sincerely yours,

Pierre Coupel on behalf of all the authors

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 8, 6919, 2011.

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