

## ***Interactive comment on “Mats of psychrophilic thiotrophic bacteria associated with cold seeps of the Barents Sea” by S. Grünke et al.***

### **A. Labes (Referee)**

alabes@geomar.de

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**GENERAL COMMENTS** The authors presented a comprehensive analysis of bacterial communities of deep sea cold seeps and set thereby the basis for further studies. Even in those days we still need those describing studies. However, I highly appreciate that the authors are starting to explain the situation using the environmental conditions and comparison to other habitats with related properties. However, doing deep sea research, I miss some data on the depth of the used study areas. In addition, some explanation of the relevance of those chosen sampling sites for comparison reasons to other cold seeps would be helpful not readers being less familiar to cold seep research. In addition, I would highly appreciate some discussion of the limitation of the analyses due to experimental bias given by the used methods (ie. pressure changes during

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samplings, “community changes” due to sample treatment.

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Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 9, 3917, 2012.

**BGD**

9, C1687–C1688, 2012

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