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Comment

## ***Interactive comment on “Seasonal, daily and diel N<sub>2</sub> effluxes in permeable carbonate sediments” by B. D. Eyre et al.***

**Anonymous Referee #3**

Received and published: 30 January 2013

This paper presents the results of a robust and well-constructed experiment that is built upon a well-supported body of research at the same site. The research expands our understanding of sediment denitrification/N<sub>2</sub>-efflux rates at this, and related sites (i.e., carbonate sands), while also addressing the potential role of different OM sources, including those associated with coral spawning events.

While I understand the author's reasons for excluding data in incubations with DO greater than 96% saturation, I question the impact of excluding these data; specifically whether that exclusion will systematically shift the denitrification rate results.

Outside of minor editorial revisions noted below, I find no reason to exclude the article and consider it to be well worth accepting for publication. Note that there is a typographical error in the citation of Nowicki (1994), which is cited as Norwicki, 1994.

C7817

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The use of lower-case “l” for litres, rather than the upper case “L” creates confusion, as the lower-case “l” can be confused with a number one (1). I prefer the use of italics and lack of hyphenation when writing “in situ” and “ex-situ”, though I must admit I am not sure of the journal’s preference and could not find said preference in the instructions to authors at [http://www.biogeosciences.net/submission/general\\_terms.html](http://www.biogeosciences.net/submission/general_terms.html) Table 1 is poorly formatted and it is difficult to discern between the four sampling campaigns listed; adding a space between each campaign would address this issue. I have similar issues with reading tables 2, 4 and 5: the large number of results included combined with the formatting used makes it difficult for the reader to clearly distinguish between table elements (i.e., rows of results)

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Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 9, 17437, 2012.

**BGD**

9, C7817–C7818, 2013

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