

Interactive comment on “Seamount physiography and biology in North-East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea” by T. Morato et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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In their paper, Morato et al. reviewed the physiography and the ecological characteristics of seamounts in the OSPAR, NE Atlantic and Mediterranean areas. Although the paper is generally well structured and written and provide a good overview on the actual knowledge on seamounts in the areas considered, there are some points that may be improved. The authors used bathymetry grids with highest resolution currently available to identify seamounts in the region. However they conclude that their estimates were similar to the number of seamounts reported by Yesson et al. (2011) who used a similar methodology on the GEBCO bathymetry grid. I think this point should be further discussed as Yesson and colleagues found more seamounts in the OSPAR area and less in the Mediterranean area compared to the present paper. Fig 1, the coverage of GEBCO database n.9 is not clear to me looking at colours in the map; and Table 1, is not completely clear which is the overlap between GEBCO dataset used by C8484

Yesson et al. and the one used in the paper of Morato et al., moreover I could have missed something but is not clear to me what is GEBCO/All and Area: MED 250m, MED 800m. The table need to be explained in more details.

Minor comments: p 5, line 25 sounding is repeated p.6, line 23 correct “in” with “is” p.7, line 20 it would be better to add percentages and numbers also for the Mediterranean seamounts p9, line 8, “Such diversity in morphological characteristics demonstrates once again that not all seamounts share the same set of properties, making generalisations difficult to formulate” this phrase is a bit too predictable p10, line 21 correct “sampled”

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 9, 18951, 2012.