

Interactive comment on “Phytoplankton community structure in the VAHINE MESOCOSM experiment” by K. Leblanc et al.

Anonymous Referee #3

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This paper describes part of a very interesting and exhaustive study about phytoplankton succession and phenology during a mesocosm experiment in LNLC waters. The presented data on floristic identification and pigment analysis is extremely well presented and documented. However, being part of a more exhaustive study containing important complementary data (nutrients, biological processes as production, molecular biology, other diazotroph identifications, TEP concentrations, sediment traps...), it seems very difficult to have an good view of the overall work and results from this study. For instance, there is a clear gap between the "results" section (phytoplankton and pigment results) and the "discussion" section where all other data is combined but not always presented. Most of these other results are described in parallel papers.

It seems to me that this work clearly deserves to be published. However, results should be re-structured differently in order to give a broad and complete view and un-

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derstanding of phytoplankton /ecosystem functioning. I therefore suggest the authors to review the structure of the paper by presenting the required database and information on complementary and essential measured data.

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