

Interactive comment on “Spring Blooms in the Baltic Sea have weakened but lengthened from 2000 to 2014” by P. M. M. Groetsch et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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The manuscript aims at the analysis of chlorophyll data from the Baltic Sea. The authors use primarily data collected by automated systems onboard of ships of opportunity. Finally they end up with some trends detected in spring bloom timing and duration for the last 15 years.

In my view, an important part of the manuscript is the described method how to handle, validate and analyze the Ferrybox data. It is inspiring for further analysis and using the tremendous pool of information of the marine environment.

In the discussion section, the results of spring bloom dynamics are attributed to possible drivers: Nutrient availability and meteorological forcing. Consistent with the approach, the attribution is based on statistical methods. This could be assisted by advanced ecosystem models in future research. However, this is beyond this study.

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Altogether, in my opinion this is a well done study and should be published after minor revision.

Remarks to authors:

Could you please provide some information on the source(s) of nutrient data in chap. 2.3.

The title is not much appealing to me. However, I don't have any good suggestion. Probably you may include alg@line.

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