

***Interactive comment on “Exploring the distance between nitrogen and phosphorus limitation in mesotrophic surface waters using a sensitive bioassay” by Enis Hrustic et al.***

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I have read the manuscript in detail. I was peripherally involved in the Thingstad and Mantoura (2005) study and found it interesting and useful. This manuscript develops those ideas further and generalizes them to quantify the degree that a system is N or P limited. As such this work fills an important gap in the literature. I am happy to recommend publication and cannot recommend any changes to the manuscript as written. However I would be less than honest if I did not say that I got lost in the detail of exactly how the results are plotted and then interpreted. As far as I can see this is done well but I would defer to another reviewer if (s)he were more expertise in the mathematics of such biological measurements and finds either that the text does not

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explain this part well enough or even that there were problems in the calculations as done. I simply don't have the expertise to know.

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