

Editorial comments to article by Yin et al BG 2016-426, 2nd revision

line 195. This line says that water for incubation experiments was ('was' is missing in the text) taken on a single date, but in fact there were multiple experiments, as indicated later on line 202. Please re-write accordingly.

Legend to Fig. 9-3 reads: 'ambient nutrient ratios were calculated from measured ambient nutrients during the time course of incubation in Fig. 9-2. The sign "+" means "added". +N/+P and +N/+Si indicate the ratio of the added N alone over the added P alone and over the added Si alone, respectively.

I still think this is confusing and inaccurate, as the reader is likely to think that what is being represented is a ratio between added nutrients, instead of an ambient ratio of nutrients in the bottle.

The response of the authors makes things more puzzling:

In their response, they write: "+N/+P means ambient NO₃ in bottle 1/ambient PO₄ in bottle 2. We measured nutrients in some time intervals, and hence, we had ambient N:P for +N/+P over time".

It would seem that the authors are dividing the N concentration in one bottle (the one that received an addition of N) by the P concentration in a different bottle (the one that received an addition of P). But surely this 'chimera' variable is misleading. Ambient nutrient ratios should be computed for each individual bottle using only nutrient concentrations measured in the same bottle. If my interpretation of this N:P ratio labelled +N/+P is correct, then my suggestion would be to omit it, as it only makes the figure more confusing. If you decide to keep it, the figure legend must be much clearer, and explain that in the case of data labeled +N/+P the N:P ratio plotted is not actually a N:P ratio that occurred in any particular bottle, but the result of dividing N concentration in the N+ bottle by the P concentration in the P+ bottle. The same goes for the N:Si ratio and the data labelled N+/Si+.

These are non-conventional experiments, which obviously involved a lot of effort and which provide interesting results. The authors need to make an additional effort to make sure that what their report is clearly understood by the readers.

The legend to Table 1 is not formally correct. It should read something like 'Sampling stations and dates of nutrient addition incubations. The last column indicates the study where water column properties for the Strait of Georgia are reported.'

H. Liu is still not included in the author contribution section. This section must indicate the contributions of all authors.