

Interactive comment on “Organic and inorganic carbon and their stable isotopes in surface sediments of the Yellow River Estuary” by Zhitong Yu et al.

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Received and published: 24 October 2017

Authors present an important investigation on the magnitudes and spatial distributions of TOC and TIC in the surface sediments of the transitional zone of Yellow River Estuary. Besides, they evaluate the relationship between TOC and TIC, and explore the underlying mechanisms that regulate the carbon burial.

Although its novelty is moderate, the manuscript is clearly written and it contains useful information for potential readers. The discussion of organic and inorganic carbon and their stable isotopes in surface sediments of the Yellow River Estuary are of great importance on the coastal carbon cycle.

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I would, however, like to see a more detail discussion of the impact of other sediment/physical characteristics (such as grain size) and human activities on the spatial distributions and transformation of carbon. The end-member modeling for identifying carbon sources is better to be carefully described in the manuscript. At last, a brief summary and/or upscaling are good for this paper and for the journal's international readers.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-2017-353>, 2017.

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