

Reviewer 2: This manuscript is intended as the introduction to a special volume with results from the OUTPACE cruise. It thus has very few data, but describes the background and purpose of the cruise and lists the stations with some characteristics. As an ordinary publication of original research, this would not work, but I clearly see the need for this type of introduction to a special volume so that this type of information does not need to be repeated in each paper.

Adding more results could obviously give a more complete and interesting story, but would both "steal" points from the research papers and decrease the role of this ms as an introduction.

I conclude supporting the authors' choice of this form of the publication and have no suggestions for improvement.

Response: We thank Reviewer 2 and appreciate his support of this form of publication as an introduction to our special volume.