

# ***Interactive comment on “Faunal carbon flows in the abyssal plain food web of the Peru Basin have not recovered during 26 years from an experimental sediment disturbance” by Tanja Stratmann et al.***

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This manuscript represents a substantial contribution in the form of unique, long-term, experimental data on effects of disturbance on deep-sea communities from mining activities. The approach and methods appear sound. The sole apparent substantive exception to high quality of the presentation is the reporting of precision in Tables 1 and 2. Up to six significant figures are given (for *Ceriantharia* in Table 1), and several of the standard deviations include biomasses below zero. In general, precision for means and deviations should be comparable and should exclude the impossible. The authors

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seem to have defaulted to an arbitrary two places after an arbitrarily placed decimal point. In a more minor but related issue, in Fig. 1 the color scheme makes the error bars very hard to discern.

The approach used to estimate individual biomass of Bryozoa and Hemichordata seems shaky enough that I would recommend doing the calculations with and without those estimates to convince myself that the results are not overly sensitive to their inclusion. Most Bryozoans are colonial, making me wonder what this individual biomass means.

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