

Interactive comment on “Programmed cell death in diazotrophs and the fate of organic matter in the Western Tropical South Pacific Ocean during the OUTPACE cruise” by Dina Spungin et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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This paper addresses an important question in biological oceanography: the death of phytoplankton. Despite it has been challenged in many instances, current belief is still that phytoplankton are immortal. This study contributes to the growing evidence that other loss mechanisms occur apart from grazing and sinking. The link to falling carbon is indeed very relevant for the global C cycle in the oceans. The manuscript presents excellent science, appropriate methods and conclusions well supported by the data. The presentation is very good, concise and well-structured In my opinion the manuscript can be accepted as it is

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Discussion paper

