

Interactive comment on “Geographic distribution of free-living marine nematodes in the Clarion–Clipperton Zone: implications for future deep-sea mining scenarios” by Freija Hauquier et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

Received and published: 3 February 2019

This manuscript presented the diversity of nematodes in surface 5 cm of sediments in the license areas (of Germany, IOM, Belgium and France) and reference area of the CCZ. The data are important to help make a decision on the mining method and designation of source areas to protect the seabed ecosystem when large scale mining of the nodules is carried out.

In the part of Materials and Methods, the authors stated that the IOM samples were sliced per cm down to 5 cm sediment depth. However, there is no mention of this result. Please clarify that authors only used the total amount instead of different depth.

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BGR was further divided into BGR_RA and BGR_PA, but these subareas were not labelled in Fig. 1. Please try to label them so that readers could know the sampling sites.

IOM should be the Interoceanmetal Joint Organization <https://iom.gov.pl/>. In the case of this manuscript with the same background of seabed mining, this abbreviation should be occupied by this organization. Therefore, I recommend the authors to have another abbreviation for Inter-Ocean Metal consortium (or maybe they are the same one in different forms).

The title is “geographic distribution. . .”. Since all the sites are in the CCZ with similar geographical characteristics, I recommend the title to be “distribution. . .”.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-2018-492>, 2018.

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