

***Interactive comment on* “Spring distribution of shelled pteropods across the Mediterranean Sea” by Roberta Johnson et al.**

Roberta Johnson et al.

roberta.johnson@uab.cat

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Dear Referee 2,

We appreciate your remarks and acknowledge the detailed and constructive comments that have greatly helped to clarify a number of points and to improve the manuscript. The main criticisms relate to the sampling methodology, the relevance of the section dealing with the foraminiferal study, and the lack of background information on pteropods in the Mediterranean. We have addressed these points by providing data comparing pteropod abundances above and below 200 m in the Mediterranean that validates our sampling methodology, by justifying the use of a 150 μm mesh which provides a good estimate of the pteropod community, by updating the introduction,

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methodology, results and discussion section regarding the foraminifera and pteropod comparison collected from the same sampling, and by providing context for our study by including a section comparing and contrasting our results with other pteropod studies in the Mediterranean. Our detailed responses to your comments, including expected modifications of the manuscript, can be found in the supplement to this post.

Kind regards,

Roberta Johnson and co-authors

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://www.biogeosciences-discuss.net/bg-2020-53/bg-2020-53-AC2-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-2020-53>, 2020.

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