

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

**Roberta Johnson et al.**

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Dear Referee 3,

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 splitting between the eastern and western Mediterranean basins, the lack of a multifactorial discussion, and the sampling strategy. We have addressed these points by supporting the large environmental differences between the eastern and western Mediterranean using cluster analyses as well considering the intra-specific variability of each sub-basin, by moving toward a more multifactorial approach based on our results, and by providing evidence based on published

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data comparing pteropod abundances above and below 200 m in the Mediterranean that validates our sampling strategy in capturing the majority of the pteropod community. 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-AC3-supplement.pdf>

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

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