Comment on essd-2021-146
Anonymous Referee #2

Referee comment on "Fish and cephalopods monitoring on the Bay of Biscay and Celtic Sea continental shelves" by Pascal Laffargue et al., Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2021-146-RC2, 2021

Dear Authors,

congratulation to this valuable contribution. Even if the main dataset is available at ICES datras; there is no harm to make it available at other public sources. However, it would be good to describe the differences of both datasets within the manuscript.

I am not aware of these technical papers, but I am familiar with ICES standard surveys. Regarding the technical part of the manuscript, I miss the standard protocols for biological sampling. For example, maturity scales, species identification and length measurements. I would also prefer a separate section about the limitations of the survey (even it is mentioned in several parts of the manuscript) as a kind of health warning, as it might be that people who are not familiar with those datasets will download and analyse the data. In this section I would suggest to provide some more information about target species, gear selectivity (length and species) and the problems with species identification (as it is already perfect mentioned) etc.. Because it is mentioned that the dataset is usable for long-term observations, e.g. changes due to fishing and climate change, the limitation for this kind of analysis should be clearly stated to protect users for an overinterpretation. The quality of the figures is not sufficient. Especially the axis of Figure 4 is not readable. Finally, some English improvements are necessary.