

Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., referee comment RC1  
<https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2021-157-RC1>, 2021  
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## Comment on **essd-2021-157**

Mats Blomqvist (Referee)

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Referee comment on "Weight-to-weight conversion factors for benthic macrofauna: recent measurements from the Baltic and the North seas" by Mayya Gogina et al., Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2021-157-RC1>, 2021

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This is a really useful and important publication. The data published represents a significant amount of work now accessible for all to reuse.

There is a strong dominance of data from SW Baltic waters and to better represent Baltic Sea and North Sea it is my hope that the dataset will be enlarged in the future, possibly in cooperation with other laboratories.

In the supplementary information wordfile with descriptions of the data set column headings there is an error for column Group. Description needs to be changed as it is a copy of the previous column description.

In the actual excel data file there are two records classified as Baltic that are situated in the middle of the North Sea (station OB20 and OB40).

The manuscript is well written and contains a good and clear description of the dataset. There is a small need to improve the english in order to make some sentences easier to read. Here are line numbers where improvements are needed (in most cases also with suggestions for change):

7-9 this sentence is hard to understand, reformulate

12 The dataset provides a broad

15 The dataset can thereby be used to quantify... Delete ", and refine current ecological theory" since this is a bit too much

18 , and the role of

22-23 Conversion factors... this sentence is not understandable, seems to be incomplete?

24 pioneered in publication of compilations

27 though allowing... Move comma from after estimates to after groups  
30 includes only a little share  
32 the importance of the present compilation  
36 repository together with basic usage .... Here in the data description we  
38 biomass has a central role  
44-45 this point does not fit in the list of scientific study types. Text can be merged into  
row 23-24 instead.  
62 In the continuous .... This sentence can be simplified. No suggestion on how.  
74 the data will be done periodically.  
74 there is no version tab in the web page (link at row 74)