Reply on RC2
Valéria M. Lemos et al.

Author comment on "Patos Lagoon Estuary and Adjacent Marine Coastal Biodiversity Long-term data" by Valéria M. Lemos et al., Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2021-353-AC2, 2021

Dear Referee #2,

Thank you for the comments. We recognize the importance of the missing parameters addressed in your comment. In fact, since the beginning of LTER-PLEA we have planned for the inclusion of heterotrophic prokaryotes in the sampling protocol but we never managed to have the necessary expertise in our group. Contaminants are another relevant set of variables for urbanized aquatic ecosystems that we wish we could monitor within the PLEA. Despite the relevance of these and other parameters, constant funding cuts have prevented us from expanding the set of Biological groups and environmental parameters analyzed. We have included the following text in the Potential use and Conclusions (line 733): "Despite the wide range of variables monitored, we acknowledge that several components that are key to assess ecosystem quality are missing from our dataset. We have plans to monitor contaminants and heterotrophic prokaryotes in the near future". Thank you for your time during this review process.

Sincerely yours,