

Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., referee comment RC1
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Comment on **essd-2021-444**

Robert Larter (Referee)

Referee comment on "The COSMUS expedition: seafloor images and acoustic bathymetric data from the PS124 expedition to the southern Weddell Sea, Antarctica" by Autun Purser et al., Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2021-444-RC1>, 2022

I commend the authors for making these large and valuable datasets available through PANGAEA. However, when checking some of the links I found that I was not able to access some of the datasets due to a moratorium being in place until 26th March next year. This is understandable, but there is no mention of the existence of the moratorium in the manuscript. I suggest adding a short sentence to the Data Availability section to say that some of the datasets will be released for public access after 26th March 2023.

Most of the Data Availability section is duplicated in the Abstract, and I see no reason for this. The last paragraph of the Abstract could be replaced by a single short sentence stating that these datasets are available from PANGAEA and that links are included in the Data Availability section .

The example images in the figures are fascinating and useful. However, I struggled to see the red points within each image representing reflections from the sizing lasers. Perhaps one or more of the images could be annotated to make these clearer?

Aside from the above points I have indicated some minor corrections and comments on an annotated version of the manuscript, which I will upload with this review.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://essd.copernicus.org/preprints/essd-2021-444/essd-2021-444-RC1-supplement.pdf>