

Interactive comment on “Influence of the summer deep-sea circulations on passive drifts among the submarine canyons in the northwestern Mediterranean Sea” by Morane Clavel-Henry et al.

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Estimated Referee

Thank you for your feedback and comments on the manuscript.

I understand your reluctance to trust models, but, to date, it is still the best method available for approaching the connectivity path of deep-sea species. This manuscript is the first step of a work that is conducted with the final focus to improve fishery management. Unfortunately, modeled deep-sea dispersions are hard to validate due to lack of empirical data and it is an issue that some projects-to-be on deep-sea are plan-

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ning to resolve. Nonetheless, we believe that intermediate tools such as genetics can partially validate biophysical models. Validation of them with parental genetics and genetic connectivity can be used for coastal or epipelagic species, but for deep-sea species, this effort has not been noticed yet. Those genetic data for the species-case *Aristeus antennatus* in the studied zone are still under investigation and could not even be provided as a preliminary result.

Following your comments about the conclusion, we will revise it for including more convincing sentences and revising the English. We will insist that this paper joins the few articles dealing with deep-sea connectivity among submarine canyons and that it provides information on which future studies will rely and step on. In that context, we will remind the readers that this paper is a preliminary work engaged in fishery management, but, as first results, the fishery managers should wait for future studies.

Upon request and further discussion with the editor, we can provide a version of this modified conclusion through the interactive comments.

Regards,

On the behalf of the co-authors,

Morane Clavel-Henry

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