Comment on os-2021-125
Anonymous Referee #1

Referee comment on "Coastal Sea Level Monitoring in the Mediterranean and Black Seas"
by Begoña Pérez Gómez et al., Ocean Sci. Discuss.,
https://doi.org/10.5194/os-2021-125-RC1, 2022

The manuscript presents a very nice compilation of most of the tide gauges operating in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, including the type of sea level sensors, measuring resolutions, data availability and existence of ancillary measurements. It also provides information on data availability and details on historical series.

The global and European sea level repositories have also been review, pointing to the necessity of harmonization of the data available with different metadata and series at different repositories.

They point to the problem that arise in some countries with restrictive national data policies and lack of funding, especially along the Mediterranean coast of Africa, that makes a spatial distribution of stations with available data biased towards the northern countries. There is a very important lack of available data along the southern coast of the basin.

The assessment of the networks’ capabilities for their usage in different sea level applications, like early warning systems, long-term sea level variability or altimetry calibration, is very complete, and provides a very good perspective of the potentiality of the tide gauges if they were used in a coordinated and collaborative way.

In my opinion this manuscript does a very exhaustive inventory of tide gauges and available data on the Mediterranean and Black Seas and present the results in a very systematic and order way and. This provides very useful information to the users of sea level data. It is also a call to managers and policy makers that should work to get better coordination and more investment in these systems.