Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., 5, C398–C399, 2013
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Earth System Science Data Discussions

Interactive comment on "The MAREDAT global database of high performance liquid chromatography marine pigment measurements" *by* J. Peloquin et al.

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Received and published: 28 February 2013

We would like to thank Referee #1 for their time and positive review of our manuscript. We share the opinion that our global synthesis of optically-active pigments in the ocean will prove instrumental in next-generation algorithm development using ocean color. We considered each of the specific comments and incorporated only the last of the four suggested minor revisions for reasons explained below. (We held in consideration that Referee #1 found the original manuscript acceptable as is.)

Response to specific comments:

-We have elected to maintain Fig. 4 in the manuscript as we were advised by the

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MAREDAT coordinators to strive for similar figure representation as the other MAREDAT papers in order for there to be continuity among the special issue contributions.

-The purpose of Fig. 8 is primarily to illustrate pigment data coverage (its format also consistent with the other contributions in the MAREDAT special issue). The panels were made as large as possible within the space given. We agree with the reviewer that the overall figure does not facilitate detailed data interpretation, but ESSD considers such interpretation to be outside of the journal's scope.

-The HPLC Method column was added to Table 1 by the LOV as it was deemed essential information for those evaluating the quality of the different data contributions in the context of the SeaHARRE round-robin, so we have also elected to preserve this column.

-Table 2 caption was revised to include: "For detailed taxonomic associations and definitions, see Higgins et al. (2011)." (We do not discuss Type I dinoflagellates in the text, but for purposes of reproducing up-to-date pigment classification, the specification of Type I was necessary in Table 2). Type I refers to a "pigment type" in the current classification scheme of taxonomic pigment associations, and Type I dinoflagellates are defined in literature simply as "peridinin-containing dinoflagellates".

Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., 5, 1179, 2012.