

Interactive comment on “Bacterial biomass distribution in the global ocean” by E. T. Buitenhuis et al.

Anonymous Referee #3

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This paper presents a global dataset of marine bacteria (and archaea) biomass. The source of the used data (and the techniques used to produce them) is clearly described as well as the biases derived from the temporal resolution of the data. The choice of the conversion factor from abundance to biomass (the major source of uncertainty) is well discussed. The relevance of bacteria for marine ecosystem is highlighted in the introduction underlying the importance of a global database.

I think that this is a valuable dataset very useful for biological oceanographers and marine ecosystem modellers. I recommend its publication.

Minor corrections: Figures captions could be more informative, sometimes it is not clear how a picture is obtained (i.e. do figs 2 and 3 refer to annual averages?) Figure 4 is not commented in the text line 21: the text refers to Fig1a 1b and 1c, Fig 1 should

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be labelled accordingly. y-axis in figures 3 and 4 need labels..

Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., 5, 301, 2012.