Atkinson et al. study deal with the abundance and distribution of two main macrozooplancton species form the Southern Ocean, krill and salps. This study not only gave Information on seasonal, regional and habitat variability of those species in the Southern Ocean (as well as long term changes probably given climate change), but also provides the scientific community and decision makers with a great database of those species with possibility to use this data in further studies in the Southern Ocean ecosystem. This will be a great source of information widely used by Antarctic and Subantarctic researchers and management agencies. Krill is not only a key ecological species but also a commercial one. The information is correctly processed and described to be used very important most people involved in those species research are authors of this manuscript and could go on contributing with this long term database. Although very important the link for the database should be in results and not only in methods.

In summary the dataset and the manuscript is very important and of high quality and rated excellent.

A few minor suggestions have been made as follows:

Line 60: what does "including stock identity" mean? Management or biological?

Line 64: Specify what "feedback approach" means.

Line 116: "Bold italic" or uppercase italic??

Line 187: low densities were identified and then removed?

Line 189: which test? or this way to identify low densities??

Line 200: This water depth identification was set to the ones that do not have or the stratified ones, or which ones?

Line 229: Just a format remark, there are Fig with and without dot at the end. Check.

Line 241-242: It is not clear who should remove user or was the method that has been done?

Line 316-336: Section on standardisation is not clear, at least for a non familiar user of this data, and it will be used for example for seabird biologist, so will be useful that the standardisation methodology will be more detail. For example: what does it mean to "range of values used to derive the conversion factors"? or how is time and date average?

Line 365-366: "A few red cells suggest extremely high krill or salp abundance, but some of these cells only encompass a few stations." What does this mean?

Table 2: Data accuracy is not clear what does this mean "so the date is recorded as 1st January (this affects one record only)"? Climatological temperature "locale" is correct?