

Interactive comment on “Over 10 million seawater temperature records for the United Kingdom Continental Shelf between 1880 and 2014 from 17 Cefas (United Kingdom Government) marine data systems” by David Morris et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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The manuscript “Over 10 million seawater temperature records for the <united Kingdom Continental Shelf between 1880 and 2014 from 17 Cefas (United Kingdom Government) marine data systems” written by Morris et al. deals with a high number of temperature data sampled by different means during almost the last century. The manuscript (hereafter ms) is well written and principally shows the effort done to collect and put together this enormous quantity of data. It explains in details the source, the origin and history of each data set and correlates temperature values, especially to sampling methodologies as fisheries (specially in some areas).

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Major points: 1. Unfortunately the MS merely makes a very limited basic statistical analysis and, although it is not the purpose of doing an oceanographic analysis, lacks a minimum link with the oceanographic features of the area. It is very important for the reader to understand the changes in temperature, especially for those not familiar with the study area. I suggest including a small chapter to explain the basic oceanographic characteristics. 2. I suggest including a table with the climatology of the area. Since the area considered is broad and certainly has different climatological values (min, avg, max) between subareas, I recommend to divide it in squares as done in the Medar/Medatlas database and in: Manca, B., Burca, M., Giorgetti, A., Coatanooan, C., Garcia, M.J., and A. Iona, 2004: Physical and biochemical averaged vertical profiles in the Mediterranean regions: an important tool to trace the climatology of water masses and to validate incoming data from operational oceanography. J. Mar. Syst, 48, 83-116. It could be interesting to see what is the variance of temperature records respect to climatology in different periods. 3. I’m a little bit concern about the QC method applied, since you considered only part of the standards QC flags for temperature. Please justify why and see: “SeaDataNet, 2007. Data quality control procedures “ IOC/IODE, 1993. IOC Manual and guides No26, Manual of quality control procedures for validation of oceanographic data among others. . . .

Minor corrections: Page 4-5 there are two introductions in the ms, please correct the numbering Page 27: Figure 14 Average (green), minimum (blue) and maximum (red) annual temperatures for the Southern North Sea including all sources and all depths

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