

Interactive comment on “Copepod species abundance from the Southern Ocean and other regions (1980–2005) – a legacy” by Astrid Cornils et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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This compilation of zooplankton datasets collected over a 25 year period is a unique resource and provides a fitting tribute to the work undertaken by Dr Sigrid Schnack-Schiel over many years. The Southern Ocean datasets provide an easy-to-access resource that will be useful to modellers and ecologists attempting to describe how environmental variability influences key copepod species.

The addition of datasets from the Great Meteor Bank and the Red Sea does seem odd, but I assume that there was no logical place to put those one-off datasets.

In general the choices made regarding taxonomy seem sound, though I do wonder whether *Rhincalanus giga nauplii* were big enough to be retained by the mesh and

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could have been enumerated (L 305 and 306)?

The presentation of the information in Table 2 is ambiguous. It appears that all genera from each family were generally present at all sites, but I am not sure if this is what you wish to convey. I think that the Xs for the locations relate to the Families only and not all the genera under each family. If this is true, then Table 2 needs to be modified to make this clear.

Can you confirm whether the time data (e.g. Figure 3) is UTC or local time? This is important for any comparisons made with other regions, or within the region.

For day of year (Figure 4) can you add Jan 1 = day 1 near the bar, if this is the case.

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