

## ***Interactive comment on “Dissolved Inorganic Nutrients in the Western Mediterranean Sea (2004–2017)” by Malek Belgacem et al.***

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Received and published: 26 October 2019

To study nutrient dynamics in the western Mediterranean basin, it would have been more scientifically relevant to include all existing data, particularly those in the central Gulf of Lion, which undergo drastic changes each winter due to winter convection and the nutrients replenishment into the surface (Testor et al., 2018; Kessouri et al., 2017). This is particularly unfortunate given that since 2010 the MOOSE observing network has been conducting the MOOSE\_GE cruises (Coppola et al., 2019; Tintoré et al., 2019) every year, which samples more than 100 nutrient stations in the northwestern basin. These data are also available free of charge and in free access (SISMER; DOI 10.18142/235).

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It is obvious that publishing your own data is quite logical but at the present time when we are talking about integrated and interoperable systems in Europe, this "forgetting" is regrettable, especially if we want to fully understand the dynamics of nutrients in the Western Mediterranean Sea.

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