Interactive comment on “The CMEMS GlobColour Chlorophyll-a Product Based on Satellite Observation” by Philippe Garnesson et al.

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Please see the figure and the supplement attached.

Please also note the supplement to this comment: https://www.ocean-sci-discuss.net/os-2018-155/os-2018-155-AC1-supplement.pdf

Dear Referee,

Please find our comments/responses in blue in your text.

We have also attached a new release of the article. This is a major revision of the initial article: the form has been changed, the assertions are better argued. Most of the figures have been also reviewed.

Thank you for your useful comments.

Philippe Garnesson on behalf of co-authors.

Anonymous Referee #1
Received and published: 24 January 2019

This article presents the new version of the GlobColour product delivered by ACRIST within the CMEMS. As this GlobColour Chlorophyll-a (Chl-a) product has a global coverage and provides retrievals in coastal waters, it is an essential tool of interest for many ocean and coastal users of angular derived products. Chl-a in this new GlobColour product is derived from two algorithms: the Color Index of NASA for clear waters (Chl-a < 0.15 mg m$^{-3}$) and the OC5 algorithm of Ifremer for water where Chl-a is superior to 0.2 mg m$^{-3}$ (including the coastal turbid waters). This is a common strategy chosen by the Plymouth Marine Laboratory for the OC-CCI product. However, the authors note that this approach is different from the approach chosen by Volpe et al., who combined the different reflectance sensors on a common reference of spectral bands (SeaWiFS).

The OC-CCI approach is similar to that of the Mediterranean Product Unit of CMEMS described in Volpe et al. (Ocean Science, 2018). Targeting directly the Chl-a, the GlobColour processing can theoretically and practically be adapted more quickly to the modification of the products of any single sensor (following the reprocessing by the Agencies) whilst this task is more difficult to achieve through the complexity of the band switch and band correction operated in the OC-CCI approach. However as pointed out by Volpe et al., the band merging approach has the advantage of providing a homogeneous dataset of spectral reflectance from which can be derived, in full consistency for the long term, different environmental parameters, amongst them Chl-a but also light attenuation, Kd, suspended particulate matter, ...

Yes, we fully agree with Volpe et al. (and Weiler, section 2.2.1) and have included a section in this interactive comment discussing advantages and drawbacks underlined by Volpe et al. (section 2.2.1). The authors also discuss the issues mentioned in the near-real time and long-term processing of Ocean Colour data and some interesting illustrations are provided on the effect of the drift of Rrs in flight and the