

Interactive comment on “A multiproxy approach to understanding the “enhanced” flux of organic matter through the oxygen deficient waters of the Arabian Sea” by R. G. Keil et al.

R. G. Keil et al.

rickkeil@uw.edu

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The authors thank anonymous referee #1 for their thoughtful and thorough reading of our manuscript. We believe overall that their criticisms and comments only strengthen our manuscript and we intend to revise the manuscript to fully and positively respond to their concerns. Specifically, we will:

- A) Be more specific about the relationships between our actual data and the various potential mechanisms we discuss (addresses comments 1&2)
- B) The idea of blending the mineral protection and sinking speed arguments has merit.

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We didn't do this initially because we wanted to treat them individually. Upon reflection, we are happy to make mineral protection and sinking speed subcomponents of a mineral hypothesis. (addresses comment 3)

C) The sediment trapping methods will be more thoroughly described – we minimized n purpose for brevity, but as both reviewers asked for more, we will provide more (comment 4)

D) We removed a statistics section from an early draft because our data (as noted) are incomplete, thus casting shadows upon any statistical evaluations we made. We have applied some nonparametric tests to evaluate overall trends, and will include them in a revised manuscript (comment 5)

E) A concluding sentence for each mini-section can be added.

F) All editorial comments thereafter are editorial and will be fixed in a revised manuscript. We are particularly eager to improve our sections on zooplankton and chemoautotrophy.

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