

***Interactive comment on* “CITRATE 1.0: Phytoplankton continuous trait-distribution model with one-dimensional physical transport applied to the Northwest Pacific” by Bingzhang Chen and S. Lan Smith**

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I would like to suggest that the authors make use of the release mechanism in github to tag the status of the version in the repository that defines CITRATE 1.0. This firstly makes it very clear for readers and potential user which version to be used to reproduce results of the manuscript. Secondly it allows to update and extend the code in the repository without compromise the results shown in the published paper. We are also encourage (but not enforce) authors to create a DOI of the release in order make the code persistently citable. For github releases this can easily be done using Zenodo,

see <https://guides.github.com/activities/citable-code/>.

Here are two suggestions which would help to improve the delivery of the code :

- The authors should be more precise on the license under which the code can be used. In the case of a "freely available" code the terminology of the Creative Commons license could be used, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creative_Commons_license . It is highly recommended to add an appropriate license file in the release or – even better – to add appropriate comments in the header section in each file.
- I have noticed that the repository contains a lot of swap, lock and backup files created by a text editor that has been used. It is recommended that the authors remove these files from the repository in order to improve readability and to reduce data volume.

Lutz Gross GMD Executive Editor

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