Public justification (visible to the public if the article is accepted and published):
Dear Dr. Vargas-Yáñez and co-authors,

Thanks for the revised manuscript which was found satisfactory by the referee.
I myself did find some smaller issues that need to be accounted for before publication. Please see the listing below:

What I am missing is attention to the role of states that have no boundaries to the Med but are doing research, e.g. Portugal and Germany.

The authors should go through the text with the purpose to try to avoid to write as if this is a technical report. I have given some suggestions below, but there are more locations where the text may be modified in this context.

At several places, information is repeated, which is generally not necessary. Please correct this.

First of all, we would like to thank very sincerely the editor for this thorough review. Certainly there were many mistakes, repetitions and some parts could be merged and rephrased. We understand that this takes a long time. We have followed most of the suggestions and provided explanations in the few cases when we have maintained our redaction. We hope that the new version is much improved.

Concerning Germany and Portugal, the editor is right. Portugal is included in Figure 2B as one of the consulted countries and the legend of this figure acknowledges that institutions from Germany were also consulted. Besides this, a new sentence has been included in section 3 to report that these two countries were also addressed and some German institutions are included in the Excel files reporting metadata when some information was obtained.

Please, find below in bold detailed answers to all your comments.

For all figure captions: Do not write “Figure shows …” in the captions

Ok! We have corrected this.

L99 I suggest communication instead of report

Ok! We have made this change.

L121 oceans ; They have been (and continue to be) …

Ok! We have made this change.

L126 delete comma

Ok!, Done!

L143 delete However, -Sentence then starts with: Regional ocean …

Ok! Done.

L158 delete However, -Sentence then starts with: Observations are …

Done!

L203-204 delete “and to serve as a guide for a broader audience not directly involved in marine observation.” This does not belong in a scientific study.

We have revised this sentence to clarify its meaning. We did not intend to imply that this work is designed as a guide for a non-scientific audience. We agree with the Editor that this is not the purpose of a scientific publication. Instead, our intention was to indicate that this work may serve as a guide for scientists who are not directly involved in marine observation activities. For example, it may be useful for researchers working on laboratory experiments, statistical modelling, or related fields who are not familiar with marine monitoring programmes. However, although this is the main goal of the work, it could also be useful for stakeholders, policy-makers, etc.

L221 reconstruction

Ok! Corrected.

L222 delete contained
Ok! Deleted.

L320 delete Therefore, -Sentence then starts with: Different organisations …

Done!

L370-381 This piece of text has too much unnecessary detail and can be shortened significantly.

In this case we would like to maintain these details. They show clearly the methodology that has been followed and show that we tried to reduce possible biases in the process in order to obtain as much information as possible.

L424-425 delete “distinguishing between operational (red dots), inactive (black open circles), and planned installations (blue triangles)” -Because this info is also given in the figure caption.

Ok! Deleted.

L493 A header cannot have two sentences separated by a full stop. Please change

Ok! We have corrected this.

L498-499 delete: “These platforms are moored to the seafloor and are designed to measure atmospheric and/or oceanographic variables.” -Exactly the same info is given a few lines further.

The editor is right! We have deleted this sentence.

L523 delete: “This information was gathered from our own survey.” -Unnecessary info

In this case, we would like to maintain this sentence because there are cases in which the information was provided by some other organization, whereas in other cases, it was obtained by our survey and direct contacts with the Mediterranean oceanographic community. This helps to clarify the process.

L523-524 delete: “Figure 5B is a zoom for the westernmost sector or the Mediterranean Sea whereas Figures 5C and 5D are zooms for the central and eastern Mediterranean.” -Unnecessary here; already given in the figure caption.

Ok! Deleted!

L525 delete: “This information is broken down by countries and institutions. However,” -This is all clear from the table as such.

Ok! We have deleted this sentence.

L532 Figure 5 (A) … (B) …(C) …(D) … -No need to write “Figure” again in the caption
Ok! The repetition of Figure has been deleted.

L573 delete: (grant no. 101188133) -This is not the place for such info

The editor is absolutely right. This has been deleted.

L582 Same as for Figure 5 with (A) etc.

Ok! Done!

L582 Figure 6. (A) Number of Argo floats … (delete: shows); also Line 584

Ok! The legend of Figure 6 has been corrected as the rest of legends according to the editor’s suggestion.

L632 research vessels, not R/Vs
Corrected!

L642 Please add reference to SOCAT

Ok! We have added Bakker et al. (2016).

L644 Colijn

Corrected!

L647-649 delete: “The colour code for the routes is as follows: red lines indicate routes that are currently active, grey lines represent routes that were operational in the past but are not active at present, and blue lines denote routes that are intermittently active.” -This info is already given in the figure caption.

Ok! It has been deleted.

L657-658 Change to: Information about FerryBox lines in the Mediterranean Sea from https://www.ferrybox.org and personal consultations

Ok! Changed!

L662 delete: However, -Sentence starts with: We distinguish …

Corrected!

L688-689 delete: “Figure 10B provides a zoom of the westernmost sector of the Mediterranean Sea, where the sampling effort is greatest and Figure 10C is a zoom for the eastern Mediterranean.” -Info already in figure caption

Ok! Deleted!

L716-717 This info is almost the same as a few sentences above. Please restructure, so that the info is given only once.

The editor is right. These three paragraphs were somewhat repetitive, so we have merged them into a single paragraph.

L815-825 There is much info here that does not belong in a scientific paper (e.g. all the previous organisations). Also, some info is repeated. Please shorten significantly.

We would like to retain this paragraph and explain our rationale. This paper is not intended as an outreach article. Rather, it is addressed to the scientific community, as is expected for a scientific paper published in a journal such as *Ocean Science* (as discussed in our response to a previous comment).

However, the oceanographic community is broad, and many scientists are not directly involved in observing systems or monitoring programmes. Even among observational oceanographers, it is not always easy to understand the roles of the different institutions involved, their interactions, or the organizational framework underpinning these initiatives. For example, some readers may not be familiar with MonGOOS, despite the fact that this paper is a contribution from the MonGOOS community.

We believe this paragraph provides useful context because it summarizes the evolution from MedGOOS to the coexistence of MedGOOS and MOON, and ultimately to their integration within MonGOOS. This history illustrates the complexity of the institutional landscape supporting ocean observing activities in the Mediterranean Sea.

More importantly, it highlights one of the key messages of the paper: that the current organizational framework could benefit from greater simplification and improved coordination, as discussed in the manuscript.

L839-840 This sentence is not clear. Please rephrase

Ok! We have rephrased the whole paragraph.

L885-886 delete: “In order to complete this review of the contribution of different organizations to the monitoring of observation activities,”

Ok! Deleted!

L895-897 delete: “Besides this, it should be desirable to increase the coordination between different organizations and their web sites for easing the search to end users. However, this is a point on which we will come back in the discussion and future perspectives section.” -This is trivial.

We may not have fully understood this comment. If the reviewer means that the need for improved coordination is a trivial question, we would nevertheless prefer to retain this sentence. Although the importance of coordination may appear obvious, achieving effective coordination remains an ongoing challenge. Moreover, one of the reviewers encouraged us to go beyond a simple inventory of existing observing activities and provide a broader analysis of the current situation. We interpreted that suggestion as an invitation to discuss key challenges facing the observing community, among which coordination is certainly an important one. For these reasons, we believe it is worth emphasizing this point in the manuscript.

L898-899 delete: “and in order to complete this brief review of organizations involved in the observation of the Mediterranean and their governance,”

Ok! Deleted!

L903-911 This info seems to stand alone, i.e., not related to the Med observation system. Please delete or indicate the relation to the Med

In this case, we would like to retain these lines for two reasons. First, we believe it is important for a review paper to present the different organizations, consortia, and research infrastructures that readers may encounter. In this way, the manuscript can serve as a guide to the observing landscape, as stated in the Introduction. Second, several observing systems mentioned in this work belong to these categories. For example, Euro-Argo

and EMSO are ERICs, whereas ITINERIS is a research infrastructure initiative integrating several environmental research infrastructures in Italy.

L930-932 delete: “As already stated, this was made possible thanks to the existence of a very active MonGOOS community, which meets annually to share information and activities such as the present one, at the initiative of the MonGOOS Chair and the Executive Board.” -Does not belong in a scientific paper.

Ok! Deleted!

L981-983 Please combine in one sentence and shorten.

We have attempted to shorten this sentence, but doing so would require omitting several points that we believe are important to mention: the lack of biogeochemical data, the separation (at least in some cases) between the physical oceanography community and the biology and fisheries communities, and the absence of Argo floats in waters shallower than 500 m. We have not been able to further condense the sentence without losing information, and we therefore would prefer to keep it in its current form.

L1005-1006 “These observations also play an essential role in numerical models validation, ensuring that model outputs remain reliable for the large variety of user’s needs.” This info was also given a few lines above. Please bring these together and shorten.

Ok! We have merged and reduce these two paragraphs.

L1045-1047 delete or combine: “Another next step will be to update and maintain this information on the MonGOOS website dashboard, also ensuring that the files containing the metadata are accessible. This task necessarily requires stronger coordination among the various organizations dedicated to fostering, coordinating, and visualising observing systems in the Mediterranean Sea, in Europe, and worldwide.”

We have merged this paragraph with the following one, shortening them.

L1050-1051 delete: Furthermore, during certain phases of the present work, it has been challenging to contact some of them, to locate the required information, or to understand the functioning and interrelationships between these organisations. -Does not belong in a scientific paper.

Ok! Deleted!

L1052 Change to: We have also evidenced (section 5) …

Done!

L1101 delete: However,

Deleted!

Thanks and best wishes
Mario Hoppema