

## ***Interactive comment on “Environmental flow assessments in estuaries related to preference of phytoplankton” by Z. F. Yang et al.***

**Anonymous Referee #2**

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In this paper, the authors developed an approach to assess environmental flows in estuaries based on diagnostic pigments, with the examples of Yellow River Estuary, the authors emphasized that environmental flow should carefully consider the temporal variations of natural flow regime. The meaning of this paper is clear and the objective is explicit, beyond that, the opinion and argument has enough literature support. However, there are also some problems with this paper: (1) The paper said that "various empirical relationships have been established ecosystem biomass and river discharge", there is no comparison of the method with previously known work. (2) Language and grammar mistake: Page2, the second line of introduction: The gradients of salinity and other environmental parameters provide critical habitats of (for) migratory species. Page4, the forth line of 2.1: the nutrition lever for (of) primary organism

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biomass is calculated by the energy flows. In general, this article is very meaningful and worthy of publication.

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