

Interactive comment on “Uncertainties in selected surface water quality data” by M. Rode and U. Suhr

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General comments

The manuscript is well written. It is well structured and systematic. The numbers, discussion and conclusions are well supported by references. The manuscript addresses an issue that is central to the present special issue of HESS.

Some aspects of the manuscript could be improved, see the specific comments below. I recommend that the manuscript be accepted after minor revisions, where the authors should consider the below comments.

Specific comments

1. Abstract, line 23: I am not sure the term ‘meso scale’ is well understood. Could
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you explain it, e.g. by indicating an order of magnitude (or range) in km^2

2. Introduction: a good introduction to the relevance of the topic is given. However I lack a brief outline of state-of-the-art – maybe a 5-10 lines paragraph explaining whether similar reviews and frameworks for characterising uncertainty in surface water quality data have been presented previously. This should be accompanied by a similar brief statement on the novelty of this work in the chapter with conclusions.
3. p 2995, line17: Sect.2 →Section 2
4. Table 3 and text: I think you need to introduce/explain the terms D1, M1, I3, O3, L1, etc. You should refer to the paper (maybe the paper in the Data Guideline Report or to some of James Browns papers) where this is explained in further detail, but in addition a few lines introducing the meaning would be useful, so that the paper could be read as a stand alone.
5. p 3004, line 4: weather → whether

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