

Interactive comment on “Monitoring surface water quality using social media in the context of citizen science” by Hang Zheng et al.

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Thank you for the comments. We agree that it is not sufficient for comparison and regression using 15 samples. We reduce the manuscript and remove the section about the data comparison in the Yellow River. Deeper investigation will be conducted to analysis the relationships between CS based data and national values in future. In the current revised paper, we concentrated on analyzing the behaviors of volunteers basing on the reports over the China, including the spatial distribution of the reports, the proportion of anonymous reports, and the utility of cash prizes, etc. Referring to the cash prizes, the number of volunteers increased more 3 times after the cash prizes. It should be demonstrated as an effective approach for volunteer engagement.

We believe that the proposed method is valuable and practicable for river quality mon-

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itoring, as the platform already has more than 600 users and received about 200 reports. The methods for volunteer's recruitment, engagement and encouragement are also described and discussed basing on the reports. The effectiveness of Mode 1 and Mode 2 is analyzed according to the increase of the number of the volunteers. The approaches for data washing is also provided in the Discussion section. These contents could provide ideas and references for more and further research in this area. Therefore, we think that the revised manuscript is probably more than a short communication and is still meaningful for a technical paper.

Please see the attached revised manuscript.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<http://www.hydrol-earth-syst-sci-discuss.net/hess-2016-359/hess-2016-359-AC1-supplement.pdf>

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