

**CIESM Congress Session : Variability of thermohaline properties I**  
**Moderator : Toste Tanhua, GEOMAR, Kiel, Germany**

*Moderator's Synthesis*

The session was visited by roughly 40 participants. All presenters were present and most presentations were shorter than 5 minutes, leading to about 20 minute discussion by the end of the session. The presentations were a mix of observational records (4 presentations), model analysis (2 presentations) and reanalysis. This mixture created a good atmosphere for a lively discussion after the presentations. The discussions focused on the observed trends in deep waters in the Sicily Channel and north of Menorca, and the discussion if these observations of an order of magnitude faster change than the global ocean are effects of the Mediterranean circulation and ventilation, or if it is dominated by variability on a smaller trend. The moderator pointed out a 18 year old paper by two Kiel scientists that already then documented a half century trend of increasing salinity and temperature in the surface of the western Mediterranean Sea, and posed the question if such a long record should not be enough, together with more modern records, for making statements about trends in the Mediterranean Sea.

