Review of: "On-Line Monitoring of Minor Oil Spills in Seawater Using Sediment Microbial Fuel Cells: A Preliminary Study"

Mustapha Idris[1]

1 Universiti Sains Malaysia

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The authors were able to detect minor oil spills in seawater via sMFC. They achieved this by monitoring the voltage output of the sMFC upon addition of oil to the cathodic region. This reviewer finds this study interesting and sufficient for publication; however, few concerns must be addressed.

1. Introduction; Paragraph 3; Page 2. You stated that “The current created from the anode to the cathode is passed through a resistor……..” What about in the case of an open circuit?
2. The authors mentioned that numerous studies had already explored this area. What is the significance of your study in terms of varying the external resistors?
3. Section 2.2. The authors stated that “All the sMFC were assembled according to a previously done study by Wang et al (2015), with some minor alterations.” Please briefly state the minor alteration that was done.
4. Section 3.2. Your results indicate that an external resistance of around 1 k ohm is optimal for sMFC performance. Is this in line with previous studies? If yes, please provide a reference, and if no, explain with reason.
5. Consider re-writing the equations in an appropriate format.
6. Overall, the manuscript is well written. The discussion and conclusion reflect the scope of the study.