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PII: S0921-8181(14)00197-0
DOI: doi: 10.1016/j.gloplacha.2014.10.004
Reference: GLOBAL 2196

To appear in: *Global and Planetary Change*

Received date: 27 May 2014
Revised date: 10 October 2014
Accepted date: 13 October 2014

Please cite this article as: Kandiano, E.S., Bauch, H.A., Fahl, K., Last interglacial surface water structure in the western mediterranean (balearic) sea: Climatic variability and link between low and high latitudes, *Global and Planetary Change* (2014), doi: 10.1016/j.gloplacha.2014.10.004

LAST INTERGLACIAL SURFACE WATER STRUCTURE IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (BALEARIC) SEA: CLIMATIC VARIABILITY AND LINK BETWEEN LOW AND HIGH LATITUDES

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ABSTRACT

A multiproxy analysis based on planktic foraminiferal abundances, derived SSTs, and stable planktic isotopes measurements together with alkenone abundances and Uk′37 SSTs was performed on late MIS 6 to early MIS 5d sediment recovered from Site 975 (ODP Leg 161) in the South Balearic Islands Basin (Western Mediterranean) with emphasis on reconstructing the climate progression of the last interglacial period. A number of abrupt climate changes related to alternative influence of nutrient rich northern and oligotrophic southern water masses was revealed. Heinrich event 11 and cooling events C27, C26, C25, C24, C23, which have been previously described in the North Atlantic, were recognized. However, in comparison to the eastern North Atlantic mid-latitude region, events C27 and C26 at Site 975 seem to be significantly more pronounced. Together with evidence of a two-