

Dear authors,

thank you for the response to reviewers and the updated manuscript. I only have one last comment: in the response to the reviewers, you mention "correlations between SSS and SST were calculated and a T-S diagram was plotted" to analyse water masses present in the area, but such a diagram is not included in the manuscript. I also think that such a diagram, colour-coded by year for example, would help in improving our knowledge over this region, and I encourage you to include it in the manuscript.

Thank you for your comments, we believe the addition of the T-S plot does strengthen the main findings.

A T-S plot, colour coded by years has been added to the appendix which includes correlation coefficients between SST and SSS in each panel (Figure A7). Given the reviewer suggestion that the paper is lengthy, this figure was not included in the main body of text to not further extend the paper. Sections 3.4 and 4.4 have been altered to reference and discuss the relevant findings from these T-S plots.