

Dear Dr. Shen,

Thank you for further reviewing our revised submission. We are very pleased to hear that the new version was evaluated positively. We have addressed your additional minor comments as follows:

I have reviewed the revisions and have a few more suggestions for you.

Abstract: I recommend adding 1-2 sentences at the end summarizing the conclusions and implications of the major findings, as well as the broader impact of this work.

We have changed the order of the final two sentences of the abstract, and added on the following text:

Overall, our results indicate that the Johor River and Johor Strait are clearly not part of the same estuarine mixing continuum, and that nutrient recycling processes must be quantified to understand nutrient dynamics in the Johor Strait. Moreover, our results highlight the need for better DOM source tracing techniques in eutrophic estuaries.

Our study is ultimately a site-specific investigation, so we don't want to reach too far beyond our data to draw overly broad general conclusions. Hopefully our addition is sufficient. We do believe that our study is a very important starting point for further investigations of this system, which we are planning as part of a new proposal in which we intend to measure nutrient recycling rates and would start to set up a biogeochemical model to work towards climate change projections. The data in the current study are very important to help shape the direction of this research, and we hope that further investigations of this system will help contribute more general knowledge about tropical estuarine biogeochemistry.

Line 61: It would be beneficial to include a few references to support the statement of "Tropical peatlands are the largest source..."

We have added a few relevant references for this sentence.

Lines 65-66: It would be helpful to provide a brief overview of previous studies on the distributions of DOM and nutrients, including their findings and remaining questions. This would strengthen the motivation for this work.

We have added a new paragraph citing some additional relevant literature on urbanised estuaries in Southeast Asia. A detailed review would be beyond the scope of our introduction but the Tanaka et al. (2021) paper (which we cite there) provides this for interested readers. An important point that we now make in this new paragraph is that the biogeochemistry of different estuaries is strongly dependent on site-specific factors, as shown clearly in the Tanaka et al. review, and this provides a clearer motivation for our study: the system we are

investigating here has not been studied in any detail for its biogeochemistry before, so our study provides an important starting point.

Figure 2 appears to be of low resolution, making it difficult to see the axis. Could the authors provide a higher resolution version?

Apologies for that. The issue is to do with the embedding of the figure file in the Word document, which in this particular case leads to a less than optimal resolution. The original figure is a pdf vector graphic that does not lose resolution, and we will submit the original vector file for this and all other figures after acceptance, so the final published manuscript will not have this problem. In the new version, it seems that the embedded file is now also coming out with good resolution.

Looking forward to receiving your revisions.

Best regards,
Yuan Shen

Thanks again to you and the reviewers for your time and support.

Yours sincerely,
Patrick Martin
(on behalf of all co-authors)