

We are glad that our manuscript is accepted for publication. Below we provide answers to the editor's comments.

1. The errorbars in figure 9b are very useful. Please could you just add the description of these to the caption (ie 95% confidence interval) so that it's in the paper as well as the response.

The necessary description is added.

2. Reading the abstract again I wondered if the authors wanted to highlight the importance of the polar cell more. Eg in lines 8-9 it might not be clear to many readers that it is the polar cell which is changing here as opposed to the eddies. Since this is the main result of the paper, I thought it might be nice to state this explicitly here.

We agree with the comment and clarify the abstract.

We also checked our figures using the Coblis Color Blindness Simulator (<https://www.color-blindness.com/coblis-color-blindness-simulator/>) and revised the colour schemes accordingly.