

Author's Response to Editor – Minor Revisions

Dear Dr. Rabe,

Thank you for your final editorial check and for your constructive suggestions.

We have now made the following minor revisions as requested:

Figure 12 (and associated Figs. 6a, 8a, 10a):

All maps have been regenerated with larger panel sizes and increased font sizes (Times New Roman, 20 pt). The longitude and latitude labels are now clearly legible. The co-author (Toste Tanhua) has confirmed that the figures are acceptable.

Table 1 (data citations):

We have added superscript letters (a, b, c, d) to each cruise in the table and included a footnote listing the corresponding CCHDO data citations:

a) Bullister & Baringer (2013); b) Wanninkhof (2013); c) King (2010); d) Baringer (2013).

All references are already present in the reference list.

The sections on acknowledgments and references have also been adjusted and revised to incorporate more detailed information. The updated files (clean PDF and tracked-changes file) are attached.

We hope the manuscript now meets the requirements for publication.

Thank you again for your guidance throughout the review process.

Sincerely,

Mian LIU (on behalf of all authors)