

1 Point-by-point response to the reviewers’  
2 comments on the manuscript:

3  
4 Freshwater input from glacier melt outside Greenland alters  
5 modeled northern high-latitude ocean circulation

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7 We thank the two reviewers for the constructive and detailed feedback, which  
8 was very helpful to improve the manuscript! We have done our best to address  
9 the issues raised by the reviewers and provide a point-by-point reply to each of  
10 the reviewers’ comments, including an explanation of subsequent changes to the  
11 manuscript. (“RC” for “reviewer comment”, and “AR” for “authors’ response”)  
12

13 **1 Major/general issues**

14 First, we would like to address issues that either came up repeatedly throughout  
15 the individual reviews and/or were raised in the reviewers’ general comments  
16 before addressing the more specific line comments below.

17 **1.1 Statistical significance**

18 As both reviewers raised this issue, we give a detailed response on it here. Firstly,  
19 both reviewers posed the question why we used the Wilcoxon signed-rank test.  
20 We did so because it is not subject to the assumption that differences between  
21 samples are normally distributed, as is the paired Student’s t-test. While the  
22 results are qualitatively similar applying the two tests, we think avoiding the  
23 normality assumption makes the results more robust.

24 To make this choice more clear to the reader we added the following to the  
25 manuscript at the end of section 3.1: *”In order to test the differences between  
26 our two model runs for statistical significance, we apply a Wilcoxon signed-  
27 rank test on the monthly means. We chose this test over the paired Student’s  
28 t-test, as it is non-parametric and hence not subject to the assumption that  
29 differences between the tested samples are normally distributed. Although both  
30 tests yield qualitatively similar results, we chose the Wilcoxon signed-rank test*

31 *for our analysis, since the normality assumption might be violated in some cases.*  
32 *If not stated otherwise, differences between the two NEMO simulations described*  
33 *in this section are statistically significant at  $p < 0.05$ ."*

34 As Reviewer 1 pointed out, there also is the issue of the ocean's chaotic behaviour  
35 (i.e., eddy activity). Naturally, in regions where the circulation is mainly chaotic  
36 (turbulent), as in the southeastern part of Fig. 6, differences might be statis-  
37 tically significant, but might not give insight into whether the differences are  
38 systematic. Thus, it is true that one has to be careful when interpreting the re-  
39 sults as to whether they reflect systematic or chaotic changes. In that sense it is  
40 probably useful to look at more persistent features than eddies, though internal  
41 variability still plays a role, as mentioned in the Discussion. Concerning SSH  
42 differences in the southeastern part of Fig. 7, the Carret et al. (2021) reference  
43 provided by the reviewer is useful to underline that differences there are predom-  
44 inantly caused by chaotic variability. We added the following to the manuscript  
45 in section 3.1.2 to address this issue: "*Though differences in the southeastern*  
46 *parts of Fig. 6 are statistically significant, they show a rather chaotic pattern;*  
47 *reflecting the high eddy activity in this area (Carret et al., 2021)."*

48 Reviewer 2 put forward the idea that bootstrapping could be used to "*to test*  
49 *for significance*". While it is an interesting idea, it is not clear to us at the  
50 moment how this would lead to a more robust significance testing of differences  
51 between our two model runs than the Wilcoxon signed-rank test without over-  
52 complicating the issue.

53 Finally, Reviewer 1 mentioned that "*the numbers quoted in the text should be*  
54 *consistently equipped with p-values, and it should be clarified when you are only*  
55 *using the last 5 years or when you are using the full period (which is the de-*  
56 *fault?)"*. In the text we aimed to mainly discuss differences that are statistically  
57 significant. The significance of the statistical test is already given in the line  
58 plots. In order to not make the text more convoluted with additional p-values,  
59 we think it is better not to add them to the text, but to remind the reader where  
60 to find the p-values by adding the following to beginning of the Results section:  
61 "*Statistically significant results presented in this section also refer to the second*  
62 *half of the NEMO simulations, if not stated otherwise."* and in the added para-  
63 graph on the statistical test: "*If not stated otherwise, differences between the*  
64 *two NEMO simulations described in this section are statistically significant at  $p$*   
65  *$< 0.05$ ."*

## 66 1.2 Description of the experimental setup

67 We amended the subsections 2.1 and 2.4 (now 2.3.1) with more details and more  
68 comprehensible wording. Also, we adjusted the subsection numbering in section  
69 2 (Data and Methods), as it was erroneous in the previous manuscript version.  
70 The details are given in the answers to individual reviewer comments on the  
71 matter below.

### 72 1.3 Presentation of results

73 Reviewer 1 stated: "*Especially when discussing physical mechanisms, some of*  
74 *the results could be re-written with a focus on (assumed) causality, reminding*  
75 *the reader from time to time what is the link to the added freshwater, e.g. in*  
76 *L257-266, L274-277, L315-333 and elsewhere. In addition, please check with a*  
77 *critical eye whether the results section could be thinned out a little bit – there are*  
78 *many interesting results in the paper, but I feel that the most interesting parts*  
79 *sometimes get a little bit lost amid the overall volume.*"

80 We now rewrote the lines mentioned by the reviewer to make the proposed  
81 effect of the increased freshwater flux clearer there. We also removed follow-  
82 ing aspects from the Results: the statistically not significant increase in net  
83 northward volume flux between Iceland and Scotland, the proposed increase in  
84 strength of the gyres in the Norwegian and Greenland Seas, as well as the men-  
85 tioning of potential changes in circulation at the junction of the Beaufort Gyre  
86 and the Transpolar Drift. Those were the parts of the results that we deemed  
87 dispensable.

### 88 1.4 Restructuring of figures

89 In order to address the comment of both reviewers on the amount and coherence  
90 of figures, we merged the difference plots of several variables into one figure for  
91 each examined region; with the following subplots: a) Potential temperature  
92 (0-200 m), b) salinity (0-200 m), c) potential temperature (200-600 m), d) sea  
93 surface height. This should make the relevant information more accessible to  
94 the reader, alleviating the need to go to the Appendix for certain plots. In the  
95 text we changed the reference to individual panels from, e.g., Fig. 2 panel a) to  
96 *Fig 2a* for better readability. Moreover, we added/moved plots, as described in  
97 the answers to individual reviewer comments below.

98 Reviewer 1 mentioned that the line plots could be moved to the Appendix  
99 without losing information in the main body of the manuscript. We decided to  
100 keep two of the line plots in the main body, as we deem them to carry enough  
101 information to justify this. The information they add compared to solely stating  
102 the significance levels is that they show the transient evolution of the differences  
103 between the simulations (and their statistical significance).

### 104 1.5 Restructuring of the Discussion

105 Following the idea of Reviewer 2, we now structured the Discussion in (sub-  
106 )sections and moved the previously discombobulated information into the re-  
107 spective (sub-)sections. We hope that this makes the Discussion more coherent  
108 and thus more intelligible.

## 109 1.6 Icebergs

110 Reviewer 1 stated the following: *"I commend the authors for incorporating an*  
111 *interactive iceberg model into their setup, but unfortunately no results from this*  
112 *model component are shown. For example, it would be very interesting to see a*  
113 *map of the meltwater distribution from icebergs released from the glaciers outside*  
114 *of Greenland, which should also help interpreting some ocean changes away from*  
115 *the coasts."*

116 To address this comment we added a plot showing the difference in iceberg  
117 meltwater distribution. To accomodate for this plot, we changed the title of the  
118 subsection 3.1.4 to *Arctic Ocean, Sea Ice, and Icebergs* and added the follow-  
119 ing to the text: *"As expected from the difference in calving input between the*  
120 *halfsolid and the noOGGM simulations, Fig. A11 shows areas of statistically*  
121 *significant iceberg melt increase around Svalbard and the Russian Arctic islands.*  
122 *Moreover, we find more iceberg melt throughout the Arctic ocean, although this*  
123 *is not statistically significant. Since the presence of icebergs from Greenland in*  
124 *Baffin Bay and the CAA straits is already large, the addition of calving from the*  
125 *CAA in the halfsolid NEMO does not significantly alter the iceberg melt pattern*  
126 *in that region."* Note that we used the the figure-numbering from the revised  
127 manuscript here, as the plot did not exist in the previous version.

## 128 1.7 Boundary currents

129 Reviewer 2 stated: *"I am curious as to how boundary currents are represented*  
130 *in the simulations. As near surface, shelf currents transport the majority of*  
131 *freshwater input from the coast, there is a certain degree that must be resolved.*  
132 *Is 1/4th degree sufficient? What is the role that shelf currents may play on*  
133 *freshwater pathways, particularly in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago which is*  
134 *made up of a network of straits and basins?"*

135 Since our configuration of NEMO uses a tri-polar grid, resolution is finer closer  
136 to the pole in the CAA than might be expected at 1/4 degree (see Fig. A1). As  
137 shown in papers such as Garcia-Quintana et al. (2019, doi: 10.1029/2018JC014459),  
138 this means resolutions of 10-14 km in the CAA region. Although such a reso-  
139 lution can still not represent the inshore coastal components of the boundary  
140 currents (which need resolutions of 1/20 degree or higher - e.g. Gou et al. (2022,  
141 doi: 10.1029/2022JC018404), simulations at this resolution do a solid job of rep-  
142 resenting the main shelf break boundary currents (e.g., Gillard et al. (2022, doi:  
143 10.1016/j.ocemod.2022.101974). Hu et al. (2019, doi: 10.1029/2019JC015111)  
144 also showed that twin 1/4 and 1/12 degree simulations had very similar trans-  
145 ports through the CAA. In summary, we agree with the reviewer that a higher  
146 resolution will do a better job of representing the details of the current structure  
147 in the CAA region. But as we argue above, 1/4 degree provides an acceptable  
148 representation of the circulation in the region. And unfortunately it is com-  
149 pletely impractical to run sensitivity experiments at resolution higher than a  
150 1/4 degree - our last ANHA12 experiment effectively took a year of real time

151 to run 20 years, and that was a single realization based on our learnings from  
152 the 1/4 degree ANHA4 configuration.

153 On the CAA transports we added the following to the Discussion: "*Concerning*  
154 *transports across the CAA, Hu et al. (2019) showed that twin 1/4 and 1/12*  
155 *degree simulations were similar in this regard.*"

## 156 1.8 Model evaluation

157 While we agree that more model evaluation would certainly be valuable, it is out  
158 of the scope of this study. Our aim was to establish a first estimate of the ice-  
159 ocean coupling effects outside Greenland, and the manuscript is already lengthy.  
160 Though systematically wrong model behaviour might impact our results, we  
161 deem it unlikely that the model setup we chose is fundamentally so flawed  
162 that it would nullify our findings. We added the following to the Discussion:  
163 "*Finally, a thorough evaluation of the model results with observations could*  
164 *reveal whether the inclusion of glacial melt runoff outside Greenland actually*  
165 *enhances the model's fidelity.*"

166 We rewrote the end of section 2.1 to also add more references on previous  
167 NEMO-ANHA4 evaluation efforts : "*Apart from our newly added freshwater*  
168 *flux, NEMO-ANHA4 setups akin to the one described here have been used be-*  
169 *fore to study ocean circulation processes in the northern high-latitudes (Marson*  
170 *et al., 2021; Hu et al., 2019; Castro de la Guardia et al., 2015). Furthermore,*  
171 *NEMO-ANHA4 has been evaluated in previous studies on aspects as, for exam-*  
172 *ple, circulation in the northern Baffin Bay (Ballinger et al., 2022), eastern CAA*  
173 *(Izett et al., 2022), and Labrador Sea (Gillard et al., 2022; Pennelly and Myers,*  
174 *2021; Garcia-Quintana et al., 2019; Holdsworth and Myers, 2015), as well as on*  
175 *eddy (Müller et al., 2017) and sea-ice features (Bouchat et al., 2022; Hutter et*  
176 *al., 2022; Ballinger et al., 2022). The model proved to generally agree well with*  
177 *observations, and further evaluation is not in the scope of this work.*"

## 178 2 Reviewer 1: line comments

179 **RC:** *L34 and following: Some more recent references such as Swingedouw et*  
180 *al. (2022), Martin and Biastoch (2023), Devilliers et al. (2024), could be added*  
181 *here.*

182 **AR:** We incorporated the mentioned references and did some changes to the  
183 paragraph; see answer to comment below.

184

185 **RC:** *L35: As far as I can see, these studies all cover the historical period. Have*  
186 *there been any studies on the impact of glacier meltwater on ocean circulation*  
187 *in future projections? Or in more idealized setups?*

188 **AR:** Since we study a historical period, we previously only included studies do-  
189 ing this as well. On the suggestion of the reviewer, we now also added references

190 on future periods. The part of the manuscript now reads as follows:

191 ” While there has been previous research on the impact of Greenland melt on  
192 modeled ocean properties, mostly focusing on the AMOC, they have either added  
193 an idealized high ‘worst-case scenario’ ( $\sim 0.1$  Sv; e.g., Jackson et al., 2023; Wei-  
194 jer et al., 2012; Castro de la Guardia et al., 2015; Swingedouw et al., 2013) or  
195 realistic historical ( $\sim 0.01$  Sv; e.g., Martin et al., 2022; Martin and Biastoch,  
196 2023; Schiller-Weiss et al., 2024) freshwater flux from Greenland only, or did  
197 not disentangle the impact of the freshwater flux from Greenland and from the  
198 glaciers in regions surrounding it (e.g., Devilliers et al., 2021; Swingedouw et  
199 al., 2022; Devilliers et al., 2024). Since climate models used for decadal or cen-  
200 tennial projections mostly do not include future GrIS melt (Swingedouw et al.,  
201 2022), the influence of GrIS melt on future climate model projections has also  
202 been studied (Jungclaus et al., 2006; Swingedouw et al., 2015; Saenko et al.,  
203 2017).”

204

205 **RC:** L41: “roughly half that of the GrIS”: in which period? Some values would  
206 also be insightful

207 **AR:** We added: “[...] roughly half that of the GrIS over 2010 - 2019 ( $\sim 125$  Gt  
208  $a^{-1}$ , see e.g., Hugonnet et al., 2021; Zemp et al., 2019; Slater et al., 2021) [...]”

209

210 **RC:** L42: increased compared to what?

211 **AR:** For clarity we added: “[...] whether increased freshwater input at the  
212 coasts of the aforementioned regions due to glacial melt does [...]”

213

214 **RC:** L56: Is there no observational study that measured submarine melt (and  
215 could be cited here)?

216 **AR:** We added Sutherland et al., 2019 (doi: 10.1126/science.aax3528).

217

218 **RC:** L92: Since it is referred to several times later, what is the physical or  
219 numerical motivation behind increasing the mixing at discharge locations in  
220 NEMO?

221 **AR:** We added the following sentence subsequently: ” This is to mimic vertical  
222 mixing due to inertial shear at locations where runoff enters the ocean (Horner-  
223 Devine et al., 2015; doi: annurev-fluid-010313-141408) and thus to prevent that  
224 freshwater accumulates too strongly in the top grid cell.”

225

226 **RC:** L102: The causality between lack of data and computational cost of a model  
227 is not clear to me.

228 **AR:** We changed the sentence to: ”Because observational data on glaciers,  
229 needed to constrain more complex representations of glaciological processes (e.g.,

230 ice thickness, spatial distribution of mass balance, albedo, basal velocity) are  
231 scarce, *such processes are not included in the model* and its computational cost  
232 is hence relatively low.”

233

234 **RC:** *L105: Reference Fig. A2 here (and consider moving that figure to the*  
235 *main text). Why use exactly this set of glaciers and not, for example, also the*  
236 *Scandinavian glaciers?*

237 **AR:** We referenced Fig. A2 (as previously named) and moved it to the main  
238 text (now Fig. 2). We also added to the text: ”*Scandinavian glaciers are not*  
239 *included, since their melt rate is roughly one order of magnitude lower than that*  
240 *in the regions we included, and thus unlikely to alter our results meaningfully.*  
241 *Moreover, there are no marine-terminating glaciers in this region.*”

242

243 **RC:** *L141: “halfsolid” is a rather unintuitive name, it sounds more like a sen-*  
244 *sitivity run to test different liquid-to-solid ratios. Please consider renaming*  
245 *it.*

246 **AR:** We see the point in the reviewer’s comment, but chose to stay with that  
247 name for the moment, lacking a convincing alternative. *OGGM* vs. *noOGGM*  
248 are too similar in our opinion. Namings like, e.g., *reference* vs. *sensitivity* can  
249 be confusing, as they do not clearly indicate what they stand for. If we found a  
250 convincing alternative naming, we would be open to adopting it.

251

252 **RC:** *L146: Remove or clarify the parenthesis here, as “baseline” could be am-*  
253 *biguous (Dai and/or Bamber runoff?) to the reader that doesn’t remember Sec-*  
254 *tion 3.1 in detail.*

255 **AR:** Added: ”[...] (excluding the *Dai et al. (2009) baseline runoff*) [...]”

256

257 **RC:** *L146 and following: Why not just quote the numbers for Greenland (which*  
258 *are prescribed and should be the same across both runs) and the contribution*  
259 *from OGGM separately? This would also help reduce the confusion mentioned*  
260 *in the general comments.*

261 **AR:** We changed the whole paragraph/subsection to: ”*In one of our NEMO*  
262 *experiments, we use the OGGM output of glaciers’ surface mass loss in addition*  
263 *to half of the frontal ablation as additional liquid freshwater forcing. The other*  
264 *half of the frontal ablation is added to the iceberg module, as is done for the*  
265 *Greenland solid ice discharge (this experiment hereafter is named halfsolid). We*  
266 *neglect the OGGM-freshwater and -iceberg fluxes in the other NEMO experiment*  
267 *(hereafter called noOGGM). Note that the liquid freshwater and iceberg input*  
268 *along Greenland’s coast is derived from Bamber et al. (2018). This data set*  
269 *contains total runoff and solid ice discharge, including from peripheral glaciers,*  
270 *and is the same in both NEMO runs. While this dataset also contains runoff,*  
271 *but no calving, data for glacierized regions outside Greenland (e.g. Svalbard),*

272 we do not use it for these regions, but add the OGGM-derived glacier mass loss  
273 estimates in the halfsolid run. The distribution of the resulting liquid freshwater  
274 forcing (excluding the Dai et al., 2009 baseline runoff described in the previous  
275 section) is displayed in Fig. 2. Liquid freshwater input along Greenland’s coast  
276 (derived from Bamber et al., 2018), averaged over 2010 to 2019, amounts to  
277 approximately 28.6 mSv ( $\approx 903 \text{ Gt a}^{-1}$ ) in the noOGGM run, while OGGM  
278 adds roughly 3.4 mSv ( $\approx 108 \text{ Gt a}^{-1}$ ) outside Greenland in the halfsolid run.  
279 The calving input distribution is displayed in Fig. A2 and amounts to an average  
280 of approximately 8.7 mSv ( $\approx 248 \text{ Gt a}^{-1}$ ) along the coast of Greenland in the  
281 noOGGM experiment (derived from Bamber et al., 2018). Outside Greenland,  
282 OGGM adds roughly 1.0 mSv ( $\approx 28 \text{ Gt a}^{-1}$ ) of solid freshwater input. This  
283 means that OGGM contributes a total of ca. 4.4 mSv ( $\approx 136 \text{ Gt a}^{-1}$ ) additional  
284 freshwater in the halfsolid run; close to the roughly 4.8 mSv ( $\approx 150 \text{ Gt a}^{-1}$ )  
285 Bamber et al (2018) display in their Fig. 3. Note that for Greenland the Bamber  
286 et al. (2018) data does not only account for ice mass loss, but gives total runoff  
287 values and hence replaces the Dai et al. (2009) baseline runoff along the coast of  
288 Greenland. The liquid freshwater from surface melt and the calving of individual  
289 glaciers deducted from OGGM output are put into the NEMO-ANHA4 grid cell  
290 with the lowest haversine distance to the respective glacier terminus location  
291 recorded in the RGI.”

292 We hope this makes the different freshwater contributions clearer to the reader.  
293

294 **RC:** L149: As a check, it would be good to compare these 4 mSv to observa-  
295 tional estimates (e.g. the “glacier and ice cap runoff outside of Greenland” from  
296 Bamber et al. 2018)

297 **AR:** In Bamber et al. (2018; Fig. 3) the glacier and ice cap runoff outside of  
298 Greenland appears to be  $\sim 4.8 \text{ mSv}$  ( $\approx 150 \text{ Gt a}^{-1}$ ), although it is not clear to  
299 us whether this is solely glacier mass loss, or also includes snow melt/tundra  
300 runoff. Note that the Bamber et al. (2018) also does not include calving data  
301 outside Greenland. We added the following to the manuscript: ”This means  
302 that OGGM contributes a total of ca. 4.4 mSv additional freshwater in the  
303 halfsolid run, close to the roughly 4.8 mSv ( $\approx 150 \text{ Gt a}^{-1}$ ) Bamber et al (2018)  
304 display in their Fig. 3.”

305

306 **RC:** L150: “approximately half the freshwater amount released to the ocean due  
307 to GrIS mass loss”: please provide a reference. Or remove this part, since for  
308 the ocean circulation, it does not really matter whether the freshwater is due to  
309 mass loss or not.

310 **AR:** Removed that part, since we already give this information (with refer-  
311 ences) in the introduction.

312

313 **RC:** L214-220: I do not find that the choice of integrating a relatively large  
314 volume (area\*depth range) is justified well enough here. It is true that we



315 don't know whether picking a single cell "actually reflects water properties at the  
316 glacier front best", but certainly this would be the simplest choice, and therefore  
317 the authors should argue why averaging over a 50km+ radius may reflect the  
318 properties at the glacier front more accurately. Similarly, I do not know how  
319 the bathymetry of this NEMO configuration looks like exactly, but it might vary  
320 between different (near-)coastal grid points, and averaging over different depths  
321 may introduce some unintended artifacts. It would be good to check (perhaps  
322 for some selected glaciers) how sensitive the melt rates are to these choices. Or  
323 is this already covered by one of the parameters in the latin hypercube ensemble?  
324

325 **AR:** There are two arguments that can be made in favor of not taking solely  
326 the nearest ocean grid point, but a radius. The first argument would be that  
327 in the case of complex coastal topography (i.e. in the CAA), the situation can  
328 arise that the nearest ocean model grid cell actually is not the one nearest to  
329 the opening of the fjord the glacier sits in. The second argument is that with  
330 a varying grid size, the (horizontal) size of the reservoir the thermal forcing is  
331 sourced from also varies. It is imaginable that in a setup, probably with higher  
332 resolution than in our case, the width of a fjord is larger than the ocean model  
333 grid size. In that case taking the data from more than one ocean model grid  
334 cell would be necessary to estimate the thermal forcing the fjord receives from  
335 the ocean. (Note that we use a distance-weighted averaging. Hence, the nearest  
336 grid cell still has the largest influence on the thermal forcing.)

337 We added the following to the manuscript: "*In the case of complex coastal*  
338 *topography (for instance in the CAA), the situation can arise where the nearest*  
339 *ocean model grid cell is not actually the one nearest to the opening of the glacier's*  
340 *fjord. While the value of the radius could be adjusted in future work, it also*  
341 *ensures that the thermal forcing's source area is similar among glaciers, as the*  
342 *horizontal resolution is a function of the horizontal position in the modeling*  
343 *domain (see. Fig. A1)."*

344 It is not clear to us what unintended artifacts could appear by averaging over  
345 different depths. We use a depth-weighted averaging for each grid cell, hoping  
346 this information can attenuate the concerns. To the respective sentence we  
347 added: "[...] compute a depth-averaged (*weighted by vertical level thickness*)  
348 value [...]".

349 As already alluded to by the reviewer, two parameters in the equation we used  
350 to estimate submarine melt rates are related to the ocean-glacier heat transfer  
351 ( $B$  and  $\beta$ ). Thus, a change in the thermal forcing by using a different approach  
352 for sourcing the thermal forcing should (at least to certain extent) be attenuated  
353 by latin hypercube sampling.

354 Ultimately, it is impossible to tell at the moment whether a change in the  
355 thermal forcing source region would improve or deteriorate the accuracy of the  
356 results, since submarine melt is only constrained by observed total frontal ablation  
357 and uncertainties in this quantity are thus large. Hence, we argue that our

358 approach, while it could certainly be improved, is suitable for a first estimate.  
359 And while checking the influence of the thermal forcing source region would  
360 certainly be valuable, it might not add crucial information to an already quite  
361 extensive manuscript. We already stated the following in the manuscript: "An-  
362 other aspect that could be further investigated concerning the submarine melt  
363 parameterization is which part of the ocean in the marine-terminating glaciers'  
364 vicinity should be used to source the thermal forcing from before inserting it  
365 in Eq. 2. Refining the distance from the glacier termini as well as the ocean  
366 depth range that should be taken into account could help to better constrain  
367 submarine melt estimates."  
368

369 **RC:** *L230-234: I suggest removing this note about water masses. It sounds*  
370 *overly negative and does not add anything to the analysis.*

371 **AR:** Removed that part.

372  
373 **RC:** *L247: For stratification, it would be informative to show a comparison*  
374 *of the potential density (and maybe T-S) profiles averaged over a suitable re-*  
375 *gion.*

376 **AR:** While we agree that much more analysis could be done, this would go  
377 beyond the scope of this manuscript, which is a first overview. We added the  
378 following to the Discussion: "An examination of stratification and vertical heat  
379 losses could further refine the processes producing the simulated changes."  
380

381 **RC:** *L253: Why does the east-west SSH gradient change qualitatively in the*  
382 *same way when adding freshwater at either the eastern or western side? This*  
383 *does not seem intuitive.*

384 **AR:** We now added a SSH difference plot (now Fig. 3d) to the main text  
385 and moved the SSH gradient/volume flux plot to the Appendix (now Fig. A3).  
386 We also slightly changed the method of selecting the points for calculating the  
387 gradient (using only the last 5 years instead of all years, which is more consis-  
388 tent). Moreover, to make things clearer to the reader we changed the text to  
389 the following: "[...] We find an increase in sea surface height (SSH) gradient  
390 from the eastern and western shelves of Baffin Bay towards its center (see Figs.  
391 3d and A3). As the additional freshwater input in the halfsolid run takes place  
392 along the western coast of Baffin Bay, the increase in SSH gradient we find from  
393 the west towards the center of the gyre is roughly double the gradient we find  
394 from the east. This increase in SSH gradient from the (west) coast towards the  
395 center of Baffin Bay leads to a stronger cyclonic circulation [...]" (Upon a new  
396 look at Fig. 2 in Castro de la Guardia et al. (2015), we found that the order  
397 of magnitude statement was not accurate, because their figure shows the actual  
398 gradient and not differences to a reference. Hence, we deleted that statement.)  
399

400 **RC:** *L279: Does Fig. 6 show annual means? If the focus is on deep convection,*  
401 *would it be more useful to show/discuss March or winter means (at least for*  
402 *mixed layer depth) instead?*

403 **AR:** Changed to JFM differences, which are qualitatively similar, but natu-  
404 rally have higher values.

405

406 **RC:** *L281: But surely the interannual variability is not independent between*  
407 *the two model runs, since some/most of it is determined by the surface forc-*  
408 *ing?*

409 **AR:** Yes, it certainly is not independent. Changed to only: "[...] *are within*  
410 *the observed interannual/natural variability (Kieke and Yashayaev, 2015).*"

411

412 **RC:** *L304: Here it could be mentioned that the lack of a signal in the deep*  
413 *ocean (e.g., the AMOC lower limb) could also be due to the short simulation*  
414 *time, especially since the freshwater signal will take some time to transit from*  
415 *the main input regions to the subpolar North Atlantic.*

416 **AR:** Changed the sentence to: "[...] *the differences between and/or the length*  
417 *of our model runs might just not be large enough to have an effect on that large-*  
418 *scale circulation feature (Böning et al., 2016; Garcia-Quintana et al., 2019).*"

419

420 **RC:** *L312: Percentage changes of FW flux are not really useful, since they de-*  
421 *pend on the reference salinity (e.g., Schauer & Losch 2019), especially if, like*  
422 *here, the baseline FW flux is not too far from zero. If the aim is to decompose*  
423 *FW transport anomalies, it would be more appropriate to apply a decomposi-*  
424 *tion into a velocity anomaly and a salinity anomaly (and a nonlinear residual)*  
425 *term.*

426 **AR:** We agree that the freshwater content/transport concept is problematic  
427 and we changed that part to the following to avoid any misleading/confusing  
428 statements: "[...] *The volume flux out of the Barents Sea increases (Fig. 9c),*  
429 *leading to a net volume flux decrease of 0.11 Sv ( $\approx 4\%$ ). However, some of*  
430 *the additional freshwater input from Svalbard and the Russian Arctic remains*  
431 *in the western Barents Sea and in the Kara Sea (see Fig. A12).*" Note that Fig.  
432 9 was formerly Fig. 10.

433

434 **RC:** *L314: "freshwater input leaving through the BSO is salinified": The two*  
435 *opposing pairs of words make this statement very confusing.*

436 **AR:** Resolved by the changes made based on the comment above.

437

438 **RC:** *L317 and Fig. 10: How is "positive volume flux" defined here?*

439 **AR:** We already wrote "northward (positive)", but now added "[...] *through*

440 *Fram Strait*” to the end of the sentence.

441

442 **RC:** *L346: Especially for the western Greenland Sea, I would also expect sea*  
443 *ice advection from the Arctic Ocean to play an important role in setting sea ice*  
444 *thickness. Could you check the differences in sea ice volume transport across*  
445 *Fram Strait and the BSO between your two simulations?*

446 **AR:** We added the following sentence to the section: ” *We also find a decrease*  
447 *of 1 % in the southward (negative) sea ice velocity’s absolute value across Fram*  
448 *Strait ( $p < 0.05$ ; not shown).*”. Please also see the response to the comment  
449 after the next.

450

451 **RC:** *Fig. 10a+d: The p-values (not significant) and line styles (significant) are*  
452 *contradicting each other.*

453 **AR:** As stated in the figure caption(s): ”Values in the lower left corners show  
454 the p-values of Wilcoxon signed-rank tests of differences between the differences  
455 of the first and last five modeled years.”. This means it is the statistical signif-  
456 icance of the difference between the data along the blue and the red line.

457

458 **RC:** *L358: I also find it surprising that there is less sea ice in the “halfsolid”*  
459 *run, I would have expected the opposite for two reasons: a) the meltwater should*  
460 *strengthen the halocline, and b) the latent heat flux from melting icebergs should*  
461 *cool the ocean surface locally. Could you comment on this a bit more? Plotting*  
462 *the seasonal cycle of sea ice thickness and a comparison with Marson et al.*  
463 *(2021) might provide some insights.*

464 **AR:** While we agree that the mechanisms pointed out by the reviewer would  
465 counteract an increase in heat supply to the sea ice, the dynamic/kinematic  
466 change would be unchanged. We now added a plot of differences in sea ice  
467 production to have a look closer look at where which effect (thermodynamic vs.  
468 dynamic) dominates where. It shows that there indeed are areas of increased  
469 sea ice production (CAA, Barents/Kara Sea), but also areas of decreased sea  
470 ice production (Svalbard and western Greenland Sea), which leads to a (slight)  
471 overall decrease in sea ice thickness. We changed the paragraph on sea ice in the  
472 manuscript incorporating the new figure: ”[...] *The smaller increase in upper*  
473 *layer temperature in the CAA compared to the Fram Strait and eastern Green-*  
474 *land areas suggests that other factors than increased ocean heat content play a*  
475 *role there. The decrease in ice thickness in the CAA is driven by less sea ice*  
476 *advection, since the increase in SSH across the region leads to a divergent flow*  
477 *out of the area (see Figs. 5d and A9). This is also reflected in Fig. A10 showing*  
478 *more sea ice production in the CAA area in the halfsolid run, likely due to the*  
479 *decreasing salinity increasing the freezing point. As expected from the higher*  
480 *temperatures in Baffin Bay in the halfsolid run, the sea ice is slightly thinner*  
481 *in this area as well, although differences in sea ice production are heterogeneous*  
482 *(see Fig. A10). This indicates that dynamical factors, i.e. more southward sea*

483 ice transport through Davis Strait, also play a role here. The only area where  
484 we find a slightly increased sea ice thickness is between the Barents and Kara  
485 Seas, which is most probably related to the decreased heat transport into Barents  
486 Sea due to the rerouting of Atlantic water described above, as well as a local  
487 increase in the freezing point. The net difference in sea ice thickness in the  
488 northern hemisphere between the two NEMO experiments is intriguing, since  
489 we only add freshwater to the ocean, which should not increase its heat content.  
490 This suggests that increased high-latitude freshwater input due to glacial melt  
491 can decrease sea ice thickness by the changes in ocean circulation it induces.”.  
492 Note that Figs. 5d and A9 were formerly Figs. 13 and A16, and that Fig. A10  
493 is the newly created sea ice production figure.

494  
495 **RC:** L359: It is unclear what you mean by “structural changes”

496 **AR:** Changed the sentence to: *This suggests that increased high-latitude fresh-*  
497 *water input due to glacial melt can decrease sea ice thickness by the changes in*  
498 *ocean circulation it induces.*

499  
500 **RC:** Fig. 14/Table 1: Layperson question: *Is there no contribution from surface*  
501 *runoff or basal melting from these glaciers?*

502 **AR:** The quantity we are interested in here is frontal ablation, as this is relevant  
503 for the ice-ocean coupling. Frontal ablation is usually defined as calving plus  
504 submarine melt. Since we are only interested in frontal ablation we only show  
505 these two quantities. Differences in surface melt might be caused by differences  
506 in surface thinning close to the glacier front, but will be marginal. Basal melt  
507 is not included in the model, as stated in section 2.2.

508  
509 **RC:** L403: *It would be good to remind the reader what the Castro de la Guardia*  
510 *et al. paper was about.*

511 **AR:** Changed the sentence to ”[...] *who investigated the impact of increased*  
512 *freshwater input along the (west) coast of Greenland on the Baffin Bay circula-*  
513 *tion and its exchanges with the Arctic through the CAA, [...]*”

514  
515 **RC:** L403 and following: *Why compare only with Castro de la Guardia et al.?*  
516 *How about other papers from the introduction? Of course, the setup is not*  
517 *identical, but especially for regional features Devilliers et al. (2021, 2024) might*  
518 *provide a useful comparison with a lower-resolution ocean model.*

519 **AR:** We added the following paragraph to the Discussion: ” *While there have*  
520 *been numerous studies on the effect of Greenland melt on modeled Labrador Sea*  
521 *convection and subsequently the AMOC, it is not straightforward to compare*  
522 *their results to ours. That is because in this study we focus on the impact of*  
523 *freshwater added in different locations, which naturally leads to different im-*  
524 *pacts on the ocean circulation. Still, one location that is comparable is the*

525 SPG/Labrador Sea region, as at least some fraction of the additional freshwater  
526 we included in the halfsolid run will impact that area. We see that the patterns  
527 in SSH differences between our two runs are qualitatively consistent with previ-  
528 ous studies (Saenko et al., 2017; Stammer et al., 2011). This pattern consist  
529 of a larger SSH in the Labrador Sea/western SPG area and a lower SSH in the  
530 eastern SPG (see Fig. 7). The differences in mixed layer depth we find, are  
531 also consistent with previous studies (Schiller-Weiss et al. 2024; Devilliers et  
532 al., 2021). The mixed layer depth is decreased in the Labrador Sea and increased  
533 in the eastern SPG, though this increase is not statistically significant in our  
534 case (see Fig. 6). Areas of increased mixed layer depth that are intertwined  
535 with the areas of negative differences in the Labrador Sea are also presented in  
536 Schiller-Weiss et al. (2024), while they are not in Devilliers et al. (2021). Us-  
537 ing a freshwater forcing around Greenland similar to the one used in Devilliers  
538 et al. (2021), but a different climate model, Devilliers et al. (2024) find the  
539 opposite mixed layer depth response (increase in the Labrador Sea and decrease  
540 in the eastern SPG). Overall, these comparisons with previous studies suggest  
541 that the additional freshwater from glacial melt outside Greenland in the half-  
542 solid run might exacerbate the impact of increasing Greenland freshwater input  
543 in the Labrador Sea/SPG area.

544

545 **RC:** L417: I do not find the comparison with the PIOMAS trends from Labe  
546 et al. very convincing, since from my reading their magnitude (over the en-  
547 tire 1979-2015 period) is at least one order of magnitude larger than your val-  
548 ues.

549 **AR:** It is not necessarily one order of magnitude, since our color scale is cut  
550 off at the extreme values. And while it is to be expected that our values are  
551 smaller, since additional freshwater input from glaciers outside Greenland is  
552 presumably only a minor contributor to total changes in sea ice thickness, the  
553 spatial patterns are still consistent with Labe et al. (2018) in some areas. We  
554 changed the wording to a less strong statement though: "[...], it is intriguing  
555 that Labe et al. (2018) find *negative trends of sea ice thickness between 1979 to*  
556 *2015 in some similar areas.*

557

558 **RC:** L421-434: The discussion around individual figures is probably a bit too  
559 detailed here – one would need to flip back and forth between this paragraph and  
560 the figures (in the results section) quite a bit.

561 **AR:** We now start this paragraph with the following sentence: "Placing our  
562 results for the SPG circulation (see Figs. 6 and A7) further in the context of  
563 existing literature, we find [...]", and removed the following references to the  
564 figures in the paragraph. Note that Fig. A7 was previously Fig. A10.

565

566 **RC:** L473-485: Which of these many possibilities do you find most interest-  
567 ing/relevant? It might be worth focusing this part a bit.

568 **AR:** Due to the restructuring of the Discussion described above (in the response  
569 to the general comments), we now have a subsection "Simulation length". Here,  
570 we go a bit more into detail on this issue.

571

572 **RC:** *L490: Do slower quantities (temperature, salinity, sea ice) not suffer from*  
573 *a (potentially longer) initialization shock either?*

574 **AR:** Any drift due to initialization will be similar in our two setups. Thus,  
575 it is not clear to us how this would hinder a meaningful (first) exploration of  
576 the added glacier melt's impact on near-surface conditions. (We made a similar  
577 statement in the Discussion.)

578

579 **RC:** *Fig. A17: Are you sure the units of this figure are correct? 150 Sv is on*  
580 *the order of the ACC transport. . .*

581 **AR:** Yes, this is the northward (not net) transport across 47°N, mostly driven  
582 by the North Atlantic Current, which is consistent with, e.g., Mertens et al.  
583 (2014, doi: 10.1002/2014JC010019).

584

585 **RC:** *L549: "even" Why is this surprising?*

586 **AR:** Removed "even".

587

588 **RC:** *How is the baseline (Dai et al.) runoff treated over the OGGM model area?*  
589 *Surely some river runoff in this area is sourced from (seasonal) glacier melt in*  
590 *the first place, so how is double-counting avoided?*

591 **AR:** Upon inspection of Fig. 1 in Dai et al. (2009) we found that there is  
592 no river runoff measurement station in the regions where we added the glacial  
593 melt runoff (except for Iceland). In Dai & Trenberth (2002, doi: 10.1175/1525-  
594 7541(2002)003;0660:EOFDFC;2.0.CO;2), which Dai et al. (2009) is based on,  
595 they state that the approach they use to close such data gaps does not explic-  
596 itly account for changes in land water storage (which includes glaciers). More-  
597 over, glacier area in Svalbard, the Russian Arctic, and the CAA is around 50  
598 % marine-terminating; the runoff of such glaciers will probably not end up in  
599 rivers, decreasing the danger of double-counting. We changed the following sen-  
600 tence: "The Dai et al. (2009) data does not cover our model period from 2010 to  
601 2019 and does not explicitly account for runoff caused by (marine-terminating)  
602 glacier mass loss."

603

604 **RC:** *Why was this specific modelling period chosen? 2010–2019 is quite short*  
605 *(probably too short for the AMOC, see above) and it is unfortunate that it does*  
606 *not fully overlap with the Bamber et al. coverage.*

607 **AR:** There is no specific reason for this period other than that we aimed at  
608 modeling the most recent decade we had atmospheric reanalysis and glacier

609 model data for when we started the work. While we agree that it is unfortunate  
610 that the chosen period does not fully overlap with the Bamber et al. data, we  
611 do not think that this challenges the main findings from our generally somewhat  
612 idealized model setup, as the Greenland runoff is not the freshwater forcing we  
613 are actually interested in. Moreover, we aimed at a first estimate of the effect of  
614 increased freshwater input from (high-latitude) glacial melt outside Greenland  
615 and not at an optimized hindcast. We also mentioned this issue in the Discus-  
616 sion.

617

618 **RC:** *Is any salinity restoring used?*

619 **AR:** We added the following sentence to section 2.1.: *"No salinity restoring*  
620 *was employed, as that would tend to dampen the freshwater signal and hence*  
621 *suppress the response to the perturbation in the forcing we are interested in."*

622

### 623 **Technical corrections**

624 **RC:** *L84: Put a line break here*

625 **AR:** Done.

626

627 **RC:** *L96: Enderlin 2016 say "up to" 50%*

628 **AR:** Changed "roughly" to "up to" in the sentence.

629

630 **RC:** *L346 simulation -i simulations*

631 **AR:** Done.

632

633 **RC:** *L404 units are missing*

634 **AR:** Added a "K".

635

636 **RC:** *L541 and following: The use of past and present tense is inconsistent here,*  
637 *please decide on one of the two.*

638 **AR:** We decided for the present tense now.

639

## 640 **3 Reviewer 2: line comments**

641 **RC:** *L10: Regarding the abstract, there could be a few more words on the rea-*  
642 *soning behind the increase in Baffin Bay's heat content. Particularly some more*  
643 *specifics could be given, rather than just stating "changes in the subpolar gyre's*  
644 *structure".*



645 **AR:** Changed the sentence to: "[...] *increase in heat content of Baffin Bay*  
646 *due to an enhanced gyre circulation that leads to an increased heat transport*  
647 *through Davis Strait. We also find changes in the subpolar gyre's structure; an*  
648 *increase/decrease in density/SSH in the eastern part and vice versa in the west-*  
649 *ern part. [...]"*

650

651 **RC:** *L35-37: Can some magnitudes of Greenland melt be offered? For ex-*  
652 *ample, artificial hosing experiments typically consist of .1 Sv (Jackson et al.*  
653 *2018) while current magnitudes of Greenland FWFs are at .01 Sv (Martin et*  
654 *al. 2022)*

655 **AR:** Added the orders of magnitude to the text. (Also see answer to Reviewer  
656 1's comment on "L35")

657

658 **RC:** *L56: Would replace the word intricate with complex*

659 **AR:** Replaced.

660

661 **RC:** *L70: Rather a long sentence. Would recommend shortening it or breaking*  
662 *it into two parts*

663 **AR:** Changed to: "*We then explore the differences in results obtained from*  
664 *the two different NEMO and OGM experiments. By this we aim to obtain*  
665 *a first-order estimate of the effect ice-ocean coupling outside Greenland has on*  
666 *ocean properties as well as on marine-terminating glacier mass loss."*

667

668 **RC:** *L85/L89: Does Dai et al. 2009 provide only the continental runoff i.e.*  
669 *river discharge or does it also provide glacial runoff? Bamber et al. 2018*  
670 *provides freshwater fluxes from Greenland and the Arctic, so do you include*  
671 *both freshwater from continental runoff (Dai et al. 2009) as a baseline and*  
672 *also add runoff from Bamber simultaneously? Can you clarify which freshwater*  
673 *forcing you use and when per data set, as this part is not clear for me*

674 **AR:** This part of subsection 2.1 now reads as follows and we hope this re-  
675 solves the lack of clarity: "*The Dai et al. (2009) data does not cover our model*  
676 *period from 2010 to 2019 and does not explicitly account for runoff caused by*  
677 *(marine-terminating) glacier mass loss. We therefore applied the 1997 to 2007*  
678 *monthly average baseline runoff. Freshwater input from Greenland is derived by*  
679 *remapping the data published by Bamber et al. (2018) to the NEMO-ANHA4*  
680 *grid. This data gives the total runoff, including from the ice sheet and peripheral*  
681 *glaciers, thus replacing the Dai et al. (2009) baseline runoff in this region. As*  
682 *this data set only ranges to the end of 2016, we use the 2010 to 2016 average*  
683 *for the three missing years. Note that the Bamber et al. (2018) data also pro-*  
684 *vides runoff, but no calving, estimates for other high-latitude glacierized regions*  
685 *in the northern hemisphere (e.g., Svalbard), but we only use the estimates for*  
686 *Greenland. The handling of additional freshwater from other glacierized regions*

687 *is described in section 2.3.1.*" Note that section 2.3.1 was formerly section 2.4.  
688

689 **RC:** *L86-L90: Since both the Dai et al. 2009 and Bamber et al. 2019 freshwater*  
690 *forcings do not cover the entire time period (2010 - 2019), can a sentence be*  
691 *added on what may be assumed using some climatological means? Particularly*  
692 *as 2019 was an anomalous year of Greenland melt and using a mean of 2010 -*  
693 *2016 will likely smooth out that interannual variability. What are the potential*  
694 *implications of using a 2010 - 2016 mean?*

695 **AR:** Later in the manuscript (Discussion) we stated the following: "Addition-  
696 ally, the baseline runoff and the Bamber et al. (2018) data not covering the  
697 whole modeling period, might induce some uncertainty in our results, since the  
698 impact of the additional freshwater we examined could be altered. If, for in-  
699 stance, the ratio of the additional freshwater in the halfsolid run to the baseline  
700 plus Greenland runoff was larger (smaller), the impact would presumably be  
701 larger (smaller) as well." We think that the Discussion is the suitable place  
702 to critically reflect on the model setup choices we made, while the Data and  
703 Methods section should be mainly descriptive.  
704

705 **RC:** *L92: Why does the additional runoff entail an increase in the diffusivity?*  
706 *Can this be elaborated on further? Would this affect local sea ice formation*  
707 *along the shelves?*

708 **AR:** We added the following sentence: "*This is to mimic vertical mixing due to*  
709 *inertial shear at locations where runoff enters the ocean (Horner-Devine et al.,*  
710 *2015; doi: annurev-fluid-010313-141408), and thus to prevent that freshwater*  
711 *accumulates too strongly in the top grid cell." As this affects vertical mixing in*  
712 *the upper 30m, it might affect sea ice formation, but we presume it would be*  
713 *of second order, since it is confined to the grid cells where runoff enters the ocean.*  
714

715 **RC:** *L121: What is the influence of basal melt and how is it represented in the*  
716 *glacier model? Are basal melt rates typically smaller than submarine melting*  
717 *rates?*

718 **AR:** Basal melt is not included in OGGM. If by basal melt the removal of  
719 ice by melting at the (grounded) base is meant: This is one of the mentioned  
720 "intricate processes", since it is hard to quantify/parameterize. Thus, it is im-  
721 plicitly included in the surface mass balance. If by "basal melt" the submarine  
722 melt of ice shelves is meant: We do not permit the formation of ice shelves in  
723 OGGM, since this would require a special numerical representation of those,  
724 which is complex, and the large majority of marine-terminating glaciers that  
725 are not connected to the ice sheets do not possess a floating tongue anymore.  
726 To avoid confusion about this, we changed one sentence to the following: "[...]  
727 and neglects more intricate processes such as refreezing, basal melt, or the sur-  
728 face energy balance." We also added the following sentence to the subsection:  
729 "*For simplicity, and since the large majority of northern hemisphere marine-*

730 *terminating glaciers outside the Greenland ice sheet do not possess a floating*  
731 *tongue anymore, we neglect the formation of ice shelves in OGGM.*

732

733 **RC:** *Fig A2: It's a bit unclear to me if the freshwater forcing (liquid and solid)*  
734 *is distributed uniformly around the Canadian Arctic? Bamber et al. 2018 non-*  
735 *uniformly distributes freshwater along the coastlines. Can this be reiterated or*  
736 *stated in section 2.4 OGGM to NEMO?*

737 **AR:** We amended the following sentence like this: "The liquid freshwater from  
738 surface melt and the calving of individual glaciers deducted from OGGM out-  
739 put are put *non-uniformly* into the NEMO-ANHA4 grid cell with the lowest  
740 haversine distance."

741

742 **RC:** *L149-L150: I am confused about this sentence, the OCGM has 4 mSv of*  
743 *more freshwater than in the halfsolid run, which is about half of the freshwater*  
744 *released from Greenland? Can this be clarified?*

745 **AR:** Based on a comment by Reviewer 1 above ("L146 and following"), we  
746 partly rewrote the subsection to hopefully avoid confusion now. We initially  
747 wanted to express that the glacial melt in the regions regarded outside Green-  
748 land is half that of the glacial melt taking place across Greenland. But since  
749 this statement was already made in the introduction, we removed it from this  
750 subsection, as it seemingly caused confusion in the way we put it.

751

752 **RC:** *L214: Can you clarify why you use a 50km radius upon obtaining the*  
753 *thermal forcing values?*

754 **AR:** We gave a detailed response to a similar remark by Reviewer 1 ("L214-  
755 220"). As a result, we added the following to the manuscript: "*In the case of*  
756 *complex coastal topography (for instance in the CAA), the situation can arise*  
757 *where the nearest ocean model grid cell is not actually the one nearest to the*  
758 *opening of the glacier's fjord. While the value of the radius could be adjusted*  
759 *in future work, it also ensures that the thermal forcing's source area is similar*  
760 *among glaciers, as the horizontal resolution is a function of the horizontal po-*  
761 *sition in the modeling domain (see. Fig. A1)."*

762

763 **RC:** *L219: Over which depths do you average? The full depth range near the*  
764 *terminus of the glacier? Is this a relatively shallow depth range?*

765 **AR:** Yes, the full depth range of the included cells. Table 2 gives the average  
766 depth of these, which is relatively shallow (125 - 250 m, depending on the region).

767

768 **RC:** *L229: This is a long sentence. I would recommend rephrasing something*  
769 *along the lines of: "we use the term Atlantic for water (warmer and saltier)*

770 moving from the Atlantic towards the Arctic Ocean, and the term Arctic for  
771 water (cooler and fresher) moving in the opposite direction.”

772 **AR:** Changed to: “[...] we use the term Atlantic for (warmer and saltier)  
773 water moving from the Atlantic towards the Arctic Ocean, and the term Arctic  
774 for (cooler and fresher) water moving in the opposite direction.”

775

776 **RC:** L235: Can a reference or two be added confirming most of the oceanic  
777 changes occurring in these depth ranges (0 - 200m and 200 - 600m)?

778 **AR:** We changed the wording to the following: “In the following sections we  
779 will focus on the depth ranges 0-200 m, and 200-600 m, where we found most  
780 significant changes. We chose these two ranges to represent the upper layer,  
781 and the interface between the upper and the intermediate layer; in these two  
782 layers most Atlantic water masses are present and/or formed (Liu and Tan-  
783 hua, 2021). The upper 600 m are also most relevant to potential feedbacks with  
784 marine-terminating glacier mass loss induced by submarine melt, as marine-  
785 terminating glaciers outside Greenland rarely exceed 500 m water depth.”

786

787 **RC:** L239: It appears the cooler area along the western coast is not statistically  
788 significant, based on the significance testing

789 **AR:** Added: “[...] slight (*non-significant*) cooling, [...]”

790

791 **RC:** L247: Regarding stratification, when looking at difference maps of stratifi-  
792 cation say averaged over the top 200m, do you see an overall positive difference  
793 between the two runs?

794 **AR:** We had an initial look at stratification, but it did not appear to change  
795 significantly. We also added the following to the Discussion: “An examination  
796 of stratification and vertical heat losses could further refine the processes pro-  
797 ducing the simulated changes.”

798

799 **RC:** L254: Why might there be such a discrepancy in the increase in SSH  
800 gradient at the east compared to Castro de la Guardia et al. 2015? Is it due to  
801 the freshwater forcing magnitudes?

802 **AR:** Upon a new look at Fig. 2 in Castro de la Guardia et al. (2015), we found  
803 that the order of magnitude statement was not accurate, because their figure  
804 shows the actual gradient and not differences to a reference. Hence, we deleted  
805 that statement. We also made changes to this subsection based on a comment  
806 by Reviewer 1 (“L253”) above, and hope this makes it clearer to the reader.

807

808 **RC:** Fig 3: I’m a bit confused as to the difference between the dashed and  
809 solid blue lines. The horizontal lines represent the differences between the two  
810 runs which are statistically significant? I would suggest adding to the legend

811 *indicating the black, blue (dashed/solid), and red lines. This may help to clarify*  
812 *the figure.*

813 **AR:** This figure was now moved to the Appendix. The caption of the line plot  
814 figures already stated the following: "Differences between the two NEMO runs  
815 that are statistically significant, according to Wilcoxon signed-rank tests ( $p <$   
816  $0.05$ ), are drawn as solid lines and dashed otherwise.". We slightly shortened  
817 the, admittedly rather long, caption and moved that sentence further up to  
818 make the figure clearer to the reader.

819

820 **RC:** *L273: Can you elaborate on the vertical mixing coefficient here as a way*  
821 *to remind the readers, i.e. more mixing resulting in a potential decrease in*  
822 *temperature in the upper 200m layers?*

823 **AR:** Changed to: "Again, the *increased* vertical mixing coefficient, *exposing*  
824 *more water to the cold atmosphere*, might play a role here as well."

825

826 **RC:** *L280: Is the MLD averaged over the whole year, or is it during winter*  
827 *months? Please clarify. I would recommend winter months (JFM) or at least*  
828 *March as the MLD is likely deepest then*

829 **AR:** Changed to JFM differences, which are qualitatively similar, but natu-  
830 rally have higher values.

831

832 **RC:** *L299: Why do you pick 47N latitude to look at the AMOC and transport,*  
833 *can this be justified more? There may not be huge differences but if you take say*  
834 *the OSNAP West section to compute the volume transport, do you get a similar*  
835 *result?*

836 **AR:** We now also checked the AR7W section, which should be quite similar to  
837 the OSNAP West section. Based on this we changed the respective sentence in  
838 the manuscript to the following: "Concerning the AMOC, we neither find a sta-  
839 tistically significant difference in north-/southward or total volume flux across  
840 the 47°N latitude in the Atlantic *or the AR7W section across the Labrador*  
841 *Sea (Yashayaev, 2007)*, nor a significant change in the meridional overturning  
842 streamfunction."

843

844 **RC:** *L309: This may be the first time introducing the Barents Sea Opening and*  
845 *thus the acronym, please add (BSO)*

846 **AR:** Added.

847

848 **RC:** *L320: Can more be clarified, potentially in the methods and model setup*  
849 *description (see general comment), on the NEMO integration time? Or refer*  
850 *the readers to check the model setup discussion?*

851 **AR:** Added: "[...] roughly half of the NEMO integration time (*i.e.*, 5 years),  
852 [...]"

853

854 **RC:** L338: "*Relatively strongly increased salinity*" appears to have opposing  
855 meanings, is it a strong or weaker increase in salinity? Can this be rephrased?

856 **AR:** Removed "relatively strongly".

857

858 **RC:** L344: *Can these plots A14 and A15 be placed side by side or consolidated in*  
859 *some way? It may allow the reader to more clearly see the effect that changes in*  
860 *salinity has on SSH in the interior Arctic (see general comment as well)*

861 **AR:** As described in the answers to the general comments above, we merged  
862 these two figures (amongst others).

863

864 **RC:** L346: *On the part about sea ice thickness, assuming that much of sea ice is*  
865 *advected from the Arctic and thus can influence the thickness, particularly along*  
866 *East Greenland via Fram Strait. Can you comment more on sea ice advection?*  
867 *Or one could check the sea ice thickness change over say an averaged area (*i.e.**  
868 *western Greenland sea) or cross section (Fram Strait) and compare that with*  
869 *the change in sea ice production*

870 **AR:** In response to comments of Reviewer 1 on sea ice thickness ("L346" and  
871 "L358"), we added the following to the subsection: "*We also find a decrease*  
872 *of 1 % in the southward (negative) sea ice velocity's absolute value across Fram*  
873 *Strait ( $p < 0.05$ ).". Moreover, we added a figure of sea ice production and  
874 rewrote the subsection slightly based on this.*

875

876 **RC:** L357: *Rework the sentence starting with "That there is a net sea ice*  
877 *thickness...". I would recommend saying instead: "The decrease in net sea*  
878 *ice thickness in the northern hemisphere between the two NEMO experiments is*  
879 *intriguing..."*

880 **AR:** Changed to: "*The net difference in sea ice thickness in the northern*  
881 *hemisphere between the two NEMO experiments is intriguing, [...]"*

882

883 **RC:** L403: *Can you explain what the major results from Castro de la Guardia*  
884 *et al. 2015 are to remind the reader? Also highlight the differences between*  
885 *yours and their experiments, as you say the model setup and scope is very sim-*  
886 *ilar*

887 **AR:** Changed the beginning of the Discussion to: "*Concerning Baffin Bay, we*  
888 *compare our results to those of Castro de la Guardia et al. (2015), who investi-*  
889 *gated the impact of increased freshwater input along the (west) coast of Green-*  
890 *land on the Baffin Bay circulation and its exchanges with the Arctic through the*  
891 *CAA. They found an increase in heat transport into Baffin Bay through Davis*

892 *Strait and a reduction in volume fluxes through the CAA into Baffin Bay; both*  
893 *related to an increase in the Baffin Bay gyre's strength."*

894

895 **RC:** *L404: "lower increase" sound a bit opposing to me, perhaps reword to*  
896 *"smaller increase"*

897 **AR:** Done.

898

899 **RC:** *L413: Rather than say the gradients did not change sufficiently, I would*  
900 *refer to the statistical significance of the SSH gradient differences between the*  
901 *two model experiments*

902 **AR:** We changed the wording to a less strong statement: "Volume flux through  
903 the CAA into Baffin Bay *was found to be* mainly controlled by the SSH gradi-  
904 ents across the straits connecting Baffin Bay to the Arctic Ocean (McGeehan  
905 and Maslowski, 2012; Hu and Myers, 2014), *suggesting* that these gradients did  
906 not change sufficiently to alter the total volume flux between the Arctic and  
907 Baffin Bay in a notable manner, comparing our two NEMO experiments."

908

909 **RC:** *L545: I would cite that previous study i.e. Castro de la Guardia et al.*  
910 *2015 to remind the readers which study you are referring to*

911 **AR:** Done.

912

913 **RC:** *L554: "also goes along with" sounds a bit colloquial, I would suggest al-*  
914 *ternative wording*

915 **AR:** Changed "goes along with" to "results in".

916

917 **RC:** *L561: Given this small increase in submarine melt, can a research outlook*  
918 *or statement be made on the contribution of submarine melt when including*  
919 *additional glacier-sourced freshwater input? For example, should future model*  
920 *sensitivity studies on freshwater input consider including submarine melting and*  
921 *associated diffusivity scheme at depth? What would the authors advise for future*  
922 *modeling studies?*

923 **AR:** The main problem here is that also the surface runoff of marine-terminating  
924 glaciers is usually, at least partly, injected into the fjords at the grounding line  
925 depth. This poses the question of how to deal with this in a general manner  
926 (i.e., not an individual treatment of each glacier in the runoff scheme). We  
927 added the following to sentence to the Discussion: "*As surface and submarine*  
928 *melt of marine-terminating glaciers enter the fjords at depth and is subsequently*  
929 *mixed, the modeling setup could be enhanced by a more accurate representation*  
930 *of meltwater injection at depth, especially when individual fjords are not resolved*  
931 *in the ocean model. "*

932

933 **RC:** *L573: What is meant by decadal snapshot simulations? Decadally averaged*  
934 *or filtered simulations? Can this be elaborated?*

935 **AR:** Snapshot simulation means to run the model with the respective bound-  
936 ary conditions for different time periods of a certain length (e.g., decade), such  
937 that they could be run in parallel. We added the following sentence: "*Such a*  
938 *snapshot approach would avoid the computational cost of long transient simula-*  
939 *tions, but might not suffice to capture longer transient processes, as for instance*  
940 *changes in the AMOC.*"

941