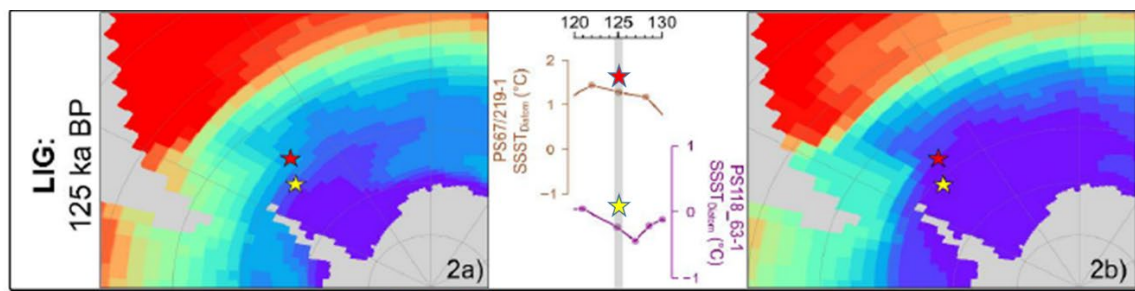


I believe that the authors provided adequate answers to most of my comments and I am generally happy with the corrections. I only have minor comments related to:

The vertical profiles of ocean temperature (Figure 1): Which season do they represent? I believe it is important information as the temperature profile may change through the year, with the development of a strong thermocline in sub-surface (25-50 m) in summer resulting in lower temperature at depth than at the surface (Foldvik et al., 1985; Martinson et al., 2008; Venables et al., 2013; Vorrath et al., 2023). I however reckon that it may depend on the region (Muench et al. 1990) and I do not know how the vertical structure in the Powell Basin evolves throughout the year. I would recommend presenting a spring-summer vertical profile as the diatom transfer function provides spring-summer SST while the RI-OH is understood as summer OT (Vorrath et al., 2023). In this vein, I do not understand why the same team refers to the Ri-OH OT as a summer signal in Vorrath 2023 and here as an annual signal. This discrepancy must be explained and, if OT is lower than SST in summer, the discussion about the vertical stratification probably needs to be re-evaluated.

Figures: I would recommend adding the simulated values (SSI, SWI, summer SST, summer OT) at both core sites on the temporal plots (right column of each figure) for each time slice. This will help grasping the similarities or discrepancies between the data and model output. For example, the color increment is 1°C in Figure 6, which does not allow a quick comparison.



I also realized that I did not understand the last sentence of the caption in figures 5-7. The proxy-derived data are shown by the curves, not by the shaded areas as it written (or at least as I read it).