

In this work, the authors present the evolution of dense and deep-water formation and its distribution across various locations in the Adriatic Sea in a well-written manner, with results that are of great interest to the research community.

The manuscript has already passed the first revision, and after reviewing the reviewers' suggestions, comments, and the authors' responses, I find the paper to be well-written with a highly interesting approach. The authors have thoroughly addressed all reviewer comments, resulting in a more robust and cohesive paper. Therefore, I recommend the acceptance of this paper.

I would suggest a few technical (but not crucial) improvements, such as labeling each subfigure in all figures, as reviewers have recommended for Figures 14 and 15. This would ensure a consistent presentation throughout the manuscript and enhance readability for the audience.

Additionally, the authors could also reference the work of Mihanović et al. (2013), "*Exceptional dense water formation on the Adriatic shelf in the winter of 2012*," along with Raicich et al. (2013), as these studies are relevant to the densest water measurements in the area.