

Dear reviewers and associate editor,

We thank the reviewers for their time and efforts to read through our revised manuscript. We are pleased to confirm that the Chl_{HPLC} and Chl_{MODIS} terms have been removed from Table 1. Consequently, the abbreviation HPLC has been written out in full within the discussion section (line 409). We additionally noted that not all regression lines for stratified water conditions in figure 6 extended over the same range, which we have adjusted in the final version. It has been a pleasure to work with your constructive feedback throughout this submission process and thank you again for your comments to help us improve our manuscript.

We would also like to thank the associate editor, Jamie Shutler, for handling our manuscript submission and for the swift and encouraging communication throughout the discussion and revision phase.

Best wishes,
Renee Schoeman and co-authors