

## Replies to Editor and Reviewers

### Editor

Dear authors,

I have now gotten very positive feedback from two reviewers. The second one was submitted directly by email to me, so I may convey the reviewer's appreciation of the authors attentiveness to reviewer comments. This reviewer commented that she/he is still not 100% convinced that GAMs are the way to go, but can live with the choice. In this respect, there is the suggestion to include a paragraph in the conclusions to talk about the limitations of the study. This could be used to set up the good text about future research directions that already exists in the conclusion. For technical reasons I will consider this last amendment step a minor revision.

Best regards, Gabriel Singer

Dear Prof Singer,

Thank you for the opportunity to revise our manuscript. To address the reviewer's comment, we have added the following text to our Conclusions:

***“Similarly, while our GAM analysis provided useful insights into the drivers of DOC age, it is based on a limited number of observations, so these results should be interpreted cautiously and verified with larger datasets.”***

We look forward to hearing back from you.

Kind regards,

Clément Duvert (on behalf of all co-authors)