

Note to the editor.

I read over the manuscript once more and realised there was something that could be clarified better. As such I added the statement to line 379 in the results and discussion section:

“The percentage differences between the base case and the alternative setups are also shown in Table 1. Notably, the change in MeHg concentrations is substantially larger in the scenario without consumer-level bioconcentration. The greatest difference between the base case and the setup without consumer-level bioconcentration occurs in fish 2, with increases ranging from 28% to 49%, while this effect is smaller in lower-trophic level biota. Interestingly, in the Southern North Sea, a reduction in the bioaccumulation of MMHg⁺ in primary producers is observed in both the scenario without Hg²⁺ bioaccumulation (3–6%) and the scenario without consumer-level MMHg⁺ bioconcentration (3–7%). This reduction is likely linked to the removal of bioaccumulated Hg from the water column by macrobenthos feeding on pelagic food sources and, consequently, it is not present in the two deep-water setups. Nevertheless, the overall effect on MMHg⁺ bioaccumulation remains limited between -2% and 2%.

I also added the DOI of the code with the below statement to line 561

“The model code is publicly available on Zenodo (DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.17372353) under the GPL 3.0 License.”

I hope adding this minor clarification is fine. Alternatively, I can upload a version where these parts are not present.