

Dear Editor,

we are grateful for the acceptance of our paper for final publication. Since the second revision, we have conducted very minor changes:

We have now removed the citation of the preprint by Chen et al. ('Effects of sea surface and air temperatures on interannual variations and trends of Arctic sea ice concentration in summer and autumn'), since serious concerns about the scientific rigor of the paper have come up in its revision process. As the preprint only provided a second source for a claim also substantiated by Olonscheck et al., 2019, its removal does not change any information presented in our paper.

Secondly, we now provide most figures as fully vector-based figures rather than bitmaps, which might slightly change the visual appearance without any changes in content.

Sincerely yours,

Niki Lohmann, David Strahl, Annika Högner, Willem Huiskamp, Matthias Boehm, and Nico Wunderling