

Helge,

We have addressed the final comments by you. We appreciate the timely and in depth review by you and the other two reviewers.

Kevan

Response to Comments:

Check sulfate vs SO₄²⁻

The manuscript has been checked for consistency. Sulfate is written out when it is first defined as SO₄²⁻ and then at two other instances when it is the first word of the sentence.

Fig 1 needs a brush-up, the overview map contains very small print, and the dash-dot lines are not clear. I would perhaps use a map of the entire East Coast of Canada/US rather than N-Carolina for the overview.

We have added a map of North America, increased font size of print, and clarified in the figure caption what the dotted arrows indicate

Fig 2. Use the same font style for all items in the figure (some with, some without serif). The small letters are not really conclusive (statistically different to what?). Perhaps there is another way to indicate that?

The letters do make the figures busy and aren't very clear. Therefore, we have removed the lettering asterisks over each time period that have significant differences. The differences by treatment are discussed in the text. Also, to try and improve the figures visually we have removed the lines between symbols and reduced the size of the symbol slightly.

In the figure captions we had stated that "Treatment means with different lowercase letters are significantly different within a sampling time point ($P < 0.05$)."

We have changed this to "An asterisk ($P < 0.05$) indicates significant differences between treatment means at each time point." to hopefully also make it more clear.

The fonts appear to be the same for elements of the figure.

Fig 4. See comment to fig 2 for small letters

Revised in same way as Figure 2.