

Please find our answers to the editor remarks in blue.

Dear authors,

the answer to comments appropriately addressed comments from both reviewers. At this stage I have only a few minor comments:

- Do, among others, the flow cytometer and TEP data (Marañón et al., Zäncker et al., in the same issue) corroborate the conclusions here?

We have looked at the papers of the Special Issue and cited the few ones linked to our study. Observations of Marañón et al (2020) of high bacterial production in the layer 0-100 m were in line with abundant particles in this layer, and stable nanoeukaryotes abundances (in discussion section 4.3.3). Barbieux et al (2021) observations were also in line with ours.

Unfortunately Zäncker et al reports TEP data only from the sea surface microlayer, which is not representative of the water column, thus we cannot compare to our observations.

- It is somewhat difficult to follow the description of circulation in the text (Discussion section 4.1). Marking salient relevant features in Fig. 4 (such as the NIG vs. eddies) would be helpful. As figure 4 is already complex, I prefer not to overload it with additional arrows and text. The schematic circulation is shown on figure 1, and legend now mentions NIG.

Fig. 1: replace "dark blue arrows" with dotted blue lines with arrows".
Fig 1 legend was updated accordingly

Fig. 5: it is difficult to distinguish isolines showing density from those representing current "magnitude" in the panels. Maybe use different colors or report these in different panels, respectively. Please define "current magnitude" (transport in Sv or speed?) and give units for both parameters in the legend.

Fig 5 was updated with white contours for ADPC currents. We now use "Current speed" in the legend (in m/s).

Fig.8: Is it possible to add the location (polygon) where particles have been injected in the panels? What are the pink squares in the figure (I imagine station positions?).

Fig 8 was fully updated and the seeding locations are now clearly indicated as white polygon. Pink squares are described in the legend.