

Dear Sara,

Thank you for handling the manuscript and for your letter!

We improved Figures 2 and 5 the way you suggested. We also improved the resolution of the figures in the Supplement. We will provide the figures for the manuscript as pdfs with a very high resolution, when given the opportunity.

Following reviewer#3's suggestion, we added another eight lines of text about decomposition in the organic layer to the Discussion on page 10. Further, we improved the structure of some sentences and corrected a few typos.

Kind regards,

Marie

**Letter from the editor:**

Dear authors,

I have now received the reports from the three referees who previously reviewed your manuscript. They are generally content with the changes that were made and I agree with them. A few suggestions for minor revisions were made that need to be taken into account before the manuscript can be accepted for publication. In addition, I list a few minor suggestions below.

- Figure 2: I think the text "increase from ...: factor x..." inside the figures could be removed. The necessary information is already provided in the figure and the equation, and is further detailed in the text.
- Figure 5: panels a and c have red lines, while panels b and d have black lines. Please harmonize this.
- In general, the quality of the figures is rather poor. Please improve this.

I look forward to receiving your revised manuscript.

Kind regards,

Sara