

**Public justification (visible to the public if the article is accepted and published):**

Dear Dr. Schmidt and Dr. Diallo,

thank you for submitting your revised manuscript. I accept your manuscript for publication subject to only some minor technical corrections:

Thanks for the feedback, below the replies to the comment in blue

- Early in the manuscript you mention several times 'aquatic plants'. The term 'plants' would exclude photosynthetic prokaryotes such as cyanobacteria. I suggest a change to 'aquatic primary producer' or 'aquatic photosynthetic organisms'. → Done, «aquatic photosynthetic organisms» replaces plants in lines 50 and 54. The sentence beginning on line 56 has been amended to delete the term “plants”.

- Figure 1 caption: Please delete "and the oxygen minimum zone". If the extent of your study did not find the disappearance of the OMZ then you are unable to say how far the OMZ extended. → Done. The corresponding arrow on the map has also been suppressed. A change was made as indicated in the figure caption: “The underlined city names correspond to the locations where hypoxia levels were measured during the study” was added

- Table 1 caption: Please define SPM → SPM has been replaced by suspended particulate matter. The same term is now used in line 150 to harmonise the name.

- Table 1: All https links need the date of last access → The date of the last access is added in the caption of Table 1

- Please introduce the term eOMZ in the introduction and use it consequently throughout the manuscript (there are several cases where you still use 'oxygen minimum zone'). → Done

- Appendix A: https needs the date of last access

- I further noticed an excessive use of 'This' at the beginning of sentences without defining what 'this' is referring to (i.e., a subject is missing). This method is difficult for the reading flow because it forces the reader to interpret what you are referring to. Please consider adding subjects. → the number of “this” was reduced, with occasional rewording