

Dear editor:

We appreciate the thoughtful and helpful comments on our manuscript.

For the citation relevant to the definition of stratification, we agree that the last citation (Sharples et al., 2006) should not be there. The method used by Sharples et al. is different from other 3 citations. The purpose for us to cite the paper is that Sharples et al. (2006) required that the onset of stratification should maintain at least 3 days to remove short-time oscillations. We also added this criterion for the onset time of stratification in our study. Thus, we should place the citation of (Sharples et al., 2006) after the sentence ‘The time window (3 days) was chosen to filter out short-lived stratification variations and the day-night heating/cooling cycle.’ in line 236.

For the definition of stratification onset time, we exactly use the criterion of 0.5 °C’ dropping of temperature from surface layer, as what those cited publications have done (Gong et al., 2014; Karl and Lukas, 1996; Richardson et al., 2002).

When we were preparing the revised manuscript (last version), we also found that the citation of Lefèvre 1994 is a mistake. There is no relevant content. That is why I deleted it in the revised manuscript.

reference

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