The paper of Lewis et al. evaluates the impacts of atmospheric forcing and of ocean-atmosphere(-waves) coupling on high-resolution ocean forecasts in the Channel and the Celtic Sea coastal areas.

In my opinion, the revised version is clearly improved.
Also, the author responses to the reviewers have clarified a lot of points.

In more details:

- The heat budget terms and differences are now more clearly analysed, in particular considering and showing the OSTIA SST role and the differences with it.
- The relative impact of a better solved atmospheric physics related or not to a higher resolution is more discussed. Considering this point, the small change done in the title is particularly relevant.
- The justification for only considering one month in summer is now better expressed.

I have a final comment concerning the description of the exchanged fields in CPL_AO and I understand that the wind stress is not computed in the same compartment than in FOR_HI. This difference is not really detrimental here (especially in summer). Nevertheless, I suggest to consider this point for further comparisons between coupled and forced modes.

Finally, considering all this, I suggest to accept the paper for publication in Ocean Science.