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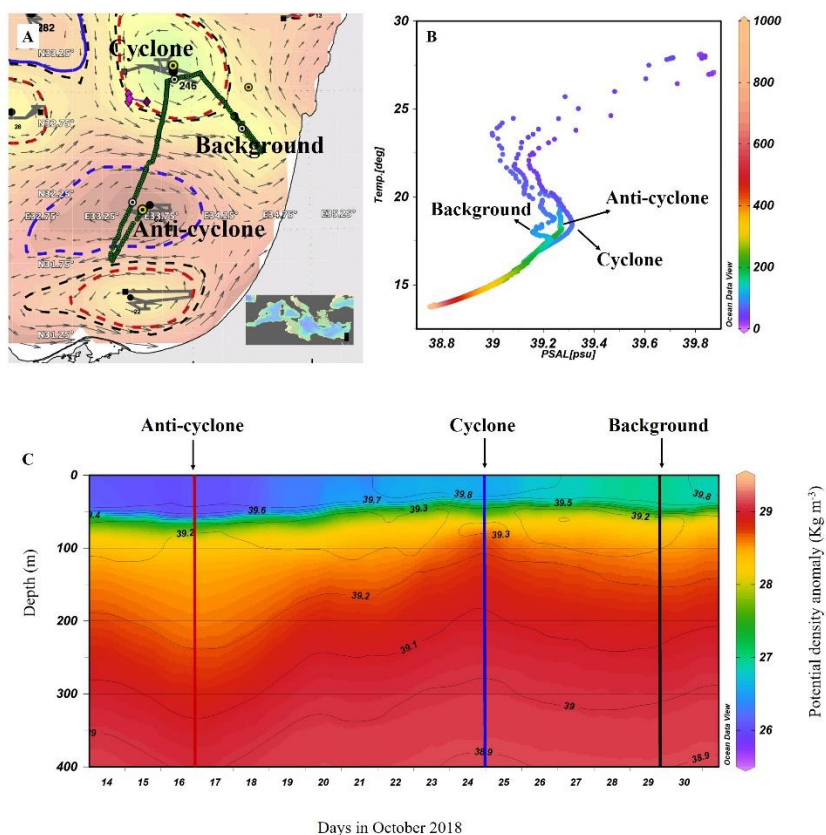
12 April 2022

Dear Vanessa,

We thank you and the reviewer for the positive view of our manuscript. We went through all of the last-minor suggested edits and corrected the text accordingly where appropriate/applicable.

Referee #1

Figure 1 revised as suggested (arrows moved next to the corresponding T-S profiles)

Referee #3

Line 18: 'community component' was changed to 'autotrophs'.

Line 19: 'pico- and nanoeukaryotes' was changed to 'functional groups'.

Line 30: 'compositions' was changed to 'structure'.

Line 46: added 'community'.

Line 52: we removed the word 'lineages'. The sentence now reads:
"…zooplankton biomass is usually coupled with that of the phytoplankton and is mostly comprised of mesozooplankton that feed on pico-phytoplankton…".

Line 79: the semicolons were replaced with commas.

Line 200: reference added as requested: Feliú et al., 2020.