

Response to Editor's Comments

We thank Dr. Carlson for the advice on our manuscript. Our response is listed below.

Point 1: One final change. Following Copernicus policy for all journals, and having seen this issue arise several times. ESSD asks that authors remove South China Sea inset on all maps (e.g. Figures 1, 11, 14) unless data from that region proves useful or definitive in the manuscript. In this case you do not even show data from that oceanic region and it hardly fits your use of the term 'Mainland China' in your title. Maps in that format represent political provocation not appropriate in science journals; colleagues, editors and reviewers all object. Other authors have made necessary changes; please do likewise.

Response 1: Thank you for your advice. We have made the corresponding changes in the relevant figures (Figures 1, 11, 14). The changes can be seen in the updated edition of the manuscript.