

The author's respond to the Reviewer #1

Reviewer #1. Recommendation:

The paper should be published after taking into account this deficiency.

Reviewer's comments

Note, that the circulation of the Japan Sea was an object of study by many authors for a long time. In my opinion, this study lacked a comparison with the schemes of currents obtained, for example, in

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- Kawabe, M. *Branching of the Tshushima Current in the Japan Sea. Part I. Data analysis. J. Oceanogr. Soc. Japan*, 38, 95-107, doi:10.1007/BF02110295, 1982.
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Our respond

We thank the Reviewer for providing us the above mentioned references. We compared briefly in the revised text our averaged AVISO velocity field and its main large-scale features, including persistent mesoscale eddies in the basin, with the schemes of the Japan Sea (JS) surface circulation obtained in the references proposed by the Reviewer. We referred to most of those references in Introduction and in the first paragraph in Sec.3.1 in addition to already referred papers on this subject. However, the main intent of our ms was not a review of currents in the JS and their variability but a Lagrangian statistical analysis of near-surface transport of subtropical waters in the JS frontal area.