Dear Ilker

We are grateful for your patience and help.

Q: Li 11: As a result of fusion during merging, the total eddy kinetic energy decreases slightly.
A: suggestion followed

Q: Li 12: delete "significantly"
A: suggestion followed

Q: Li 13: original level prior to merging.
A: suggestion followed

Q: Li 14: PE is converted to EPE
A: suggestion followed

Q: Li 19: coherent vortices (not vortexes)
A: suggestion followed

Q: Li 20: and transport heat, salt, and other passive tracers over long distances
A: suggestion followed

Q: Li 21: by trapping tracers with the water
A: suggestion followed

Q: Li 24: do not have a core or a well-defined eddy radius.
A: suggestion followed

Q: Li 25: delete “is from incoherent eddies”
A: suggestion followed

Q: Li 26: delete “is mostly due to incoherent motions”
A: suggestion followed

Q: Li 88-89: Delete: “If the SSTA index > 0, then the eddy was identified as a surface AE. Otherwise, if the SSTA index < 0, then the eddy was identified as a subsurface AE.”
A: suggestion followed

Q: Li 332: merging functions similar to a
A: suggestion followed

Q: Li 334: There is a long-standing question of which physical processes govern the seasonal variability of EKE
A: suggestion followed

Q: Li 335: delete “of such problem”
A: suggestion followed

Q: Li 408: delete “long-term”
A: suggestion followed

Q: Li 409 to 415:
Replace “Several conservation laws were examined using a two-layer model with parameters fitted to observations, ......, including explaining some previous points of confusion.”
With:
“Conservation laws of mass, total circulation, and angular momentum (AM) were examined using a two-layer model and parameters obtained by fitting to observations. While the conservation laws of mass and total circulation were satisfied with the eddy parameters, the conservation of AM required including the orbital AM. Both the conservation of circulation and the orbital AM were overlooked in previous theoretical studies.”
A: suggestion followed