

We would like to thank the editor for his comments. We have decided to reformat the manuscript into a brief communication. As a result of this the following changes have been made:

- The length of the abstract has been reduced to less than 100 words
- The number of references has been reduced to 20
- We have significantly shortened (reduced length to approximately half) the introduction and discussion/conclusion sections
- The number of tables has been reduced from 3 to 1
- The number of figures has been reduced from 6 to 5

We would be grateful if this manuscript could be re-considered for publication in The Cryosphere.