

We would like to thank the Reviewer for his/her report which helped us to improve our manuscript.

“The paper is generally well written. However, taking into account the review of the 1st reviewer, with whom I fully agree, the authors still fail to convince that they have used the MODIS AE-FF data, only over the sea. This is very important to implement.”

“Specific comments: The issue of using the MODIS AE-FF data, only over the sea, is not clearly presented in the current version of the manuscript. In the annotated text, this is well noted and the authors should consider it very carefully.”

We would like to clarify that, as shown in the presented geographical distributions (Figs 2, 3, 9 and 10 in the revised manuscript), in the present analysis the algorithm operates over both land and ocean, making use of the corresponding MODIS retrievals including the Ångström Exponent and Fine Fraction (plus the effective radius product over ocean). Moreover, this is outlined in the algorithm’s flowchart, Fig. 1.

“Technical Comments: In the annotated text several technical corrections have been given. The authors should implement them in their manuscript.”

We have taken into account all the Reviewer’s technical comments annotated in the original manuscript and made the necessary modifications in the revised manuscript.