Dear Guiseppe Manzella,

thank you very much for reviewing our manuscript!

Under 'Specific Comment' you raise five questions.

What was the original purpose of the data collection?
What were the applied quality assurance / quality control protocols?
How were the data originally used?
Have the data been reused?
How has the data been assessed for fitness of use?

The first two questions you deem well answered, but for the following three you find no appropriate answer in the text.

We somehow have the impression that the three questions are not fully appropriate to the submitted manuscript category. The manuscript was submitted in the category 'Review articles'. See https://www.earth-system-science-data.net/about/manuscript_types.html

According to the ESSD descriptions such a review article may 'describe recombinations of existing (historic) datasets'. That is where we locate our manuscript.

We will try to answer the questions here and state why they are not answered in the manuscript. We have added two sentences to make the intent and scope of the manuscript clearer.

How were the data originally used?

We have modified the end of the introduction to make clear how the data was originally used:
To date 793 peer-reviewed scientific papers, theses and other publications have been generated by the members of the SFB 754 (enter 'sfb754' into the search field at https://oceanrep.geomar.de). In many of these publications observational data sets are fully described, assessed, used and originally published. The aim of this article is to summarize and list these published observational data sets collected by the SFB 754 all together in a clear structured way for easier access and find-ability.

Have the data been reused?

The more than 1000 underlying datasets have been reused many times. The question seems to be more suitable to the ESSD manuscript type 'Data description paper' where one would like to avoid duplicate descriptions of the same data. In the manuscript we summarize and organize a large number of existing data sets that most often have been used and described before. For all methods subsections and datasets we give the references in which they are fully described and used.

How has the data been assessed for fitness of use?

This question also seems to be directed to smaller data sets when they are first published. We are describing already published and in most cases used and described data sets. For our manuscript we ourselves have not assessed any data for fitness of use but rely on the assessments that were made when the single data sets were first published in scientific papers and in data centers. We will add a sentence to the beginning of section 4 that will make this clearer:

The resulting datasets have been described, assessed, used and published in a large number of publications. Here we briefly summarize the methods used and refer to the relevant publications in which the methods have been described in detail.