Dear Topical Editor,

Thank you for your comments. We have further clarified our referral to our particular setup of the NEMO ocean model and made sure the submission adheres to the GMD publication and code standard.

With regard to the referral to the particular setup of the NEMO, we updated the Introduction and Conclusion to reflect that the drawn conclusions on HIDRA/NEMO comparioson, refer to a particular operational setup of NEMO.

The following sentences have been added to the Introduction:

"HIDRA is benchmarked against the operational setup of NEMO v3.6 general circulation model engine, which is run daily as part of the National Hydrological Forecasting Service at the Slovenian Environment Agency (ARSO). For brevity, we refer to this particular setup (see the Code and data availability Section for a detailed configuration namelist) as the NEMO model."

The following discussion has been added to the Conclusion:

"HIDRA compares favorably to the current operational NEMO setup of the National Hydrological Forecasting Service. While further tuning of the operational NEMO setup at the Agency is also under way (with the aim of improving its forecasting skill), results presented in this study nevertheless indicate that HIDRA is an appropriate candidate for Slovenian Environment Agency's operational pipeline."

To adhere to the GMD guidelines regarding the code submission, we have updated the provided source code, to include a detailed description of the training data structure and we provided a training script. We believe this should increase the reproducibility of our work and allow straight-forward training and application on third-party data. The manuscript has been updated to reference the new version of the source code.

On behalf of all the authors, best regards,
Lojze Žust