

Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies

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Dear Dr. Langenberg,

We would like to sincerely thank you for your decision (pending acceptable revisions) to publish our work in *Nature Geoscience*, and the two anonymous reviewers for their thoughtful comments and suggestions. The manuscript is now revised following the suggestions from you and the two reviewers. As you recommended, the title is shortened to “Pacific origin of the abrupt increase in Indian Ocean heat content”. Following your suggestion, the supplementary figure (previously Fig. S1) is now moved to the main manuscript. Reviewer #1 provided three major comments with 17 detailed comments. We have addressed all of these comments mainly by expanding the supplementary information, which now contains two supplementary figures, six supplementary tables and six supplementary sections. Three minor comments from reviewer #2 are also addressed in the revised manuscript.

Sincerely yours,



Sang-Ki Lee, Wonsun Park, Molly Baringer, Arnold Gordon, Bruce Huber and Yanyun Liu