

## ***Interactive comment on “Development of a zoning-based environmental-ecological-coupled model for lakes: a case study of Baiyangdian Lake in North China” by Y. W. Zhao et al.***

**Anonymous Referee #2**

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This research article is well written with good structure and significant contribution to the ecological modelling in the Chinese context. The methods were reasonable and clearly stated. The conclusion made a clear point to the current research and practice. In general, the article is inspiring and worthy to be read.

Personally there are a few things that can be improved further. Firstly, the literature review is too short and condensed which is not convincing enough why this article is special in its own way and how this article builds upon the current research. coupling both environmental and ecological factors? modelling based on separated zones? be applied in a different context such as a lake in China? The points here need to be

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strengthened and deepened further.

Secondly, too many figures and tables are presented in this article. Do all of them needed? Do they help with explaining the content of the article? Can they be combined and condensed in a certain way. For example, section 3.5 listed too many figures and tables with simulation results, what do they tell us then?

Thirdly, the conclusion is in a certain sense too short and weak to support the main body of the article which needs to be explored further. Of course the model shows a promising result, so what? Is there any factor this article didn't cover? how can it help with the lake management and decision making process?

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