

Interactive comment on “Drought identification in the Eastern Baltic region using NDVI” by Egidijus Rimkus et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

Received and published: 11 April 2017

This study investigates relationships between the different indices including NDVI, VCI, SPI1,3,6 and droughts over the east Baltic Sea region. The topic is relevant to ESD and special issue “Multiple drivers for Earth system changes in the Baltic Sea region”. The paper is well-written and concise. I think the paper is ready to publish with only a few minor points to address. However, I have several minor comments 1. VCI analysis is a major part of the Result section. It is declared that it's better than NDVI. So abstract should include major results of VCI analysis. Methods of VCI assessment should be presented better 2. Section describing study area is needed. The first reason is that authors use datasets with different spatial coverage. The second is that study area is large enough and that's why climatic regime is different over different sub-regions. Instead, authors often provide point estimates (e.g. L126) 3. Separate section of conclusion is needed Detail comments and minor edits: P3L85 It's better

C1

to use calendar dates P4L100 Interval assessments seem to be more appropriate because the region is large enough and there is a certain time lag in dates of natural phenomena between south-west and north-east regions. Figure 1 Maybe it's better to add some basic geographical information on the map: country names, main cities. “Study area” should be corrected P5L115 Abbreviation should be inputted after first mention. CORINE land cover (CLC) P5L116 It should be checked if year 2012 is covered by CLC 2000. Maybe CLC 2012? <http://land.copernicus.eu/pan-european/corine-land-cover/clc-2012/view> P5L120 Percentage of the joined types should be mentioned P5L125-129 Is it the temperature averaged over the study area or data from a certain station? Should be clarified P6L149 Maybe it's more useful to avoid weeks here and hereafter P8L184 Reference indicating that VCI is more suitable is needed P11L254 Shows, technical correction P12L285 I see no reason to compare this region with arid and semiarid areas

Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Dynam. Discuss., doi:10.5194/esd-2017-5, 2017.

C2