

In the field of multi annual prediction this paper reflects the state of the art and is the first to demonstrate skill on the regional scale. This manuscript should be published nearly as is. I have only some minor suggested editorial corrections.

Editorial changes:

In section 2 on page 3 the authors should note that anomaly initialization is being used in all ensemble members, global and regional. This is only stated on page 14 and the lack of bias or drift in forecasts is puzzling until then.

In the discussion of the MSE score at the top of page 6, n and N should be defined.

On page 12 line 20 'chapter 4.1' should be 'section 4.1'

Suggest that 'With is respect' be changed to 'With respect to this' on page 13 line 27