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Earth System Dynamics
Discussions

Interactive comment on "Assessment of a full-field initialised decadal climate prediction system with the CMIP6 version of EC-Earth" *by* Roberto Bilbao et al.

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Specific comments:

Line 42: Researchers at NCAR have documented the prediction of aspects of the IPO (e.g. Meehl et al. 2016) and have noted that the response to volcanic eruptions could explain in part why there is less overall predictability of the IPO compared to AMV (Meehl et al., 2015).

Reply: These articles are now cited and have been added accordingly to the list of references.

Line 83: A paper that should be referenced here that was important for documenting one of the main methods of bias adjustment that has subsequently been used is Doblas-Reyes, et al. 2013 (already in the reference list).

Reply: The paper is now cited also in this part of the manuscript.

Lines 279-281: The authors need to explain more clearly what a negative value of MSSS means. They say in passing that PRED has lower ACC values than HIST, but more explanation would be helpful for the reader to interpret this important result which produces strikingly large areas of negative values in Fig. 3.

Reply: A more detailed description of MSSS, what it represents, and the equations used to compute it has been included in the methods section (subsection 2.3). We have also changed Fig. 3 to make it more easily interpretable, and adjusted the corresponding discussion accordingly.

Lines 370-372: The authors note a very interesting feature in that their model drifts differently in two different periods. They should elaborate a bit more about this potentially very important aspect of their simulations that has profound implications for assessing prediction skill.

Reply: We have expanded the paragraph to discuss more at depth these non-stationary drifts and the need to address them with better drift correction techniques.

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