Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 12, C6203–C6204, 2016
www.hydrol-earth-syst-sci-discuss.net/12/C6203/2016/

Hydrology and Earth System Sciences
Discussions

Interactive comment on "Climate change increases the probability of heavy rains like those of storm Desmond in the UK – an event attribution study in near-real time" *by* van Oldenborgh et al.

R. Jones

richard.jones@metoffice.gov.uk

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In the third paragraph on p 13201 you state ...

"The Northwest England region shows no trend in the maximum daily precipitation over October–February, with a 95% uncertainty margin on the change in return times of these extremes of a factor 0.3–2.1 (1 indicates no change). In South Scotland there is a strong positive trend in precipitation, giving an increase in probability of 1.8–4 times what it used to be at the beginning of the series, 1931. This is due to large extent to a heavy precipitation event in 2005. However, even without that year the trend is positive."

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... which is clear, but then you go on to say ... "The trends in the two regions are compatible with each other, with the difference mainly due to natural variability:"

... with the first phrase sounding like it contradicts the previous findings (i.e. why are the trends compatible if one is significant and the other is not) and the second implying that the calculated "trend" may be due to natural variability. Then you go on to state that ...

"Averaging them gives an increase in probability of a factor 1.3–2.8 (95% confidence interval)."

... which again is clear but given the preceding sentence the reader may think this due to natural variability.

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 12, 13197, 2015.