

## ***Interactive comment on “Defining the climatic signal in stream salinity trends using the Interdecadal Pacific Oscillation and its rate of change” by V. H. McNeil and M. E. Cox***

### **Anonymous Referee #3**

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The authors have responded to the first of my comments and think that using the rate of change of the IPO is worthwhile. I am still unconvinced.

The authors do not appear to have addressed my second comment that the changes they see are merely indicative of random changes in ENSO (see Power et al. 2006, *Journal of Climate* for further discussion of this possibility). Suggest they add something like: it may be that the statistical relationships between the IPO and various climatic and hydrological variables evident here merely represent random changes in the impact of ENSO from decade to decade. And also add somewhere: the statistical links

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we have seen with the rate of change of the IPO could well be fortuitous because the data are very short.

In my opinion: the rate of change of the IPO material should be dramatically reduced. It is of a highly speculative nature and the data are very short. At a bare minimum the concerns above should be expressed in the conclusion.

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Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 3, 2963, 2006.

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