

# ***Interactive comment on “Seasonal hydrologic prediction in the United States: understanding the role of initial hydrologic conditions and seasonal climate forecast skill” by S. Shukla and D. P. Lettenmaier***

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This is an important paper which add value to seasonal hydrologic prediction and as a continuation of previous work done on this topic in the United states. This paper present also novel reñCections with the role of initial hydrologic conditions and seasonal climate forecasts, or sources of predictability on a seasonal time scale, which, nowadays, is not often done with seasonal hydrologic prediction. But some comments can be done

- We thank reviewer 2 for the valuable comments.

1. There are too many abbreviations in the manuscript. Especially in the abstract, abbreviations could appear later in the text and not in the abstract.

Response: We have removed the abbreviations in the abstract and also reduced the number of abbreviations used elsewhere in the manuscript. We now use the abbreviations only in those cases where those words appear more than three times in the manuscript.

2. P6568 line 3-13 : please, can you give some other scientific papers as references?

Response: We have added some references.

3. P6569 line 2 and 3 : the abbreviation MAM and JJA are not explained.

Response: Those abbreviations were included in the appendix however we have now included the full form of those abbreviations on P6569 as well. While these abbreviations are commonly used in the climate literature, we agree that for HESS readership, they are worth writing out the first time used.

4. P6569 line 27: term  $\kappa$  should appear later or could be explained when you cited it.

Response: We explained the parameter  $\kappa$  in section 2.5, (please see response to comment # 5 below) on page 6569, so we now cite this section when  $\kappa$  is first mentioned.

5. P6577 line 1 - 13 : should the beginning of the section 3.3 be in the Method part? This section 3.3 is very interesting, could you present other results about the parameter  $K$ ? This section 3.3 appears too short.

Response: We have moved the part of section 3.3 that describes the  $\kappa$  parameter to section 2 (i.e. Approach) and included it as section 2.5.

6. Section 4 is also short, can you say anything about perspectives?

Response: We have added a paragraph focused on perspectives.

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