

## ***Interactive comment on* “Impact of the European Russia drought in 2010 on the Caspian Sea level” by K. Arpe et al.**

### **Anonymous Referee #3**

Received and published: 14 October 2011

The Authors analyze the impact of the summer 2010 Russian droughts on the Caspian Sea level in relation to the Volga River inflow anomaly and to evaporation rates.

The ECMWF ERA-Interim reanalysis provides an estimate of evaporation and it is shown also to provide precipitation in line with ground-based networks such as those ingested in the GPCC database.

Two timescales are presented as explanation for the Caspian Sea Level drop then, the variation in P-E and the delayed effect of the Russian droughts on the Volga. The observational data is based on satellite remote sensing which provides a good accuracy for the estimates of sea-level.

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The paper is generally well written (maybe section 3.3 should be revised in its title/form), with adequate numbers of Figures/Tables and it is quite concise. The analysis of Caspian Sea Level and Volga precipitation, river discharges and evaporation are all based on solid datasets, so I feel comfortable in suggesting publication after minor revisions to the text.

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Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 8, 7781, 2011.

**HESD**

8, C4466–C4467, 2011

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