

## Response to Reviewer #2:

General Comment: This paper is interesting and provides information about the CFSv2 model that will be useful to the scientific community. The paper presents intriguing findings, but some are hard to decipher due to grammatical and syntax errors. I found the paper to be hard to follow in places due to the unclear description of different models and time steps. The "Data and Methodology" section which describes the models/time steps analyzed was particularly difficult to follow; some of the paragraphs could be split and the writing could be more concise. Overall, the scientific approach and methods seem adequate, though I am new to this subject. The paper also presents clear conclusions that are a substantial contribution to scientific progress.

*Thank you very much for your time and your insightful review. We have carefully revised the manuscript in order to include your comments. We believe that this manuscript is substantially improved as a result of the revision.*

Below are other specific comments and suggestions:

Pg 1, line 13: Missing a word - "and generally are more skillful"

*RESPONSE: The missing word has been added as requested.*

Pg 1, line 16: Remove "the" before "number of consecutive dry days..."

*RESPONSE: It has been revised as requested.*

Pg 1, line 26: Add a comma after the reference.

*RESPONSE: It has been revised as requested.*

Pg 2, lines 13-19: To make the aims of this study more clear, it would be good to list or number them. There are 3 in the results section. It would be nice to see the same differentiation here.

*RESPONSE: Thanks for pointing this out. It has been revised as requested: "This study will conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the precipitation and temperature hindcasts at sub-seasonal timescales. Specifically, the aims of this study are to 1) assess the CFSv2 predictions for precipitation and temperature indices at different locations and seasons within the first 30 days, 2) compare weekly and fortnight forecast skill of CFSv2 at different lead times, and 3) evaluate the effects of MJO and ENSO on CFSv2 sub-seasonal forecast skill."*

Pg 3, lines 25-27: You refer to OZ cycle (and different numbers of cycles). I am not familiar with this terminology, and am therefore confused when reading these sentences.

*RESPONSE: Thanks for pointing this out. OZ cycle means the 0 UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) assimilation and forecast cycle. We have deleted these sentences and used a table and a figure instead to explain and compare those three CFSv2 hindcast configurations.*

Pg 3-4, lines 22-33, 1-11: This paragraph is confusing due to the large amount of information presented. The paragraph could be split into multiple paragraphs and reworded to clarify which time steps and models are being referred to.

*RESPONSE: We have split this paragraph into multiple paragraphs for clarification. Some of the sentences have been replaced by a table and a figure to explain and compare the three CFSv2 hindcast configurations. The paragraph has been reworded and updated accordingly.*

Pg 4, line 26: This could be the start of a new paragraph to separate the two different ideas.

*RESPONSE: We agree. It has been separated into two different paragraphs.*

Pg 5, line 11: Replace comma with a semicolon or separate into two different sentences.

*RESPONSE: It has been revised as requested.*

Pg 8, line 23: Bold the title.

*RESPONSE: It has been revised as suggested.*

Pg 9, lines 26-28: This sentence is confusing and could be reworded to improve clarity.

*RESPONSE: This sentence has been modified as:*

*“This finding is important since the sub-seasonal forecasting information is valuable to many decision makers. In particular, sub-seasonal forecasts for frequency or duration of precipitation and temperature extremes can be directly tailored to different application needs.”*

Pg 9, line 31: It is unclear which precipitation and temperature indices are being referred to with the word "these."

*RESPONSE: This sentence has been modified as “... those indices describing frequency or duration of precipitation and temperature extremes ...”*

Pg 10, lines 6-12: These sentences could be rewritten to be more concise.

*RESPONSE: This paragraph has been revised to be more concise and clearer.*

Pg 10, line 22: Figure 13 isn't used in the paper.

*RESPONSE: Thanks for pointing this out. It should be Figure 9 (Figure 12 in the revised manuscript) instead of 13. We have revised that in the manuscript.*

Pg 11, line 9: "Subseasonal" is spelled wrong and is also written differently than the other instances where the spelling was "sub-seasonal." This may be an issue throughout the paper and should be checked.

*RESPONSE: All the instances of “subseasonal” have been changed to “sub-seasonal” throughout the paper.*