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Interactive comment on "A conceptual prediction model of seasonal drought processes using atmospheric and oceanic Standardized Anomalies: application in four recent severe drought events in China" *by* Zhenchen Liu et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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Dear Dr Liu

with reference to the stepwise regression, I suggest to better clarify:

- the structure of the multiple regression models (linear or not?); - the explained variables (the first PCs of SA predictors reported in Table 6?) and which criterion is used to select the most significant ones; - how the calibration and validation periods have been chosen (see Table 7) and which of them is finally applied.

With respect to the second issue, I guess that Table 5 is coherent with Table 1 (drought classification) and Table 2 (division of annual period). What is unclear to me is the

division of drought process (initial segment days?) illustrated at lines 125-129 and in Figure 3 and its application.

I hope these comments could help you in the revisionn of the manuscript.