

The authors have provided an example showing SPI correlations using only the 2001-2016 period and it shows minimal differences in spatial patterns compared to the SPI computed using 1948-2016. However, my main concern was with the temperature related variables, which is not shown.

The manuscript should be accepted for publication after the authors add one or two sentences stating some uncertainty around the correlation due to different periods of record used, particularly with temperature related variables (since temperature was not shown in the authors response I'm not yet completely convinced).

*Two sentences were added to section 2.4 to discuss this uncertainty.*