

We thank the reviewer for his/her careful reading and constructive comments which helped to improve the manuscript (ms). The point-by-point replies to the reviewer's comments are provided below in bold font:

Specific comments

1. Figure 1: Improve readability/increase font size of figure 1 labels.

Improved figure presented in the revised version

2. L 190: mention the mslp data source

ECMWF IFS. A sentence added in the revised ms (L189-190).

3. L192: Any reason for “69-month” ocean hindcast run?

We have started the model from Jan 2014 to have spin-up period of 4 years (2014-2017) and atleast 1 year (2018) of simulation for the hindcast validation. Due to the delay in bringing the coupled system to a pre-operational forecast stage we have extended the hindcast simulations to Sep 2019. This results in total 69 months of hindcast run.

4. Fig 3: Provide sub-region abbreviations inside the figure hence the readability can be improved.

The abbreviations are included in the revised figure.

5. Table 3: It will be appropriate to provide the tide-gauge locations in the figure 3.

The tide gauge locations are included in the revised figure

6. Figure 9a. Looks a typo in figure 9a M1 location.

Corrected in the revised manuscript.

7. L521: please provide a brief outlook on the analysis which will be included in the MCAao.

Included in the revised manuscript (L520-522).

8. L587: Update the reference, if available.

Reference is updated.