

Response to Anonymous Reviewer #1

My original comments have been adequately addressed, and the manuscript is essentially ready for publication. I only have one suggestion, as follows:

1. I would add Lines 251-253 from the original version of the manuscript (regarding the forecast skill when detrended ACE anomalies are predicted) after Line 296 in the revised version (version 3). I believe this information is omitted from the revision. In my opinion, it is quite important and adds to the interpretation of the March forecasts.

We agree with the reviewer, that the forecast skill for detrended ACE based on detrended predictors contains important information. In the revised version we added Figure S3 back to the SI and reformulated lines 298-302 to include the information of lines 251-253 from the initial submission, as suggested by the reviewer.

Response to Anonymous Reviewer #2

This is my second time reviewing this manuscript. All my initial queries have been answered and I recommend this manuscript for publication.

I have also identified three very minor mistakes and have one suggestion for the authors (all listed below).

Line 64: I think "agencies" should be singular in this case, since there is only one agency covering the Atlantic basin.

We changed "WMO agencies" to "WMO agency" as suggested.

Line 278: Replace "Further" with "Furthermore"

Done

p15. Conclusion should be Section 5, not 4.

Thanks!

For Figure 5b and 8b, I'm having trouble differentiating between the 33th perc. and 66th perc. Could be my printer, but I would still recommend picking colors that are more distinct.

We agree, that the color choice wasn't ideal. We changed the colors and replaced one dashed line by a stippled line such that every line has a different style and color.