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Reply on RC1

Leah A. Jackson-Blake et al.

Author comment on "Opportunities for seasonal forecasting to support water management outside the tropics" by Leah A. Jackson-Blake et al., Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-2021-443-AC1>, 2021

Many thanks to RC1 for the positive and constructive comments. Expanding on paragraph 3 in the introduction to include performance information for the seasonal products we reviewed, and coming back to this later in the discussion, is a good suggestion which we will certainly take on board in a revised version of the paper. We will also provide more information on the locations of the study sites, background catchment and lake/reservoir info, and the ERA5 and SEAS5 data (including our rationale for using these datasets, as well as more of data description).

Just a couple of questions - firstly, the suggestion to provide catchment maps for all the study sites is a good one. However, we would rather not add in 5 extra figures, but just one figure with a panel per catchment might be too small to be useful (given how large some of these catchments are). We will certainly have a try. However, if the result doesn't look good we suggest putting more detailed case study maps in supplementary information, if you agree?

The only comment we aren't sure how to address your the last one, where you ask whether the spatial variation of SEAS5 played a part in inaccuracies in the forecasting tool. Is the point that, by only looking at 5 case study sites, we might have missed extra-tropical (and European) regions where SEAS5 performed well? That is certainly possible, and is something we can bring out more clearly in the discussion if we have understood the comment right.

Thanks again for your review.