

Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., author comment AC2
<https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-2021-443-AC2>, 2021
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Reply on RC2

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-AC2>, 2021

Many thanks for the positive and constructive review, and I'm very glad you found the article easy to read and relevant. You make very good suggestions for improving the article, and we will happily take them all on board in a revised version.

In a little more detail:

- [1] A very good suggestion to add more background on the "water managers" and "stakeholders" involved in the study, their backgrounds, as well as clearing up our terminology.
- [2] We will add a little more on the uncertainty workshop, although there isn't too much to report. It was more a case of going through some of the recommendations of previous project workshops with everyone, and finding out individual preferences.
- [3] Excellent suggestion to go into more detail about how knowledge and workflows developed in this project will be taken forward, if at all, and if not why not.
- [4] This is a really useful comment, as you are of course right that a "poor" forecast can have high value as long as uncertainty is accounted for (as long as the forecast is at least a bit more informative than random noise). We will re-write this section and try to point this out. Thanks for the references.
- [5] This is an interesting point. I think that water managers were genuinely more interested in discharge and surface water temperature forecasts, as these affect their management decisions much more than deep water temperature forecasts. So I think their responses reflect a real interest in these variables, rather than the fact that they can already guess what e.g. bottom temperature might be next season (based on antecedent conditions). However, this result is probably not generalisable to our statement "forecasts for more climate-sensitive variables are more valuable for management". I think this statement is often true, but for the (self-evident) reasons you give, rather than because of our results, which might just be because of the particularities of the case study sites. We will adjust the text accordingly.
- [P.11 L.260]: Yes, this work has just been done, assessing the sources of skill for the different study sites and regions. It is going to be the subject of a separate paper, but I will put in a sentence or two summarising some of the results.