

Application Of Seasonal Weather Forecasts In Fire Hazard Prediction

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This paper investigates the potential application of long term seasonal weather forecasts in prediction of forest fire hazard. Seasonal forecasts of European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) predict anomalies of several climatological elements, such as temperature, precipitation and pressure. For several points on the Adriatic coast (Mediterranean), observed climatological anomalies were compared to calculated mean values of Canadian Fire Weather Index (FWI). Although the relations between these can be rather complicated (particularly in case of precipitation), the results exhibit a significant correlation between climatological anomalies and FWI. Such correlation can be used as the objective guidance for interpreting seasonal forecasts in terms of forest fire danger.