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The user perspective of seasonal forecast in Basque Country

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Main seasonal forecasting goal is to predict climate seasonal anomalies a few months in advance for a particular area. For this purpose the use of expensive resources including complex models are needed. Nowadays, most part of medium and small meteorological services don't have this capabilities, although major meteorological institutions around the world have developed operational seasonal forecasting systems based on coupled atmosphere-ocean general circulation models.

During those last years, some meteorological services at European level, have made those forecast, in different formats, available and accessible for general users and media. Unless there is a non-expert widespread perception, that available operational seasonal forecasting systems shown little or no skill in European mid-latitudes

In this paper we explore general usefulness of operational "state of the art" seasonal forecasts for the area of the Basque Country. The point of view we adopt is the generic non-expert user, including journalist, who looks for general information about temperature and precipitation for the months ahead.

Available seasonal forecast since autumn 2009 are analysed for the area of Basque Country. Two main sources are used; public data provided by the British Meteorological Service (MetOffice) and by the U.S. National Weather Service (NWS/NCEP) at european level. In first case based on GLOSEA4 system (HadGEM3-AO model and NEMO ocean model) and in the second one based on model CFS (Climate Forecast system). Validation show that the reliability remains low and therefore the usefulness of these predictions, even for general purpose, is still limited, at least for the study area.