



Communicating forecast verification results to decision-makers

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In 2013, MeteoSwiss developed a new verification scheme, called COMFORT (for COntinous MeteoSwiss FOrecast quality), for assessing the general weather forecasts issued by the regional forecasting centers. This assessment is used for administrative purposes as the weather centers are expected to communicate to the government, to various decision-makers, and to the general public the evolution of the quality of their forecasts.

An important issue here is to be able to explain in a simple way the evolution of forecast quality to non-specialists. The score COMFORT was thus designed as an understandable measure of accuracy based on quantities covering the main features of sensible weather in Switzerland. It was also constructed to reflect the following quite intuitive qualifications of the quality of a forecast: correct, useful and useless.

The score COMFORT was developed within the MeteoSwiss operational forecasting system but, in spite of its apparent specificity, it is based on ideas that might be transposable to other weather forecasting services.