

The Canadian Historical Seasonal Forecasting Project

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The presentation will give an overview of the Canadian Historical (Seasonal) Forecasting Project, or HFP, a collaborative project involving researchers from two laboratories of the Canadian Meteorological Service and from McGill University. The goal of the project is to test the skill of four Canadian global models at predicting mean-seasonal conditions. In addition, the skill of a simplified General Circulation Model was tested and compared with that of a more complex model. A post-processing technique will be described, in which the seasonal forecasts produced by the models are processed to correct some systematic errors. The results show that the corrected forecasts have skill in predicting not only the well-known Pacific North American pattern as a response to El Niño / La Niña forcing, but also in predicting the amplitude of the winter North Atlantic Oscillation with a one-month lead time. The seasonal forecasting procedure developed in the HFP is now used operationally by the Meteorological Service of Canada.