

Attempts to identify the mechanism linking sea salt concentration to ENSO at MBS, building on Crockery et al. and Udy et al., both 2021. There is an El Niño but not a La Niña relationship, which is not particularly surprising given that the atmospheric response to El Niño has a relatively well understood mechanistic connection to Antarctic atmosphere-ocean anomalies. The opposite Pacific SST conditions don't force the same response, leaving other mechanisms to potentially dictate variability in Antarctic Ocean and sea ice conditions in those years.

The same uncertainty in precise mechanistic link between tropical Pacific variability remains in the manuscript, but is acknowledged more explicitly.

Line 44 remove period before parenthetical containing references.

Line 58 careful to remember that climate indices like Antarctic Dipole are merely statistical descriptions of variability in climate/environmental parameters.

Line 62 clarify that the Rossby wave is an atmospheric wave (just to not confuse reader between ocean or atmospheric “wave”)

Line 120 there “are” known biases in ERA5... Good references for ERA5 anomalies also come from Bromwich et al. as recently as 2024 (GRL)

Line 127 read for consistent use of data in plural