

Editor's Comments:

Dear Authors,

Thank you for a careful further revision of your manuscript, which I am pleased to accept for publication in Earth System Dynamics. Before uploading the final files for manuscript production I would ask you to consider a last comment from one of the Reviewers:

"L642: I think the ordering of the monthly, annual skill percentages is now flipped, and the previous text was correct (monthly: 75% and annual: 67%)"

Best,

Gabriele Messori

Dear Prof. Messori,

Thank you very much for your consideration of our manuscript and accepting it for publication in Earth System Dynamics. We have corrected line 642 as per the Reviewer's comment. In addition, we have updated the data and code availability section such that it points to the YODA repository that contains the spinup, GRACE agreement, and ML bias correction data. Please note that the DOI currently contains the previous version, but once the YODA team has processed it the same DOI will point to the updated version.

Best wishes,

Barry van Jaarsveld and co-authors