

Cover letter

Dear Editors,

I am pleased to submit our manuscript, “The Importance of Initial Conditions in Seasonal Predictions of Antarctic Sea Ice,” for consideration in npj climate and atmospheric science.

This work addresses a critical gap in understanding the role of initial conditions in Antarctic sea-ice predictability by taking advantage of a unique “opportunistic experiment” with the ACCESS-S1 and ACCESS-S2 forecast systems. Our findings have direct implications for operational forecasting and model development, particularly regarding data assimilation strategies and seasonal predictability barriers.

We suggest the following potential reviewers:

1. Marika Holland <mholland@ucar.edu>
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Thank you for considering our work for publication.

Sincerely,
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