

Appendix A - NMME-Phase II Hindcast and Real-time Prediction Protocol

- Real-time ISI (intra-seasonal to interannual) prediction system must be identical to the system used to produce hindcasts. This necessarily includes the procedure for initializing the prediction system. The number of ensemble members per forecast, however can be larger for the real-time system.
- Hindcast start times must include all 12 calendar months, but the specific day of the month or the ensemble generation strategy is left open to the forecast provider.
- Lead-times up to 9 months are required, but longer leads are encouraged.
- The target hindcast period is 30 years (1981-2010).
- The ensemble size is left open to the forecast provider, but larger ensembles are considered better.
- Data distributed must include each ensemble member (not the ensemble mean). Total fields are required (i.e., systematic error corrections to be coordinated by MME combination lead, NOAA/CPC).
- Model configurations – resolution, version, physical parameterizations, initialization strategies, and ensemble generation strategies – are left open to forecast providers.
- Required output is as per Appendix B of this plan
- Routine real-time forecast data must be available by the 8th of each month. Pre-release of real-time forecasts (COB on the 6th of each month) in support of the ENSO Diagnostic Discussion (EDD) is strongly encouraged.