

**MS-No.:npg-2024-24**

**Title:** Explaining the high skill of Reservoir Computing method in El Niño prediction

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## Reply to the editor

April 4, 2025

### **Private note**

The authors could have a discussion in the section "Summary and discussion" on the comment provided by the report #2 in the second round of review. Actually, an RC model trained by realistic data can also calculate the CNOP, whose evolution can be compared with that obtained by the RC model trained by the ZC model output. Such comparison may make your results much robust.

### **Author's Reply:**

Suggestion followed.

### **Changes in the Manuscript:**

In the "Summary and Discussion" section (lines 442–455), we now mention the possibility of applying the CNOP framework to machine learning models trained with real observations, clarifying why this type of analysis can be useful for ENSO prediction.