

Global Perspective of Atmospheric Rivers: Climatology, and Climate Modulation

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Abstract

This presentation highlights materials under consideration for Chapters 4.1 and 4.2 of the atmospheric river (AR) monograph. Using an ERA-Interim-based global AR catalog (Guan and Waliser, 2015; extended to the period of 1979–2015), a consistent accounting of the climatology, seasonality, and climate modulation of AR activities (e.g., frequency, precipitation, landfall) will be presented. In this context, consistencies (or lack thereof) will be identified and discussed for studies using different AR identification techniques, and justification will be given for the technique employed herein. The results highlight the footprints and potential impacts of ARs in many locations across the globe (including areas where ARs have received less scientific attention), as well as potential subseasonal, seasonal, and long-term predictability of AR activities associated with El Niño–Southern Oscillation, Madden-Julian Oscillation, and other large-scale climate variations.