

## ***Interactive comment on “El Niño in a changing climate: a multi-model study” by G. J. van Oldenborgh et al.***

### **Anonymous Referee #2**

Received and published: 18 July 2005

Review of "El Nino in a changing climate: a multi-model study" by van Oldenborgh, Philip, and Collins

Recommendation: accept

This paper describes a study of the representation of El Nino in an ensemble of coupled ocean-atmosphere models, and how El Nino in the models changes with global climate change. It is a well thought out study that is meticulously carried out. The primary conclusion, that in those models that do a reasonable job in simulating El Nino there is no discernible change in El Nino under climate change, is an important result for climate change modellers and policy makers alike.

The analysis of El Nino in the models was done at a level beyond the simplistic presentation of various diagnostics and comparisons with observations. A model hierarchy was used, such that the ability of the complex models to simulate the essential feed-

back processes in simpler conceptual models was quantified, and this was then used to determine which of the complex coupled models gave a reasonable simulation of El Nino.

The technical quality of the manuscript is excellent, although there is a tendency to go into "MIP-speak", which is probably unavoidable, but can be hard work after a while.

Overall, I recommend this paper be published in OS.

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Interactive comment on Ocean Science Discussions, 2, 267, 2005.

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Discussion Paper