Biogeosciences

Discussions

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Interactive comment on "Using biogeochemical data assimilation to assess the relative skill of multiple ecosystem models: effects of increasing the complexity of the planktonic food web" *by* Y. Xiao and M. A. M. Friedrichs

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Received and published: 7 February 2014

I haven't been through this is detail, but on a quick read, this is a very nice study, and exactly the sort of thing that we need to help us figure out how complex our models need to be. My own (online as in-press) articles in Environmental Modelling and Software have highlighted this as an issue: our models have been getting more complex over decades, but as a community, we haven't really established whether this is improving their predictive capacity. This is a solid step in this direction. The trials including the effects of random noise were a good idea, and really help to differentiate improvements

in model skill from aparent improvements due to overfitting.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 11, 481, 2014.