

***Interactive comment on* “Contrasting large fire regimes in the French Mediterranean” by Anne Ganteaume and Renaud Barbero**

Anonymous Referee #2

Received and published: 18 November 2018

In this study the authors characterize the spatial and temporal patterns of large fire activity in a region of southern France where a longitudinal gradient in fire weather and land use conditions exists. This is a valuable addition to the literature, namely because it goes back in time more than usually available in Europe. However, in its present form, the manuscript falls short of fulfilling its potential, and I share most of the concerns expressed by reviewer #2, namely unclear objectives/research questions that forcefully lead to unfocused analysis and discussion. Additionally, I felt that many sentences are excessively referenced, which breaks the reading flow, and English expression could be significantly improved in order to make the ms. more appealing.

Specific comments

L14. “up to 5 or 6 times by recurrent LF” is redundant. Also, better to delete 5, as it is

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not the maximum value.

L21-23. Rephrase, from my interpretation what is of concern is the future repetition of 2003-type events.

L32-33. The sentence is confusing, rephrase.

L39. I would say that is more “determine” than “contribute”.

L50. Fire management includes fire prevention.

L79. Stationary, not stationarity.

L108-109. Comprised and composed should be in the present tense.

L119. It should be “unpublished data” or “data on file” rather than “pers. comm.”, because Ganteaume is one of the authors.

L137-140. I don’t think this is needed. Just keep the final parte relative to France.

L146. If you are using daily maximum (or means of minimum and maximum?) values of weather variables you are not calculating the FWI indexes correctly, which are based on noon observations. Clarify this.

L153. Why mean values and not a more extreme value, e.g. the 90th percentile, as large fires are known to occur under more extreme weather conditions?

L154. Clarify what you mean by “fuel”, i.e. which land cover types are excluded or included.

L161. What you refer to as “recurrence” is overwhelmingly used in the literature as “frequency” (number of times burnt / time). I would advise to do the replacement across the entire manuscript, as it much more informative to report n/t than the number of times burnt.

L164. Here it seems you are referring to “fire return interval”, but then we find out in results that the variable is expressed in hectares. Be more precise regarding fire

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return “level”. “age of the last burned area” is time since fire or patch age at the time it burned?

L166. Comparisons between the 2 regions?

L190. Delete “occurrences”

L301-307. This paragraph does not discuss results, presents them.

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