October 19, 2023 Recreational Demand Model (RDM) Decision Support Tool (DST) Working Group (WG) Meeting Summary

The RDM DST Working Group for Summer Flounder, Black Sea Bass, and Scup met for the fifth time on October 19, 2023, via webinar to discuss: (1) enhancements made to the draft DST design template; and (2) to provide a progress update on moving the DST to the cloud to better support the processing needs of the RDM and to take advantage of cloud computing scalability.

Attending

Working Group Members

Tracey Bauer
Julia Beaty
Scott Steinback
Kimberly Bastille
Andrew (Lou) Carr-Harris
Peter Clarke
Kiley Dancy
Lorena de la Garza Hernandez
Alexa Galván
Hannah Hart
Emily Keiley

Corine Truesdale
Samuel Truesdell
Rachel Sysak
Gregory Wojcik
Tony Wood

Others

Sabrina Lovell

Discussion

Scott Steinback: Work on updating the model code to reflect improvements made since last year continued. Kim also continued to work on the draft DST and met several times with the Microsoft Azure team about moving the DST to the cloud.

Kim Bastille: No changes to the regulation selection tab since last meeting. Default settings are still current year measures. Have coded up parallel processing for 100 runs. Not in the cloud yet for simultaneous runs. Results table reordered a bit, but same info as last meeting. Shown by mode and all modes combined. Still working on model side so actual results shown are not meaningful. Can now download an excel spreadsheet of the results. Different tabs for each results table.

Scott Steinback: So there is no longer an email option for the results, right?

Kim Bastille: Yes

Julia Beaty: Can seasons be added by mode if those modes are not treated differently under the current regs?

Kim Bastille: Yes, that is done for BSB. Haven't done it for scup, but it can be added. It does make the interface look more complicated. If currently broken out by mode, won't have an option to combine modes. However, users can set each mode to the same measures. Would states want that option to consider by mode for scup?

Rachel Sysak: Would want it for NY.

Sam Truesdell: Would also be useful for MA.

Kim Bastille: Will do it for all states. Need to remember that there are less data points by mode though.

Scott Steinback: Still just in demo mode for NJ only. Not intending for this version to be final. It will be a working tool moving forward. Get it to what we need for this year, but can still make modifications down the road. Would be good to get this squared away so we can concentrate on the cloud part of it.

Kim Bastille: Can include more bells and whistles next year.

Peter Clarke: Can we add an option for the same measures by mode?

Kim Bastille: In the states where the measures are currently the same by mode, that will be the case.

Peter Clarke: Summer flounder is not broken out by mode in NJ, but what's shown on the screen here has it split.

Kim Bastille: That was unintentional. Can collapse that. Will add the "modes to choose from" option for all three species.

Scott Steinback: Will be more opportunities to review things by state and suggest changes. Not a lot of time though. We are aiming for the demo version for NJ together by next month for review by everyone. While you're reviewing that demo version in the cloud, Kim will be working on putting together all the states. If NJ looks good, the other states in theory should work once Kim puts it together. Was hoping to have the demo version in the cloud by now. Working on service level agreement. Other parts of NOAA are also interested in this. Trying to incorporate other projects into the contract, which is slowing it down. We are trying to focus just on this project for this year. Should have a service level agreement for our project this week. Then we'll set up the way we're paying for it and will be able to move forward quickly. NOAA has never run a shiny app in the cloud. The public facing part of it is new for NOAA. Should be able to get it up and running for November. Think we have the funding squared away but don't have the final number on cost yet. Several options for different levels of support, etc. Aiming to have all the states up and ready to run after the December Council/Board meeting. Imagine app would be running in the cloud through February. Then would be temporarily inaccessible in the cloud to keep the costs low. Will make it accessible again later in 2024 when it's needed again. Plan B – DST is essentially done. Working on some improvements to the code. Almost done with that. DST will at least be running on Kim's machine. If can't get the cloud up and running, Kim can do it all on her computer. Will still be easier than the way we did it last year.

Kim Bastille: If someone wants to run this on their own computer, code is available on github. Data aren't on github because the files are too big. But can figure that out if anyone wants to run it locally.

Julia Beaty: If the government shuts down after the cloud is up and running, would that slow us down?

Scott Steinback: Can't answer with 100% certainty. If service level agreement is in place before that and cloud part is up and running, I think we would be OK. Don't know what role the cloud program office plays exactly in that funding. They might bill us monthly. Cost will vary depending on usage. Would need to clarify if that could still happen during a shut down. I think we would be OK if the service level agreement was in place.