

Progress on the pilot project on update assessments.

Outline of project: Transparent Assessment Framework

To implement a system that will give stock assessors the tools to archive data, methods and results used in an ICES assessment, so that they can be replicated at a future date and also be re-run the following year with minimal changes

Summary

- A tool to improve the organization and consistency of Expert Group workflow;
- Online archive of final assessment each year, for all stock categories;
- Maintain the ownership of the assessment process within the EGs;
- All data, tools and scripts available via ICES data services;
- Input and output linked to existing or upcoming ICES data services.

Benefits (after initial setup costs)

- High **quality** science: data and methods are online, peer-reviewed process, reproducible research, and fully documented;
- Improved **time efficiency** and **reduced workload** on EGs:
 - Automatic generation of standard input and output tables and graphs;
 - Quick to re-run assessment and generate tables and graphs if input data is modified;
 - Update assessments should require few if any changes to benchmarked agreed scripts.
- Much more **open and structured** than current workflow;
- Protect against loss of “institutional memory”;
- Improved access to stock assessment data and results, for the wider scientific community.

Timeline

The plan is to focus on development in 2016-2018 and deployment in 2018-2020. To enable rapid development, the system will contain relatively few stocks during the first two years, followed by large-scale deployment of as many stocks as possible. By starting with one stock from each EG, a connection will be made to all EGs from an early point.

2016

The project plan was presented and discussed at an internal workshop attended by the Data and Advice teams of the secretariat where valuable feedback was received. TAF was also presented at the ICES ASC to the joint ACOM/SCICOM meeting and at an open session “How is your science being used in assessment and advice”. Feedback from the ICES community was positive and encouraging and the critical comments received are guiding ongoing developments.

2017

January Project presentation and feedback at WGCHAIRS meeting

April First launch of system, with limited features
Archives of input and output made available online
Around 10 stocks (one from each EG) entered into system

2018

January Status update and feedback at WGCHAIRS meeting

April Operational system, with automated scripts
Continued work with same 10 stocks, adding one year of data
Users can upload and modify files, run assessment online, browse archives

Two years into the project, the framework (system, workflow, adoption) will be reviewed and the steps for the next two years planned. These steps will include a training and collaboration phase with EGs, entering more stocks into the system, and developing further improvements and automation.

2019 More stocks entered into system
Further improvements of system and automation

2020 More stocks entered into system
Continued work with EGs to establish new workflow

System workflow

