June 15, 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 first time on June 15, 2023, via webinar to discuss: 1) the purpose/objectives of the WG; to review and comment on a draft DST template; and discuss recommended DST output formats.

Attending

Working Group Members

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

Mark Terceiro
Corinne Truesdale
Samuel Truesdell
Rachel Sysak
Chelsea Tuohy
Gregory Wojcik
Richard Wong
Tony Wood

Others

Adam Nowalsky
Joe Grist
Unknown 540 number

Discussion

Scott Steinback: Described the purpose and need for development of the RDM DST and indicated that the goal is to have a working tool setup for all three species for 2024. Standing monthly WG meetings will be held the third Thursday of every month from 9am – 10am until no longer necessary. The NEFSC hired Kim Bastille to work on speeding up the RDM code and to construct the DST. Kim has been working on it for about a month and a half and has created a draft template of the DST for the WG to review.

Kim Bastille: 15 minute presentation of draft template. Model currently only built out for NJ. Current default settings are 2022 measures. Model outputs show harvest estimates under default measures as well as under 2023 revised measures. Living tool that will be updated and modified based on the feedback of this group moving forward.

Alexa Galvin: Could check boxes be added at the top of the tool that ask if users would like to populate the output by mode or if they would like to assess slot limits? The check boxes might simplify the design of the template. Even if a state hasn't implemented slot limits in the past, for example, check boxes would allow states to consider it in future years.

Corinne Truesdale: Can all states introduce slot limits or does it have to be something that we already have in place?

Kim Bastille: Can have an option to introduce slot limits. I think it's doable but would have to think about how to do it on the back end.

Peter Clarke: Last year when we changed one species, it affected the other two. Does that still happen with this? Do we need to look at these results independently as we run different species?

Kim Bastille: Model is the same as last year. Can show as much or as little as desired on results page.

Scott Steinback: Just a tool to allow access to the RDM in a more simple format. Doesn't change any of the model at all.

Greg Wojcik: CT mid-season closure. Does tool allow for mid-season closures?

Kim Bastille: Yes. Would be like adding a second season. Can do with the 'add season' button.

Greg *Wojcik*: Can different seasons be added by mode?

Kim Bastille: Right now can just add one season, but we can discuss how to change it.

Alexa Galván: Better to sort by season then by mode, rather than mode then season? See the year for each mode together.

Sam Truesdell: This will be run, remotely, right? We won't all have the data on our machines. Will it be a problem that we will all be doing a bunch of runs at once?

Kim Bastille: Working on it. Hoping it will run on the Fisheries Connect platform. Will be able to run on a certain number of machines at once.

Sam Truesdell: How long do runs typically take?

Kim Bastille: Right now, just on my local machine, running a single iteration – about one minute. Model runs 100 iterations. Hoping to parallel process, looking into cloud computing. All on the table right now. Worst case scenario, 1.5 hours for a single state. Still working on the IT side of things.

Scott Steinback: Running the model 100 times takes a lot of processing capacity. Would overwhelm the NEFSC servers if the DST was set up on our servers. It's an issue that we don't have an answer to yet. Working on potential solutions. One minute is way less time than it took only a month ago. If we can do parallel processing (each iteration on a different core), in theory, can do 100 iterations in one min, but we may have to buy the cloud cores to do that. We'll get there, but still an issue.

Julia Beaty: Can we add NC to the DST. List states N to S. Have options for all states to have different measures by mode.

Kim Bastille: NC was missing from the RDM output, so I'll check with Lou on that. We should be able to add NC though. We can definitely list states N to S and try and work on figuring out a way to have different management options by mode for all states.

Scott Steinback: Worth giving thought to the results tab. What do you want to see here? Can also put in charts and graphs of results. Can add results subtabs. For example, we plan to add how many runs result in harvest below the target. Need feedback on what you'd like to see here.

Alexa Galván: Would like to see discards. See which options would result in more or less discards.

Mark Grant: I liked how the groundfish tables showed the combinations and the total dead catch, discards, kept, and percentages. Could we copy that same style but with three species instead of two?

Scott Steinback: That's possible. Maybe next time we can show more results on the results tab.

Mark Grant: 100 runs the default or is that variable?

Scott Steinback: That's what we were thinking. Constraint is the processing cost of more runs. Much more of a constraint than I was thinking it would be. We did some groundfish sensitivity runs in the past and saw little difference between 100 and 1,000 runs. So I think we're on safe ground with 100 runs.

Hannah Hart: Can the output provide box plots like Lou provided last year?

Kim Bastille: Yes.

Julia Beaty: Who will be able to access the DST? Anyone or just the MC/TC (i.e., the RDM DST Working Group members)?

Kim Bastille: This year might set it up so only accepts certain email addresses. It's something we've been thinking about. Can do a specific list of email addresses. A few options for how to go about it. Do need to limit the number of runs going at the same time.

Scott Steinback: For now, all working group members at a minimum. Depends on where this tool ends up living. Don't know that answer yet. Increases cost when increasing number of users that can access it. Goal is to eventually allow everyone who would like to have access.

Tracey Bauer: What will it look like once other states are added in?

Kim Bastille: All of the states would have different default regs. Right now just set up for NJ. If you click NJ and MD. Would see NJ, scroll down to see MD results. All options for all states will be available.

Scott Steinback: For the next meeting, will have an updated template. Might know more about where the model will live, and how many users can access.

Public

Adam Nowalsky: I support two previous comments. Results page to show discards. Range of estimates by box plot or other means for harvest and discards with different confidence intervals. Council and Commission would be considering implementation of what's currently the HCR approach or whatever the next version of it is, hope to see bluefish come out of rebuilding. Hope to implement this for bluefish as well.