

November 16, 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 sixth time on November 16, 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
Kiley Dancy
Steve Doctor
Alexa Galván
Mark Terceiro
Gregory Wojcik
Tony Wood

Others

Adam Nowalsky
John Maniscalco
Mike Waine
Jesse Hornstein
Greg DiDomenico
Ed Newellman

Discussion

Scott Steinback: Have made a lot of progress since our last meeting. Still have barriers to overcome in terms of moving the DST into the cloud, but we signed a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between NOAA and Microsoft Azure and since then work has been happening at breakneck speed.

Kim Bastille: No major changes to regulation selection page since last meeting. Added SF by mode in NJ. Default options show 2023 measures by state. Still cleaning up results tab to make it as clear and useful as possible. Notes are just for my purposes. Will not be included in the final version. After you hit run, the results tab will show “calculating.” Takes about 15 minutes per state. Don’t refresh the page while it’s calculating. Once done, download the results. The underlying model data sets are now so large, with all of the model improvements that have been made, that we had to increase the size of the virtual machines that we are working on. We finally sorted that out. I’m meeting with the Azure folks daily.

Scott Steinback: Kim was able to run the DST in the cloud for the first time yesterday. During the MC meeting a couple of days ago, Lou was running the coastwide nonpreferred measures through the model and the runs lasted from Monday through Tuesday afternoon. When running

the model in the cloud, it's now taking only about 15 minutes. We originally were thinking it might be even quicker than that, but because of all of the improvements and additions, the model is much larger than it was last year. That's making it slower, but 15 minutes is still a lot better than days. Another advantage of the Cloud is that it will allow multiple people to work on it at the same time.

Kim Bastille: It's a balancing act. Larger machines cost more money. Trying to keep it reasonable so we're not spending more than we need. Working today on the security aspects for it to live within NOAA. Only steps left are to do the security steps and give it a URL that everyone here can use.

Scott Steinback: We need a site to host it. We just found out that to get the URL through NOAA was going to take two weeks, which is too long. Kim found a workaround with Microsoft. They will sponsor the site for this year. Currently, the model is only running for NJ. The next step will be to add the remaining states.

Kim Bastille: While I'm working on getting NJ in the cloud, I'll also work on building out the other states.

Scott Steinback: We have an idea what the Council/Board will vote on in Dec. More than likely conservation equivalency for SF and BSB. Nothing will be official until that meeting. This should be up and running prior to that though. We are working on a Dec 1 deadline to get it out to everyone. I think it would be helpful to hold a couple sessions to work through exactly how to use it. Will try to schedule those before the Dec Council/Board meeting so people are ready to go by the Dec meeting.

Kim Bastille: We just got it working yesterday so I'm hesitant to put dates on the calendar now. Will have a better idea in a few days. May just be NJ at first. Can hopefully add the other states after just a few days.

Scott Steinback: Access this year will be limited to working group members. Had to limit it to about 30 people to keep costs down.

Julia Beaty: If worried about the 30 people limit, would it help if all 3 council staff shared a login?

Kim Bastille: All 30 can use it at the same time. Shouldn't need to share logins.

Scott Steinback: Everyone on the work group is already accounted for in the 30. Once it's out there, we want people to demo the tool. Let us know if you find issues. Will send an email once we have the URL and access for everyone. Then we'll try to schedule a few office hour meetings to work through any issues. We'll keep our next meeting scheduled for now.