Application of An Index Method (AIM) to Data Rich Situations: Can Simple Methods Capture Major Features of Complex Assessments?

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Information Content of Data

- Fishery assessments depend on detection of relationship between population and removals
- At a minimum, would like to answer the following questions,
 - What level of exploitation will maintain the status quo?
 - What level of exploitation is necessary to increase probability of population growth?
 - What levels are expected to result in population decline?

"...we have concluded that the control charts based on the same principles as those used in the quality control of manufacturing processes could, if suitably developed, be a most useful tool for this purpose."

Beverton and Holt 1957

Two Pieces of Data

- Time series of catch
 - Can use landings if that's all you have
- Time series of relative abundance (index)
 - Fishery independent survey
 - CPUE

Create relative F and replacement ratio

Relative F

$$relF_{t}^{C} = \frac{C_{t}}{\left(\frac{I_{t-1} + I_{t} + I_{t+1}}{3}\right)} \qquad relF_{t}^{L} = \frac{C_{t}}{\left(\frac{I_{t-2} + I_{t-1} + I_{t}}{3}\right)}$$

where $relF_t$ = relative F at time t C_t = catch or landings of stock s at time t (weight) I_t = index of abundance at time t (weight)

Replacement Ratio

Derivation starts with basic biology, then does some simple algebra to produce

$$\Psi_{t} = \frac{B_{t}}{\alpha B_{t-1} S^{1} W_{1} + \alpha B_{t-2} S^{2} W_{2} + \alpha B_{t-3} S^{3} W_{3} + \dots + \alpha B_{t-(A-1)} S^{A-1} W_{A-1} + \alpha B_{t-A} S^{A} W_{A}}$$

Next substitute $I_t = qB_t$ and make some simplifying assumptions to end with

$$\Psi_t = \frac{I_t}{\sum_{j=1}^{A} \frac{I_{t-j}}{A}}$$

When the replacement ratio is greater than one the population is growing; and vice versa.



2 pieces of data X 2 derived ratios = 6 Panel Plots (new math)



Initial Data: Landings and Survey







Note that the recovery path is generally different that the depletion path. Phase-plane Survey vs relative F Gulf of Maine Haddock, Fall Survey





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Replacement Ratio for GOM Haddock





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Negative correlation between replacement ratio and relative F is expected. Is it greater than expected due to chance alone?

Gulf of Maine Haddock, Fall Survey



Construct the sampling distribution of correlation coefficient using randomization techniques.



Observed Correlation between Replacement ratio and relative F =-0.632 *Prob(Corr<-0.632)<0.001*



Use bootstrapping to estimate uncertainty in relative F at replacement.



Gulf of Maine Haddock, Fall Survey

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Status Determination

- Current relF vs relF_{threshold}: overfishing
- Current index vs index_{threshold}: overfished
 - Need external info, relF_{threshold} = MSY/index_{threshold}



Nonstationarity



Simple models can fail when complex models fail

What Else Can Go Wrong?

- Infinite number of replacement levels
- Time series only heavily over or under fished
 - Will still get an estimated relF_{threshold}, but may not be optimal
- Strong recruitment pulse can cause positive relationship between relF and replacement ratio
- Too much noise in catch or index can result in non-significant relationship between relF and replacement ratio
- Catch may not be major influence on abundance

What Isn't Needed

- Biology
 - -M
 - Longevity
 - Maturity
- Fishery
 - Selectivity
- Index
 - Catchability coefficient
- Large amount of time to conduct analysis



http://nft.nefsc.noaa.gov/



General Data	Catch & Index Data	Options Projection Da	ata
NOAA's Natio	nal Marine Fish	eries Service	
	NOAA Fisheries	Toolbox	
	An Index	Method	1
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Suggestions for California

- Apply simple methods such as AIM to all stocks with available data
 - Some models won't work
 - Diagnostics might hint towards what went wrong to guide future data collection
 - Not much invested, so not much lost
 - Some models will work
 - Quick advice
 - Evaluate whether more data collection warranted
- Simple \neq bad