**Instructions for using RunDPSA**

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RunDPSA is a wrapper program for performing a suite of data-poor stock assessments (DPSAs) on fishery data. It is designed to easily incorporate new DPSA modules for use. This document describes the basic steps for running the model. Beers are requiredfor more detailed discussion of its inner workings.

**1. Put your data in the right place**

* Data must be formatted in the standardized format for RunDPSA. Currently sample formats are available for length, density, and CPUE based data. Missing fields should be empty or marked with -999. See the sample spreadsheets for the correct formatting of data
* Place your data in the appropriate folder. The sequence should be a series of nested folders something like COUNTRY/SITE/SPECIES. The actual names don’t matter, but this seemed the easiest way to organize a large number of assessments
* All files should be named “Country-Site-Species\_DATATYPE.csv”, where DATATYPE is one of LengthData, DensityData, or CPUEData (more to come).
* Format the ControlFile (named “Country-Site-Species\_ControlFile.csv”). This is where all the life history and fleet information goes
  + Inside the controlfile, set the “Assessments” variable to a vector of the names of the assessments you want to run. You’ll need to make sure you have the appropriate data for each assessments

**2. Run RunDPSA**

* Set Country, Site, Species to the combination you want to assess
* Each assessment has a variety of options. I will provide more background on these later, at the moment the common options are Iterations, BootStrap, and LifeError. Iterations is the number of monte carlo iterations to run. Running only 1 iteration just runs the assessment on the default data. Running more than 1 iteration introduces error. If BootStrap is 1, the data are bootstrapped under each monte carlo run. If LifeError is 1, errors are introduced to the life history growth and mortality variables
* Run code
* Outputs and figures are inside the Country/Site/Species folder