**ABT-MSE: an R package for Atlantic bluefin tuna management strategy evaluation**

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*SUMMARY*

To do last

*KEYWORDS*

*Management Strategy Evaluation, bluefin tuna, operating model, management procedure, software*

# Introduction

A Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE, Butterworth 1999, Cochrane 1998) approach has been proposed for Atlantic bluefin tuna as a suitable framework for providing robust management advice consistent with the precautionary approach (GBYP 2017a). A critical step in MSE is the development of candidate management procedures (MPs) which can provide management advice from fishery data. MSE processes are strengthened by comparative testing of multiple MPs developed by stakeholders. To facilitate this, an R MSE package has been developed to enable design and testing of MPs for Atlantic bluefin tuna (ABT-MSE). In this paper we focus on how the R framework may be used to test candidate MPs. A comprehensive user guide (Carruthers 2017) is available from a GitHub repository where all code and data are also freely available. A brief installation guide and example use of the package in included in the Appendix of this document. For a full description of operating model equations and parameters we refer users to the Trial specifications document (CMG 2017) and other supporting papers (SCRS/2015/179). See GBYP (2017b) for a summary of the data used by the operating models.

# Methods

**Format of simulated data**

In the ABT-MSE framework, MPs must access simulated data and provide a TAC recommendation. Various data are simulated and stored in an object *dset*, that can be accessed by candidate MPs (Table 1). The principal data types that may be used by MPs include simulated observed annual catches, previous TAC recommendations, observed relative abundance indices, catch-at-age data and catch-at-size data.

**Table 1**. Principal simulated data of the simulated dataset object

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Description** | **Dimensions** |
| Cobs | Observed annual catches | sim x year |
| TAC | Historical TAC recommendations | sim x year |
| Iobs | Observed relative abundance indices | sim x index x year |
| CAA | Catch-At-Age samples | sim x age x year |
| CAL | Catch-At-Length samples | sim x age x year |
|  |  |  |

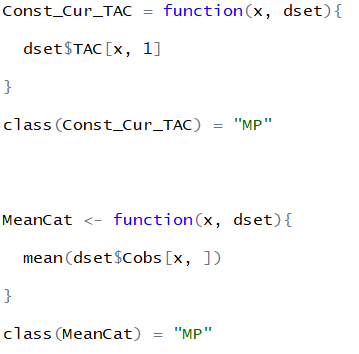
MPs often use indices of relative abundance as the primary basis for adjusting the TAC. In total 11 indices are simulated in the ABT-MSE framework (SCRS/2017/223) (Table 2).

**Table 2.** The indices simulated the MSE framework.

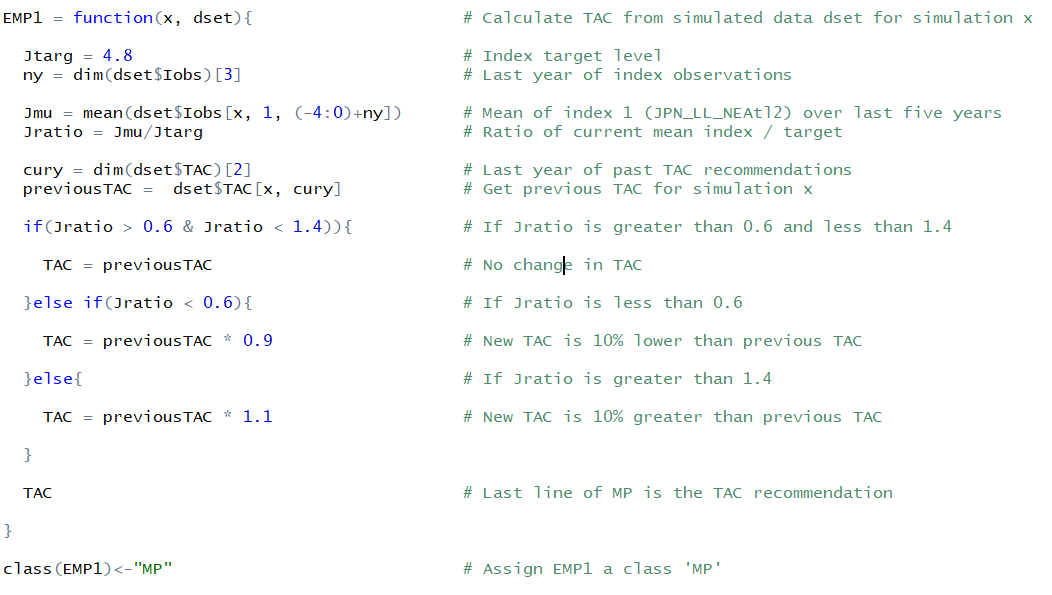
|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Name** | **Area** | **Type** | **Description** |
| 1 | JPN\_LL\_NEAtl2 | East | Fishery-dependent | Japanese Longline in the North East Atlantic |
| 2 | MOR\_POR\_TRAP | East | Fishery-dependent | Moroccan / Portuguese Trap |
| 3 | FR\_AER\_SUV | East | Fishery-independent | French Aerial Survey |
| 4 | MED\_LAR\_SUV | East | Fishery-independent | Mediterranean Larval Survey |
| 5 | MED\_AER\_SUV | East | Fishery-independent | Mediterranean Aerial Survey |
| 6 | JPN\_LL2 | West | Fishery-dependent | Japanese longline in the western Atlantic |
| 7 | US\_GOM\_PLL2 | West | Fishery-dependent | US Gulf of Mexico pelagic longline |
| 8 | US\_RR\_115\_144 | West | Fishery-dependent | US Rod and Reel 115cm – 144cm West Atlantic |
| 9 | US\_RR\_66\_114 | West | Fishery-dependent | US Rod and Reel 66cm – 114cm West Atlantic |
| 10 | CAN\_ACO\_SUV | West | Fishery-independent | Canadian Acoustic Survey |
| 11 | GOM\_LAR\_SUV | West | Fishery-independent | Gulf of Mexico Larval Survey |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**MP design**

In the ABT-MSE framework, management procedures are functions that have two arguments, the first is the simulation number x, the second is the simulated data set. There are two remaining requirements, the first is that the last line of the MP function is the TAC recommendation (a point value) and that immediately after the MP it is assigned the class ‘MP’. Two simple constant catch MPs are provided in Figure 1, an example of an index target MP (EMP1, SCRS/2017/224) is provided in Figure 2.



**Figure 1.** Two constant catch MPs. Management procedures are functions that must have two arguments, the first of which is the simulation number *x*, the second is the simulated data, *dset*. The first MP ‘Const\_Cur\_TAC’ sets the new TAC recommendation to the first ever (current) TAC recommendation for simulation *x*. The second ‘MeanCat’ is simply the mean historical annual catches for simulation *x*.



**Figure 2**. Example Management Procedure 1 represented in R code. Management procedures are functions that must have two arguments, the first of which is the simulation number *x*, the second is the simulated data, *dset*. The last line of every MP function in the ABT-MSE framework must be the TAC recommendation. The MP must also be assigned the right class ‘MP’ after the function is defined.

**< Figure 3**. Example Management Procedure 2 represented in R code >

**MP testing**

**< Figure 4.** MP testing >

**Running an MSE**

< **Figure 5.** Running an MSE >

**Calculating performance**

< **Figure 6**. Plots and tables >

# Results

# Discussion

# Acknowledgements

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# References

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**Appendix**

***Software installation***

Download and install the latest version of R:

<https://cran.r-project.org/bin/windows/base/>

Download and install the latest version of RStudio: <https://www.rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download/#download>

***Package installation***

Save the library file ‘ABTMSE\_2.1.0.tar.gz’ to disk and then install from the R prompt in RStudio

> install.packages("C:/Downloads/ABTMSE\_2.1.0.tar.gz", repos = NULL, type="source")

***Required at the start of each R session***

> library(ABTMSE) # load the ABT-MSE library

> loadABT() # load all of the data objects

> sfInit(parallel=TRUE, cpus=detectCores()) # setup multicore processing

***Check package installation***

> checkMSE=new(‘MSE’) # run a test MSE

> plot(checkMSE) # plot the results

***Getting help***

> readme() # open the user guide in your internet browser

> class?MSE # get help on a class of ABTMSE objects

> class?OM

***Finding objects***

> avail(‘OM’) # list all of the available operating models

> Design # examine the design of the reference operating models

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