

## Deliverable No. 6.8

Project acronym:

**FarFish**

Project title:

**Responsive Results-Based Management and capacity building for EU Sustainable  
Fisheries Partnership Agreement- and international waters**

Grant agreement No: **727891**

Project co-funded by the European Commission within the  
Horizon2020 Research and innovation programme

Start date of project: **1<sup>st</sup>June 2017**

Duration: **48 months**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Due date of deliverable: | 31/05/2020  |
| Submission date:         | 29/06/2020  |
| File Name:               | FarFish D6.8_Interactive platform for FarFish tools |
| Revision number:         | 01  |
| Document status:         | Final <sup>1</sup>                                  |
| Dissemination Level:     | PU <sup>2</sup>                                     |

| Role                       | Name                           | Organisation | Date       | File suffix <sup>3</sup> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Task Leaders               | Javier Ruiz Segura             | CSIC         | 29/06/2020 | JR                       |
| Author                     | Margarita María Rincón Hidalgo | CSIC         | 29/06/2020 | MR                       |
| Author                     | Javier Ruiz Segura             | CISC         | 29/06/2020 | JR                       |
| Author                     | Jamie Lentin                   | STL          | 29/06/2020 | JL                       |
| Authors                    | Mercedes Aramburu              | CISC         | 29/06/2020 | MA                       |
| WP leader                  | Javier Ruiz Segura             | CSIC         | 29/06/2020 | JR                       |
| Coordinator                | Jónas R. Viðarsson             | MATIS        | 29/06/2020 | JV                       |
| Administrative Coordinator | Oddur M. Gunnarsson            | MATIS        | 29/06/2020 | OG                       |

<sup>1</sup> Document will be a draft until it was approved by the coordinator

<sup>2</sup> PU: Public, PP: Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services), RE: Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services), CO: Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)

<sup>3</sup> The initials of the revising individual in capital letters



## Deliverable D6.8

# Interactive Platform to integrate codes, visualization and data interaction tools for the Case Studies

29/06/2020



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 727891.  
[www.farfish.eu](http://www.farfish.eu)

## Executive Summary

The overall objective of WP6 within the FarFish project is to develop tools that provide added value, relevance and usefulness in support of management and decision making for the actors involved in each of the case studies in the project. To achieve this, the project has developed a suite of R-based tools that let users upload and analyse their own data purely through a web browser, so they can be used on any computer without installation or knowledge of the R programming language. The source code for the tools is also public and hosted on GitHub, allowing institutions to manage their own installation if required in the future.

The FarFish-DLMtool is an interactive tool where the users can incorporate their data and obtain pertinent information in return. The user guide provided in this report allows anyone to use the tool after the project ends. In addition, all parts of the project are open source, which means the code behind the tool and the tool itself will remain available for anyone to use and adapt, and thus remaining useful beyond the life of the project.

This report is structured in three parts, the first part corresponds to a technical user manual of the FarFish-DLMtool for people inside and outside FarFish, the second is an impact evaluation of the tool and the third describes its implementation for four bycatch species in FarFish case studies.



## Table of Contents

|          |   |           |
|----------|---|-----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>   | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>2</b> | <b>USER GUIDE FOR THE FARFISH-DLMTOOL FOR DATA LIMITED STOCKS .....</b>                           | <b>6</b>  |
| 2.1      | FARFISH-DLMGUI (NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED).....  | 7         |
| 2.1.1    | <i>Data input</i> .....   | 8         |
| 2.1.2    | <i>Data visualization</i> .....   | 13        |
| 2.1.3    | <i>Diagnostics of what management procedures and methods can be implemented with your data</i> 17 |           |
| 2.1.4    | <i>Summary result</i> .....   | 19        |
| 2.2      | FARFISH-SPICTGUI (NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED) .....   | 20        |
| 2.2.1    | <i>Data input</i> .....   | 21        |
| 2.2.2    | <i>Data visualization</i> .....   | 24        |
| 2.2.3    | <i>Result</i> .....   | 24        |
| <b>3</b> | <b>IMPACT EVALUATION .....</b>  | <b>28</b> |
| <b>4</b> | <b>FARFISH-DLMTOOL USED FOR CAPE VERDE AND SEYCHELLES CASE STUDIES.....</b>                       | <b>29</b> |
| 4.1      | CAPE VERDE .....  | 29        |
| 4.1.1    | <i>Frigate Tuna</i> .....   | 29        |
| 4.1.2    | <i>Wahoo</i> .....  | 36        |
| 4.2      | SEYCHELLES .....  | 39        |
| 4.2.1    | <i>Common Dolphinfish</i> .....   | 39        |
| 4.2.2    | <i>Wahoo</i> .....  | 47        |
| <b>5</b> | <b>REFERENCES.....</b>  | <b>54</b> |



## 1 Introduction

The overall objective of WP6 within the FarFish project is to develop tools that provide added value, relevance and usefulness in support of management and decision making for the actors involved in each of the case studies in the project. As described in deliverables 6.4 and 6.7, the relevance and added value was ensured through a consultation process. The tool presented in this document has been receiving feedback mainly by the partners involved in the implementation of the case studies but also from external actors: the WKDLSSLS ICES group, some participants in the ICES Annual Scientific Conference, the members of the IMPRESS (Improving scientific advice to fishery management for resources of interest for Spain in Atlantic waters) project and university students. This constant feedback ensures the relevance and added value while ensuring technical characteristics that make it useful within the context of the Responsive Fisheries Management System implemented in FarFish. As an active component of this system, according to the DoA, the tool should accomplish a set of operative characteristics such as:

- 1) Facilitating an equal footing for the technical dialogue of all actors involved.
- 2) Guaranteeing all-actors accessibility by working under open-access schemes.
- 3) Interaction with data, simulation and visualization based on free platforms.
- 4) Tools remaining once the project has ended.

To achieve this, we have developed a suite of R-based tools that let users upload and analyse their own data purely through a web browser, so they can be used on any computer without installation or knowledge of the R programming language. The source code for the tools is also public and hosted on GitHub, allowing institutions to manage their own installation if required in the future.

The FarFish-DLMtool is an interactive tool where the users can incorporate their data and obtain pertinent information in return. The user guide provided in this deliverable will allow anyone to use the tool after the project ends. In addition, all parts of the project are open source and are accessible on the GitHub. This means the code behind the tool and the tool itself will remain available for anyone to use and adapt, and thus remaining useful beyond the life of the project. This effort has also benefited from WP1 work that allows us to directly explain the tool functionalities to operators and scientists, as well as get their feedback (see D6.7 for a detailed explanation). Data gathered by WP2 has been also used to provide examples of the tool performance on the assessment of data-limited important bycatch species identified by Management Recommendations (WP4).

The deliverable is structured in three parts, the first part corresponds to a technical user manual of the FarFish-DLMtool for people inside and outside FarFish, the second is an impact evaluation of the tool and the third describes its implementation for four bycatch species.



## 2 User guide for the FarFish-DLMTool for Data Limited stocks

The FarFish-DLMTool was initially thought as a tool available for all people but we had to develop a private version, available only for registered users on the FarFish website, due to some confidentiality data issues on the information provided by the different CSs. Nevertheless, after observing the success that the tool had among the CSs, it was decided that it was important to improve it and expand it into a version available for all the community. As observed in Figure 1, the main menu for the tool available at <https://ffdb.farfish.eu/>, provides access to the FarFish-DLMtool (requiring registration), to the FarFish-DLMGui (no registration required) and to the source code that is behind both versions. By understanding the functioning of FarFish DLMgui, you can understand straightforwardly how to use the FarFish-DLMtool, then this document is focused on explaining in detail how to use the FarFish DLMgui.

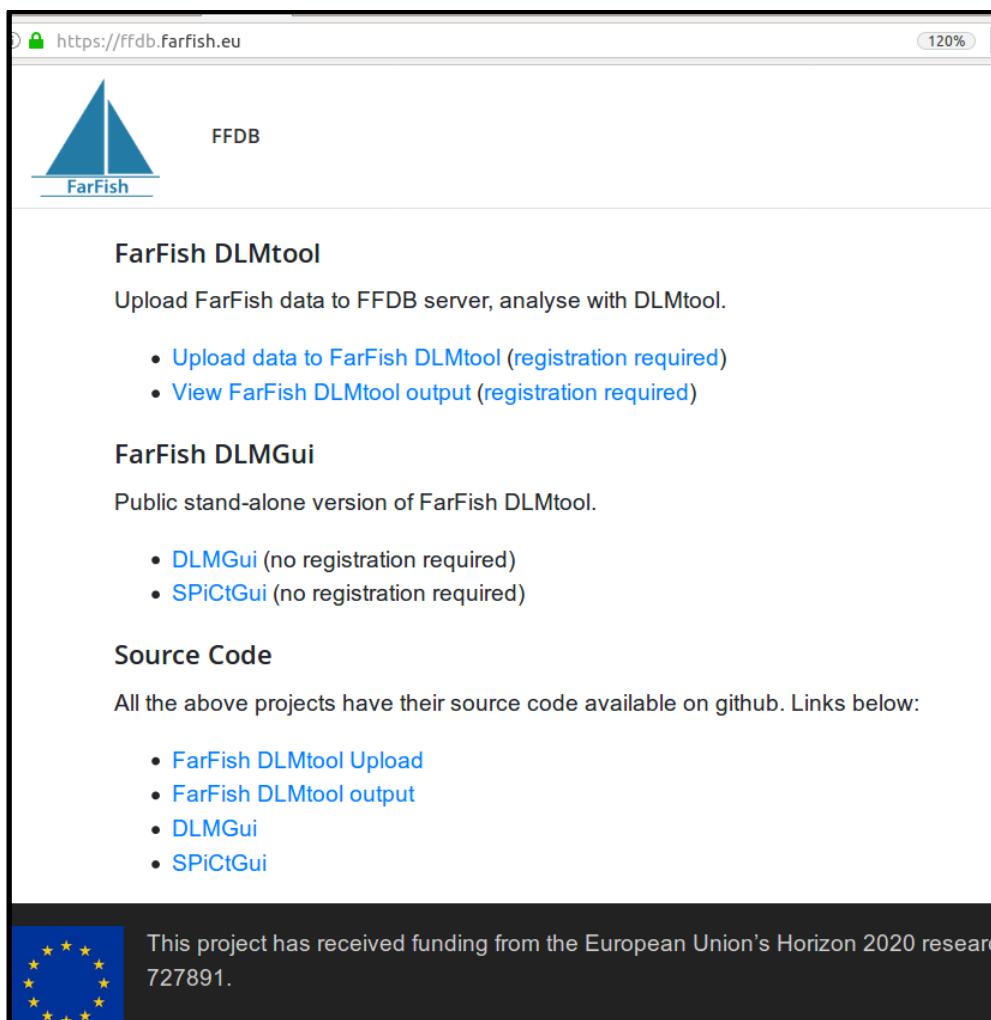


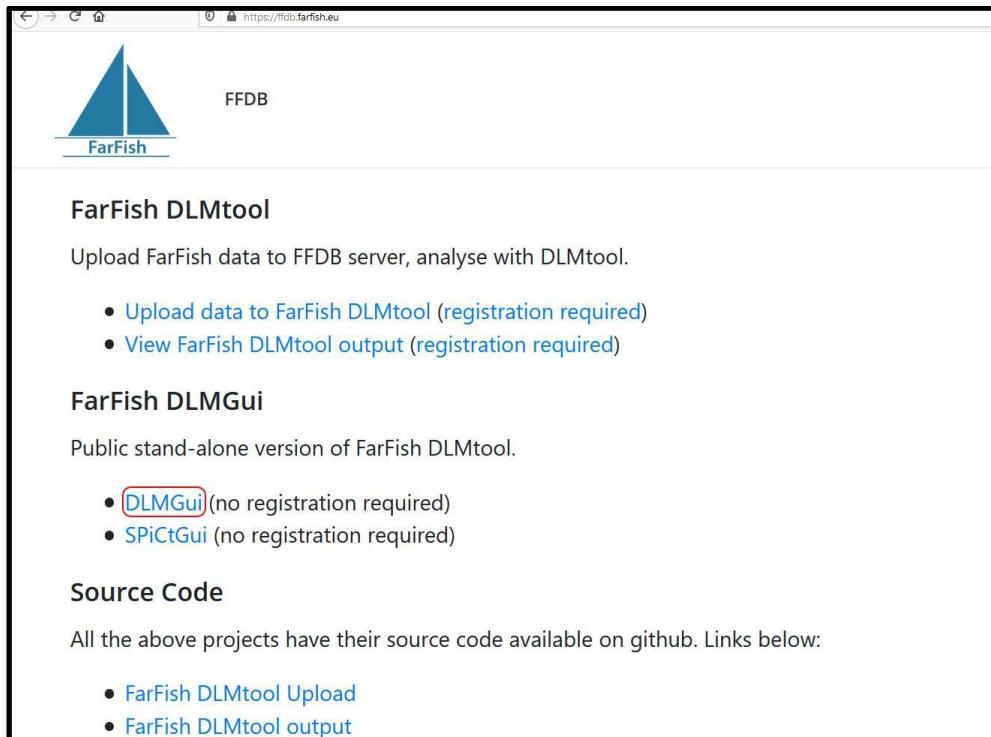
Figure 1: FarFish-DLMTool main menu screenshot



FarFish DLMGui consists in two parts, the DLMGui (Data Limited methods graphical user interface) based on the DLMtool R package to implement the methods described in Carruthers et al. (2014), and the SPiCTGui (Stochastic surplus model in continuous time graphical user interface) which is based on the SPiCT R package to implement a continuous-time state-space model (Pedersen et al, 2014). The SPiCT was the last method included in the tool and it was selected because of its ability for dealing with data limited stocks, grasping stock and fishery dynamics with only catches and abundance indexes as inputs. The use of the method is increasing worldwide and it is also recommended for assessment of category 3 and 4 stocks in ICES areas (ICES, 2018, 2019).

## 2.1 FarFish-DLMGui (No registration required)

It is possible to access to this component of the tool from the main menu (<https://ffdb.farfish.eu/>) by clicking on “DLMgui” as shown in Figure 2.



**Figure 2: FarFish-DLMtool main menu screenshot highlighting the link to the DLMGui component**

This link will redirect you to a screen like the one displayed in Figure 3, with different tab options for data input, visualization, diagnostics and summary results.





Figure 3: Farfish-DLMGui screenshot highlighting the different tab options for data input, visualization, diagnostics and summary results

### 2.1.1 Data input

The data input is performed in the “Edit data” tab. In this tab the user has two options: To upload a CSV document with the data or to enter the information available by hand. Uploading data can be done by clicking the “Browse” button highlighted in red in Figure 4. A CSV document suitable to be uploaded can be obtained after filling the excel template that is available here and saving that document with a .csv extension in her/his machine.



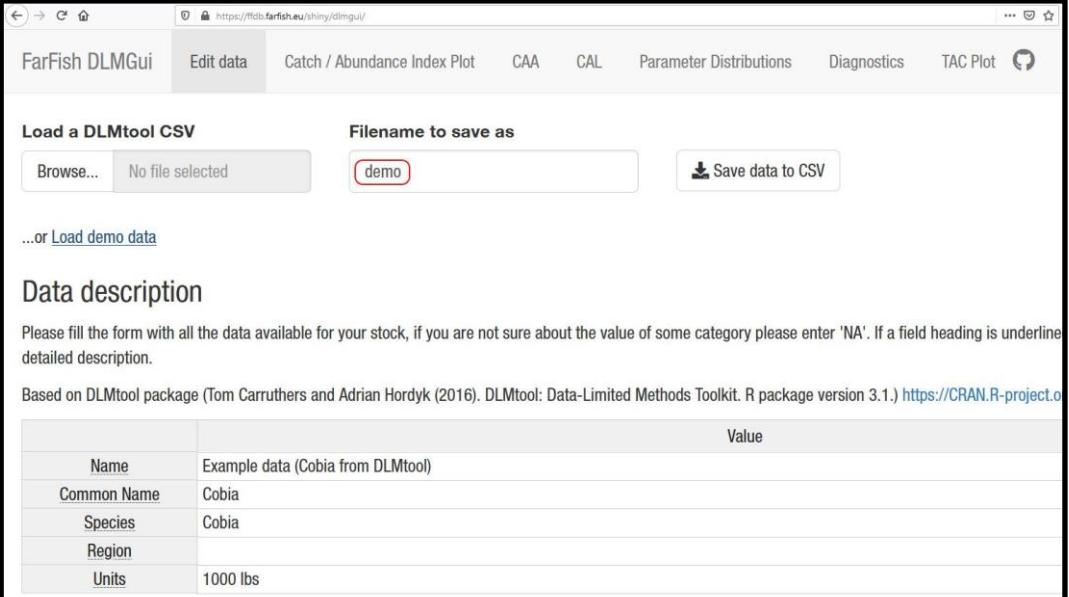
Figure 4: FarFish-DLMGui main menu screenshot. Click on ‘Browse’ to load a DLMtool CSV file (red square). The “Edit data” progress can be saved at any time in a CSV format file by giving name to that file in the “Filename to save as” box (blue square) and then clicking on the “Save data to CSV” button

Users can enter their data by filling the tables that appear when scrolling down and can save their progress at any time in a CSV format file by giving name to that file in the “Filename to save as” box (blue square in Figure 4) and clicking on the “Save data to CSV” button next to it. To guide this process, it is recommended to click on the blue link “Load demo data” (Figure 5) that will fill the tables automatically, then the user can remove this data and replace it with her/his own. It is important to remark that if there is any missing information the corresponding field can be filled with “NA” or can be left empty.



Figure 5: Click on ‘Load demo data’ to load example data

As you scroll down the page, the first table to fill corresponds to data description as shown in Figure 6, where you can write the name of the species, the region and also to specify the units of your data.



| Name        | Value    |
|-------------|----------|
| Common Name | Cobia    |
| Species     | Cobia    |
| Region      |          |
| Units       | 1000 lbs |

Figure 6: Data description table filled with demo data

The second table corresponds to annual catch data time series (Figure 7). The first and last year of the time series can be modified by clicking the up and down arrows in the two fields next to “Years:”. The data to fill the cells corresponding to catch can be copied and pasted from an excel file. In a similar way the user can fill the “Abundance index” (Figure 8) and “Annual fishing effort” (Figure 9) tables.



## Catch data

Enter the unit for catch data in the field above, e.g. "Tonnes".

Years:  ...

|       | 1950     | 1951     | 1952     | 1953     | 1954     | 1955     | 1956     |
|-------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Catch | 104.7041 | 112.2076 | 111.3035 | 128.2866 | 149.8358 | 137.8407 | 162.6785 |

Figure 7: Catch data input from demo file ("Edit data" tab)

## Abundance Index

Enter the unit for abundance index data in the field above, e.g. "Tonnes".

Years:  ...

|                 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Abundance Index | 0.72 | 0.71 | 0.81 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.71 | 1.18 | 0.88 | 0.81 | 0.55 |

Figure 8: Abundance index input from demo file ("Edit data" tab)

## Annual fishing effort

Years:  ...

|        | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 | 1960 | 1961 |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Effort | NA   |

Figure 9: Annual fishing effort input from demo file ("Edit data" tab)

For catch at age and catch and length data input (Figures 10 and 11) it is also necessary to specify the maximum age and the number of length bins found in the user's data, in the respective "Bin total" field. All length bins should be the same length. The data to fill the data cells can also be copied and pasted from an excel file.



## Catch at age

Catch should be in individuals.

| Bin Total: 16 |        |        | Years: 1984 ... 2011 |         |         |        |        |        |        |        |        |      |   |   |
|---------------|--------|--------|----------------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|---|---|
|               | 1      | 2      | 3                    | 4       | 5       | 6      | 7      | 8      | 9      | 10     | 11     | 1    |   |   |
| 1984          | 0.9999 | 0      | 2.0001               | 0       | 0       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0    | 0 | 0 |
| 1985          | 0      | 1      | 0                    | 0       | 0       | 0      | 1      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0    | 0 | 0 |
| 1986          | 0      | 3.0008 | 7.0004               | 1.001   | 5.9994  | 3.9996 | 0      | 0      | 1.001  | 0      | 0      | 0    | 0 | 0 |
| 1987          | 1.9998 | 9      | 0                    | 1.9998  | 0       | 3.0006 | 1.9998 | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0    | 0 | 0 |
| 1988          | 0      | 4.9997 | 0.9996               | 1.9992  | 4.0001  | 0.9996 | 0.9996 | 1.9992 | 0.9996 | 0      | 0      | 0    | 0 | 0 |
| 1989          | 0      | 9.9996 | 19.0008              | 18.0024 | 4.9998  | 6.9966 | 4.9998 | 5.9982 | 5.9982 | 0      | 0.9984 | 0.99 |   |   |
| 1990          | 0      | 0      | 49.0254              | 16.665  | 11.7665 | 3.9188 | 3.9188 | 3.9188 | 2.9391 | 5.8883 | 0.9797 | 1.95 |   |   |

Figure 10: Catch at age input table from demo file (“Edit data” tab)

## Catch at length

Length should be in mm, catch should be in individuals. All bins should have a number in, apart from the final column which is the final column all years should be NA.

| Bin Total: 45 |     |     | Years: 1981 ... 2011 |     |     |     |     |     |        |     |     |     |   |   |  |
|---------------|-----|-----|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|-----|-----|-----|---|---|--|
|               | 1   | 2   | 3                    | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9      | 10  | 11  | 1   | 2 | 3 |  |
| Min Length    | 170 | 200 | 230                  | 260 | 290 | 320 | 350 | 380 | 410    | 440 | 470 | 500 |   |   |  |
| 1981          | 0   | 0   | 0                    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0      | 0   | 1   | 0   |   |   |  |
| 1982          | 0   | 0   | 0                    | 1.2 | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1.2 | 0      | 1.2 | 0   | 0   |   |   |  |
| 1983          | 0   | 0   | 0                    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0      | 0   | 0   | 0   |   |   |  |
| 1984          | 0   | 0   | 0                    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0      | 0   | 0   | 0   |   |   |  |
| 1985          | 0   | 0   | 0                    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 2.5556 | 0   | 0   | 0   |   |   |  |

Figure 11: Catch at length input table from demo file (“Edit data” tab)

There is also a place to enter some biological information or life history traits by filling the “Constants” table. As remarked before if there is any missing information, the corresponding field can be filled with “NA” or can be left blank as shown in Figure 12. For more information about the field, the user can put the mouse pointer on the dotted line below the “Constant” name and some additional information will appear (Figure 13).



## Constants

|                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
|                                    |        |
| M                                  | 0.26   |
| Von Bertalanffy Linf parameter     | 1324.4 |
| Von Bertalanffy K parameter        | 0.27   |
| Von Bertalanffy t0 parameter       | -0.47  |
| Length-weight parameter a          | NA     |
| Length-weight parameter b          | NA     |
| Steepness                          | NA     |
| sigmaR                             |        |
| Length at 50% maturity             | 644    |
| Length at 95% maturity             | 850    |
| Length at first capture            | 130    |
| Length at full selection           | NA     |
| Vulnerability at asymptotic length |        |
| Current stock depletion            | NA     |
| Current stock abundance            | NA     |
| Current spawning abundance         |        |

Figure 12: Constants table from demo file (“Edit data” tab). Note that when there is missing information the corresponding fields can be filled with “NA” or left blank

|                                |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| M                              | 0.26   |
| Von Bertalanffy Linf parameter | 1324.4 |
| Von Bertalanffy K parameter    | 0.27   |

Figure 13: : Zoom in for the “Constants” table to illustrate how the user can put its mouse pointer in the dotted line below the “Von Bertalanffy Linf parameter” to get more information about the field

If the user has a measure of imprecision for the “Constants” that could be transformed into a coefficient of variation (the ratio between the standard deviation and the mean), it can be registered in the “Coefficient of variation” table (Figure 14). A field can be left blank if there is no information available in this regard.



## Coefficient of variation

CV is a measure of imprecision, i.e. how imprecise you think this value could be

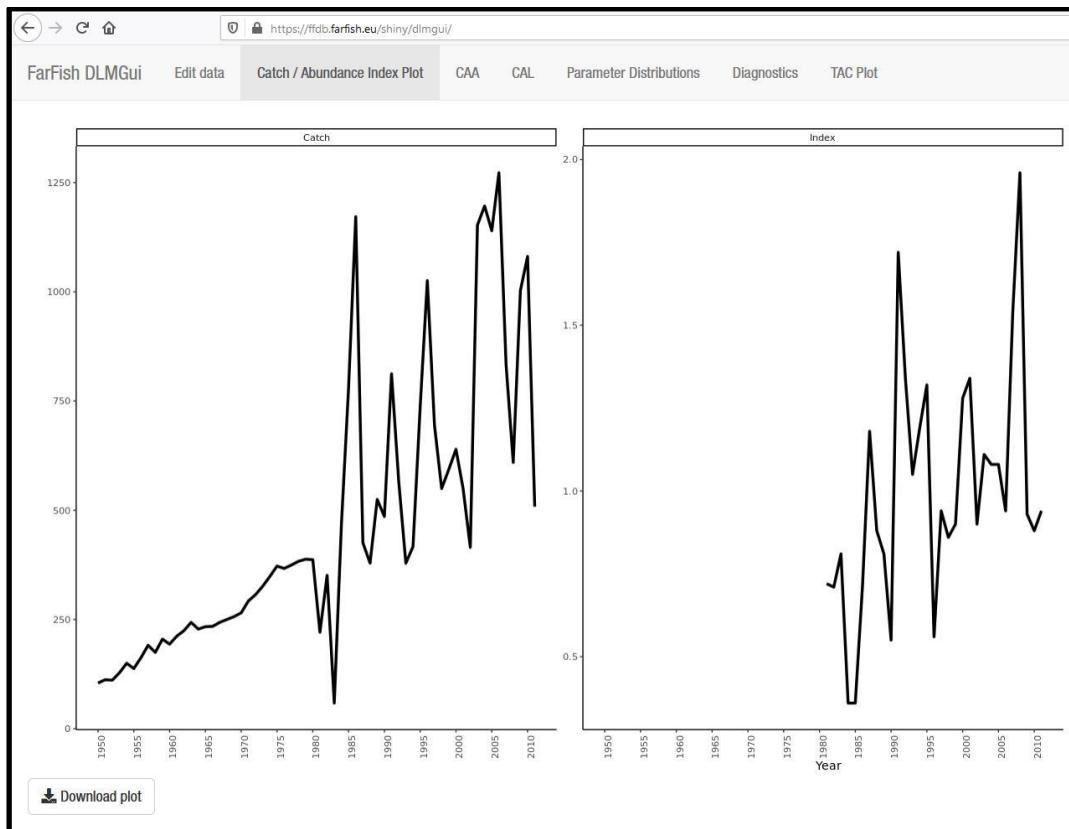
|                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
|                              |      |
| CV M                         | 0.54 |
| CV von B. Linf parameter     | 0.23 |
| CV von B. K parameter        | 0.07 |
| CV von B. t0 parameter       | 0.05 |
| CV Length-weight parameter a | 0.1  |
| CV Length-weight parameter b | 0.1  |
| CV Steepness                 | 0.2  |
| CV sigmaR                    |      |
| CV Length at 50% maturity    | 0.1  |
| CV of length-at-age          | 0.1  |
| CV Length at first capture   | 0.2  |
| CV Length at full selection  | 0.2  |
| CV Catch                     | 0.2  |
| CV Abundance index           | 0.21 |
| CV Effort                    | 0.2  |
| CV Recruitment index         | 0.2  |

Figure 14: Coefficient of variation table from demo file (“Edit data” tab)

### 2.1.2 Data visualization

The DLMgui allows the user to visualize catches and abundance indices time series (by clicking on the “Catch/ Abundance Index plot” tab, Figure 15), catch at age and length by years (by clicking the “CAA” and the “CAL” tabs, Figures 16 and 17, respectively) and the constants with their coefficients of variation as statistical distributions (by clicking on “Parameters Distributions” tab, Figure 18). Please note that all visualization plots can be downloaded by clicking on the “Download plot” button in the bottom left corner of each of the visualization tabs.





**Figure 15: Catch / Abundance index plot visualization from demo file (“Catch/ Abundance Index plot” tab)**



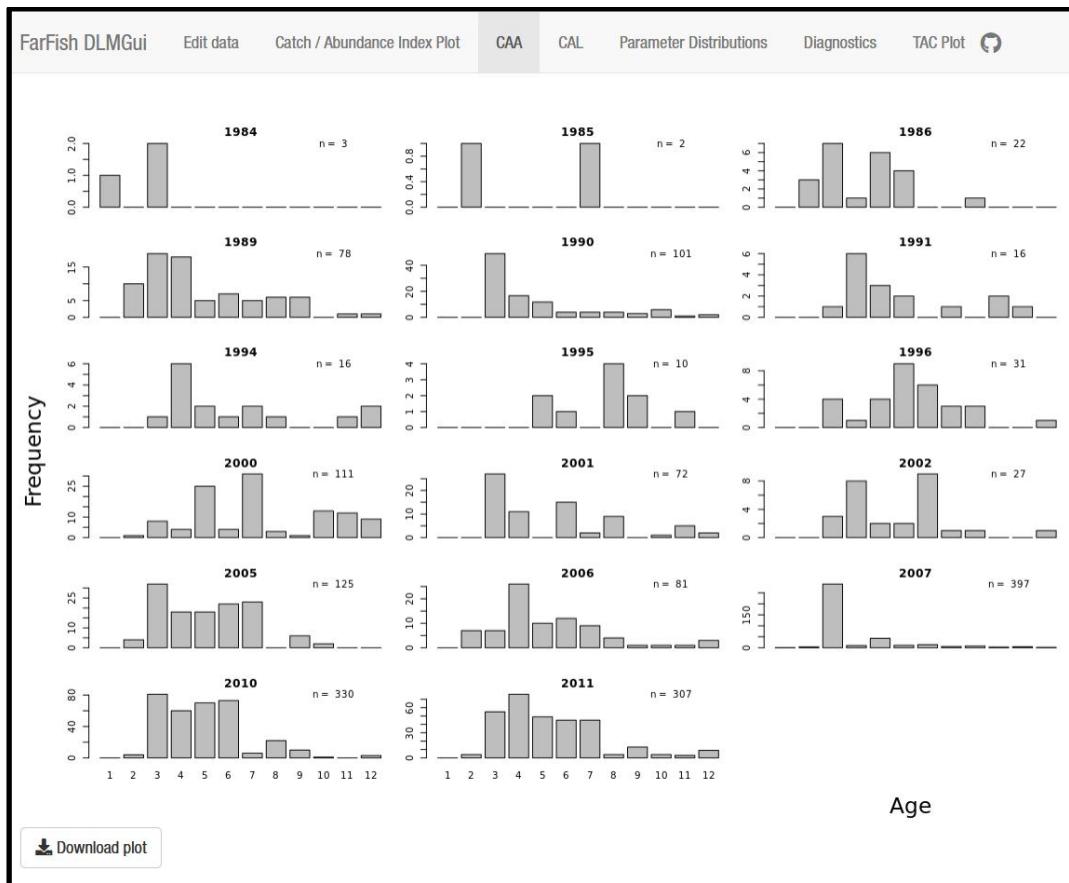
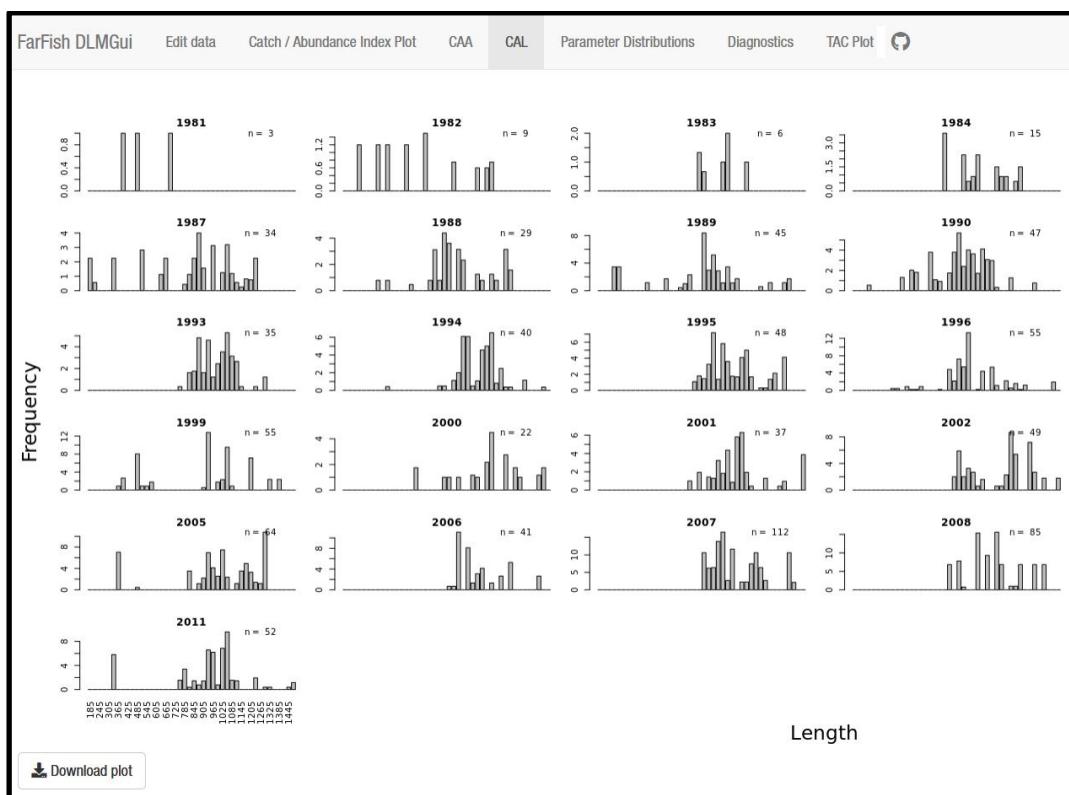
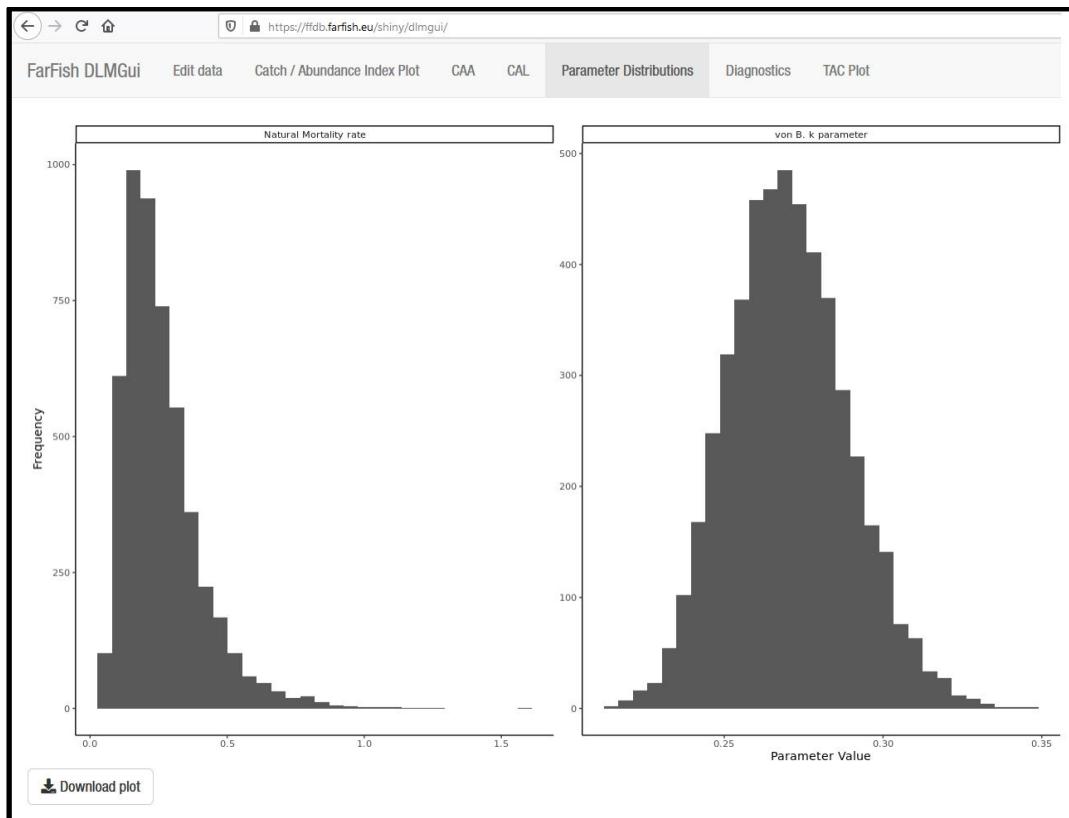


Figure 16: Plots for catch at age by year from demo file ('CAA' tab)



**Figure 17: Catch at length input visualization from demo file ('CAL' tab)**



**Figure 18: Visualization of constants with coefficient of variation as statistical distributions (“Parameter Distributions” tab).**

### 2.1.3 *Diagnostics of what management procedures and methods can be implemented with your data*

The DLMgui provides a diagnostic on what management procedures (MP) and methods can and cannot be applied with the data available. There are two different tables displayed when clicking on the “Diagnostics” tab: “Enough data to produce” (Figure 19) and “Cannot produce” (Figure 20). In the first table, the user can find the MP that can be applied, the first and fourth columns, “Direction” and “type”, indicate the type of control of the MP. The control type can be input, output or mixed: Output controls return a total allowable catch, input controls allow regulation of fishing effort, size selectivity, or spatial area (Carruthers and Hordyk, 2020). When the MP is a mixture of both the “Direction” field appears blank. The second and fifth columns, “Code” and “Description” present the short name of the MP and a short description, but by clicking on the “Code” MP the user will be redirected to a complete description on DLMtool documentation. In the “Cannot produce” table there is also a column named “Reason” that specifies what data is missing to perform the MP.



Enough data to produce

| Direction | Code         | Name  | Type | Description  |
|-----------|--------------|---|------|--|
|           | AvC_MLL      | Average Catch with a size limit   |      | A example mixed control MP that control MP together with a minimum maturity. |
|           | IC1          | Index Confidence Interval   |      |  |
|           | IC12         | Index Confidence Interval   |      |  |
|           | lratio       | Mean Index Ratio  |      |  |
|           | lslope2      | Index Slope Tracking MP   |      |  |
|           | lslope4      | Index Slope Tracking MP   |      |  |
|           | ltarget1_MPA | ltarget1 with an MPA  |      |  |
|           | ltarget2     | Incremental Index Target MP   |      |  |
|           | ltarget3     | Incremental Index Target MP   |      |  |
|           | ltargetE2    | Incremental Index Target MP - Effort-Based A management procedure that incrementally adjusts the fishing effort to reach a target CPUE / relative |      |  |

Figure 19: ‘Enough data to produce’ section from demo file (‘Diagnostics’ tab)

Cannot produce

| Direction | Code        | Name   | Type | Reason                    |
|-----------|-------------|--|------|---------------------------|
|           | DDes        | Effort-based Delay - Difference Stock Assessment       |      | Missing data: wla, wlb    |
|           | DTe40       | Effort searching MP aiming for a fixed stock depletion |      | Missing data: Dep         |
|           | DTe50       | Effort searching MP aiming for a fixed stock depletion |      | Missing data: Dep         |
|           | EtargerLopt | Effort Target Optimum Length                           |      | Missing data: wlb, ML     |
|           | IT10        | Iterative Index Target MP                              |      | Missing data: MPrec, lref |
|           | IT5         | Iterative Index Target MP                              |      | Missing data: MPrec, lref |
|           | ITe10       | Index Target Effort-Based                              |      | Missing data: lref        |
|           | ITe5        | Index Target Effort-Based                              |      | Missing data: lref        |
|           | ITM         | Index Target based on natural mortality rate           |      | Missing data: MPrec, lref |
|           | LBSPR_MLL   | Length-Based SPR MPs                                   |      | Missing data: wlb         |
|           | LBSPR       | Length-Based SPR MPs                                   |      | Missing data: wlb         |
|           | Lratio_BHI  | Mean length-based indicator MP of Jardim et al. 2015   |      | Missing data: LFS         |
|           | Lratio_BHI2 | Mean length-based indicator MP of Jardim et al. 2015   |      | Missing data: LFS, FMSY_M |
|           | Lratio_BHI3 | Mean length-based indicator MP of Jardim et al. 2015   |      | Missing data: LFS, FMSY_M |

Figure 20: ‘Cannot produce’ section from demo file on (‘Diagnostics’ tab)



### 2.1.4 Summary result

A boxplot of a recommended TAC for each output MP is presented in the “TAC plot” tab (Figure 21). This plot can be customized by the user displaying only specific MPs by clicking on the checkbox next to the MP in the “MPs to show” list as shown in Figure 22. This plot and the data used to produce it, can be downloaded with the “Download plot” and “Download result table” buttons. There is also a warning about the use of these results without previous knowledge on stock assessment. This warning was included following stakeholder’s suggestions after testing the tool.

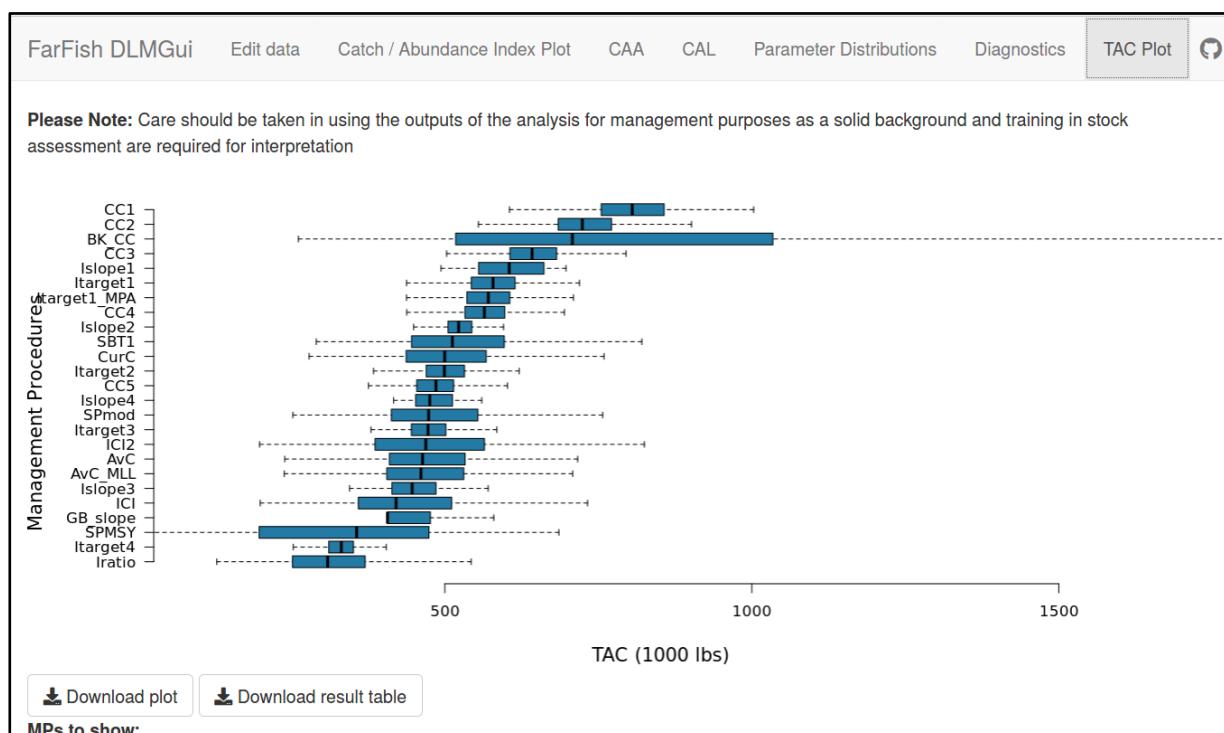
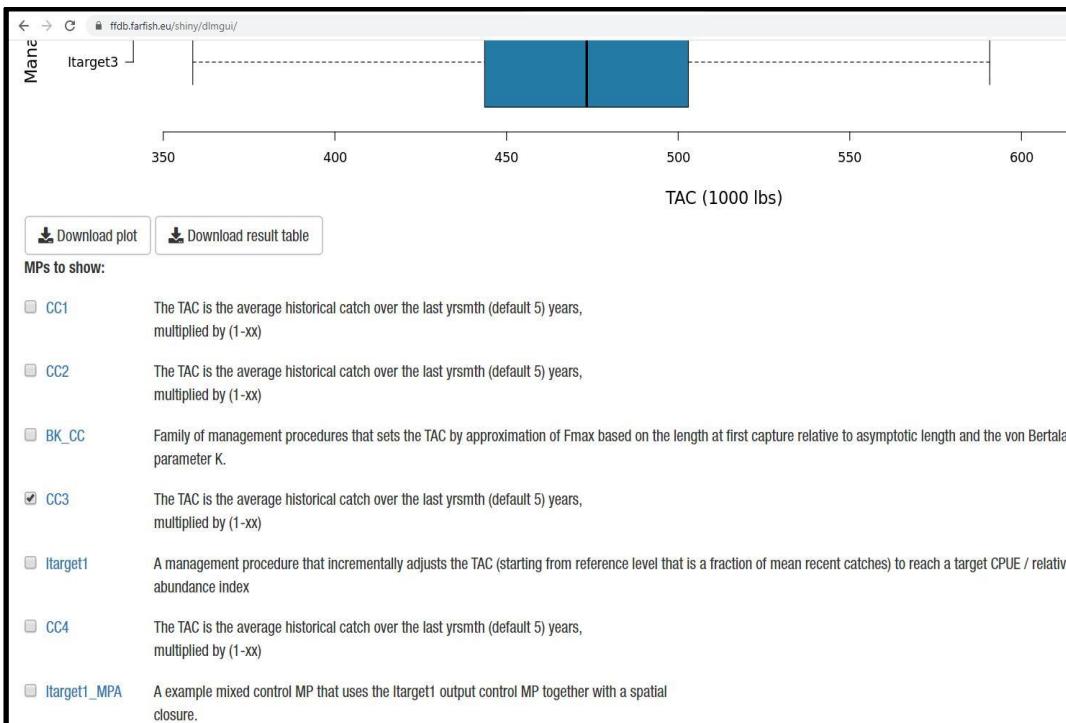


Figure 21: Boxplot of the recommended TAC for each output MP from demo file ('TAC Plot' tab)



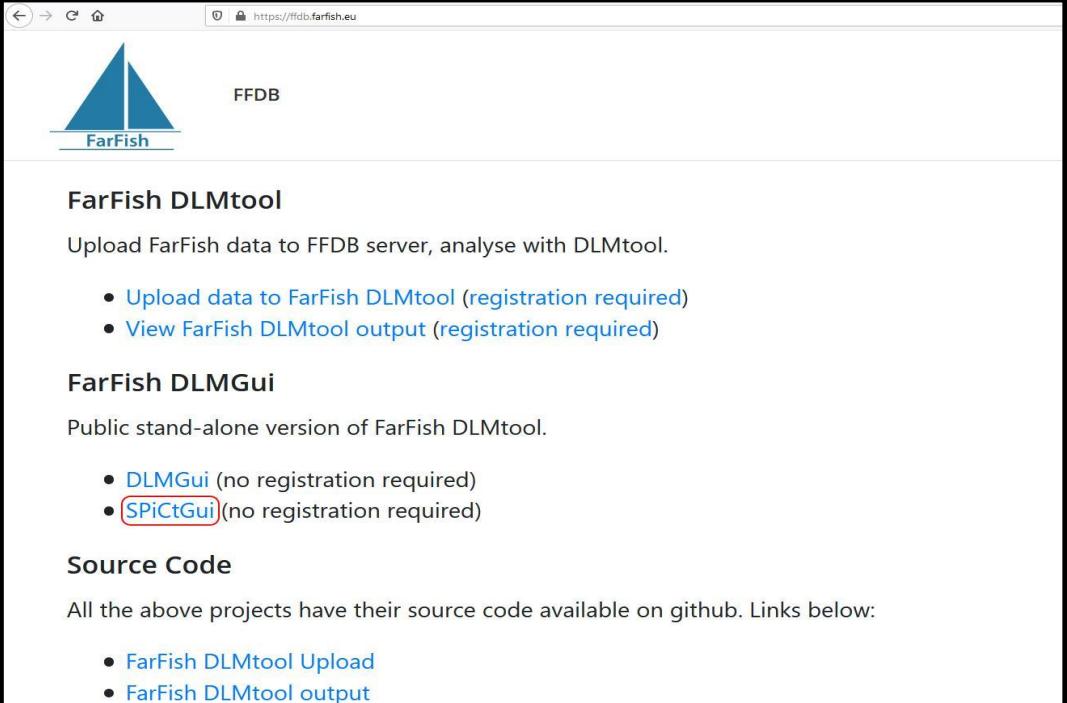
**Figure 22: List of MPs with a checkbox for the user to choose what MP's to show on the TAC plot ('TAC Plot' tab)**

## 2.2 FarFish-SPiCTGui (No registration required)

This component of the tool was developed to implement a SPiCT model (Stochastic surplus model in continuous time) which is based on a continuous-time state-space model described in Pedersen et al, 2014. The version used here has one of the latest advances in this model, which is to allow productivity and growth varying over time (Mildenberger et al, 2019). The use of this model is increasing in the fishery scientific community because of its few data requirements (it can be implemented only with catches and one or more abundance indices) and because of the possibility to have smaller data time scales (quarterly or bi-annual data).

It is possible to access this component of the tool from the main menu (<https://ffdb.farfish.eu/>) by clicking on “SPiCTGui” as shown in Figure 23.





**FarFish DLMtool**

Upload FarFish data to FFDB server, analyse with DLMtool.

- [Upload data to FarFish DLMtool \(registration required\)](#)
- [View FarFish DLMtool output \(registration required\)](#)

**FarFish DLMgui**

Public stand-alone version of FarFish DLMtool.

- [DLMgui \(no registration required\)](#)
- [SPiCtGui \(no registration required\)](#)

**Source Code**

All the above projects have their source code available on github. Links below:

- [FarFish DLMtool Upload](#)
- [FarFish DLMtool output](#)

Figure 23: FarFish-DLMtool main menu screenshot highlighting the link to the SPiCtGui component

This link will redirect you to a screen like the one displayed in Figure 24, with different tab options for data input, visualization, and results.



Figure 24: FarFish-SPiCtGui screenshot highlighting the different tab options for data input, visualization and results.

### 2.2.1 Data input

The data input is performed in the “Edit data” tab. In this tab the user has two options: To upload the data or to enter the information available by hand. Uploading data can be done by clicking the “Browse” button highlighted in red in Figure 25. SPiCT data format suitable to be uploaded can be obtained after filling the excel template that is available here and saving that document in her/his machine.





Figure 25: FarFish-SPiCtGui main menu screenshot. Click on ‘Browse’ to load SPiCt data file

The user can enter her/his data by filling the tables that appear when scrolling down and can save her/his progress at any time in a xlsx format file by giving a name to that file in the “Filename to save as” box (red square in Figure 26) and clicking on the “Save data to xlsx” button next to it. To guide this process, it is recommended to click on the blue link “Load demo data” (Figure 27) that will fill the tables automatically, then the user can remove this data and replace it with their own. It is important to note that if there is any missing information the corresponding field can be filled with “NA” or can be left empty.



Figure 26: The “Edit data” progress can be saved at any time in a xlsx format file by giving a name to that file in the “Filename to save as” box (red square) and then clicking on the “Save data to xlsx” button

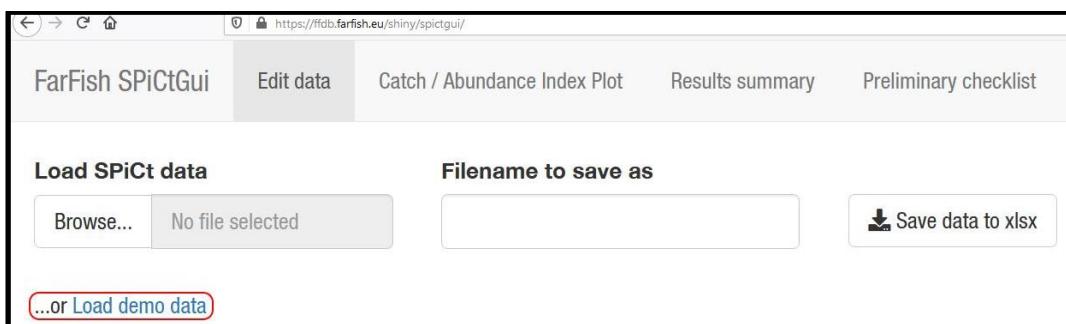
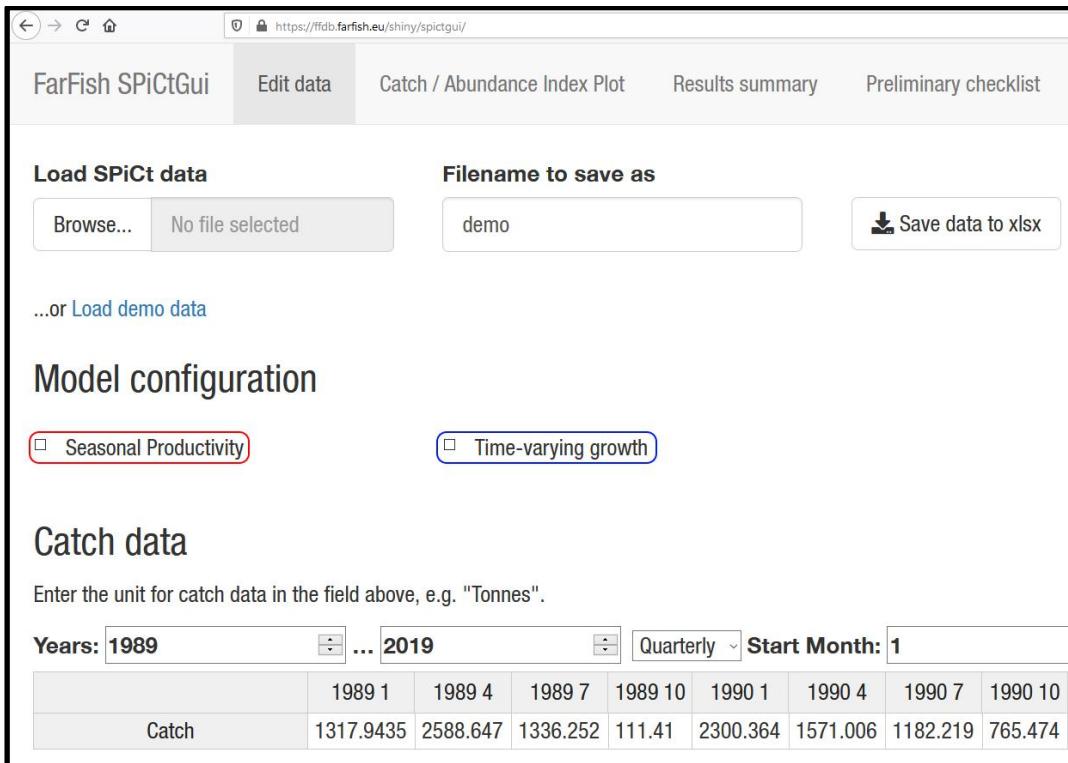


Figure 27: Click on ‘Load demo data’ to load example data

When scrolling down the first choice to make corresponds to “Model configuration”, the user can decide a seasonal productivity or time varying growth SPiCT implementation by clicking the corresponding checkbox. For the demo data none of the checkboxes was ticked as shown in Figure 28, this corresponds to the usual SPiCT implementation described in Pedersen et al.



The screenshot shows the FarFish SPiCtGui shiny application interface. At the top, there are tabs: FarFish SPiCtGui (selected), Edit data, Catch / Abundance Index Plot, Results summary, and Preliminary checklist. Below the tabs, there are sections for "Load SPiCt data" (with a "Browse..." button and "No file selected" message) and "Filename to save as" (with input field "demo" and a "Save data to xlsx" button). A link "...or Load demo data" is also present. The main area is titled "Model configuration" with two checkboxes: "Seasonal Productivity" (unchecked) and "Time-varying growth" (unchecked). Below this is a section titled "Catch data" with a note: "Enter the unit for catch data in the field above, e.g. "Tonnes". A table for "Years: 1989 ... 2019" is shown, with dropdown menus for "Quarterly" and "Start Month: 1". The table data is as follows:

|       | 1989 1    | 1989 4   | 1989 7   | 1989 10 | 1990 1   | 1990 4   | 1990 7   | 1990 10 |
|-------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| Catch | 1317.9435 | 2588.647 | 1336.252 | 111.41  | 2300.364 | 1571.006 | 1182.219 | 765.474 |

**Figure 28: Model configuration selection and catch data for demo data. Tick on the checkbox for model configuration according to your preferences. If none of the options is ticked, a usual SPiCT (Pedersen) will be implemented**

The second heading corresponds to catch data time series (Figure 28). The first and last year of the time series can be modified by clicking the up and down arrows in the two boxes next to “Years:”. The time scale of the data should be modified using the options of the dropdown menu next to the last year box. The data to fill the cells corresponding to catch can be copied and pasted from an excel file. In a similar way the user can fill the “Abundance index” information (Figure 29), but in this case the user can specify the exact month of the year when the index was collected. A maximum of four indices can be incorporated for the implementation. Please take into account that the indices should account only for the exploitable biomass. A link for the SPiCT manual, as well as useful references can be found at the end of all the tabs.



**Abundance Index 1**

If you do not enter a month, it will be assumed to be at the beginning of the year. Leave all values blank if you do not have an appropriate index

| Years: 2004 ... 2018 |           |      |           |           |      |           |            |      |      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|------|-----------|-----------|------|-----------|------------|------|------|-----------|
|                      | 2004      | 2005 | 2006      | 2007      | 2008 | 2009      | 2010       | 2011 | 2012 | 2013      |
| Month                | 4         | 1    | 4         | 7         | 1    | 7         | 7          | 1    | 1    | 7         |
| Index                | 18177.143 | NA   | 35539.397 | 28882.127 | NA   | 21580.497 | 11338.5654 | NA   | NA   | 7336.1836 |

**Abundance Index 2**

If you do not enter a month, it will be assumed to be at the beginning of the year. Leave all values blank if you do not have an appropriate index

| Years: 1999 ... 2019 |       |      |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |       |       |      |
|----------------------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
|                      | 1999  | 2000 | 2001  | 2002  | 2003  | 2004 | 2005  | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  | 2009  | 2010 |
| Month                | 1     | 1    | 1     | 1     | 1     | 1    | 4     | 4     | 4     | 4     | 4     | 4    |
| Index                | 24763 | NA   | 24913 | 21335 | 24565 | NA   | 14041 | 24082 | 38020 | 34162 | 24745 | 7395 |

Figure 29: Abundance index 1 & 2 filled with demo data (“Edit tab”)

## 2.2.2 Data visualization

The SPiCTGui allows the user to visualize catches and abundance indices time series (by clicking on the “Catch/ Abundance Index plot” tab, Figure 30). Please note that these plots can be downloaded by clicking on the “Download plot” button.

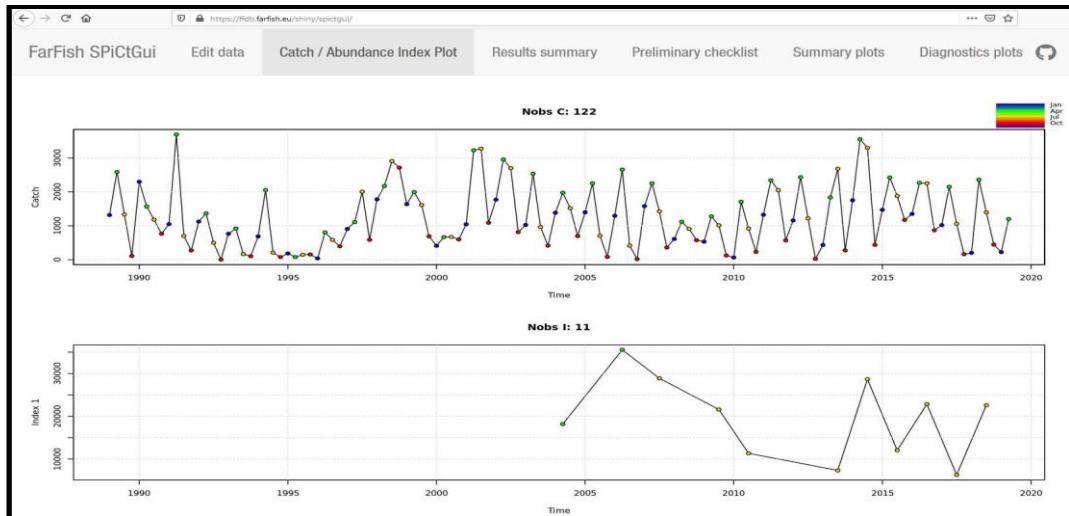


Figure 30: Catch / Abundance index plot visualization from demo file (“Catch/ Abundance Index plot” tab).

## 2.2.3 Result

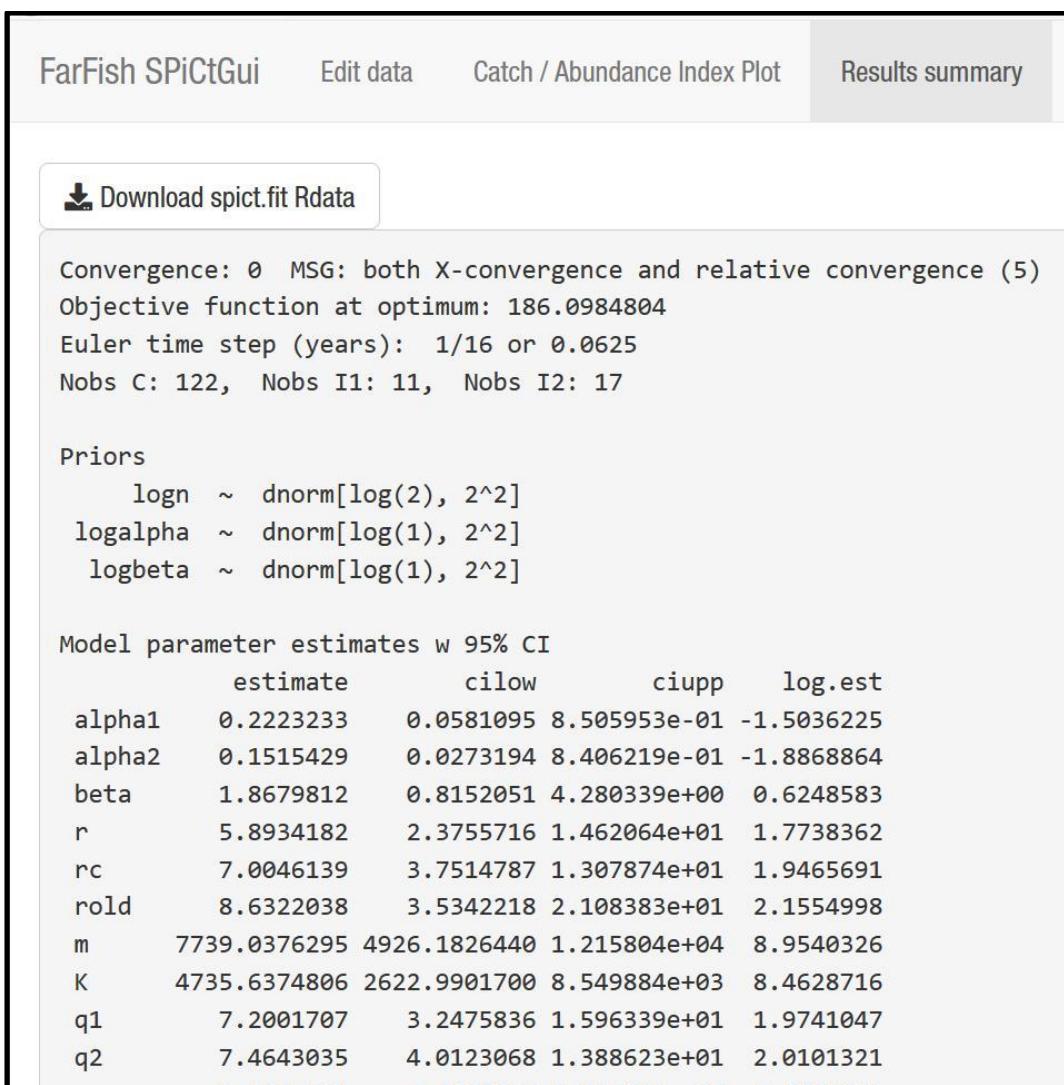
Results of SPiCT implementation are divided into four tabs: “Result summary”, “Summary plots”, “Preliminary checklist” and “Diagnostics plots”. The first two present model results in raw and graphical formats, the third is a preliminary checking to see if the model implementation can be used



for stock assessment purposes and the fourth is to check if there have been violations of model assumptions.

#### 2.2.3.1 *Model results*

Information about convergence and assumptions of the model, as well as estimated parameters are presented in the “Summary results” tab (Figure 31). To have a detailed description on how to interpret these results it is recommended to read the [SPiCT manual](#) (there is also a link to the manual at the end of all the tabs, under the “References” heading). These results can be also downloaded in a format that can be read in R by clicking on the “Download spict.fit Rdata” button (Figure 31).



|        | estimate     | cilow        | ciupp        | log.est    |
|--------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| alpha1 | 0.2223233    | 0.0581095    | 8.505953e-01 | -1.5036225 |
| alpha2 | 0.1515429    | 0.0273194    | 8.406219e-01 | -1.8868864 |
| beta   | 1.8679812    | 0.8152051    | 4.280339e+00 | 0.6248583  |
| r      | 5.8934182    | 2.3755716    | 1.462064e+01 | 1.7738362  |
| rc     | 7.0046139    | 3.7514787    | 1.307874e+01 | 1.9465691  |
| rold   | 8.6322038    | 3.5342218    | 2.108383e+01 | 2.1554998  |
| m      | 7739.0376295 | 4926.1826440 | 1.215804e+04 | 8.9540326  |
| K      | 4735.6374806 | 2622.9901700 | 8.549884e+03 | 8.4628716  |
| q1     | 7.2001707    | 3.2475836    | 1.596339e+01 | 1.9741047  |
| q2     | 7.4643035    | 4.0123068    | 1.388623e+01 | 2.0101321  |

Figure 31: Information about convergence and assumptions of the model, as well as estimated parameters for demo file (“Results summary” tab).



The “summary plots” tab shows estimated biomass, fishing mortality, catch and production time series (blue lines) with their confidence intervals (shaded blue areas), as well as estimated reference points (horizontal black lines) as can be observed in Figure 32. A detailed explanation for plots interpretation can be found in the SPiCT manual.

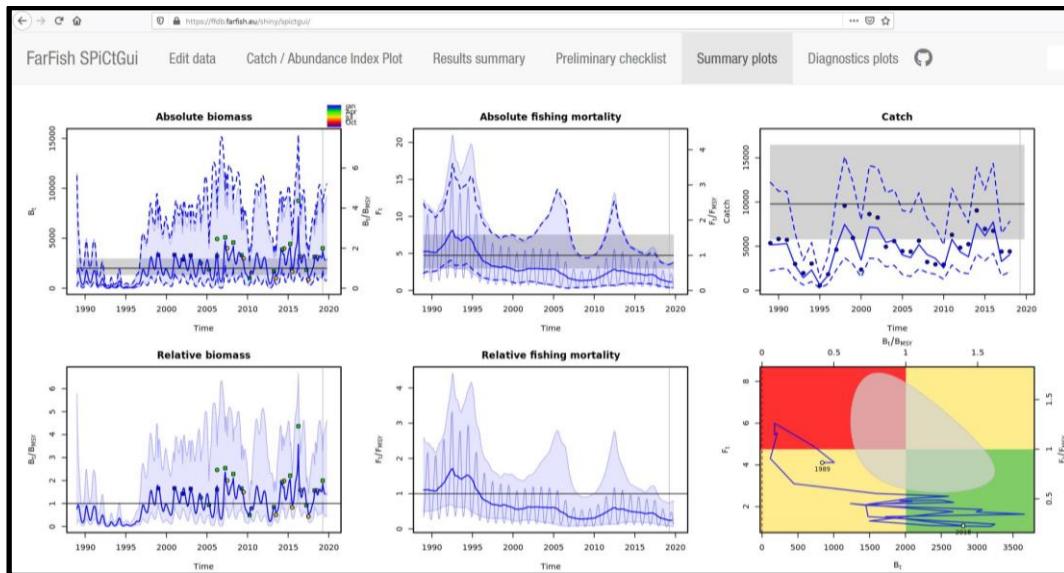


Figure 32: Summary plots for demo file (“Summary plots” tab)

### 2.2.3.2 Suitability of SPiCT for assessment purposes

The “Preliminary checklist” allow the user to check if the main conditions for the use of the SPiCT implementation in stock assessment are met (Figure 33). There are more conditions that should be checked but they are still not included in the tool. In case the user wants to use the SPiCT model for stock assessment, she/he must check the whole list that is available on the SPiCT guidelines documentation (There is also a link to these guidelines at the beginning of the tab).



FarFish SPiCtGui    Edit data    Catch / Abundance Index Plot    Results summary    Preliminary checklist

### Checklist for the acceptance of a SPiCT assessment

Based on the [spict guidelines documentation](#)

1. The assessment converged (fit\$opt\$convergence equals 0).

```
> fit$opt$convergence
[1] 0
```

2. All variance parameters of the model parameters are finite (all(is.finite(fit\$sd)) should be TRUE).

```
> all(is.finite(fit$sd))
[1] TRUE
```

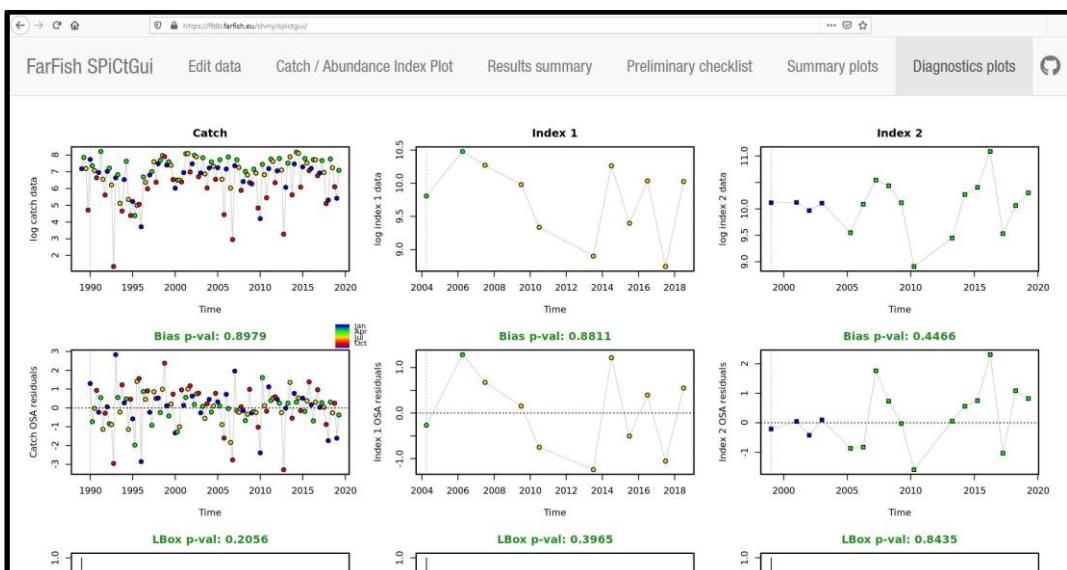
3. No violation of model assumptions based on one-step-ahead residuals (bias, auto-correlation, normality). This means indicated by green titles in the graphs of spictplot.diagnostic(fit). Slight violations of these assumptions do not necessarily invalidate model results.

```
[1] "See 'Diagnostics plots' tab"
```

**Figure 33: Checklist for the acceptance of a SPiCT assessment (“Preliminary checklist” tab)**

#### 2.2.3.3 Checking violation of model assumption

The “Diagnostics plot” tab helps to see if there are violations of model assumptions (Figure 34). This can be checked by visual inspection of the color of the titles of the plots, if they are green, no violation has been found, they will be red otherwise. Slight violations of model assumptions do not necessarily invalidate model results.



**Figure 34: Plots for diagnostics on model assumption violations from demo file (“Diagnostics plots” tab)**



### 3 Impact evaluation

Using Google Analytics engine, we have been tracking the users of the FarFish DLMTool (requiring registration). Since the creation of the tool, it has been used by 45 people from 13 different countries, including people from outside the EU, from countries like Senegal, Namibia, Seychelles, Morocco and Colombia, as can be observed in Figure 35.

The statistics for the webpage use can be consulted by anyone at this [link](#).

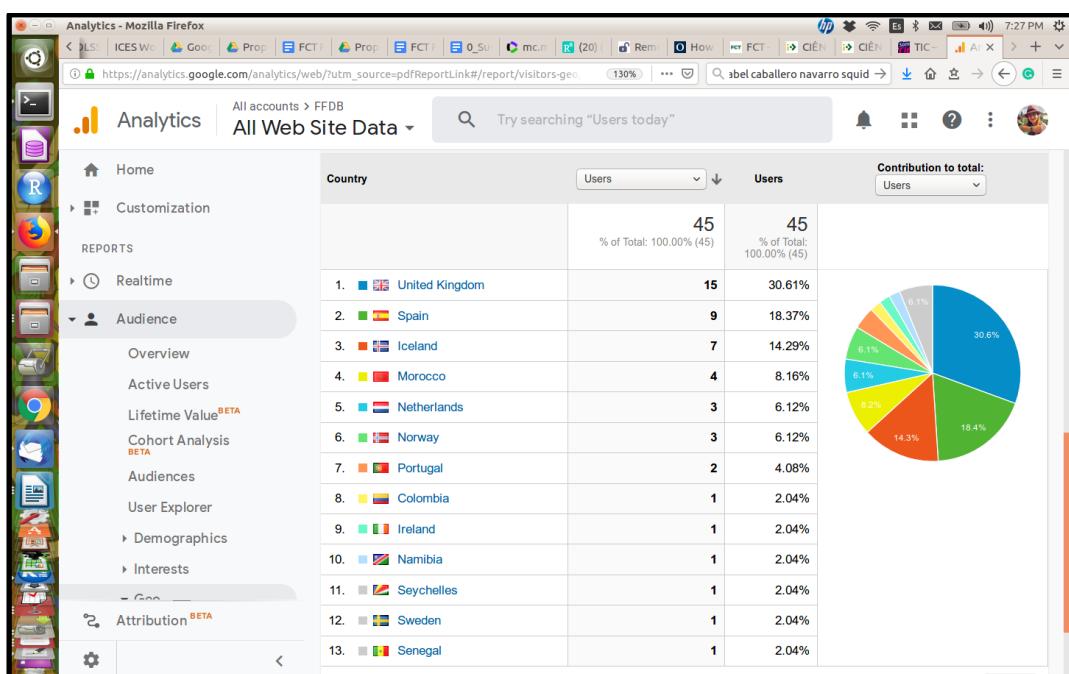


Figure 35: Screenshot of Google Analytics account for the page associated to the FarFish DLMTool webpage

Some additional impact stats can be found [here](#).



## 4 FarFish-DLMtool used for Cape Verde and Seychelles case studies

Some key bycatch species were chosen according to their relevance and data availability. These species were the Common dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) and Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*) in the Indian Ocean and Frigate tuna (*Auxis thazard*) and Wahoo in the Atlantic Ocean. It was decided to implement the tool for the whole Indian and the whole Atlantic Ocean based on the oceanic nature of these species and the lack of structure for these stocks. Data has been gathered by WP2 using IOTC and ICCAT data sources (IOTC database 2018, ICCAT database 2018).

This approach can be further scaled to Cape Verde and Seychelles by using the catch proportion of these species. Nevertheless, it was found that for Common dolphinfish, it was possible to obtain abundance and mortality estimates when using scaled catches together with the CPUE of a nearby region.

### 4.1 Cape Verde

#### 4.1.1 Frigate Tuna

##### 4.1.1.1 Data input

Catches for the whole Atlantic Ocean from 1950 to 2017 and one abundance index (Spain CPUE) from 1991 to 2017 were available for this species, as well as some biological parameters. These data were obtained from ICCAT database files from 2018 edition statistics (ICCAT database 2018, please consider that these statistics are being continually revised).

##### 4.1.1.2 DLMgui results

###### 4.1.1.2.1 Management procedures that can be applied with the data available

A list of the MPs that can be applied for this species management is presented in Figure 36. The list was obtained from tab “Diagnostics” after filling the data template in the “Edit data” tab.

| Direction | Code    | Name                            | Type | Description   |
|-----------|---------|---------------------------------|------|---|
|           | AvC_MLL | Average Catch with a size limit |      | An example mixed control MP that uses the average catch output control MP together with a minimum size limit set at the size of maturity. |
|           | ICI     | Index Confidence Interval       |      |   |
|           | ICI2    | Index Confidence Interval       |      |   |



|       |                      |   |        |  |
|-------|----------------------|---|--------|--|
|       | <b>Iratio</b>        | Mean Index Ratio  |        |  |
|       | <b>Islope2</b>       | Index Slope Tracking MP   |        |  |
|       | <b>Islope4</b>       | Index Slope Tracking MP   |        |  |
|       | <b>Itarget1_MP_A</b> | Itarget1 with an MPA  |        |  |
|       | <b>Itarget2</b>      | Incremental Index Target MP   |        |  |
|       | <b>Itarget3</b>      | Incremental Index Target MP   |        |  |
|       | <b>ItargetE2</b>     | Incremental Index Target MP - Effort-Based A management procedure that incrementally adjusts the fishing effort to reach a target CPUE / relative abundance index |        |  |
|       | <b>ItargetE3</b>     | Incremental Index Target MP - Effort-Based A management procedure that incrementally adjusts the fishing effort to reach a target CPUE / relative abundance index |        |  |
|       | <b>minlenOpt1</b>    | Size limit management procedures  |        |  |
| input | <b>curE</b>          | Current effort  | Effort | A reference input control that maintains current effort (subject to fishing efficiency changes)          |
| input | <b>curE75</b>        | 75% of Current effort   | Effort | A reference input control that maintains 75% of current effort   |
| input | <b>ItargetE1</b>     | Effort adjusted target CPUE   | Effort | Management procedure incrementally adjusts the effort to reach a target CPUE / relative abundance index. |
| input | <b>ItargetE4</b>     | Effort adjusted target CPUE   | Effort | Management procedure incrementally adjusts the effort to reach a target CPUE / relative abundance index. |



|        |                            |  |       |  |
|--------|----------------------------|--|-------|--|
| input  | <a href="#">matlenlim</a>  | Length selectivity equal to maturity       | Sel.  | Fishing selectivity is set according to the maturity curve                       |
| input  | <a href="#">matlenlim2</a> | Length selectivity higher than maturity    | Sel.  | fishing selectivity is set slightly higher than the maturity curve               |
| input  | <a href="#">slotlim</a>    | Slot limit                                 | Sel.  | Sets a slot limit to control effort.   |
| input  | <a href="#">MRnoreal</a>   | Area 1 Marine Reserve with no reallocation | MPA   | Sets a marine reserve in Area 1 with no reallocation of fishing effort to area 2 |
| input  | <a href="#">MRreal</a>     | Area 1 Marine Reserve with reallocation    | MPA   | Sets a marine reserve in Area 1 and reallocates fishing effort to area 2         |
| output | <a href="#">AvC</a>        | Average Catch                              | Catch | Sets TAC as average historical catch   |
| output | <a href="#">CC1</a>        | Constant catch linked to average catches   | Catch | TAC is a average historical catches  |
| output | <a href="#">CC2</a>        | Constant catch linked to average catches   | Catch | TAC is 90% of average historical catches   |
| output | <a href="#">CC3</a>        | Constant catch linked to average catches   | Catch | TAC is 80% of average historical catches   |
| output | <a href="#">CC4</a>        | Constant catch linked to average catches   | Catch | TAC is 70% of average historical catches   |
| output | <a href="#">CC5</a>        | Constant catch linked to average catches   | Catch | TAC is 60% of average historical catches   |
| output | <a href="#">NRef</a>       | No reference point                         | Catch | A reference MP that sets annual catch to almost zero (0.01)                      |
| output | <a href="#">GB_slope</a>   | Geromont and Butterworth CPUE slope        | Emlnd | TAC recommendations to stabilize CPUE  |
| output | <a href="#">Islope1</a>    | CPUE slope MP                              | Emlnd | TAC is adjusted to maintain constant CPUE  |
| output | <a href="#">Itarget1</a>   | CPUE target MP                             | Emlnd | TAC is adjusted to achieve a target CPUE   |



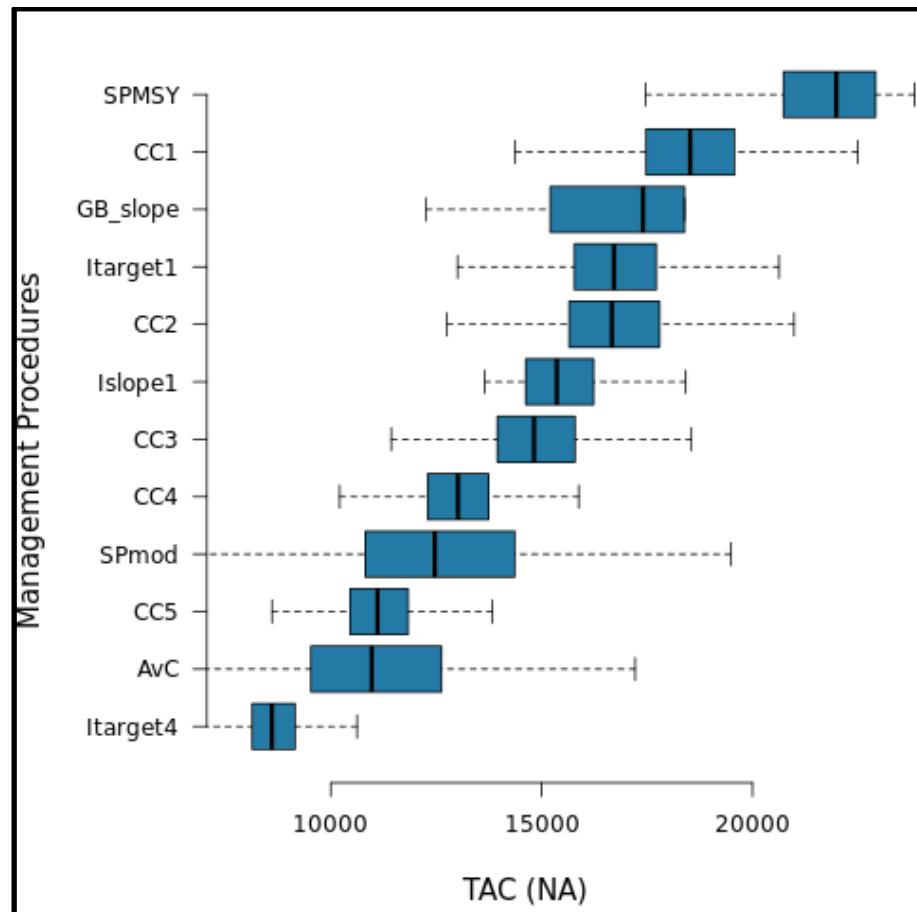
|        |                          |  |       |   |
|--------|--------------------------|--|-------|---|
| output | <a href="#">Itarget4</a> | CPUE target MP (more biologically precautionary) | Emlnd | TAC is adjusted to achieve a target CPUE  |
| output | <a href="#">SBT1</a>     | Southern Bluefin Tuna 1                          | Emlnd | An MP that adjusts TACs according to apparent trend in CPUE   |
| output | <a href="#">SPmod</a>    | Surplus production-based TAC modifier            | PopDy | Inferred derivative of surplus production with biomass is used to adjust the TAC  |
| output | <a href="#">SPMSY</a>    | Catch-trend MSY MP                               | Catch | Catch trends reflect depletion and combined with catches can be used to find viable r-K pairs. The OFL is dep x (1-dep) x 2 x r x K |
| NA     | <a href="#">CurC</a>     | NA   | NA    | NA  |
| NA     | <a href="#">Islope3</a>  | NA   | NA    | NA  |

Figure 36: List of management procedures (MPs) that can be applied with the data available for Frigate tuna in the Atlantic Ocean. It was obtained from 'Enough data to produce' section on FarFish DMLGui 'Diagnostics' tab.

#### 4.1.1.2.2 Quota estimates

The estimated recommended TAC provided by output-type MP's is shown in Figures 37 and 38. The SBT1 recommended TAC it is not displayed in Figure 37 because the recommended TAC by this method is comparatively higher than the others and this does not allow appreciating the variability in TACs for the other methods.





**Figure 37: Recommended TAC plot for Frigate tuna in the Atlantic Ocean. It was obtained from ‘TAC Plot’ tab on FarFish DLMGui. It does not include SBT1 recommended TAC.**

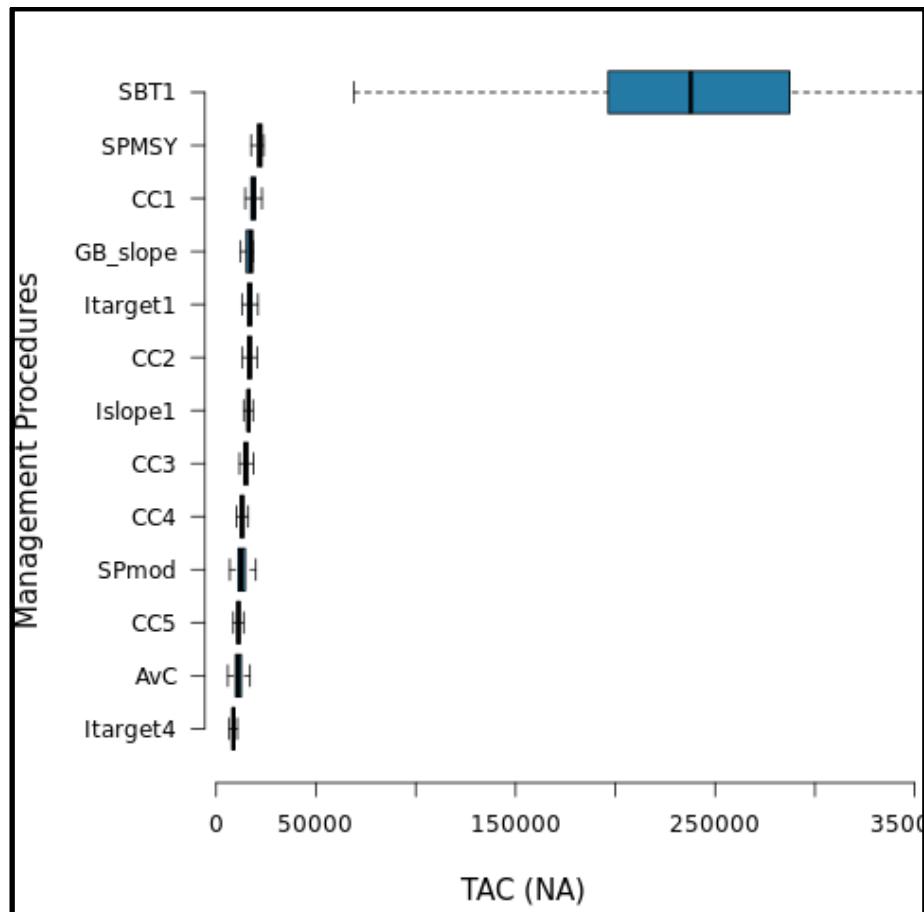


Figure 38: Recommended TAC plot for Frigate tuna in the Atlantic Ocean including SBT1 MPs estimate. It was obtained from ‘TAC Plot’ tab on FarFish DLMGui.

#### 4.1.1.3 *SPiCTGui results*

##### 4.1.1.3.1 Summary results

No SPiCT model could be loaded because the model does not achieve proper convergence. This lack of convergence can be observed in the “Results summary” tab where the corresponding value to convergence is 1 (Figure 39). This is also displayed with a message warning against the use of the results for management purposes.

Edit data    Catch / Abundance Index Plot    **Results summary**    Preliminary checklist

Diagnostics plots

[!\[\]\(5db4fb29f2373c302d58227b1e487edb\_img.jpg\) Download spict.fit Rdata](#)

```
Convergence: 1  MSG: false convergence (8)
WARNING: Model did not obtain proper convergence! Estimates and uncertainties are
Gradient at current parameter vector
      logm          logK          logq          logn          logsdb
 4.452904e+10 -3.842643e+10 -1.119890e+01 -2.579335e+11  1.836564e+09
      logsdf        logsdi        logsdc
 9.971025e+09  4.272673e+01  1.236461e+11
```

Figure 39: SPiCT summary results for Frigate tuna in the Atlantic. It was obtained from “Results summary” tab on FarFish SPiCtGui.

#### 4.1.1.3.2 Suitability of SPiCT for assessment purposes

Because of the lack of convergence, SPiCt is not suitable for assessment purposes. This can be confirmed by the “Preliminary checklist” tab as can be observed in Figure 40.

FarFish SPiCtGui    Edit data    Catch / Abundance Index Plot    Results summary    **Preliminary checklist**

Checklist for the acceptance of a SPiCT assessment  
 Based on the [spict guidelines documentation](#)

1. The assessment converged (fit\$opt\$convergence equals 0).
 

```
> fit$opt$convergence
[1] 1
```
2. All variance parameters of the model parameters are finite (all(is.finite(fit\$sd)) should be TRUE).
 

```
> all(is.finite(fit$sd))
[1] TRUE
```
3. No violation of model assumptions based on one-step-ahead residuals (bias, auto-correlation, normality). This means indicated by green titles in the graphs of spictplot.diagnostic(fit). Slight violations of these assumptions do not necessarily indicate a problem.
 

```
[1] "See 'Diagnostics plots' tab"
```

Figure 40: Checklist for the acceptance of a SPiCT assessment for Frigate tuna in the Atlantic Ocean. It was obtained from “Preliminary checklist” tab on FarFish SPiCtGui.



#### 4.1.1.3.3 Checking violation of model assumptions

Violation of assumptions cannot be checked because the model did not converge. In this case the tool displays an error message about this situation and residuals for the estimation cannot be calculated (Figure 41).

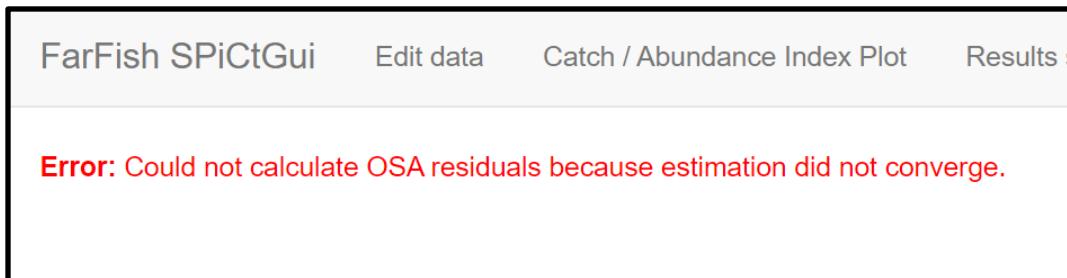


Figure 41: Error message from “Diagnostics plots” tab for Frigate tuna in the Atlantic Ocean, due to lack of convergence.

## 4.1.2 Wahoo

### 4.1.2.1 Data input

Catches for the whole Atlantic Ocean from 1968 to 2017 were available for this species, as well as some biological parameters. These data were obtained from ICCAT database files from 2018 edition statistics (ICCAT database 2018, please consider that these statistics are being continually revised).

### 4.1.2.2 DLMgui results

#### 4.1.2.2.1 Management procedures that can be applied with the data available

A list of the MPs that can be applied for this species management is presented in Figure 42. The list was obtained from tab “Diagnostics” after filling the data template in the “Edit data” tab.

| Direction | Code        | Name                             | Type   | Description   |
|-----------|-------------|----------------------------------|--------|---|
|           | AvC_MLL     | Average Catch with a size limit  |        | An example mixed control MP that uses the average catch output control MP together with a minimum size limit set at the size of maturity. |
|           | minlenLopt1 | Size limit management procedures |        |   |
| input     | curE        | Current effort                   | Effort | A reference input control that maintains current effort (subject to fishing efficiency changes)   |
| input     | curE75      | 75% of Current                   | Effort | A reference input control that  |



|        |                            |  |       |  |
|--------|----------------------------|--|-------|--|
|        |                            | effort                                     |       | maintains 75% of current effort  |
| input  | <a href="#">matlenlim</a>  | Length selectivity equal to maturity       | Sel.  | Fishing selectivity is set according to the maturity curve                       |
| input  | <a href="#">matlenlim2</a> | Length selectivity higher than maturity    | Sel.  | fishing selectivity is set slightly higher than the maturity curve               |
| input  | <a href="#">slotlim</a>    | Slot limit                                 | Sel.  | Sets a slot limit to control effort.   |
| input  | <a href="#">MRnoreal</a>   | Area 1 Marine Reserve with no reallocation | MPA   | Sets a marine reserve in Area 1 with no reallocation of fishing effort to area 2 |
| input  | <a href="#">MRreal</a>     | Area 1 Marine Reserve with reallocation    | MPA   | Sets a marine reserve in Area 1 and reallocates fishing effort to area 2         |
| output | <a href="#">AvC</a>        | Average Catch                              | Catch | Sets TAC as average historical catch   |
| output | <a href="#">CC1</a>        | Constant catch linked to average catches   | Catch | TAC is a average historical catches  |
| output | <a href="#">CC2</a>        | Constant catch linked to average catches   | Catch | TAC is 90% of average historical catches   |
| output | <a href="#">CC3</a>        | Constant catch linked to average catches   | Catch | TAC is 80% of average historical catches   |
| output | <a href="#">CC4</a>        | Constant catch linked to average catches   | Catch | TAC is 70% of average historical catches   |
| output | <a href="#">CC5</a>        | Constant catch linked to average catches   | Catch | TAC is 60% of average historical catches   |
| output | <a href="#">NFref</a>      | No reference point                         | Catch | A reference MP that sets annual catch to almost zero (0.01)                      |
| NA     | <a href="#">CurC</a>       | NA   | NA    | NA   |

Figure 40: List of management procedures (MPs) that can be applied with the data available for Wahoo in the Atlantic Ocean. It was obtained from 'Enough data to produce' section on FarFish DMLGui 'Diagnostics' tab.



#### 4.1.2.2.2 Quota estimates

The estimated recommended TAC provided by output-type MP's is shown in Figure 43.

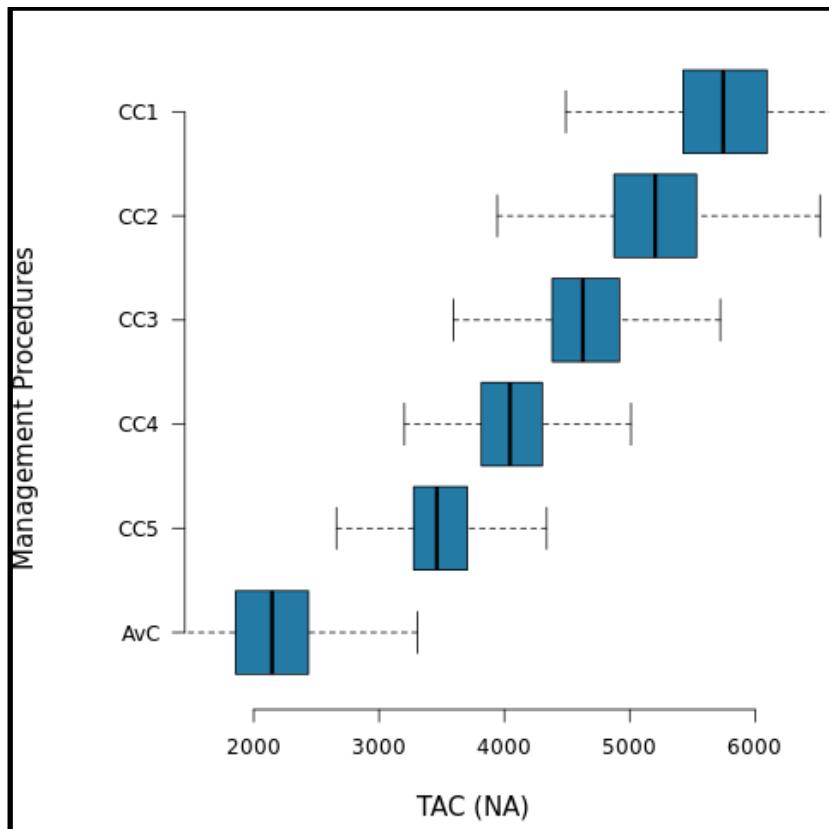


Figure 41: Recommended TAC plot for Wahoo in the Atlantic Ocean. It was obtained from 'TAC Plot' tab on FarFish DLMGui.

#### 4.1.2.3 SPiCTGui results

##### 4.1.2.3.1 Summary results

Minimum data requirements cannot be filled owing to the lack of at least one abundance index. No SPiCt model could be loaded and FarFish SPiCtGui displays a warning message to inform about this situation (Figure 44).

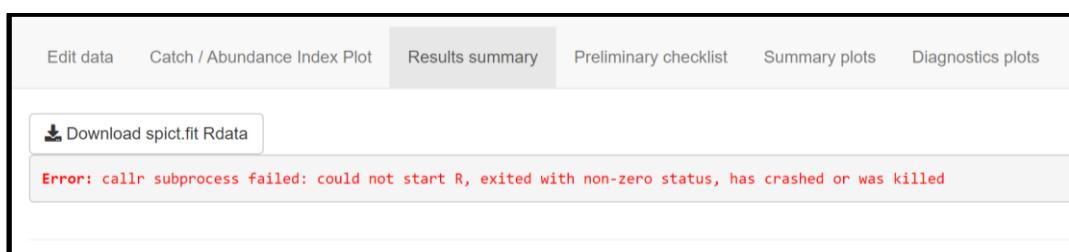
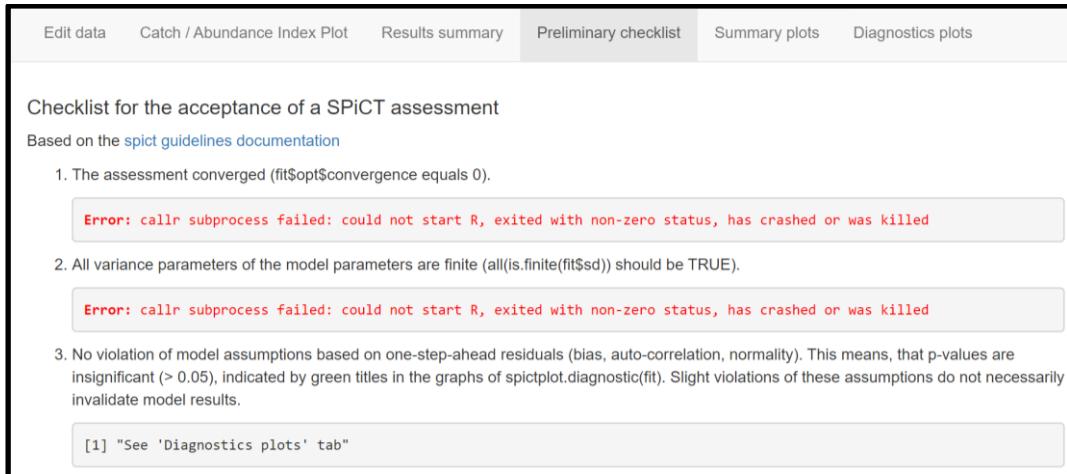


Figure 42: Error displayed in the 'Results summary' tab on Farfish SPiCTGui because minimum data requirements cannot be filled for Wahoo in the Atlantic Ocean.

#### 4.1.2.3.2 Suitability of SPiCT for assessment purposes

Because of the lack of enough data to run the SPiCt model, it is not suitable to be used for assessment purposes. This can be confirmed by the “Preliminary checklist” tab where error messages are displayed (Figure 45).



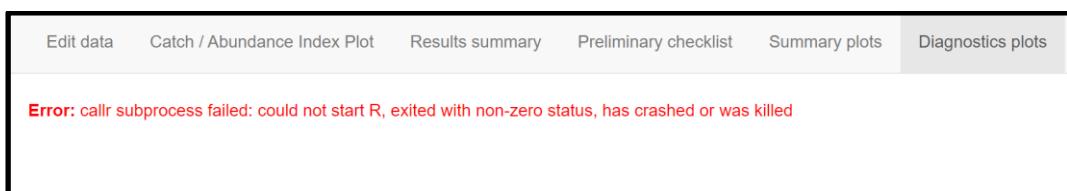
The screenshot shows the 'Preliminary checklist' tab selected in the top navigation bar. The main content area displays a checklist for accepting a SPiCT assessment, based on spict guidelines documentation. It lists three items:

1. The assessment converged (fit\$opt\$convergence equals 0).  
Error: callr subprocess failed: could not start R, exited with non-zero status, has crashed or was killed
2. All variance parameters of the model parameters are finite (all(is.finite(fit\$sd)) should be TRUE).  
Error: callr subprocess failed: could not start R, exited with non-zero status, has crashed or was killed
3. No violation of model assumptions based on one-step-ahead residuals (bias, auto-correlation, normality). This means, that p-values are insignificant (> 0.05), indicated by green titles in the graphs of spictplot.diagnostic(fit). Slight violations of these assumptions do not necessarily invalidate model results.  
[1] "See 'Diagnostics plots' tab"

**Figure 43: Checklist for the acceptance of a SPiCT assessment for Wahoo in the Atlantic Ocean. It was obtained from “Preliminary checklist” tab on FarFish SPiCtGui.**

#### 4.1.2.3.3 Checking violation of model assumptions

Violation of assumptions cannot be checked because minimum data requirements could not be filled and no SPiCt model could be loaded. In this case the tool displays an error message warning that the process that runs the model could not start, as observed in Figure 46.



The screenshot shows the 'Preliminary checklist' tab selected in the top navigation bar. The main content area displays an error message: Error: callr subprocess failed: could not start R, exited with non-zero status, has crashed or was killed

**Figure 44: No diagnostics plots could be loaded from Wahoo in the Atlantic Ocean available data in SPiCtGui component**

## 4.2 Seychelles

### 4.2.1 Common Dolphinfish

#### 4.2.1.1 Data input

Catches of this species for Seychelles were calculated by scaling the catches time series available for the whole Indian Ocean from 1998 to 2017 using the Seychelles catch proportion. This scaled catches time series was considered more suitable to be used together with CPUE data (1994-2017) from



Reunion islands (a nearby region), than the whole Indian Ocean catches. These data were obtained from IOTC database files from 2018 edition statistics (IOTC database 2018, please consider that these statistics are being continually revised). Some biological parameters obtained from Fishbase were also used.

#### 4.2.1.2 DLMgui results

##### 4.2.1.2.1 Management procedures that can be applied with the data available

A list of the MPs that can be applied for this species management is presented in Figure 47. The list was obtained from tab “Diagnostics” after filling the data template in the “Edit data” tab.

| Direction | Code         | Name  | Type | Description   |
|-----------|--------------|---|------|---|
|           | AvC_MLL      | Average Catch with a size limit   |      | An example mixed control MP that uses the average catch output control MP together with a minimal size limit set at the size of maturity. |
|           | ICI          | Index Confidence Interval   |      |   |
|           | ICI2         | Index Confidence Interval   |      |   |
|           | Iratio       | Mean Index Ratio  |      |   |
|           | Islope2      | Index Slope Tracking MP   |      |   |
|           | Islope4      | Index Slope Tracking MP   |      |   |
|           | Itarget1_MPA | Itarget1 with an MPA  |      |   |
|           | Itarget2     | Incremental Index Target MP   |      |   |
|           | Itarget3     | Incremental Index Target MP   |      |   |
|           | ItargetE2    | Incremental Index Target MP - Effort-Based A management procedure that incrementally adjusts the fishing effort to reach a target CPUE / relative abundance index |      |   |
|           | ItargetE3    | Incremental Index Target MP - Effort-Based A management procedure that incrementally adjusts the fishing effort to reach  |      |   |



|        |                          |  |        |  |
|--------|--------------------------|--|--------|--|
|        |                          | a target CPUE / relative abundance index   |        |  |
|        | <code>minlenLopt1</code> | Size limit management procedures           |        |  |
| input  | <code>curE</code>        | Current effort                             | Effort | A reference input control that maintains current effort (subject to fishing efficiency changes)          |
| input  | <code>curE75</code>      | 75% of Current effort                      | Effort | A reference input control that maintains 75% of current effort   |
| input  | <code>ItargetE1</code>   | Effort adjusted target CPUE                | Effort | Management procedure incrementally adjusts the effort to reach a target CPUE / relative abundance index. |
| input  | <code>ItargetE4</code>   | Effort adjusted target CPUE                | Effort | Management procedure incrementally adjusts the effort to reach a target CPUE / relative abundance index. |
| input  | <code>matlenlim</code>   | Length selectivity equal to maturity       | Sel.   | Fishing selectivity is set according to the maturity curve   |
| input  | <code>matlenlim2</code>  | Length selectivity higher than maturity    | Sel.   | fishing selectivity is set slightly higher than the maturity curve                                       |
| input  | <code>slotlim</code>     | Slot limit                                 | Sel.   | Sets a slot limit to control effort.   |
| input  | <code>MRnoreal</code>    | Area 1 Marine Reserve with no reallocation | MPA    | Sets a marine reserve in Area 1 with no reallocation of fishing effort to area 2                         |
| input  | <code>MRreal</code>      | Area 1 Marine Reserve with reallocation    | MPA    | Sets a marine reserve in Area 1 and reallocates fishing effort to area 2                                 |
| output | <code>AvC</code>         | Average Catch                              | Catch  | Sets TAC as average historical catch   |



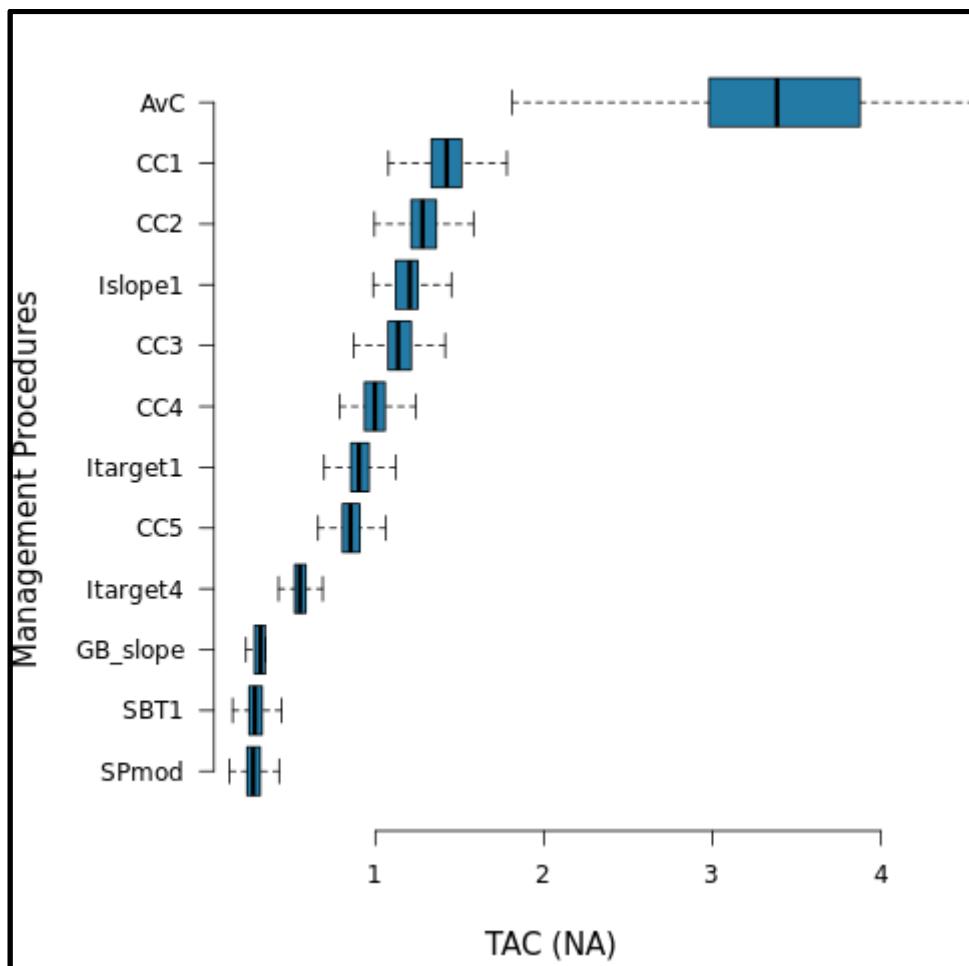
|        |                          |  |        |  |
|--------|--------------------------|--|--------|--|
| output | <a href="#">CC1</a>      | Constant catch linked to average catches         | Catch  | TAC is a average historical catches  |
| output | <a href="#">CC2</a>      | Constant catch linked to average catches         | Catch  | TAC is 90% of average historical catches   |
| output | <a href="#">CC3</a>      | Constant catch linked to average catches         | Catch  | TAC is 80% of average historical catches   |
| output | <a href="#">CC4</a>      | Constant catch linked to average catches         | Catch  | TAC is 70% of average historical catches   |
| output | <a href="#">CC5</a>      | Constant catch linked to average catches         | Catch  | TAC is 60% of average historical catches   |
| output | <a href="#">NRef</a>     | No reference point                               | Catch  | A reference MP that sets annual catch to almost zero (0.01)                      |
| output | <a href="#">GB_slope</a> | Geromont and Butterworth CPUE slope              | EmlInd | TAC recommendations to stabilize CPUE  |
| output | <a href="#">Islope1</a>  | CPUE slope MP                                    | EmlInd | TAC is adjusted to maintain constant CPUE  |
| output | <a href="#">Itarget1</a> | CPUE target MP                                   | EmlInd | TAC is adjusted to achieve a target CPUE   |
| output | <a href="#">Itarget4</a> | CPUE target MP (more biologically precautionary) | EmlInd | TAC is adjusted to achieve a target CPUE   |
| output | <a href="#">SBT1</a>     | Southern Bluefin Tuna 1                          | EmlInd | An MP that adjusts TACs according to apparent trend in CPUE                      |
| output | <a href="#">SPmod</a>    | Surplus production based TAC modifier            | PopDy  | Inferred derivative of surplus production with biomass is used to adjust the TAC |
| NA     | <a href="#">CurC</a>     | NA   | NA     | NA   |
| NA     | <a href="#">Islope3</a>  | NA   |        |  |

**Figure 45: List of management procedures (MPs) that can be applied with the data available for Common Dolphinfish in Seychelles. It was obtained from 'Enough data to produce' section on FarFish DMLGui 'Diagnostics' tab.**



#### 4.2.1.2.2 Quota estimates

The estimated recommended TAC provided by output-type MP's is shown in Figure 48.



**Figure 46: Recommended TAC plot for common Dolphinfish in Seychelles. It was obtained from ‘TAC Plot’ tab on FarFish DLMGui.**

#### 4.2.1.3 SPiCTGui results

##### 4.2.1.3.1 Summary results

The SPiCt model achieves proper convergence. This convergence can be observed in the “Results summary” tab where the corresponding value to convergence is 0 (Figure 49). The estimated deterministic MSY is around 6.6 tons,  $B_{MSY}$  is close to 9.45 tonnes and  $F_{MSY}$  is equal to 0.7. The estimated biomass in the last year of the time series is around 22 tonnes and predicted biomass for the next year is approximately 22.3 tonnes.

```

Convergence: 0 MSG: relative convergence (4)
Objective function at optimum: 31.0280295
Euler time step (years): 1/16 or 0.0625
Nobs C: 20, Nobs I1: 24

Priors
    logn ~ dnorm[log(2), 2^2]
    logalpha ~ dnorm[log(1), 2^2]
    logbeta ~ dnorm[log(1), 2^2]

Model parameter estimates w 95% CI
    estimate      cilow      ciupp      log.est
alpha   3.4801667 0.3719798 3.255973e+01 1.2470802
beta    0.1922869 0.0287032 1.288158e+00 -1.6487669
r       0.8869635 0.2272505 3.461837e+00 -0.1199514
rc     1.4008197 0.1529444 1.283013e+01 0.3370576
rold   3.3300768 0.0001008 1.100558e+05 1.2029954
m      6.6209841 3.3908211 1.292826e+01 1.8902440
K      22.9405704 5.7680340 9.123902e+01 3.1329070
q      0.0030625 0.0007248 1.294020e-02 -5.7885235
n      1.2663493 0.1309280 1.224826e+01 0.2361382
sdb   0.0681785 0.0077500 5.997823e-01 -2.6856256
sdf   0.6607764 0.4508059 9.685442e-01 -0.4143398
sdi   0.2372726 0.1733731 3.247234e-01 -1.4385454

Deterministic reference points (Drp)
    estimate      cilow      ciupp      log.est
Bmsyd 9.4530137 1.4818205 60.303843 2.2463336
Fmsyd 0.7004099 0.0764722 6.415065 -0.3560896
MSYd 6.6209841 3.3908211 12.928264 1.8902440

Stochastic reference points (Srp)
    estimate      cilow      ciupp      log.est rel.diff.Drp
Bmsys 9.4254123 1.4786755 60.07971 2.2434095 -0.002928405
Fmsys 0.7001903 0.0761456 6.43854 -0.3564032 -0.000313580
MSYs 6.5995757 3.3575157 12.97221 1.8870054 -0.003243901

States w 95% CI (inp$msytype: s)
    estimate      cilow      ciupp      log.est
B_2017.00 22.0939022 5.6954554 85.7070209 3.0953017
F_2017.00 0.0122700 0.0028308 0.0531837 -4.4005940
B_2017.00/Bmsy 2.3440781 0.8497541 6.4662261 0.8518922
F_2017.00/Fmsy 0.0175239 0.0031616 0.0971299 -4.0441908

Predictions w 95% CI (inp$msytype: s)
    prediction      cilow      ciupp      log.est
B_2018.00 22.3712874 5.7083372 87.6743052 3.1077783
F_2018.00 0.0133343 0.0027501 0.0646523 -4.3174185
B_2018.00/Bmsy 2.3735076 0.8529009 6.6051498 0.8643688
F_2018.00/Fmsy 0.0190438 0.0030968 0.1171097 -3.9610153
Catch_2018.00 0.2990255 0.1029119 0.8688622 -1.2072263
E(B_inf) 22.5221673 NA NA 3.1145000

```

Figure 47: SPiCT summary results for common Dolphinfish in Seychelles. It was obtained from “Results summary” tab on FarFish SPiCtGui.



Estimated absolute biomass time series is always over the  $B_{MSY}$  value and  $F$  always below  $F_{MSY}$ , as can be observed in the absolute biomass plot from “summary plots” tab displayed in Figure 50. Note that all values are over or below the horizontal black lines that represents  $B_{MSY}$  and  $F_{MSY}$ , respectively. These estimates are compared in the Kobe plot of relative fishing mortality over biomass estimates in Figure 50. The comparison suggests that the fishery has been exploited sustainably because all the estimates are in the green zone.

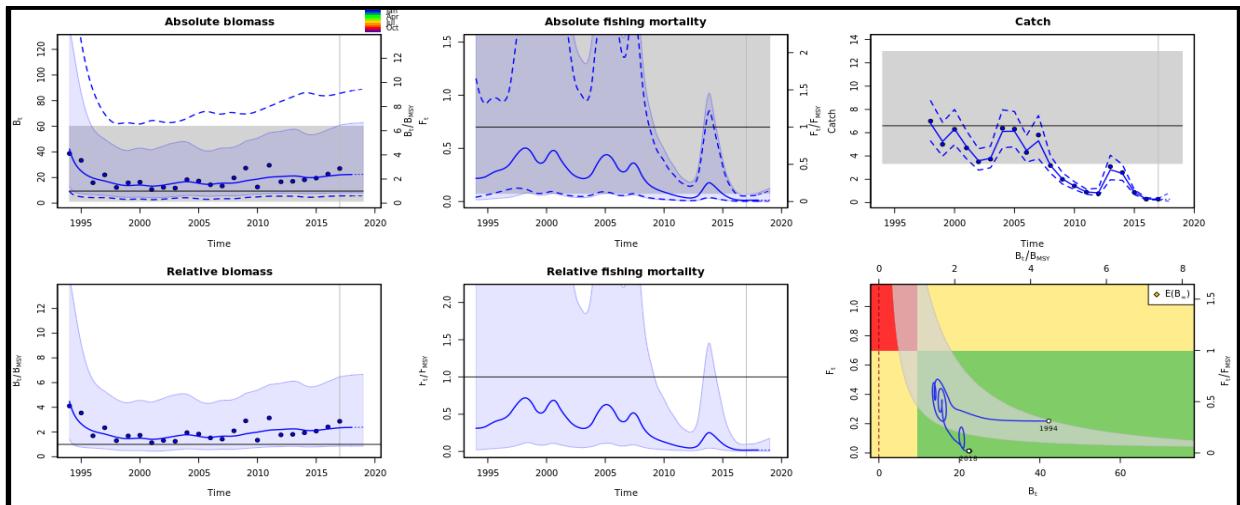


Figure 50: Summary plots for Common Dolphinfish in Seychelles. It was obtained from ‘Summary plots’ tab on FarFish SPiCTGui.

#### 4.2.1.3.2 Suitability of SPiCT for assessment purposes

The SPiCT model for this species converged and also the variance was finite for all the parameters. Those are the first two requirements for a SPiCt model to be considered for assessment purposes as shown in the “Preliminary checklist” tab (Figure 51).

FarFish SPiCtGui    Edit data    Catch / Abundance Index Plot    Results summary    Preliminary checklist

Checklist for the acceptance of a SPiCT assessment  
Based on the [spict guidelines documentation](#)

1. The assessment converged (fit\$opt\$convergence equals 0).  

```
> fit$opt$convergence
[1] 0
```
2. All variance parameters of the model parameters are finite (all(is.finite(fit\$sd)) should be TRUE).  

```
> all(is.finite(fit$sd))
[1] TRUE
```
3. No violation of model assumptions based on one-step-ahead residuals (bias, auto-correlation, normality). This means indicated by green titles in the graphs of spictplot.diagnostic(fit). Slight violations of these assumptions do not necessarily mean that the model does not fit the data well.  

```
[1] "See 'Diagnostics plots' tab"
```

**Figure 51: Checklist for the acceptance of a SPiCT assessment for common Dolphinfish in Seychelles. It was obtained from “Preliminary checklist” tab on FarFish SPiCtGui.**

#### 4.2.1.3.3 Checking violations of model assumptions

The third requirement for the SPiCT to be used for assessment purposes is to check that there have not been violations of model assumptions (number 3 in Figure 51). There was no violation of any assumption in the SPiCT model for this species as observed in the “Diagnostics plots” tab (Figure 52), where all plot titles were in green (otherwise titles would be red).



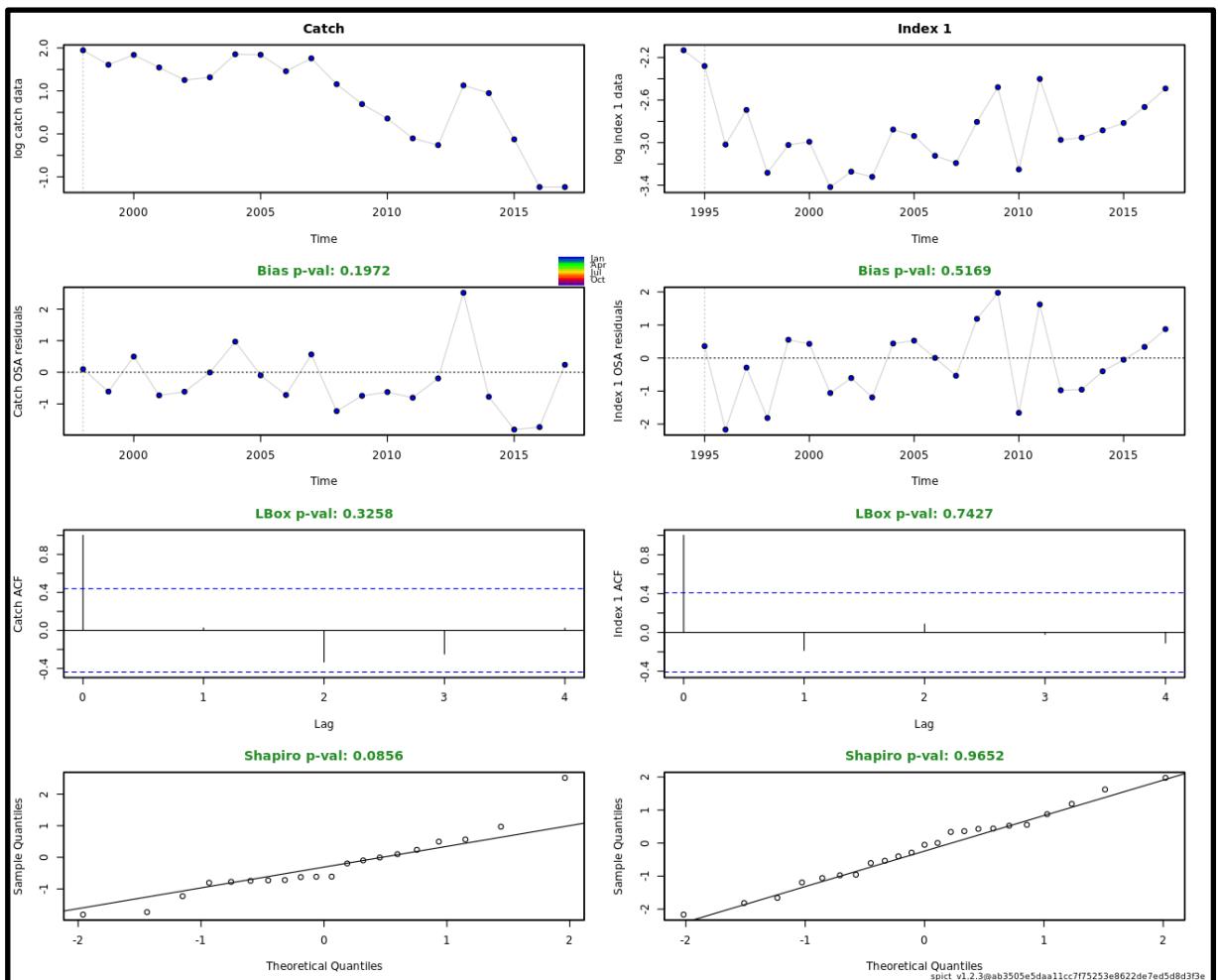


Figure 52: Check of model assumptions violation for common Dolphinfish in Seychelles. No violations found for this model (green titles). It was obtained from “Diagnostics plots” tab on FarFish SPiCtGui.

### **4.2.2 Wahoo**

#### 4.2.2.1 Data input

Catches for the whole Indian Ocean from 1950 to 2017 and one abundance index (Reunion Islands CPUE) from 1994 to 2017 were available for this species, as well as some biological parameters. These data were obtained from IOTC database files from 2018 edition statistics (IOTC database 2018, please consider that these statistics are being continually revised).

#### 4.2.2.2 DLMGui results

#### 4.2.2.2.1 Management procedures that can be applied with the data available

A list of the MPs that can be applied for this species management is presented in Figure 53. The list was obtained from tab “Diagnostics” after filling the data template in the “Edit data” tab.

| Direction | Code         | Name  | Type   | Description   |
|-----------|--------------|---|--------|---|
|           | AvC_MLL      | Average Catch with a size limit   |        | An example mixed control MP that uses the average catch output control MP together with a minimum size limit set at the size of maturity. |
|           | ICI          | Index Confidence Interval   |        |   |
|           | ICI2         | Index Confidence Interval   |        |   |
|           | Iratio       | Mean Index Ratio  |        |   |
|           | Islope2      | Index Slope Tracking MP   |        |   |
|           | Islope4      | Index Slope Tracking MP   |        |   |
|           | Itarget1_MPA | Itarget1 with an MPA  |        |   |
|           | Itarget2     | Incremental Index Target MP   |        |   |
|           | Itarget3     | Incremental Index Target MP   |        |   |
|           | ItargetE2    | Incremental Index Target MP - Effort-Based A management procedure that incrementally adjusts the fishing effort to reach a target CPUE / relative abundance index |        |   |
|           | ItargetE3    | Incremental Index Target MP - Effort-Based A management procedure that incrementally adjusts the fishing effort to reach a target CPUE / relative abundance index |        |   |
|           | minlenLopt1  | Size limit management procedures  |        |   |
| input     | curE         | Current effort  | Effort | A reference input control that maintains current effort (subject to fishing efficiency changes)   |



|        |                            |  |        |  |
|--------|----------------------------|--|--------|--|
| input  | <a href="#">curE75</a>     | 75% of Current effort                      | Effort | A reference input control that maintains 75% of current effort   |
| input  | <a href="#">ltargetE1</a>  | Effort adjusted target CPUE                | Effort | Management procedure incrementally adjusts the effort to reach a target CPUE / relative abundance index. |
| input  | <a href="#">ltargetE4</a>  | Effort adjusted target CPUE                | Effort | Management procedure incrementally adjusts the effort to reach a target CPUE / relative abundance index. |
| input  | <a href="#">matlenlim</a>  | Length selectivity equal to maturity       | Sel.   | Fishing selectivity is set according to the maturity curve   |
| input  | <a href="#">matlenlim2</a> | Length selectivity higher than maturity    | Sel.   | fishing selectivity is set slightly higher than the maturity curve                                       |
| input  | <a href="#">slotlim</a>    | Slot limit                                 | Sel.   | Sets a slot limit to control effort.   |
| input  | <a href="#">MRnoreal</a>   | Area 1 Marine Reserve with no reallocation | MPA    | Sets a marine reserve in Area 1 with no reallocation of fishing effort to area 2                         |
| input  | <a href="#">MRreal</a>     | Area 1 Marine Reserve with reallocation    | MPA    | Sets a marine reserve in Area 1 and reallocates fishing effort to area 2                                 |
| output | <a href="#">AvC</a>        | Average Catch                              | Catch  | Sets TAC as average historical catch   |
| output | <a href="#">CC1</a>        | Constant catch linked to average           | Catch  | TAC is a average   |



|        |          | catches  |       | historical catches   |
|--------|----------|--|-------|--|
| output | CC2      | Constant catch linked to average catches         | Catch | TAC is 90% of average historical catches   |
| output | CC3      | Constant catch linked to average catches         | Catch | TAC is 80% of average historical catches   |
| output | CC4      | Constant catch linked to average catches         | Catch | TAC is 70% of average historical catches   |
| output | CC5      | Constant catch linked to average catches         | Catch | TAC is 60% of average historical catches   |
| output | NRef     | No reference point                               | Catch | A reference MP that sets annual catch to almost zero (0.01)                      |
| output | GB_slope | Geromont and Butterworth CPUE slope              | Emlnd | TAC recommendations to stabilize CPUE  |
| output | Islope1  | CPUE slope MP                                    | Emlnd | TAC is adjusted to maintain constant CPUE  |
| output | Itarget1 | CPUE target MP                                   | Emlnd | TAC is adjusted to achieve a target CPUE   |
| output | Itarget4 | CPUE target MP (more biologically precautionary) | Emlnd | TAC is adjusted to achieve a target CPUE   |
| output | SBT1     | Southern Bluefin Tuna 1                          | Emlnd | An MP that adjusts TACs according to apparent trend in CPUE                      |
| output | SPmod    | Surplus production-based TAC modifier            | PopDy | Inferred derivative of surplus production with biomass is used to adjust the TAC |
| output | SPMSY    | Catch-trend MSY MP                               | Catch | Catch trends reflect   |



|    |         |    |    |   |
|----|---------|----|----|---|
|    |         |    |    | depletion and combined catches can be used to find viable r-K pairs. The OFL is dep x (1-dep) x 2 x r x K |
| NA | CurC    | NA | NA | NA  |
| NA | Islope3 | NA | NA | NA  |

Figure 53: List of management procedures (MPs) that can be applied with the data available for Wahoo in the Indian Ocean. It was obtained from 'Enough data to produce' section on FarFish DMLGui 'Diagnostics' tab.

#### 4.2.2.2.2 Quota estimates

The estimated recommended TAC provided by output-type MP's is shown in Figure 54.

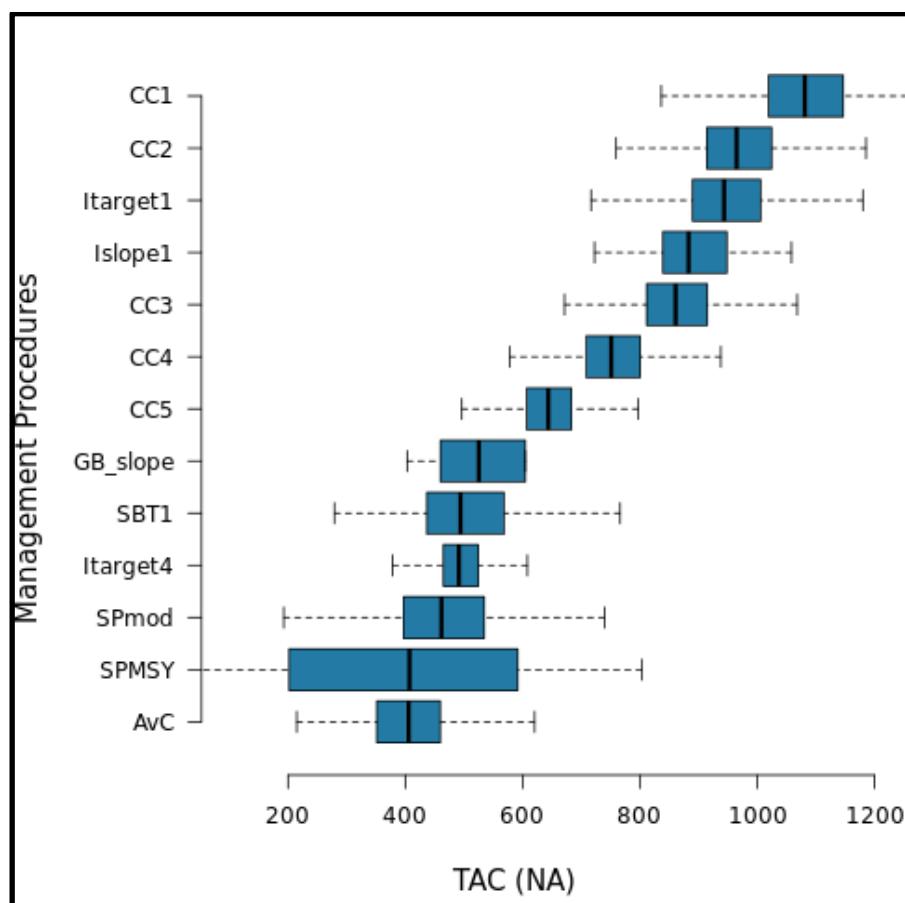
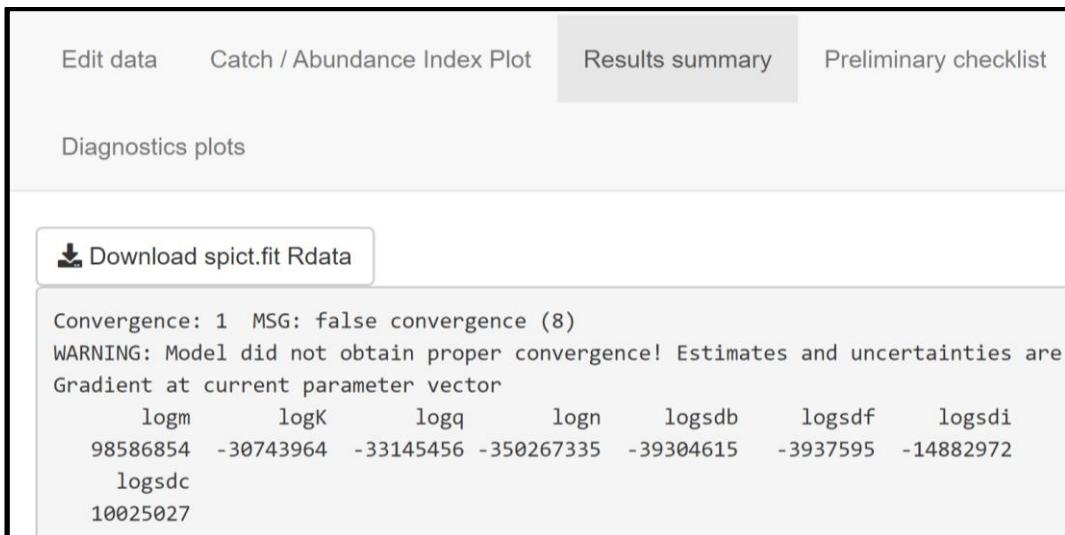


Figure 54: Recommended TAC plot for Wahoo in the Indian Ocean. It was obtained from 'TAC Plot' tab on FarFish DLMGui.

#### 4.2.2.3 SPiCTGui results

##### 4.2.2.3.1 Summary results

No SPiCt model could be loaded because the model does not achieve proper convergence. This lack of convergence can be observed in the “Results summary” tab where the corresponding value to convergence is 1 (Figure 55). This is also displayed with a message warning against the use of the results for management purposes.



The screenshot shows the 'Results summary' tab selected in the top navigation bar. Below it, a section titled 'Diagnostics plots' contains a download button labeled 'Download spict.fit Rdata'. The main content area displays a warning message and a gradient vector:

```

Convergence: 1 MSG: false convergence (8)
WARNING: Model did not obtain proper convergence! Estimates and uncertainties are
Gradient at current parameter vector
      logm      logK      logq      logn      logsdb      logsdf      logsdi
  98586854 -30743964 -33145456 -350267335 -39304615 -3937595 -14882972
      logsdc
  10025027
  
```

**Figure 55: SPiCT summary results for Wahoo in the Indian Ocean. It was obtained from “Results summary” tab on FarFish SPiCtGui.**

##### 4.2.2.3.2 Suitability of SPiCT for assessment purposes

Because of the lack of convergence, SPiCt is not suitable for assessment purposes. This can be confirmed by the “Preliminary checklist” tab as can be observed in Figure 56.



FarFish SPiCtGui    Edit data    Catch / Abundance Index Plot    Results summary    Preliminary checklist

Checklist for the acceptance of a SPiCT assessment  
Based on the [spict guidelines documentation](#)

1. The assessment converged (fit\$opt\$convergence equals 0).

```
> fit$opt$convergence
[1] 1
```

2. All variance parameters of the model parameters are finite (all(is.finite(fit\$sd)) should be TRUE).

```
> all(is.finite(fit$sd))
[1] TRUE
```

3. No violation of model assumptions based on one-step-ahead residuals (bias, auto-correlation, normality). This means indicated by green titles in the graphs of spictplot.diagnostic(fit). Slight violations of these assumptions do not necessarily indicate a problem.

```
[1] "See 'Diagnostics plots' tab"
```

**Figure 56: Checklist for the acceptance of a SPiCT assessment for Wahoo in the Indian Ocean. It was obtained from “Preliminary checklist” tab on FarFish SPiCtGui.**

#### 4.2.2.3.3 Checking violation of model assumptions

Violation of assumptions cannot be checked because the model did not converge. In this case the tool displays an error message about this situation and residuals for the estimation cannot be calculated (Figure 57).

FarFish SPiCtGui    Edit data    Catch / Abundance Index Plot    Results summary

**Error:** Could not calculate OSA residuals because estimation did not converge.

**Figure 57: Error message from “Diagnostics plots” tab for Wahoo in the Indian Ocean, due to lack of convergence.**



## 5 References

Carruthers, T. R., Punt, A. E., Walters, C. J., MacCall, A., McAllister, M. K., Dick, E. J., & Cope, J. (2014). Evaluating methods for setting catch limits in data-limited fisheries. *Fisheries Research*, 153, 48–68.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2013.12.014>

Carruthers, T and Hordyk, A. (2020). Data-Limited Methods Toolkit (DLMtool 5.4.2) User Guide.  
<https://dlmtool.github.io/DLMtool/userguide/introduction.html>

ICCAT database. 2018. ICCAT Nominal Catches and Catch and Effort Data - Reference file. t1nc-ALL\_20181205 and t2ce\_20181205web  
(<https://www.iccat.int/es/accesingdb.html> for updated edition).

ICES. 2018. ICES reference points for stocks in categories 3 and 4. In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2018. ICES Advice 2018, ICES Technical Guidelines, Section 16.4.3.2. 50 pp.  
<https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.3977>

ICES.2019. Ninth Workshop on the Development of Quantitative Assessment Methodologies based on LIFE-history traits, exploitation characteristics, and other relevant parameters for data-limited stocks(WKLIFE IX). ICES Scientific Reports. 1:77. 131 pp. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5550>

IOTC database 2018. IOTC Catch and Effort Data - Reference File. IOTC-2018-DATASETS-NCDBrev2 and IOTC-2018-WPEB14-DATA04 - CELongline  
(<https://ww2.iotc.org/WPTT/22DP/Data/08-CERef> for updated edition).

Mildenberger, Tobias K, Casper W Berg, Martin W Pedersen, Alexandros Kokkalis, and J Rasmus Nielsen. 2019. "Time-variant productivity in biomass dynamic models on seasonal and long-term scales." *ICES Journal of Marine Science*, September. <https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsz154>

Pedersen, Martin W., and Casper W. Berg. 2017. "A stochastic surplus production model in continuous time." *Fish and Fisheries* 18 (2): 226–43. <https://doi.org/10.1111/faf.12174>

