



J R C T E C H N I C A L R E P O R T S

The a4a Assessment Model

Model description and
testing

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2012

Report EUR xxxxx EN

European Commission
Joint Research Centre
Institute for the Protection and Security of the Citizen

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JRCxxxxx

EUR xxxxx EN

ISBN xxx-xx-xx-xxxxx-x (pdf)

ISBN xxx-xx-xx-xxxxx-x (print)

ISSN xxxx-xxxx (print)

ISSN xxxx-xxxx (online)

doi:xx.xxxx/xxxxx

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2012

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Printed in Xxxxxx

European Commission
EUR xxxxx – Joint Research Centre – Institute for the Protection and Security of the Citizen

Title: The a4a Assessment Model

Author(s): Colin Millar, Ernesto Jardim, Iago Mosqueira, Chato Osio

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union

2012 – xx pp. – 21.0 x 29.7 cm

EUR – Scientific and Technical Research series – ISSN xxxx-xxxx (print), ISSN xxxx-xxxx (online)

ISBN xxx-xx-xx-xxxxx-x (pdf)

ISBN xxx-xx-xx-xxxxx-x (print)

doi:xx.xxxx/xxxxx

Abstract

The a4a initiative aims to provide timely and cost effective advice for the circa. 250 fish stocks that, through the EU Data Collection Framework, will have at least 10 years of data by the year 2020. Current processes for assessing the state of and managing fish stocks are intensive processes, each stock requiring the attention of one or more stock assessment scientist to produce preliminary catch advice, which is subsequently reviewed by one or two committees before the final catch advice is published. Ingrained in the development of these processes has been the development of more and more complex stock assessment models which typically require highly skilled personnel to set up and run.

The a4a initiative seeks to overcome these issues by developing a flexible, robust and easy to use stock assessment model, thus making stock assessment accessible to a wide range of scientists that do not have the high skilled quantitative background required to run very complex models. Forthcoming research will describe how to overcome the burden of producing catch advice for such a large number of stocks. This technical report presents a new stock assessment model along with a set of validity tests developed under the a4a Initiative.

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