**Converting SS 3.24 files to 3.30**

1. Read the manual (e.g. Section 5.2) to check for conditions that could cause disasters – turns out there are more than anticipated (including time-blocks on retention)
2. Run the model so you have a file called ReportOld.SSO
3. Create a folder called ‘transition’:
   1. Copy your starter.ss, forecast.ss, DAT and CTL files there.
   2. Copy ss\_trans.exe there.
   3. Change the starter.ss so the phase is 0 (This is important because you want to carry over your initial values).
4. Run SS\_trans. This creates new files and runs SS 3.30 (but stops after one call).
   1. I run with “ss\_trans –est” to speed things up
   2. Check the warning.sso and see if anything weird have happened. If so cry and fix the problems.
   3. Create a new folder with ss.exe in it (e.g. “test”)
      1. Copy control.ss\_new into TEST\XX.CTL
      2. Copy data.ss\_new into TEST\XX.DAT
      3. Copy starter.ss\_new intoi TEST\starter.ss
      4. Copy forecast.ss-new TEST\forecast.ss
   4. You may need to do manual changes to the XX.CTL file (particular for retention)
      1. If there is an environmental link (e.g. morwong) that needs personal attention.
      2. Check that retention parameter 3 is converted correctly – looks like when the value is 1 it is not! If not, convert parameter 3 “-0.0001 1 1” to “-10 999 999 999”
      3. Check the phases for the block selectivity – some may have changed and parameters that should be off may be on! This was a big problem for tiger flathead
5. Run SS.exe with max phase = 0 and “-est”; no need for bad news slowly.
   1. Check the warnings.sso and see if anything weird have happened. If so cry and fix the problems.
   2. Check the parameter count in SS – it should match the numbers in the old REPORT.SSO
   3. Look at the selectivity and retention parameters – there may be problems there
6. Run SS.exe with max phase reset and “-est”; no need for bad news slowly.
   1. Compare the likelihood from the original and revised REPORT.SSO files.
   2. Plot the trajectories of biomass
7. Run SS.exe
   1. Compare the likelihood from the original and revised REPORT.SSO files.
   2. Plot the trajectories of biomass and check the SDs
8. Celebrate if the new results are essentially identical. Else got to step 9.
9. If they are not identical
   1. Cry a lot
   2. Look at the WARNING.SSO file again