Workshop Agenda Comments

(Mike McMahon Nov 18, 2022)

*Is Claude Nozeres attending? He's listed as contributing to parts of it but not listed as an attendee (virtual or in person).*

# OBJECTIVES

Is the primary objective really about getting a nice Atlantic-wide species list? Or is it about moving forward so we can all use ANDES more easily? In all honesty, the species lists/ codes used by other regions have historically been of almost no interest to me. I only need to care now, because ANDES uses one, and I need to convert from it.

To me, the importance of a North Atlantic marine species name total checklist is debatable. I think we only need it if ANDES must have a species-list built into it, which is maybe worth a discussion in itself? I think if we all started with a better understanding of how the system relies on the existing, internal species list would give us a better platform from which to brainstorm the best ways to move forward. Maybe a presentation (by Dave, I assume) about how the existing species information works within the ANDES code ecosystem would be a good addition? I'm curious if the internal ANDES species list is used by other components like sampling protocols and/or determining acceptable lengths/weights, etc.

Depending on how entangled it is, I can imagine that ANDES could be modified such that it is not aware of any species whatsoever. When you set it up for your region's survey, you would have to load in your own region's species list and an associated folder of species images. You would have to configure which field is your primary key (i.e. species code), which fields should be searchable/displayed (i.e. French/English names; scientific name), and which field links to an image file. Maybe you would need to have columns for max/min lengths and weight to trigger warnings? This would put more responsibility on the various regions, but free the developer from having to care about species at all, and down the road, it would facilitate the use of ANDES by Pacific region.

It might be that under-the-hood, all kinds of species related information is built into ANDES and that making the list "swappable" is much more difficult than I think.

OK - so all of the stuff above is just related to what I see as perhaps the artificially inflated importance of the first objective.

# Homework

Homework 2 reads:

*Please prepare a list of regional problems and concerns relating to species list and the implementations thereof. These items will be compiled at the start of the meeting to help guide the discussion.*

I assume you specifically want the ANDES-related issues? I find the wording a bit awkward, so I might change it to:

*Please prepare of list of any problems and concerns associated with your region's species list that have been brought to light through your use of ANDES. These items will be compiled at the start of the meeting to help guide the discussion.*.

# Suggested Presentations / Sessions

For the suggested presentations, I wouldn't set up Dave's as a debate - it seems a bit combative. I am under the impression that we're all coming to this thing to understand what didn't work, and how we might move forward in finding a solution that helps everybody. Maybe the presentation I suggested above (in "Objectives") might fill the same slot? Dave could catch us up on what species information is stored within ANDES, how it feeds into all of the various conveniences that ANDES offers, and the pros and cons of centralized master list vs swappable lists?