
Preface to the Second Edition

This book is intended as an introduction to some of the analytical methods used by fisheries scientists and ecologists. However, keeping it an introductory text that is accessible to the majority is something of a challenge when covering some of the more important though intrinsically complex methods. In this second edition, I have tried to keep the book an introductory text, and so much of the material remains close to the original. While I have revised and tidied all chapters, improving a number of the examples used, the main additions to this new edition are the two chapters on characterizing uncertainty (Chapter 8) and on size-based models (Chapter 13). Keeping such material introductory was certainly a challenge; however, I have not shied away from discussing relatively complex ideas. Hopefully, I have done so in a manner that assists people to reach an understanding of the material. Both new chapters made me question whether I should continue to use Excel for the example boxes. For example, in Chapter 8, on characterizing uncertainty, a generalized Gibbs sampler is developed for conducting Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) analyses. I would never seriously suggest using Excel to conduct an MCMC, but it continues to be a useful teaching tool, and my hope is that by following the examples and seeing the nuts and bolts of how they work, the underlying principles will become clear; Excel remains excellent for such a task.

I have been pleased to receive communications from people in many countries about various sections within the book. I thank everyone who has written to me, asking questions, pointing out problems, and making suggestions; I have appreciated all such comments and interactions. It serves as a nice reminder of the community of endeavour among science workers. It was especially useful to me to see what aspects of the example boxes caused problems for people. This has led me, I hope, to clarify some of the details in some of the more complex example boxes.

I thank Dr. Jessica André of the University of Tasmania for the trouble she took in going through the example boxes in Chapters 2 to 8; her help has been greatly appreciated. Any remaining errors, of course, are all mine.

The example boxes are provided in a zip file that can be found by searching for the book title or author at <http://www.crcpress.com> and going to the “downloads” tab.

Malcolm Haddon
CSIRO, Hobart
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