The Ocean Health Index Toolbox Manual

# Introduction

**The Ocean Health Index (OHI)** project was created with a strong foundation in communication and collaboration. Following the initial publication by [Halpern et al. 2012](http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v488/n7413/abs/nature11397.html) in *Nature*, we have conducted annual global assessments to track changes in global ocean health. At the same time, we have been developing the **Ocean Health Index Toolbox** software that will enable others to conduct assessments on their own using the OHI framework. Here, the **Ocean Health Index Manual** describes how to use the Toolbox software.

## The Ocean Health Index Toolbox

**The OHI Toolbox** runs using the statistical programming language R, and the **Toolbox Application (App)** displays input data and calculated scores graphically with maps, histograms, and tables. Goal scores are calculated for each region separately and then combined using a weighted average to produce the score for the overall study area assessed. The Toolbox can be used to calculate scores in smaller-scale **regional assessments** after all data has been gathered and decisions have been made regarding goal models, pressures and resilience, and reference points. The Toolbox runs on both a Mac and PC.

Modifications can be made to the global studies and to new regional studies, allowing calculation of scores with updated data and visualized with the Toolbox App. We recommend first exploring the results from the global assessment and becoming familiar with the Toolbox App before beginning a regional assessment.

## Exploring the results from the global assessment

**Requirements**: an Internet connection for the initial Toolbox App installation.

1. Install the [latest version of R](http://cran.r-project.org/).
2. Launch the [Toolbox Application](http://ohi-science.org/pages/install.html).
3. Explore global results [using the Toolbox App](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/using_the_ohi_toolbox_app.md#using-the-ohi-toolbox-app)

## Conducting a regional assessment

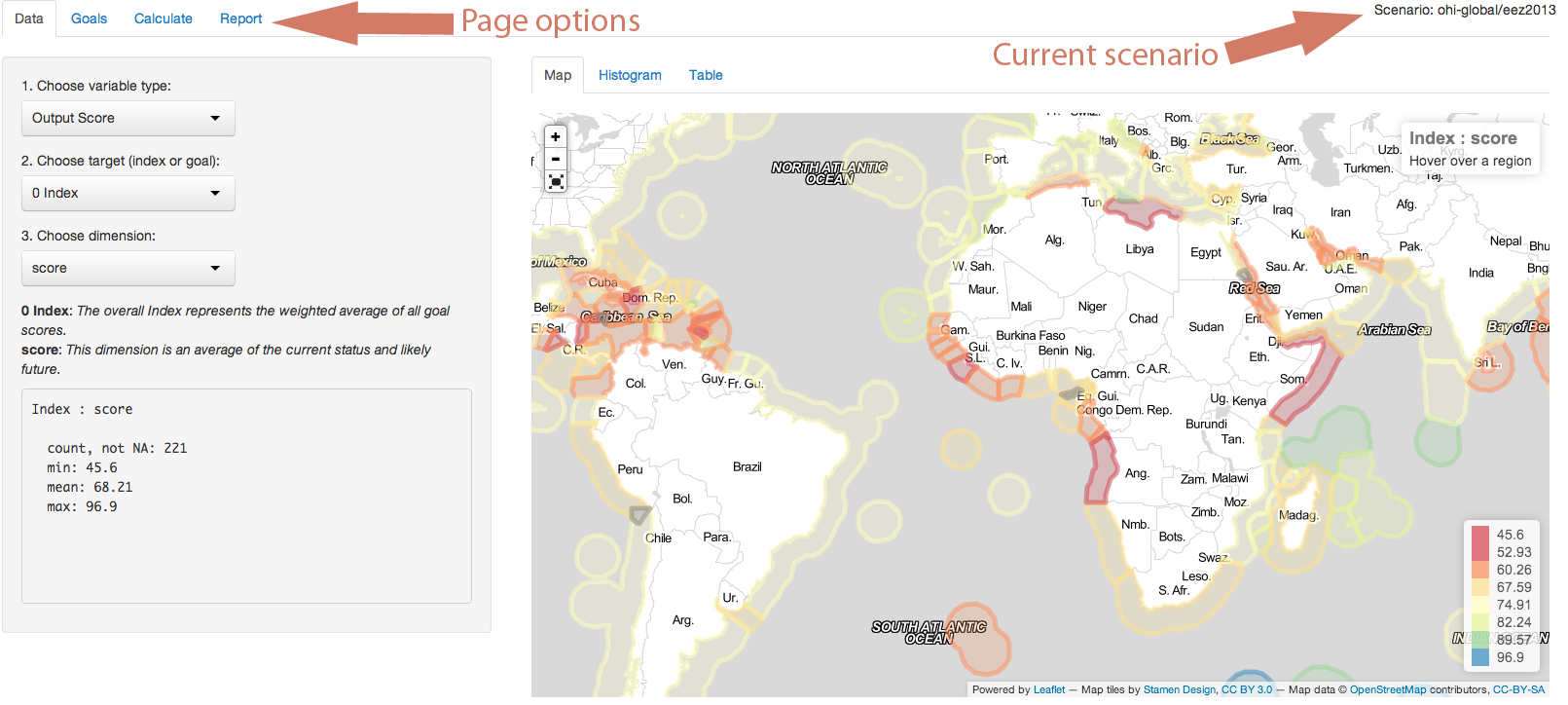
**Requirements**: an Internet connection for the initial Toolbox App installation and continued access if syncing with GitHub (highly recommended); proficiency with data management and the coding language **R**; proficiency in spatial software such as ArcGIS (potentially, depending on the regional assessment strategy).

1. Begin a [regional assessment](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/regional_assessments_intro.md#ocean-health-index-regional-assessments)
2. Become familiar with the Toolbox [file system](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/file_system.md#file-system)
3. [Modify the Toolbox](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/calculate_regional_assessment_score.md#calculate-regional-assessment-scores) to calculate regional scores.

# The Toolbox Application

The Toolbox App runs through a web browser and has four page options: *Data*, *Goals*, *Calculate*, and *Report*. The [*Data*](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/using_the_ohi_toolbox_app.md#data-page) page provides several ways of viewing the data (*Map*, *Histogram*, *Table*). The [*Goals*](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/using_the_ohi_toolbox_app.md#goals-page) page summarizes the global data, and weights for various goals can be adjusted. The [*Calculate*](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/using_the_ohi_toolbox_app.md#calculate-page) page will calculate goal scores based on the information in the file system (data can be changed and tested). The [*Report*](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/using_the_ohi_toolbox_app.md#report-page) page provides different methods of reporting the data.

The scenario is displayed in the upper-right corner of the Data page. This identifies the scale (example: global) and year (example: 2013) of the information displayed.



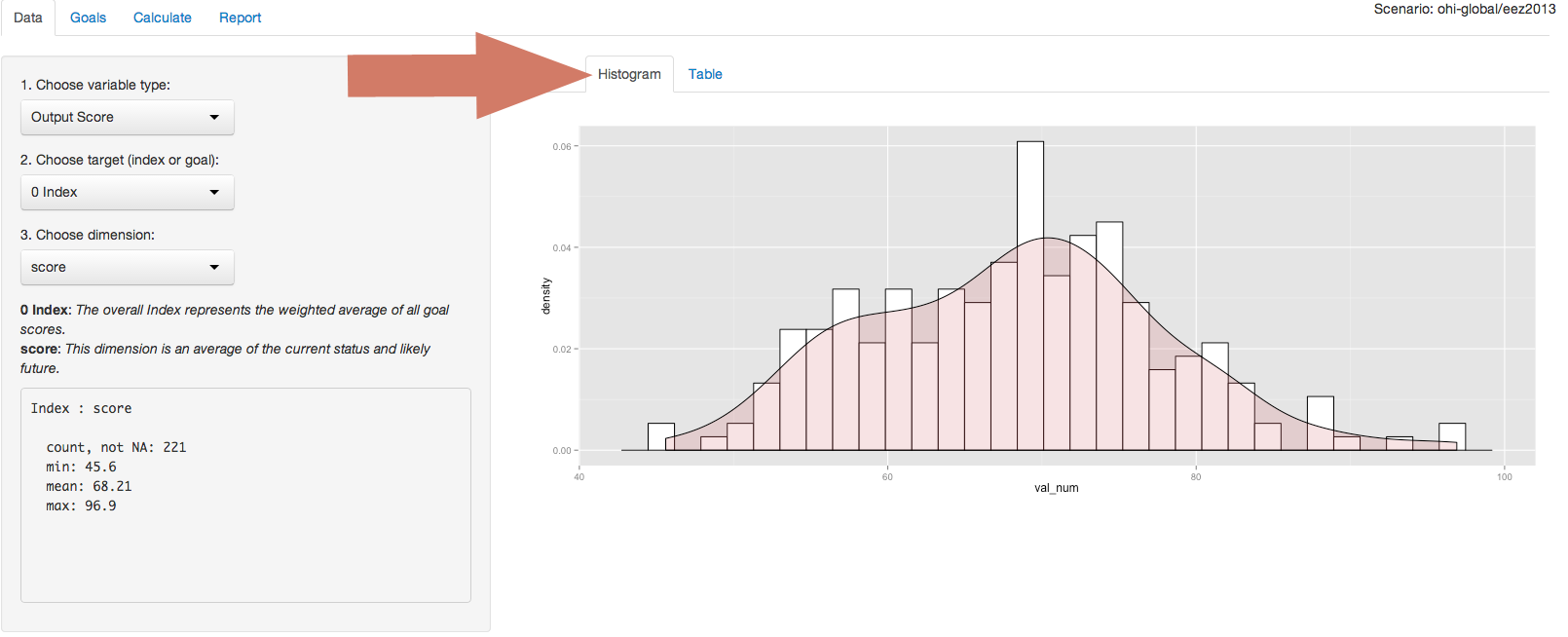
## Data Page

The Data page displays input data or calculated scores for each goal parameter and presents the information as a Map, Histogram, or Table.

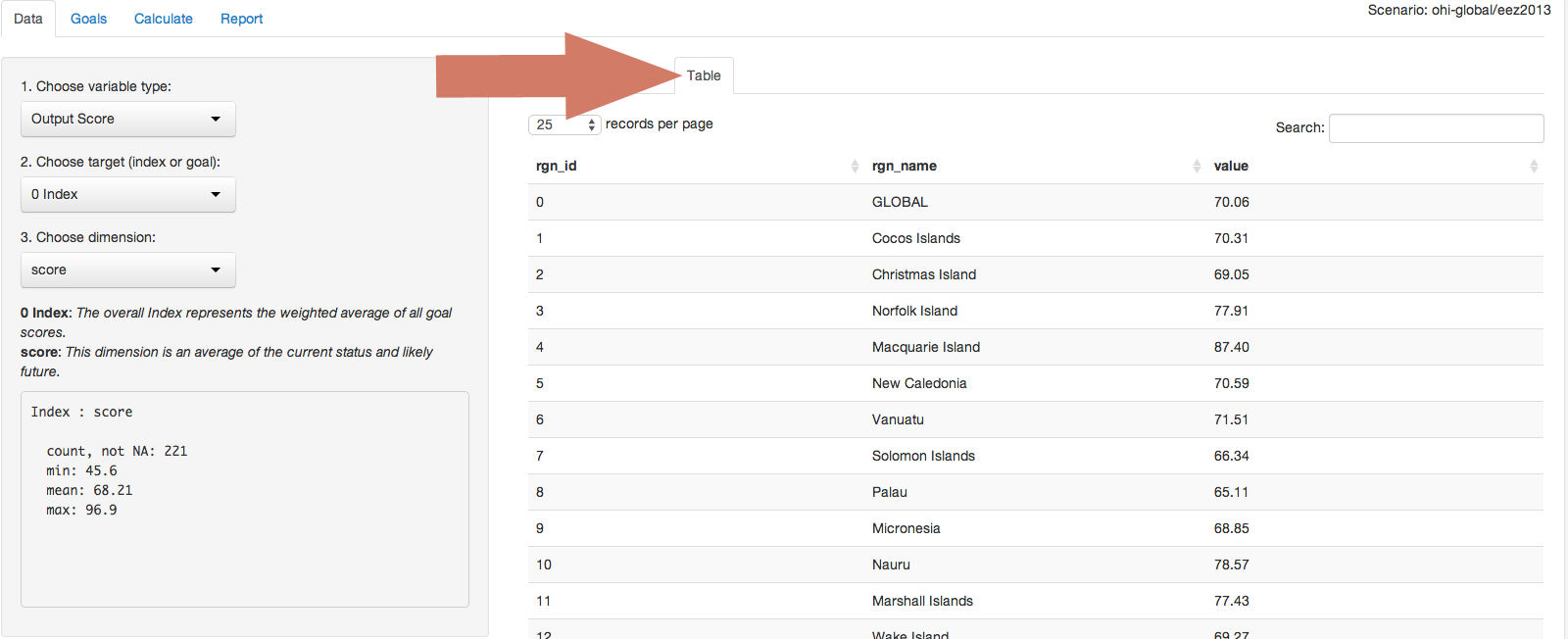
* Data displayed in [Map](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/using_the_ohi_toolbox_app.md#map) form:



* Data displayed in [Histogram](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/using_the_ohi_toolbox_app.md#histogram) form:



* Data displayed in [Table](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/using_the_ohi_toolbox_app.md#table) form:



### Overview of display options

The default display option for the Data page is Map view; Histogram and Table views are also possible. These options are presented as tabs located above the map. For all visualization options, statistics and metadata are displayed below the drop-down menus on the left side of the page.

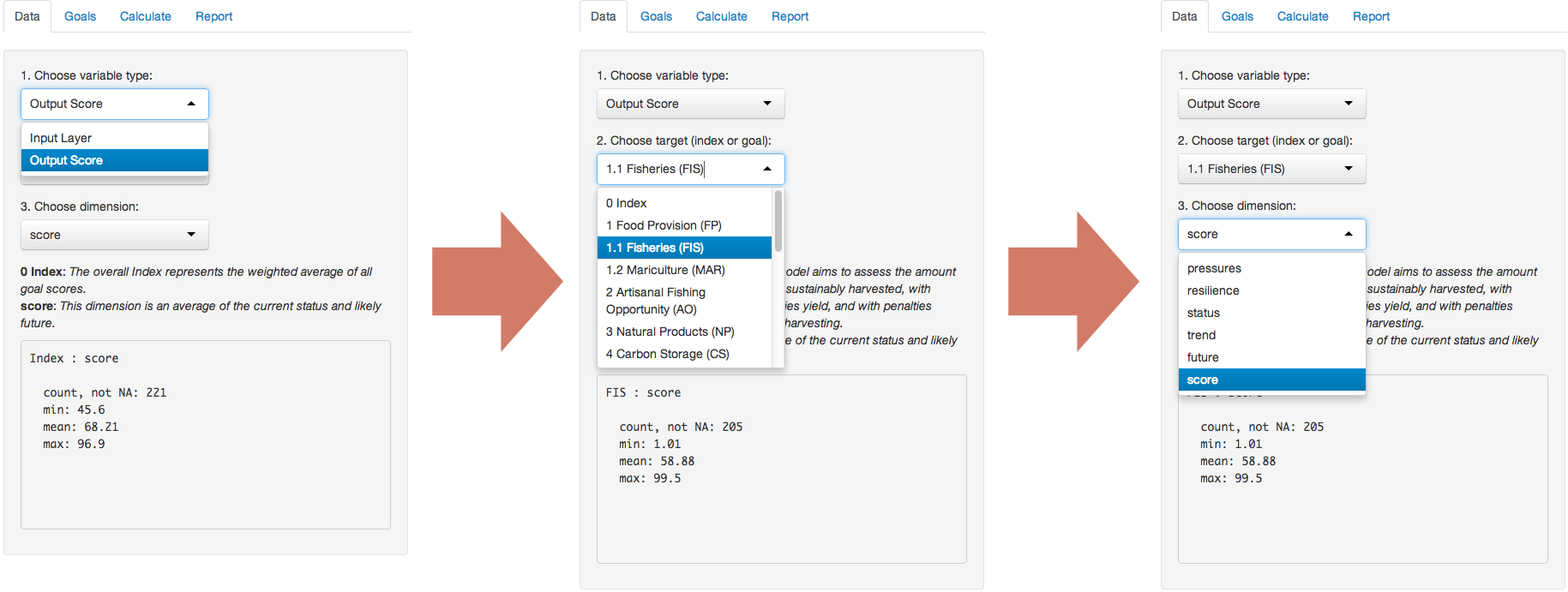
### Overview of variable options

The Data page has drop-down menus from which the user chooses:

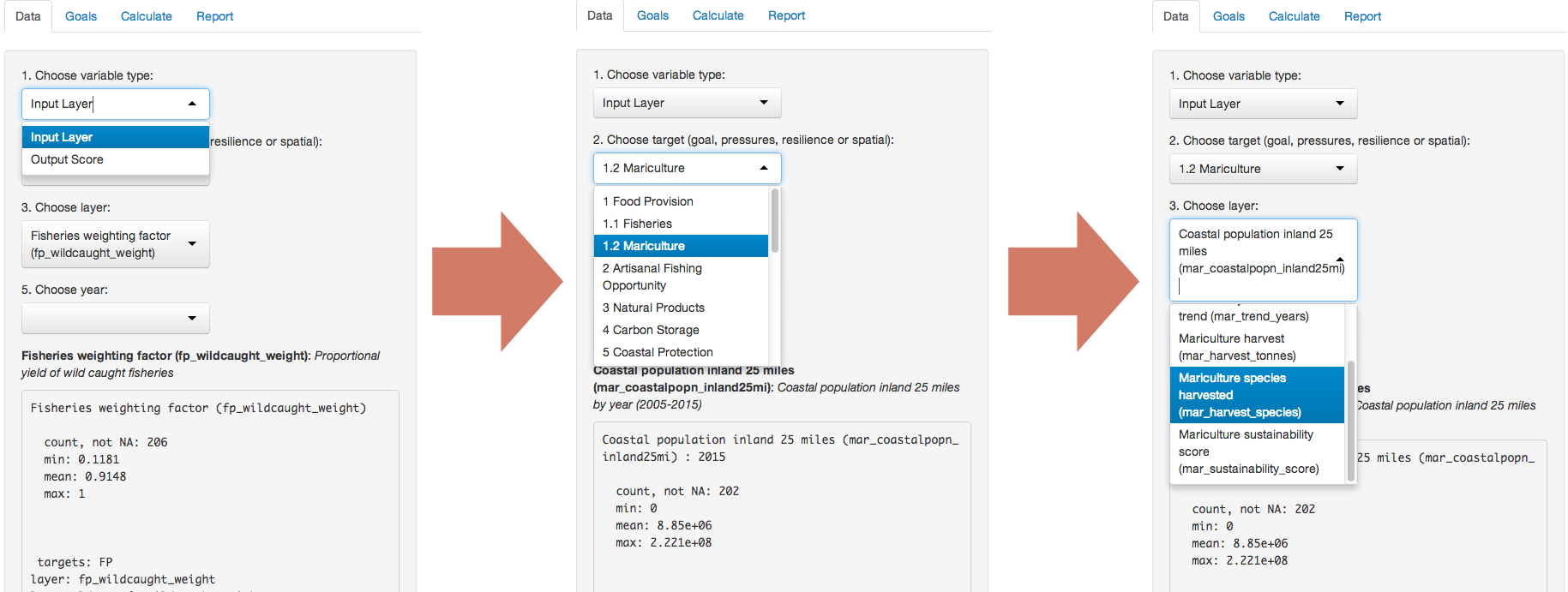
1. **variable type**
   * *Output Score: the calculated score*
   * *Input Layer: the data layer used to calculate the score*
2. **target**
   * *Overall Index*
   * *Ten goals*
   * *Eight sub-goals*
3. **dimension** (for score variables) or layer (for data layer variables)
4. **category** (this will appear for data layer variables with categories)
5. **year** (this will appear for data layer variables with multiple years)

**For example:**

**Output Score > Fisheries (FIS) > score** shows the final calculated score for the fisheries sub-goal in the current scenario (2013).



**Input Layer > Mariculture > Mariculture species harvested** shows the different harvested species that were used to calculate the mariculture sub-goal in the current scenario (2013).



#### Output Score

If the user selects ‘Output Score’ as the variable type (which is the default), they will then be able to choose a target and a dimension. The target is a goal or sub-goal, and the dimension indicates the calculation to be reported.

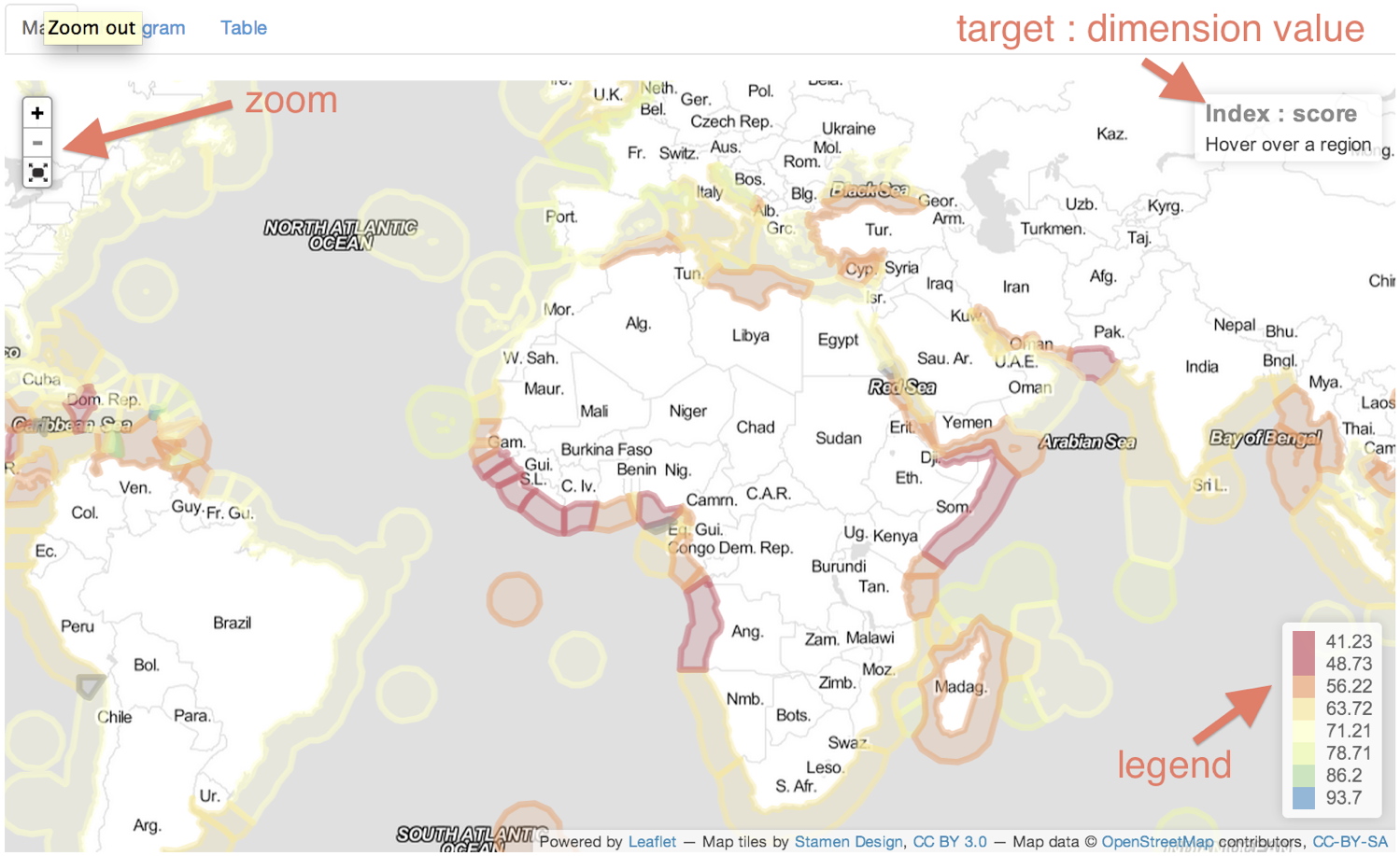
* Target options (with numeric identifiers):
  + Overall Index
  + Ten goals and eight sub-goals
* Dimension options:
  + Status, trend, future state, pressures, resilience, and score

#### Input Layer

If the user selects “Input Layer” as the variable type, they will be able to choose a target and a specific layer that is associated with that target. If that layer has multiple categories or years available, the user will be able to select a preference, with a default being the first category alphabetically and the most recent year.

* Target options (with numeric identifiers):
  + Ten goals and eight sub-goals
  + Pressures
  + Resilience
  + Spatial
* Layers options:
  + Specific data layer associated with the target
* Category options:
  + This option will appear if the layer identified has categories
* Year options:
  + This option will appear if the layer identified has multiple years

### Map

The map displays data for every region as reported in the scenario. 

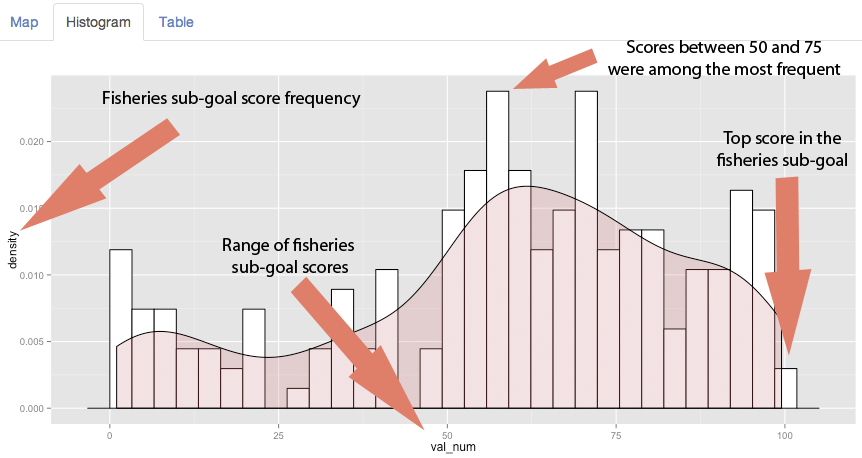
Zooming in and out is possible with the plus/minus in the upper left of the map, and a color legend is displayed in the lower right corner of the map. The legend provides a linear colormap of the data and the range of values will change as different variables are selected.

The target and dimension chosen from the drop-down menu is also displayed as text on the top right corner of the map. Below this information, the region name, (region number), and value appear if the user’s mouse hovers over a specific region. When the value of that region is displayed, the region will darken on the map. If the mouse is not indicating a specific region, this area will instruct to ‘hover over a region’.

### Histogram

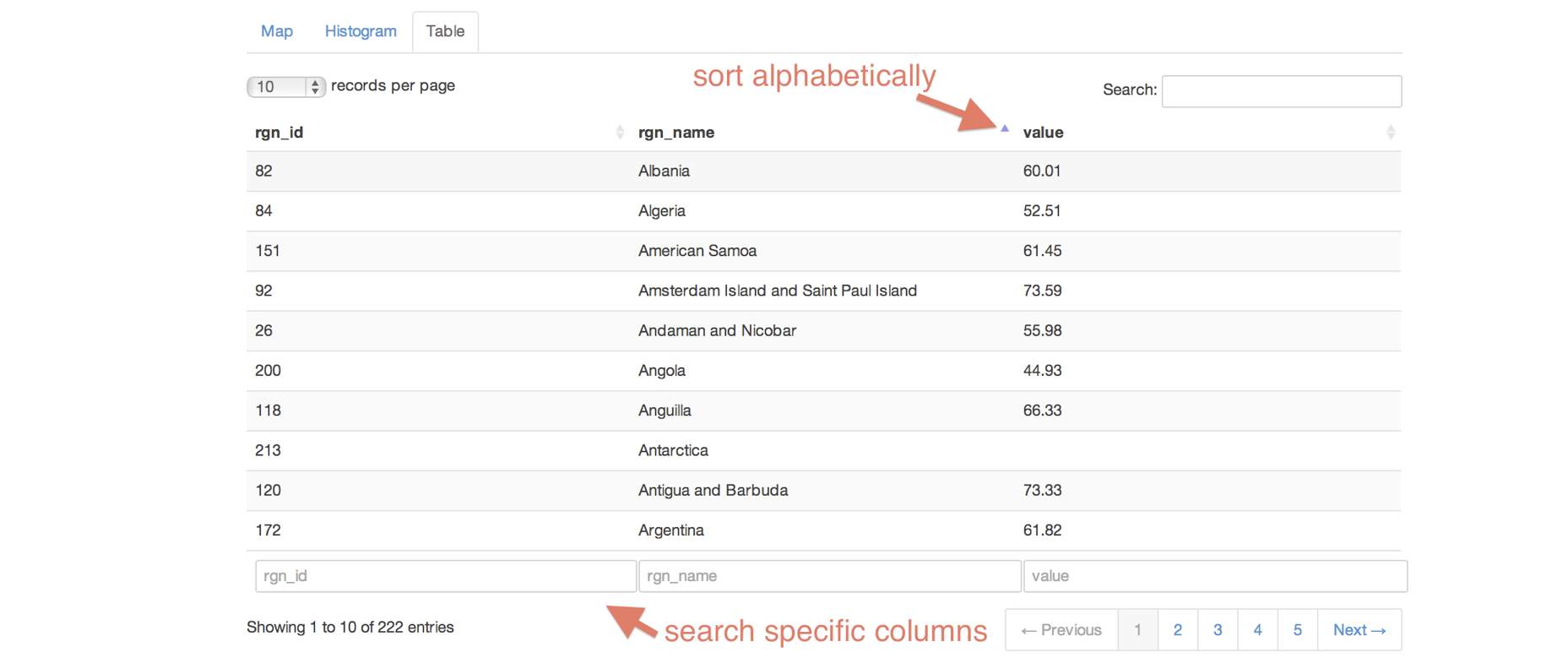
The histogram shows the distribution of the selected variable as the number of observations per value bin (white bars) and a smoothed density function (pink shading).

For example, if the **Output Score > Fisheries > score** sub-goal is selected, the information displayed by the histogram is as follows:



### Table

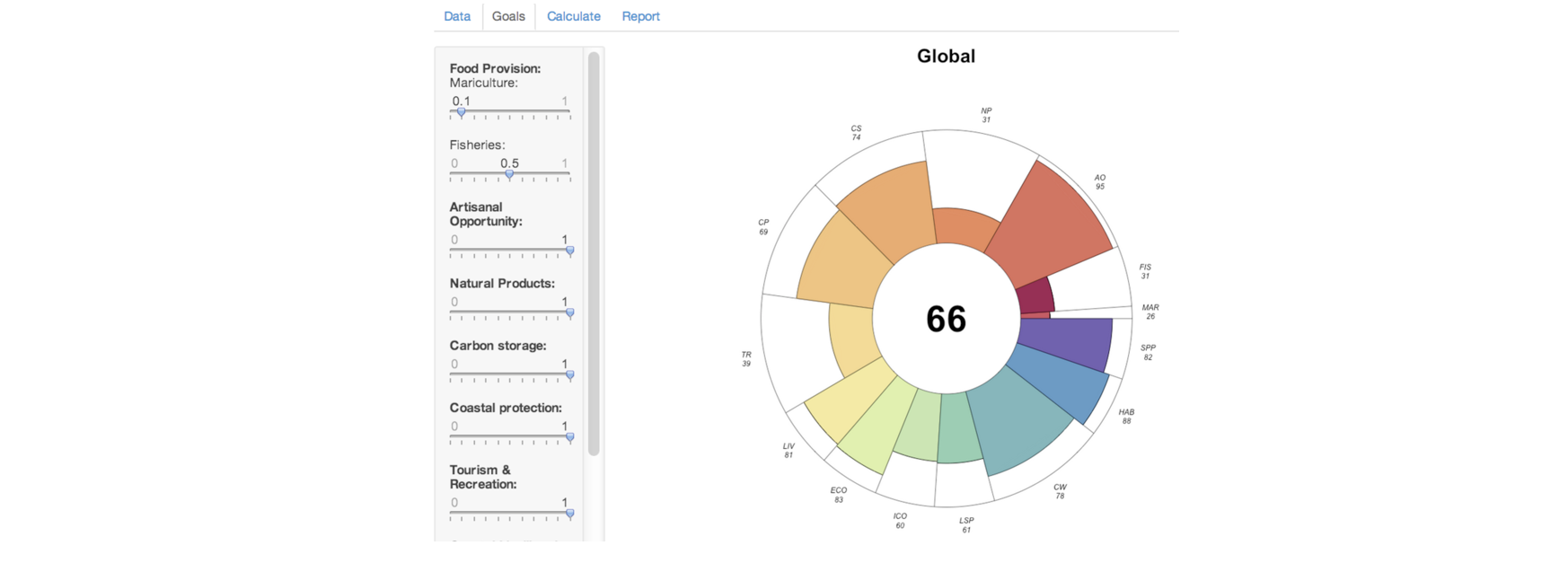
The table displays the target value for each region and the overall study area. It provides an identifying code (rgn\_id), name (rgn\_name), and value (value) for each.



It is possible to search the data using the search bar at the upper right of the table (caps-sensitive). It is also possible to search within individual columns by entering the search term at the bottom of each column; this option is more easily displayed by changing the number of records per page to 10 using the drop-down menu. Data may also be sorted the arrows at the left of each column name. Sorting by rgn\_id is the default.

## Goals Page

Flower diagrams are used to visualize calculated scores for each region and the overall study area. The number in the center of the diagram is the overall score for the region, and each petal represents a goal or sub-goal. The length of each petal reflects the score for the goal or sub-goal. Goal and sub-goal scores are on a scale from 0 to 100, with 0 being worst (no visible petal) and 100 being best (petal length extends to the outer ring). This score is also written outside of the diagram along with the goal or sub-goal identifier. The width of the petal reflects the weighting of a goal or sub-goal relative to the other goals and sub-goals. The default flower diagram displays each goal with equal weighting (10%), with sub-goals contributing equally to each goal (5%).

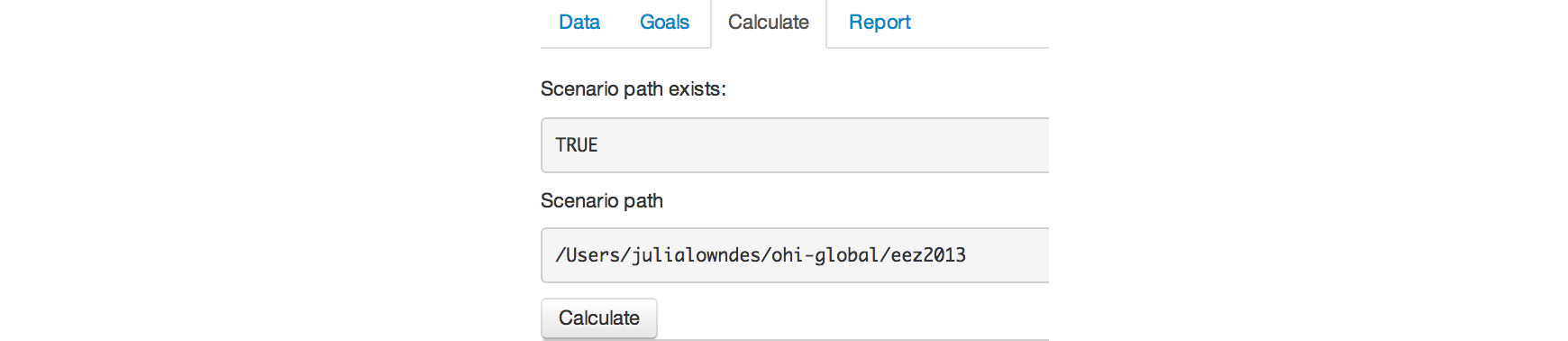


The Goals page allows the user to change the goal weights, influencing the overall score. While the score for each individual goal remains unchanged (the petal length stays the same), changing the relative contribution of each goal score does influence the overall index score (the petal width changes). For example, if a goal that scores poorly is assigned a bigger weight, this will cause the overall score to decrease.

To change goal weightings, use the mouse to slide the weights across any of the goals and see how the flower diagram changes. Currently, other goal weights will change in order to ensure that all weightings equal 100%. In future iterations of the Toolbox App there will be more control over how to set these settings.

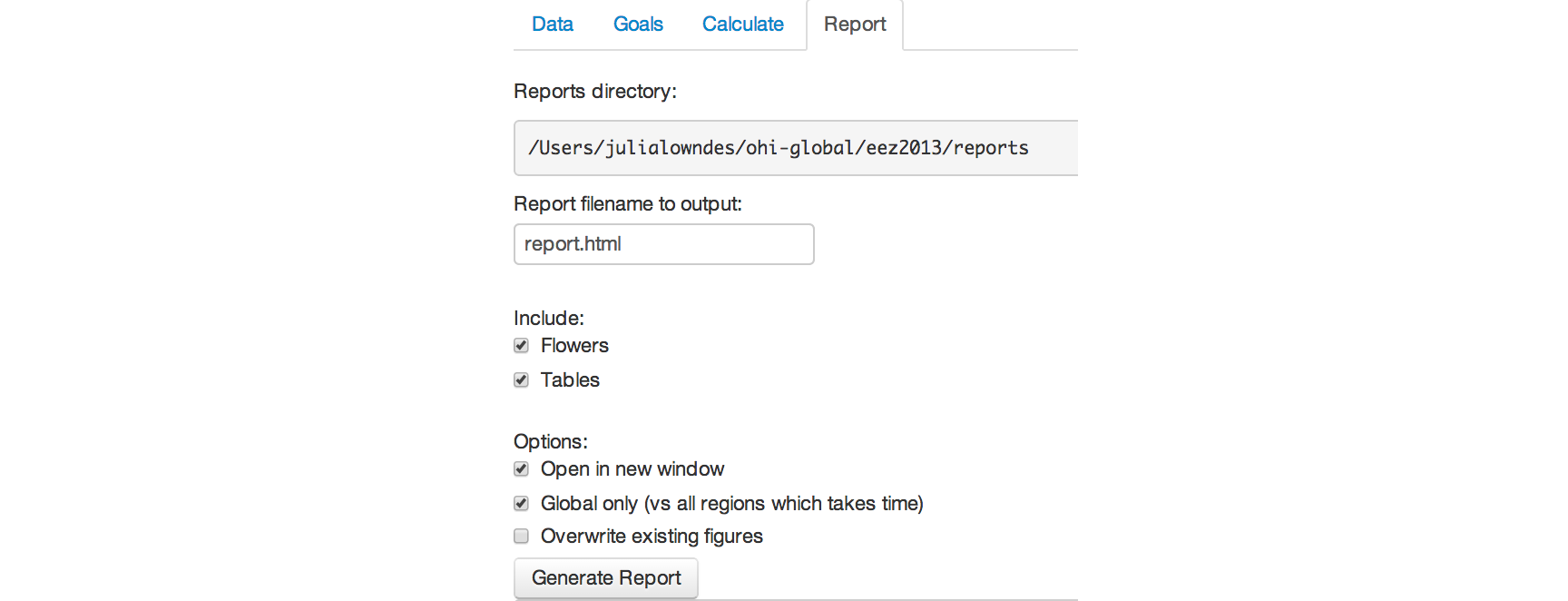
## Calculate Page

The Calculate page is used to calculate the Index. The Calculate page displays the “Scenario path” in the user’s home directory where the folders are located.



## Report Page

The Report page allows the user to create a report of results as .html and .pdfs files.



It is currently possible to create flower plots and tables with several options, including saving global figures or figures per country. In future versions of the Toolbox App, more options for visualizations, including maps, histograms, and equations, will be possible. It will also be possible to compare different scenarios.

## Relaunching the Toolbox

After the initial Toolbox setup, further launches of the Toolbox Application can be done without the software program R. Instead, PC users can double-click the launchApp.bat file and Mac users can double-click the launchApp.command file.

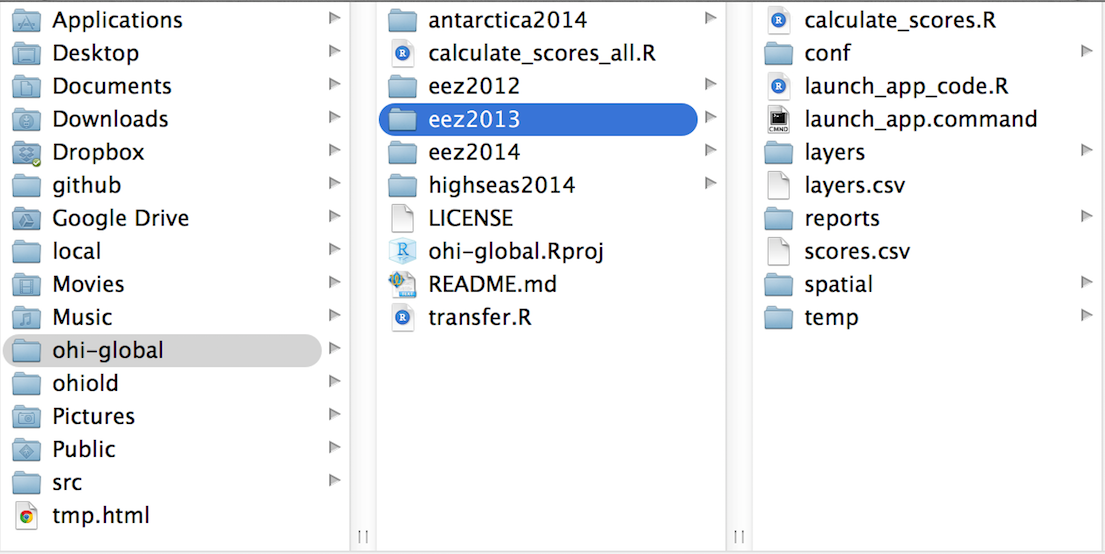
# The Toolbox File System

This section describes the files within the ohi-[assessment] folder that you have accessed by either cloning through GitHub and RStudio or downloading to your computer from GitHub.

## Assessments and scenarios

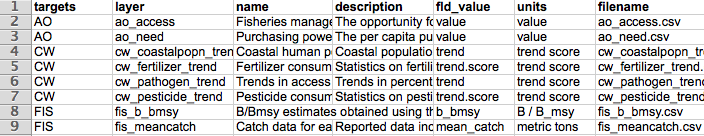
Within the **ohi-[assessment]** folder is the **scenario** folder. The scenario folder contains all the data, functions and other files required to calculate the Ocean Health Index. To calculate the Index for a different region or with new data or models, you will modify the files within this folder (default data is from the global assessment).

In this example, **ohi-global** is the assessment folder and **eez2013** is the scenario.



## *layers.csv*

layers.csv is the registry that manages all data to be used in the Toolbox.

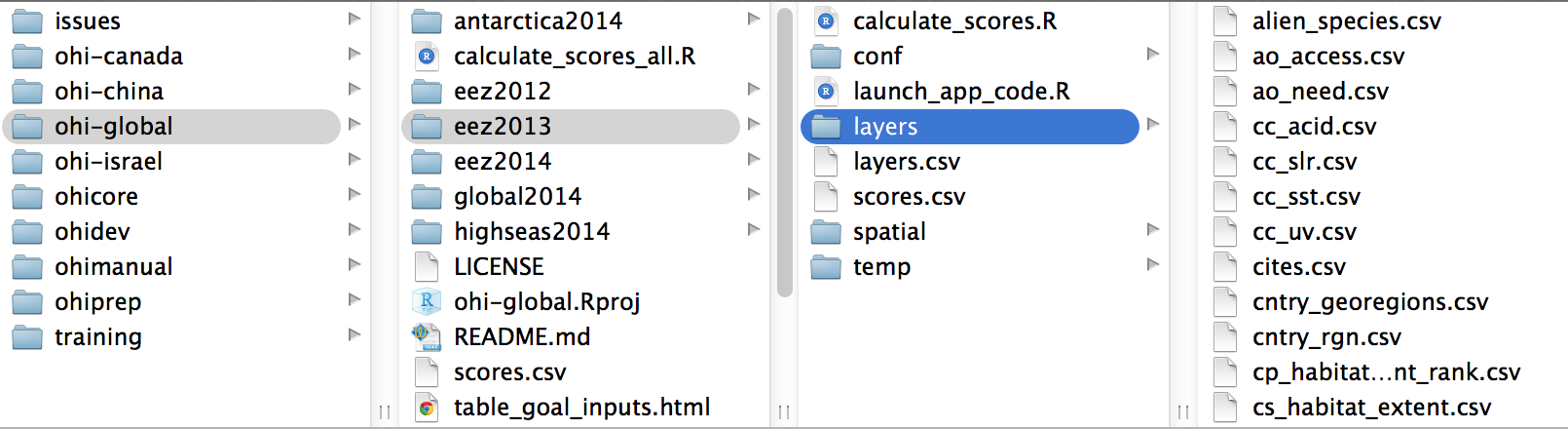


Each row of information represents a specific data layer that has been prepared and formatted properly for the Toolbox. The first columns contain information inputted by the user; other columns are generated later by the Toolbox App as it confirms data formatting and content. The first columns have the following information:

* **targets** indicates how the data layer related goals or dimensions. Goals are indicated with two-letter codes and sub-goals are indicated with three-letter codes, with pressures, resilience, and spatial layers indicated separately.
* **layer** is the identifying name of the data layer, which will be used in R scripts like functions.R and .csv files like pressures\_matrix.csv and resilience\_matrix.csv. This is also displayed on the Toolbox App under the drop-down menu when the variable type is ‘input layer’.
* **name** is a longer title of the data layer; this is displayed on the Toolbox App under the drop-down menu when the variable type is ‘input layer’.
* **description** is further description of the data layer; this is also displayed on the Toolbox App under the drop-down menu when the variable type is ‘input layer’.
* **fld\_value** indicates the units along with the units column.
* **units** some clarification about the unit of measure in which the data are reported
* **filename** is the .csv filename that holds the data layer information, and is located in the folder ‘layers’.

## *layers* folder

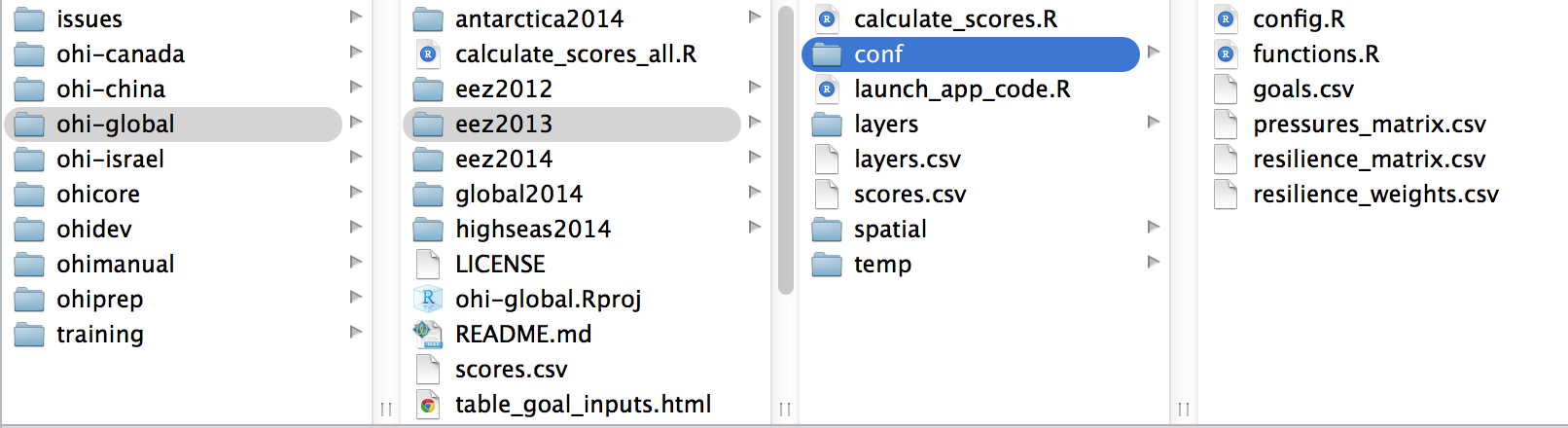
The layers folder contains every data layer as an individual .csv file. The names of the .csv files within the layers folder correspond to those listed in the *filename* column of the layers.csv file described above. All *.csv* files can be read with text editors or with Microsoft Excel or similar software.



Note that each .csv file within the layers folder has a specific format that the Toolbox expects and requires. Comma separated value files (*.csv* files) can be opened with text editor software, or will open by default by Microsoft Excel or similar software. Open a layers/\*.csv file: note the unique region identifier (*rgn\_id*) with a single associated *score* or *value*, and that the data are presented in ‘long format’ with minimal columns. Please see [this tutorial](http://www.nceas.ucsb.edu/~jstewart/HowTo_FormatDataForToolbox_v1.xlsx) for further details and instructions on data formatting requirements.

## *conf* folder

The conf folder includes includes R functions (*config.R* and *functions.R*) and .csv files containing information that will be accessed by the R functions (*goals.csv*, *pressures\_matrix.R*, *resilience\_matrix.csv*, and *resilience\_weights.csv*).



### *config.r*

config.r is an R script that configures labeling and constants appropriately.

### *functions.r*

functions.r contains functions for each goal and sub-goal model, which calculate the status and trend using data layers identified as ‘layers’ in layers.csv.

### *goals.csv*

goals.csv is a list of goals and sub-goals and their weights used to calculate the final score for each goal. Other information includes the goal description that is also presented in the Toolbox App. goals.csv also indicates the arguments passed to functions.R. These are indicated by two columns: *preindex\_function* (functions for all goals that do not have sub-goals, and functions for all sub-goals) and *postindex\_function* (functions for goals with sub-goals).

### *pressures\_matrix.csv*

pressures\_matrix.csv describes the layers (‘layers’ column in layers.csv) needed to calculate pressure categories. The matrix has weights assigned that were determined by Halpern et al. 2012 (Nature) based on scientific literature and expert opinion.

### *resilience\_matrix.csv*

resilience\_matrix.csv describes the layers (‘layers’ column in layers.csv) needed to calculate resilience categories.

### *resilience\_weights.csv*

resilience\_weights.csv describes the weight of various resilience layers, were determined by Halpern et al. 2012 (Nature) based on scientific literature and expert opinion.

## spatial folder

The spatial folder contains a single file, *regions\_gcs.js*. This is a spatial file in the GeoJSON format; it has the appropriate study area and regions for the assessment. This file will be created by the OHI team for all regional assessments.

## *calculate\_scores.r*

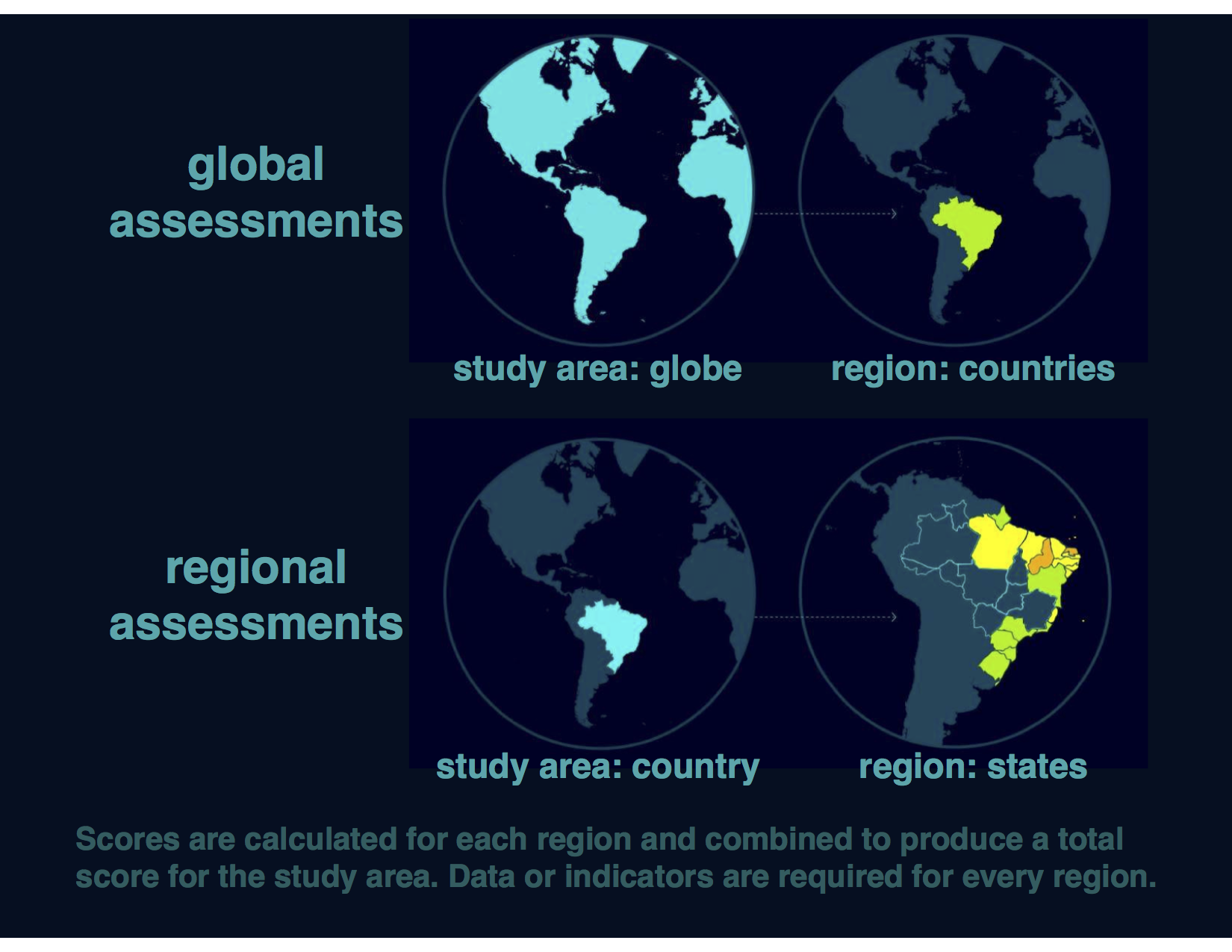
calculate\_scores.r will run the Toolbox calculations using the .csv files in the *layers* folder that are registered in *layers.csv* and the configurations identified in *config.r*. Scores will be saved in *scores.csv*.

## scores.csv

scores.csv is a record of the calculated scores for the assessment (Global 2013 scores). Scores are reported for each dimension (future, pressures, resilience, score, status, trend) for each reporting region, and are presented in ‘long’ format.

# Ocean Health Index Regional Assessments

**Regional assessments** use the Ocean Health Index framework to study smaller spatial scales, often where policy and management decisions are made. Scores by goal are calculated for each *region*, and regions are combined using a weighted average to produce the score for the overall area assessed, called a *study area*. In regional assessments, coastal states or provinces are often the *regions* within a country, which is the *study area*.



Regional assessments incorporate local priorities, higher-resolution data and indicators, and use tailored goal models and reference points, which produce scores better reflecting local realities. Regional assessments have been published in peer-review journals for the U.S. West Coast and for Brazil, and more are underway.

## Conducting a regional assessment

Regional assessments require a qualified team to tailor the Ocean Health Index for the study area; there are many decisions to make and data to gather from disparate sources. The Toolbox can be used to do all of the calculations for the assessment, but it is only after all other items have been accomplished:

* decisions have been made about which goal models to include and/or modify
* data are collected and properly formatted
* reference points have been decided

Using the Toolbox is only about 20% of the work involved in conducting a regional assessment.

## Getting Started

Ocean Health Index assessments have a specific organization of data files, registry files, and R scripts that work together to do calculations and present the final scores graphically. These files and scripts are packaged together in a folder called a **repository**. Each Ocean Health Index assessment has its own repository. Repositories are stored online through GitHub, which enables easy collaboration with versioning capabilities. [Learn more about GitHub repositories and OHI]((https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/github_repos.md#github-repositories)).

It is possible to conduct a regional assessment by downloading a template repository from GitHub. We recommend having a GitHub user account and syncing with the online repository: this faciliates collaboration within your team but also allows us to provide support when you need it. However, it is possible to work independently without GitHub (after the initial download), although we cannot offer much support in this case.

Here are instructions to:

* [access a regional assessment repository with GitHub syncing](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/accessing_a_repo.md#accessing-github-repositories)
* [access a regional assessment repository without GitHub syncing](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/accessing_a_repo_without_GitHub.md#accessing-repositories-without-github)

# Setting up the Toolbox for a Regional Assessment

## OHI and GitHub

The Ocean Health Index (OHI) Toolbox is written in [R](http://cran.r-project.org/) and uses [GitHub](http://github.com), an [open-source development platform](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GitHub), to develop and share software and data. GitHub has powerful versioning capabilities, which allows changes to be archived and tracked by each user. This is incredibly useful to not only document what work has been done, but how it differs from work done in the past, and who is responsible for the changes: it provides a record of all changes made. GitHub enables easy collaboration with others, including the OHI team.

OHI has several **repositories** ('repos') where data and code are stored. From the [GitHub glossary](https://help.github.com/articles/github-glossary#repository):

A repository is the most basic element of GitHub. They're easiest to imagine as a project's folder. A repository contains all of the project files (including documentation), and stores each file's revision history. Repositories can have multiple collaborators and can be either public or private.

### OHI regional assessments and GitHub

[OHI-Science](https://github.com/OHI-Science) is the 'owner' of the OHI repositories stored on GitHub, and individual users contribute to these repositories when they have permission. A user works locally on their own computer, but syncs their work back to the repo on the server. Because there can be multiple users working on the same repo, there are specific steps involved, and GitHub has specific words for each of these steps, including **cloning** a repo from the server to a local repository, **committing** any changes made with a description, **pulling** any updates from the server's repo, and finally **pushing** committed changes back to the server.

#### GitHub flow with *Fork & Pull Model*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | github.com/ohi-science/[repo] (web) | github.com/[user]/[repo] (web) | ~/github/[repo] (local) |
| -> |  | -> [fork](help.github.com/articles/fork-a-repo) | -> [clone](help.github.com/articles/fetching-a-remote) |
| <- | [merge pull request](help.github.com/articles/merging-a-pull-request) {admin} <- | <- [pull request](Fork%20&%20Pull%20Model) | <- [push](github.com/OHI-Science/ohiprep/wiki/Setup#rstudio), <-> [commit](github.com/OHI-Science/ohiprep/wiki/Setup#rstudio) |

where: \* [repo] is one of OHI-Science repositories: ohicore, ohiprep, etc. \* [user] is your GitHub username

see also: \* [GitHub flow in the browser](https://help.github.com/articles/github-flow-in-the-browser)

This example illustrates GitHub's collaborative workflow with the ohi-israel repo owned by OHI-Science:



## Accessing GitHub repositories

We recommend that groups interested in conducting OHI assessments do so using GitHub, which is an online interface for version-control software called *git*. This will enable collaboration and transparency, and will provide access to the latest developments in the Toolbox software. To get started, follow the steps below. The OHI team will create a repository for your regional assessment.

It is also possible to conduct a regional assessment without GitHub. We do not recommend this because it is more difficult for you to track progress and decisions, and for us to help or advise you. However, if this is preferable, see the instructions [here](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/accessing_a_repo_without_GitHub.md#accessing-repositories-without-github). We can always get your filesystem onto GitHub later.



software required for regional assessments with version control

### Install R and RStudio

Make sure you have the most current version of [R and RStudio](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/software_for_OHI/software_for_OHI.md). (Hint: type sessionInfo() into the R console to see which version of R you have installed, and update it if this is not the most recent version available on [CRAN](http://cran.r-project.org/)).

### Create a GitHub account

GitHub is an online interface for *git*, and to use it you must [create a GitHub account](http://github.com). You will use this username and password when you install *git* and access your GitHub repository (next two steps below).

### Install *git* software

*git* is version-control software that you will need to install on your computer.

[Download](http://git-scm.com/downloads) *git* and follow the install instructions. There are specific settings to select for [**Windows**](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/git_windows.md#git-on-windows) and [**Mac**](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/git_mac.md).

### Set up your Git Identity

After downloading and installing, you will then need to set up your Git Identity, which identifies you with any changes made. You will use the command line:

* **Mac**: launch the Terminal application (Applications > Utilities > Terminal)
* **Windows**: go to command line in Windows (Start > Run > cmd)

Substitute your GitHub username instead of jdoe:

git config --global user.name jdoe

and then: substitute the email address you used to create your GitHub account:

git config --global user.email johndoe@example.com

You can check settings with the following:

git config --list

Quit the Terminal after typing:

exit

### Clone your ohi-[assessment] repo to your computer

The OHI team will create a repository for your assessment once you provide your GitHub username: email your username to [bbest@nceas.ucsb.edu](mailto:bbest@nceas.ucsb.edu) or [lowndes@nceas.ucsb.edu](mailto:lowndes@nceas.ucsb.edu).

The repository will be backed up and stored on github.com and you will also have a local version on your computer.

\*\* **Important:** Please create a folder called github in your root directory and save the repository there. This will make collaborating possible, particularly between Macs and Windows machines. The directory for the assessment ~/github/ohi-[assessment] will therefore be:

* on a Mac: /Users/[User]/github/ohi-[assessment]
* on Windows: C:\Users\[User]\Documents\github\ohi-[assessment]

Downloading a repository from GitHub is called **cloning** and there are multiple ways to do it. Cloning allows you to make changes on your local computer and sync them to the online repository, described elsewhere ([GitHub-OHI repositories](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/github_repos.md#ohi-regional-assessments-and-github)).

#### Cloning options

There are several options to clone the ohi-[assessment] repository to your local machine:

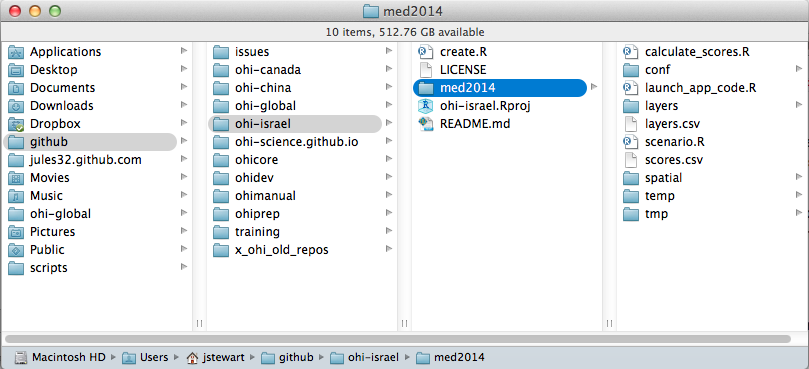
1. The [GitHub App for Mac](https://mac.github.com/) or [Windows](https://windows.github.com/). After installing the GitHub App, log in with your username and passord. Then follow instructions for cloning (see the *Getting started guide* on a [Mac](https://mac.github.com/help.html) and [Windows](https://windows.github.com/help.html))
2. [The command line (Windows) or Terminal (Mac)](https://help.github.com/articles/fork-a-repo#keep-your-fork-synced). For example, clone ohi-israel into the ~/github folder:

* cd ~/github  
  git clone https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohi-israel.git  
  cd ohi-israel

1. [RStudio](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohiprep/wiki/Setup#rstudio). This is best after the initial clone, since RStudio occassionally has trouble with setting the username / password.

### Working locally

All of the files available from the online server repository https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohi-[assessment] are now cloned on your local computer, in the location you specified. We recommend cloning the repository to this file path: ~/github/ohi-[assessment].



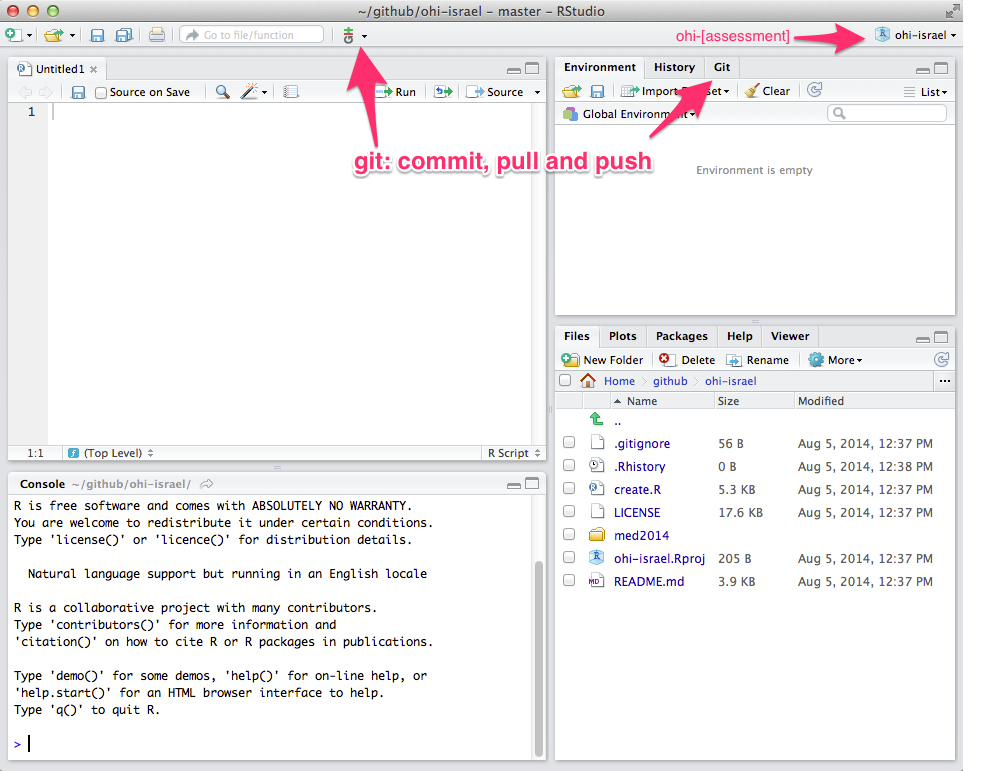
You will work on your computer to change the files in ~/github/ohi-[assessment] to reflect the desired modifications your team has identified for your regional assessment. All changes within this folder will be tracked by GitHub when you commit and sync these changes, *even if you make these changes outside of R or RStudio*. This means that you can delete or paste files in the Mac Finder or Windows Explorer, edit layers.csv and goals.csv in Excel or a text editor, and modify functions.r in RStudio, and commit all these changes to GitHub to track the changes you make.

### Committing and pushing changes locally

Committing and pushing changes can be done using RStudio or the Github App.

### Using RStudio to commit and push changes to GitHub ohi-[assessment] repository

Launch your ohi-[assessment] project in RStudio by double-clicking the ohi-[assessment].Rproj file. From RStudio, Commit locally, associating a message with each set of changes.

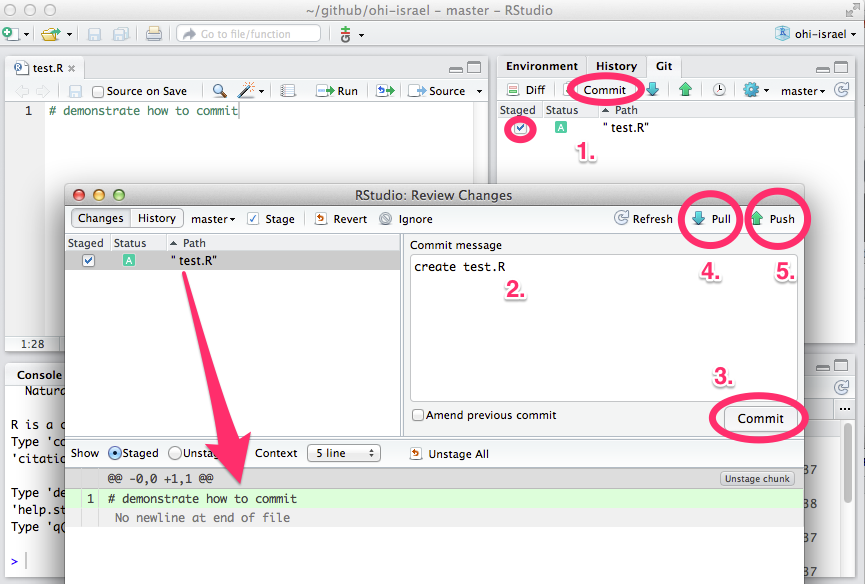


When you modify or add a file, the file will appear in the 'Git' window. In the example below, the file test.R was created.

1. Clicking the 'Staged' box and the 'Commit' button opens a new window where you can review changes.
2. Type a commit message that is informative to the changes you've made.

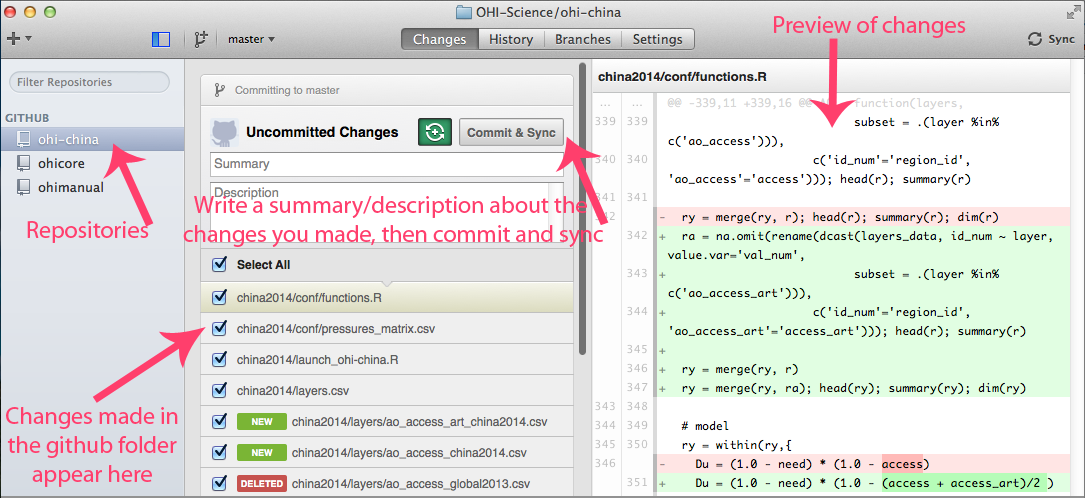
* Note 1: there will often be multiple files 'staged' at the same time, and so the same commit message will be associated with all of the updated files. It is best to commit changes often with informative commit messages.
* Note 2: clicking on a staged file will identify additions and deletions within that file for your review

1. Click 'Commit' to commit the changes and the commit message
2. Pull any changes that have been made to the online repo. This is important to ensure there are no conflicts with updating the online repo.
3. Push your committed changes to the online server at github.com/OHI-Science/ohi-[assessment]. Your changes are now visable online.



### Using Github App to push commits to GitHub ohi-[assessment] repository

The Github App can also be used to commit and sync any changes made locally in the github folder. To do so, write a summary and description in the respective message bars in the Github App window, then click on commit and sync.



### Keeping syncronized

Always pull before pushing commits. This is the best way to avoid merging errors due to other users in your group modifying files.

#### More Information

* [presentation: Reproducible science with the Ocean Health Index](http://bbest.github.io/talks/2014-06_OHI-repro-sci/#1)
* [wiki: Using GitHub](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohiprep/wiki/Using-GitHub)

## Accessing repositories without GitHub

### OHI regional assessments without GitHub

It is possible to conduct a regional assessment without having a GitHub account. You can do a one-time download from the GitHub repository and then work locally on your computer without syncing to the GitHub server. We do not recommend this because it is more difficult for you to track progress and decisions, and for us to help or advise you. We recommend [accessing a repository with GitHub](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/accessing_a_repo/accessing_a_repo.md) but provide instructions here of how to access a repository without Github. We can always get your filesystem onto GitHub later.

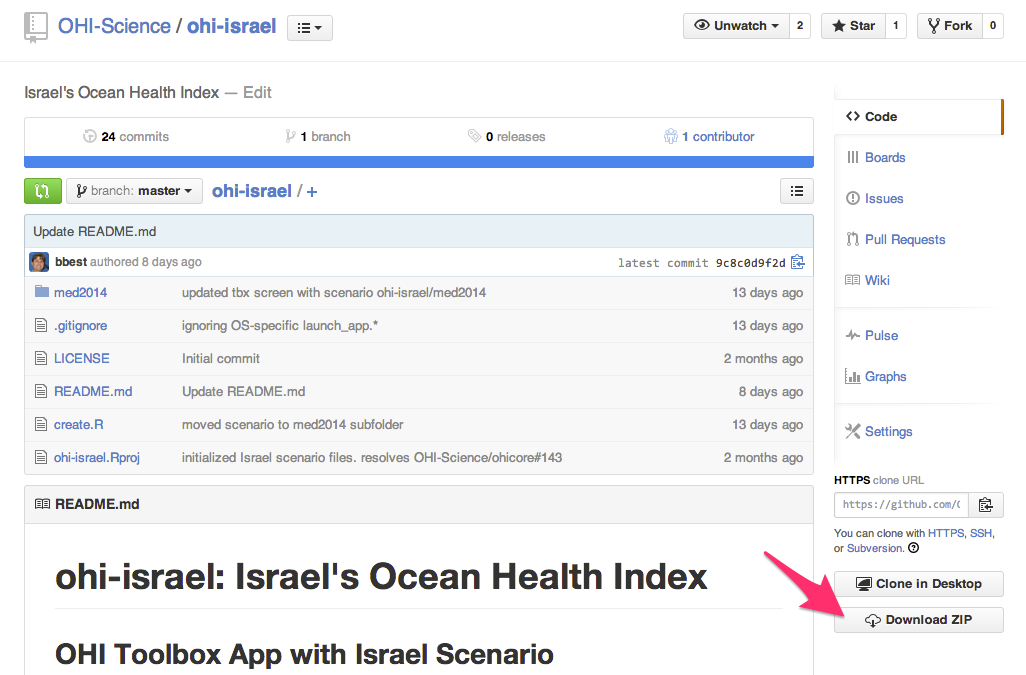
### Install the latest version of R

Download [**R**](http://cran.r-project.org/) and install this on your computer. If you already have R installed, check the website for updates. There are frequent updates to the R software, and the current version is identified on the websited. Compare what is available from their wesite with what you already have on your computer by typing sessionInfo() into your R console. (This will also identify packages you have installed).

While not required, we highly recommend working with [**RStudio**](http://www.rstudio.com/products/RStudio/), which is an interface that makes working with R much easier. RStudio also has great compatibility with GitHub so you can collaborate with your team directly from your R code. RStudio does not get updated as often as R does, but it is good to check for updates regularly.

### Download the repo to your computer

Contact the OHI team ([bbest@nceas.ucsb.edu](mailto:bbest@nceas.ucsb.edu) or [lowndes@nceas.ucsb.edu](mailto:lowndes@nceas.ucsb.edu)) to create a repository for your group. The repository will be stored on github.com and called OHI-Science/ohi-[assessment]: for example, github.com/OHI-Science/ohi-israel. When your repository has been created, enter the url in to an internet browser (for example, github.com/OHI-Science/ohi-israel). Click Download ZIP.



### Working locally

Unzip the downloaded folder ohi-[assessment]-master and save the folder on your computer. We recommend creating a folder called github in your root directory and saving your repository to this file path: ~/github/ohi-[assessment]. This will make collaborating much simpler since everyone will work with the same file path.

You will work on your computer to change the files in ~/github/ohi-[assessment] to reflect the desired modifications your team has identified for your regional assessment.

# Using the Toolbox for a Regional Assessment

\*\* **Note: this page is under development**

This page explains how to incorporate all of the [pre-Toolbox decisions](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/pretoolbox_decisions) your team has made for your regional assessment into the OHI framework and your repository. Having a good understanding of how the Toolbox is structured can also help identify what must be modified for a regional assessment, particularly with data and models. This page assumes a good understanding of the [Toolbox file system](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/file_system.md#file-system).

The most common modifications you will make to your repository are changes with:

* [updating or adding new data layers](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/calculate_regional_assessment_score.md#modifying-and-creating-data-layers)
* [modifying goal models](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/calculate_regional_assessment_score.md#modifying-goal-models)
* [removing goals](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/calculate_regional_assessment_score.md#removing-goals)

## Modifying and creating data layers

To modify existing or create new data layers, data must be appropriately [formatted](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/formatting_data_for_toolbox.xlsx).

**There are several steps to follow when working with data layers:**

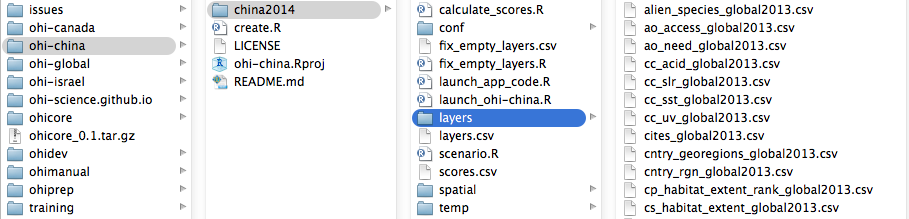
1. Create data layer with proper formatting
2. Save the layer in the layers folder
3. Register the layer in layers.csv
4. Check (and update when appropriate) pressures\_matrix.csv and resilience\_matrix.csv (located in the ohi-[assessment]/[scenario]/conf folder)

### Create data layers with proper formatting

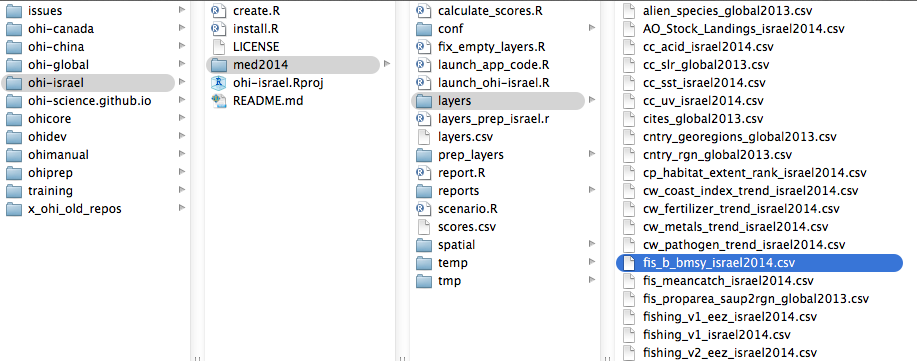
[develop]

### Save data layers in the *layers* folder

Data layers are *.csv* files and are located in the ohi-[assessment]/[scenario]/layers folder. The layers provided in your regional assessment repo are the global values from the 2013 assessment: these layers all have a suffix of \_global2013.csv. These data are at coarse-resolution and should be exhanged for local, high-resolution data when possible.

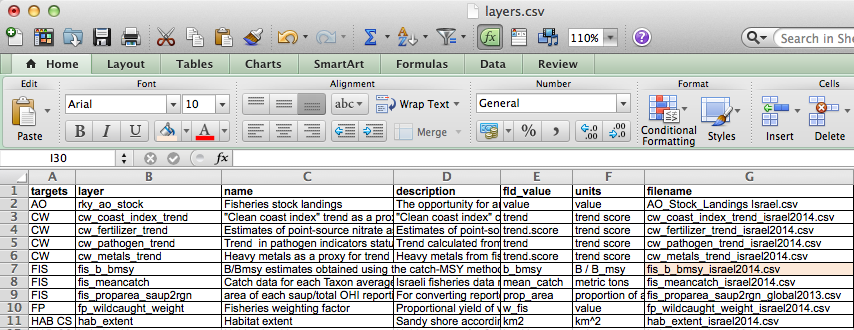


When you modify existing or create new data layers, we recommend saving this as a new *.csv* file with a suffix identifying your regional assessment (example: \_israel2014.csv). Modifying the layer name provides an easy way to track which data layers have been updated regionally, and which rely on global data.



### Register data layers in *layers.csv*

When there are new filenames associated with each layer, they will need to be registered in ohi-[assessment]/[scenario]/layers.csv. If a layer simply has a new filename, only the *filename* column needs to be updated:



However, if a new layer has been added (for example when a new goal model is developed), you will need to add a new row in the registry for the new data layer and fill in the first eight columns (columns A-H); other columns are generated later by the Toolbox App as it confirms data formatting and content:

* **targets:** Add the the goal/dimension that the new data layer relates to. Goals are indicated with two-letter codes and sub-goals are indicated with three-letter codes, with pressures, resilience, and spatial layers indicated separately.
* **layer:** Add an identifying name for the new data layer, which will be used in R scripts like functions.R and .csv files like pressures\_matrix.csv and resilience\_matrix.csv.
* **name:** Add a longer title for the data layer: this will be displayed in the Toolbox interface.
* **description:** Add a longer description of the new data layer this will be displayed in the Toolbox interface.
* **fld\_value:** Add the appropriate units for the new data layer (which will be referenced in subsequent calculations).
* **units:** Add a description about the 'units' chosen in the 'fld\_value' column above.
* **filename:** Add a filename for the new data layer that matches the name of the csv file that was created previously in the 'layers' folder.
* **fld\_id\_num:** Area designation that applies to the newly created data layer, such as: *rgn\_id* and *fao\_id*.

### Check pressures and resilience matrices

[under development](https://github.com/OHI-Science/ohimanual/blob/master/tutorials/update_matrices.md#update-resilience_matrixcsv)

## Modifying goal models

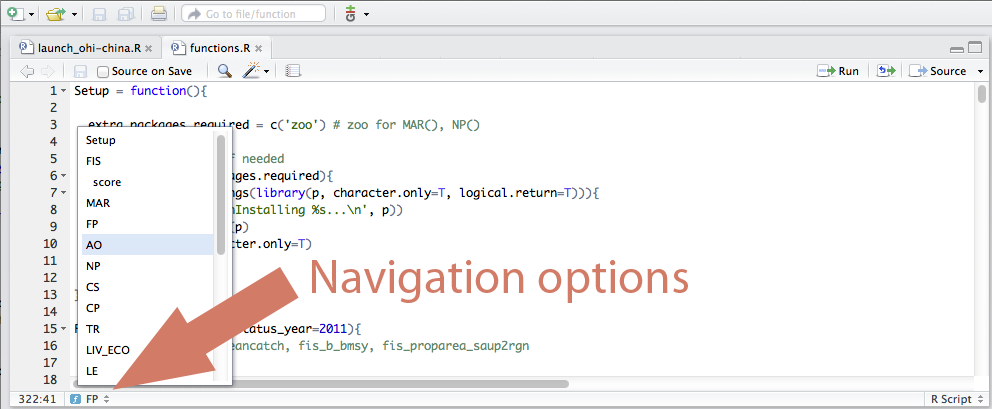
In the discussion on data layers above, when an existing layer is still used as before but has a new *filename*, nothing further needs to be done for the Toolbox to incorporate this updated layer. However, if a new layer has been added to the layers folder and registered in layers.csv (and potentially added to the pressures or resilience matrices), the Toolbox will still not use it unless it is incorporated into a goal model.

**There are several steps to follow when working with goal models:**

1. Update functions.r
2. Check and possibly update goals.csv

### Update *functions.r*

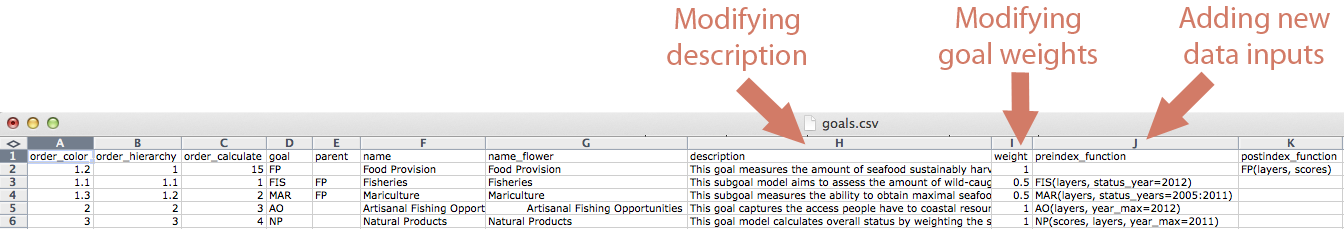
To incorporate a new data layer into a goal model, open functions.R: this script contains all the models for each goal and sub-goal. In RStudio, there is a navigation pane that can be used to navigate between them:



### Check and possibly update *goals.csv*

*goals.csv* provides input information for *functions.r*, particularly about goal weighting and function calls. It also includes descriptions about goals and sub-goals, which is presented in the Toolbox Application.

Changing goal weights will be done here by editing the value in the *weight* column. Weights do not need to be 0-1 or add up to 10; weights will be scaled as a percentage of the goal totals. goals.csv also indicates the arguments passed to functions.r. These are indicated by two columns: *preindex\_function* (functions for all goals that do not have sub-goals, and functions for all sub-goals) and *postindex\_function* (functions for goals with sub-goals).



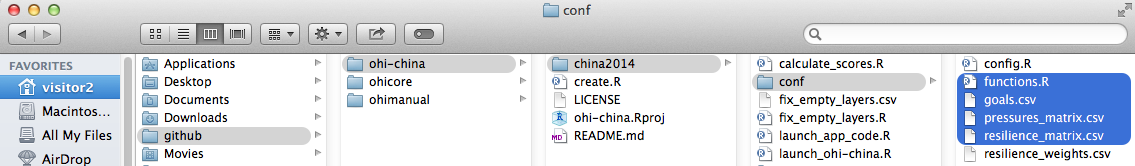
**When updating layers or goal models, it is important to ensure that information called from *goals.csv* is correct**:

* check the years
* etc...

## Removing goals

If a goal is not relevant in your region, it is possible to remove the goal completely from the calculation. There are four places where you will need to remove the reference to this goal:

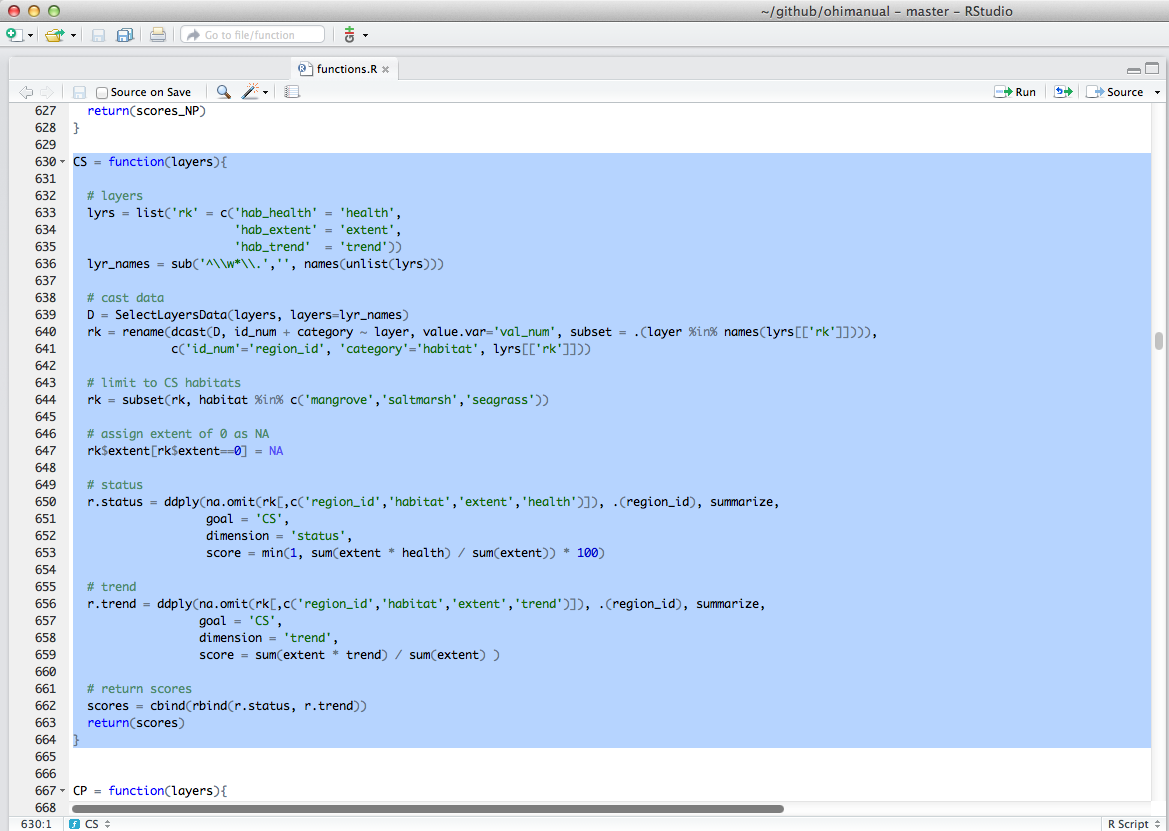
1. functions.r
2. goals.csv
3. pressures\_matrix.csv
4. resilience\_matrix.csv



*Failing to delete all referenced layers after the goal is deleted will prompt a number of error messages.*

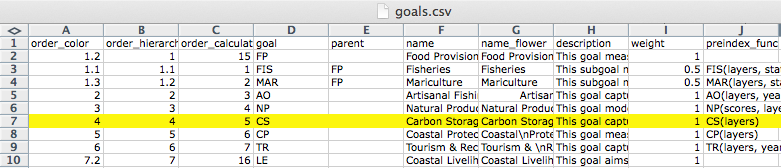
### Example: Removing 'Carbon Storage' goal

1. Remove the CS goal model from functions.r:



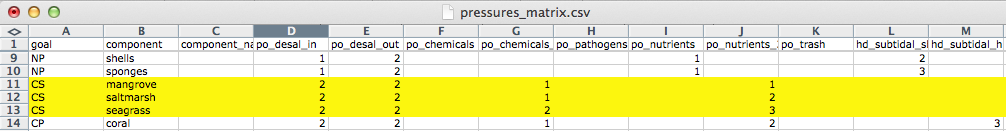
Delete the highlighted text that references the CS layers and calculates CS goal status, trend, and scores

1. Remove the CS row from goals.csv:



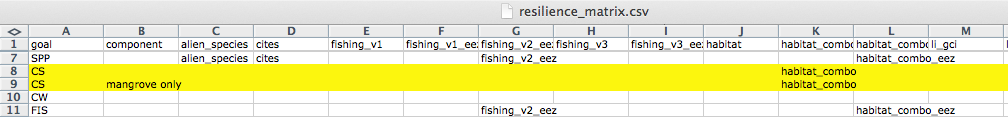
Delete the highlighted row that contains the CS goal

1. Remove all CS rows from pressures\_matrix.csv:



Delete the highlighted rows that contain CS pressures

1. Remove all CS rows from resilience\_matrix.csv:



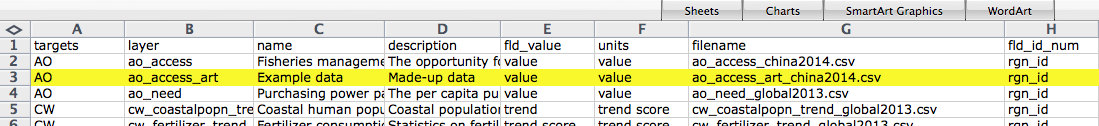
Delete the highlighted rows that contain CS resilience

## Example modifications:

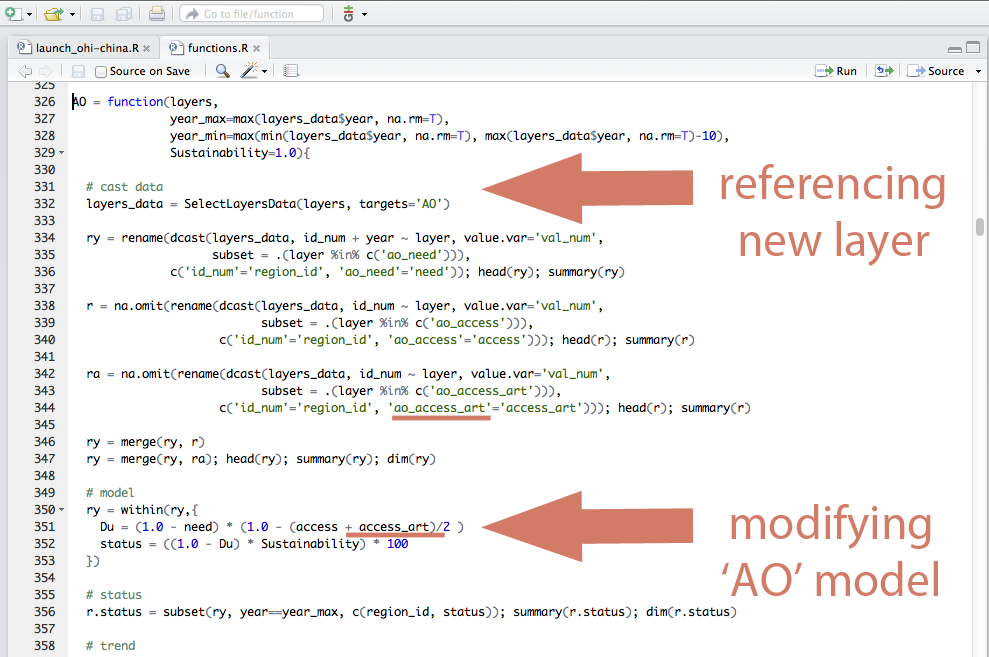
### Adding a new layer to a goal model

In this example we will walk through the following steps:

1. decide to add artisanal access component to the model because of locally available data
2. prepare the data file; save layer ao\_access\_art
3. register in layers.csv
4. update goal model in functions.r
5. update goal call in goals.csv
6. and 2) is done outside of the Toolbox
7. register in layers.csv



1. update goal model



1. [develop]

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This document provides answers to some frequently asked questions about conducting regional assessments using the Ocean Health Index. A few questions are related to general concepts in the Ocean Health Index, but mostly those topics are covered at <http://www.oceanhealthindex.org/About/FAQ/>. Here, the FAQ are primarily technical questions regarding regional assessments and using the OHI Toolbox. This document will be updated continually as we have more questions. Questions are arranged by theme, and have the format Q: (question) and A: (answer).

## Overall

## Conceptual

### Q: Are regional assessment scores comparable with global assessment scores?

A: Regional Index scores cannot be directly compared to global Index scores, or to other regional Index scores calculated through separate efforts. This is because data and indicators (both what they measure and their quality), reference points (set using local knowledge and priorities), and specific goal models are often different for the areas being compared.

However, because scores for each goal are scaled to a reference point, qualitative comparisons can be made. For example, a score of 71 in the US West Coast compared to 66 in Brazil says that the US West coast is closer to fully meeting its sustainable goals (i.e., meeting regional reference points). Furthermore, use of the same Ocean Health Index framework across regional assessments permits fruitful discussion and general comparisons even if data inputs differ. Ocean Health Index assessments at any scale always work within a standardized definition of ocean health, using information to capture the philosophy of the ten goals that have been identified (and undergone scientific peer-review) prior to compiling relevant data. Use of the ten-goal framework is important both to ensure that all aspects of ocean health are captured and to allow better comparison across regional assessments than would be possible if the different regions used different methods.

### Q: Where is climate change measured in the Index?

A: Four different aspects of climate change -- increases in sea surface temperature (SST), sea level rise (SLR), ultraviolet radiation (UV), and ocean acidification (OA) -- are included as pressures to many goals in the Index, including Natural Products, Carbon Storage, Coastal Protection, Sense of Place, Livelihoods & Economies and Biodiversity. Mitigation of climate change through carbon storage is one of the ten goals.

### Q: Why are food provision and artisanal fishing opportunities goals separated?

A: These goals measure different aspects of how people relate to fishing. The catch of fish made by artisanal (=small-scale, subsistence type) fisheries is captured in the food provision goal. Jobs, wages and income from both the food provision and artisanal fishing goals are captured in the livelihoods & economies goal. The purpose of the artisanal fishing opportunity goal is to evaluate the opportunity for people to pursue this fishing in relation to their need to do so.

## Timing and Resources

### Q: How much does it cost to produce a regional assessment?

A: Regional assessments can be completed at(varying costs depending on the local context.(Funds are needed for a management and scientific team, workshops and meetings (including travel), communications, policy engagement, and operating costs. Therefore, securing funding is an important component to satisfactorily complete the assessment. We encourage the development of a local proposal or strategic action plan that details a timeline of activities and the resources needed to accomplish them.

### Q: How many people are required in a team?

A: rather than a specific number of individuals, what is required are specific skillsets. For example, if the scientific analysts were capable of effectively conducting the R analysis, then a dedicated R analyst would not be required. In current assessments, teams range between 2 and 8 people.

### Q: How long does it take to calculate OHI at a regional scale?

A: This depends on many things: budget and number of people involved, the scale of the study area and whether new regions will need to be created, how easily data can be acquired, how much local data can be incorporated, how many goal models need to be changed. Additionally, decisions about setting reference points require input from experts.

### Q: How much time will modifications by an R analyst take?

A: This will depend on if you are changing any models, and potentially data layers--but a lot of changing data layers just requires registering them properly in layers.csv (and maybe pressures\_matrix.csv and resilience\_matrix.csv if they are pressures or resilience files) and having the functions.r file call those layers. That is more 'bookkeeping' than actual R programming.

### Q: How much time will modifications by a GIS analyst take?

A: this will depend on how many layers you are processing: you are clipping spatial data? That will take some time because there are quite a few files, but maybe not too long since it is pretty small scale and once there is a clipping mask created I think you apply it to other files.

### Q: Which goals require a GIS analyst?

A: All goals using spatial data could potentially require a GIS analyst. These goals are commonly: habitat-based goals and sub-goals: (Coastal Protection, Carbon Storage, Habitats—a sub-goal of Biodiversity), Food Provision, Sense of Place, Species—a sub-goal of Biodiversity, Clean Waters

## Structure

### Q: Can we remove or add goals to the OHI?

A: A lot of deliberation went into defining the ten goals, and they seem to do a pretty good job of covering many if not most ocean uses, so additional goals may not be necessary. But it could be that they eclipse or replace an existing goal.

## Reference points

### Q: Can planning targets can be used as the reference points?

A: Yes, planning targets can be used as reference points. This won't be appropriate for every goal, but there are cases where this seemed best (example: iconic species sub-goal in the global assessment, mariculture sub-goal in the US West Coast assessment).

### Q: What is sector evenness?

A: Sector evenness (also called a diversity index) is an economic concept that is included in OHI to enable comparison across many different sectors included in the Livelihoods & Economies goal. This goal evaluates jobs, wages and revenues for nine marine employment sectors. The distribution of employment across these nine sectors is an effective indicator of resilience. If total employment within a community is primarily based in one or two sectors, the overall economic system will be excessively vulnerable to downturns in those sectors. Conversely, if employment is spread relatively evenly throughout all nine sectors, the overall system will be more robust and resistant to such disturbances. Overall revenue within the community will remain more stable during such downturns, and workers displaced by a downturn in their sector may be able to find employment in another sector without leaving the community.

## Appropriate data layers

### Q: Shipping and port activity are hardly affected by the health of the ecosystem. Why are these included in the Index?

A: Shipping and port activity are included as pressures only

### Q: Can oil spills be included in OHI?

A: Yes, oil spills could be included as a pressure and in the Clean Waters goal.

### Q: Is seasonal (non-permanent) sea ice included in OHI habitats?

A: No, sea ice only includes permanent sea ice.

### Q: Can seaweeds be included in the Carbon Storage goal?

A: Because they store carbon for less than 100 years, seaweeds and corals are not included in the carbon storage goal. While the pelagic oceanic carbon sink (phytoplankton) plays a large role in the sequestration of anthropogenic carbon, the pelagic ocean mechanisms are not amenable to local or regional management intervention. Phytoplankton and contribute to carbon fixation when they die and sink to the sea bottom at sufficient depth, because it is effectively out of circulation. However, if those phytoplankton are eaten, the carbon is cycled back into the system and not sequestered. Something that could potentially be included in the carbon storage goal is mollusc shells, if they are added to a landfill and not recycled in the sea. So if information on mariculture production and waste disposal are available, this could be an interesting addition to carbon storage at a regional scale.

### Q: Is coastal engineering included in Coastal Protection? What if it reduces erosion?

A: We did not include an assessment of the protection afforded by man-made structures, such as jetties and seawalls, because these structures cannot be preserved without maintenance, may have other negative side effects (e.g. alter sedimentation rates causing erosion in new locations), thus they do not constitute long-term sustainable services. Coastal engineering (jetties, harbours, marina and breakwater) is not natural, and is mostly seen as a pressure. It will also be evident in the status of due to decreased natural habitat. It gets tricky when structures are built to help reduce coastal erosion--they are still manmade and therefore not a natural benefit that the ocean provides. But if available data allow, it might be possible to include tradeoff effects: maybe in areas where natural habitats are degraded and man-made structures have been built to reduce erosion, we could reduce the pressure that would otherwise be applied.

### Q: How is seawater used for cooling on-shore power plants incorporated into OHI?

A: The use of cooling water for on-shore power plants would be a pressure on the ocean, since it causes entrapment of fishes, larvae, etc, and usually is circulated back into the ocean at higher temperatures (and maybe other chemicals, minerals, etc). Since the energy is coming from land-based activities, there isn't a service that the ocean is providing that 'benefits' people, it is only a pressure from the OHI perspective.

### Q: How is freshwater production through desalination incorporated into OHI?

A: Desal would be incorporated into OHI in several places. The benefit is that there is freshwater produced, which could be incorporated into the Natural Products goal (or potentially into its own goal). Data required would be the volume of freshwater created based on the volume of seawater involved and spatial extent. Setting the reference point would not be based on how much can be produced, but some other targets perhaps set by government (percentage of the population served). Similar to the mariculture sub-goal and tourism goals, any negative effects caused by desal that affect other goals (example: species) do not influence the ability to obtain desalination targets now and in the future. Therefore, the sustainability coefficient only measures the ability to sustain that goal, but not the impacts on other goals: instead, they are taken into account as pressures when calculating the other goals. Desal should be included as a pressure similar to cooling on-shore power plants since the discharge brine is dense, doesn't plume very well and there are chemicals involved.

## Food Provision

### Q: Could the culture of marine fish in closed pools on-shore be included in the Mariculture sub-goal?

A: This should not be included because onshore aquaculture does not require a marine environment.

### Q: Can aquaculture farms that receive seawater supply and return seawater back to the sea be included in the food provision goal?

A: This would be more appropriately included in the Mariculture sub-goal, and with finer-scale data additional pressures due to the intake pipes and the processed brine back into the marine system could be incorporated as well. Natural Products

### Q: If natural products are all produced through on-land aquaculture, should this goal be removed?

A: In this case you would probably have good reason to exclude the natural product goal due if this was defendable through discussions with experts and any reports/papers on the topic. This would also depend on the origin of these natural products--are they from the region’s waters? Habitat-based goals

### Q: How is coral health calculated?

A: Coral health was estimated by compiling point data from multiple studies of percent live coral cover. In other words, estimates of coral cover within transects of certain sites were repeated in time and we used that rate of change in time as an indication of health of the reefs in the whole region. The difficulty lies in 1) having enough different locations sampled that you can say something about the whole region and 2) finding studies that did repeated measures in time, in the same location, over at least 20 years. In the Global 2013 assessment, there were so few datasets that satisfied this condition that we had to pool observations from different locations.

### Q: Is it possible to calculate habitat goals when there is only one year of habitat data?

A: With only one year of habitat data, it is not possible to calculate the trend (which requires 5 years of data). Instead, it might be best to use the available habitat data to calculate the current status and then to overlay pressures for the last 5 years to calculate trend.

## Livelihoods & Economies

### Q: Benefits gained from Wild-caught fisheries, Mariculture, Tourism & Recreation are included in specific goals. Why are these counted again in Livelihoods & Economies?

A: The quantity of fish, mariculature, and participation in T&R are considered separately in goals whereas the monetary component is captured in L&E.

### Q: Why are revenue data from shipping, boat building, ports and harbors included as revenue? Do these activities rely on a healthy ocean?

A: These sectors are included in the Ocean Health Index because the demand for some of those boats (fishing boats, sailboats, yachts) is dependent on a healthy ocean.

### Q: Why isn’t oil and gas industries included in revenue?

A: The Natural Products goal does not include non-living items such as oil, gas, and mining products, because these practices are not considered to be sustainable. They are also done at such large scales that including them would essentially make OHI an index for oil and mining--and they are not truly an ocean product. Because these products are not included in terms of quantity extracted, it did not seem appropriate to include information regarding jobs, wages or revenue.

## Tourism & Recreation

### Q: How do I calculate the sustainability term for TR?

A: The best way is to use a local indicator or measure of tourism sustainability or competitiveness, otherwise use the TTCI value from the Global 2013 assessment for the study area (applied evenly across all regions.

## Natural Products

### Q: Where do Natural Products come from?

A: In the global assessments, Natural Products data come from the UN’s Food and Agriculture Administration (www.fao.org/fishery/statistics/software/fishstatj/en). These data are compiled and reported by product for each country, and available by downloading the FishStatJ software.

## Sense of Place

### Q: Data are only available for marine protected areas, not terrestrial protected areas. Can we still calculate the Lasting Special Places sub-goal?

A: Yes, it is possible to calculate only the marine component of this sub-goal: this is not ideal but OHI is flexible to work with the data available.

## Pressures

### Q: How are single ecological pressures (si in Equation S8) calculated?

A: Data included in pressures calculations are accessed in the same manner as any other data layer, and rescaled from 0-1 with an appropriate reference point. For further information, see HowTo\_GatherAppropriateData and HowTo\_CalculatePressures from ohi-science.org.

### Q: Does the pressures matrix need to be changed?

A: It is likely that the pressures matrix will not need to be changed. The weights assigned in the matrix were set using information from the literature and by experts; the matrix was created by Halpern et al. 2012.

### Q: How is commercial high and low bycatch calculated?

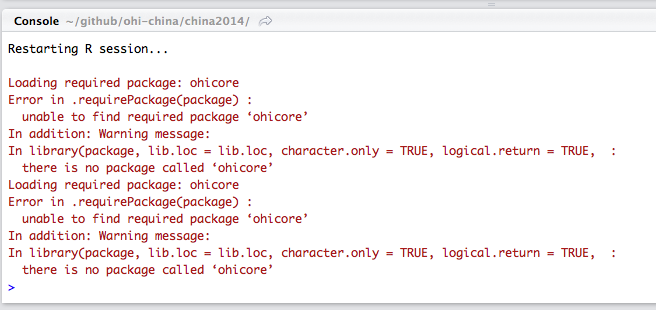
A: Commercial high and low bycatch are categorical values that were set based on fishing gear type. This began as a list of gear types used, producing a range of potential bycatch frequencies (from local reports when possible), which can be rescaled.

# Toolbox Troubleshooting

The Toolbox prints messages during its processing to help guide error checking and debugging. Here are a few troubleshooting tips.  
(\*\* note: this page is under development).

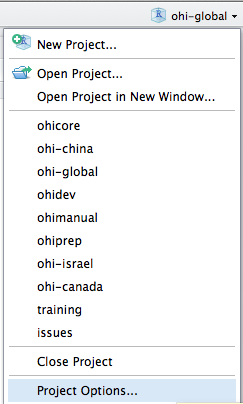
## Loading RWorkspace on Restart

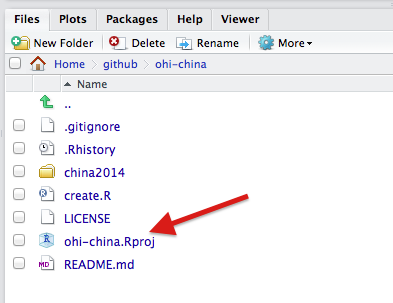
When you restart your R Session (Session > Restart R on a Mac), if you see that it is trying to load ohicore, it may give you an error:



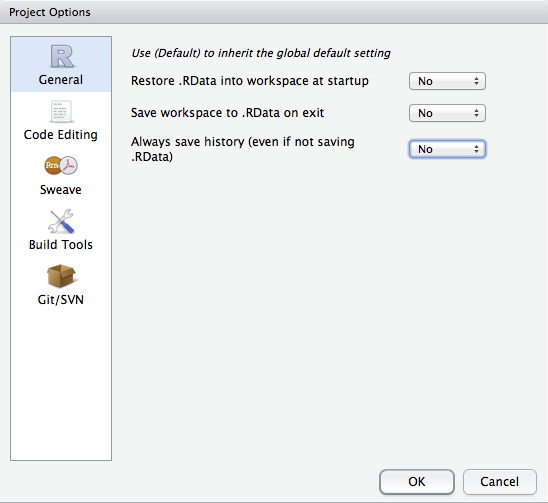
You do not want it to load ohicore or to save anything in your workspace. You will need to change the default setting from you **.Rproj** file. Steps to do this:

1. Go to Project Options, either in the pull-down menu or by double-clicking the .Rproj file:





1. Change all options to **No:**



## Calculating Pressures...

### 'The following components for [goal] are not in the aggregation layer [layer]...'

Example:

Running Setup()...  
Calculating Pressures...  
The following components for NP are not in the aggregation layer np\_harvest\_product\_weight categories (fish\_oil, ornamentals, seaweeds): corals, shells, sponges  
Error in data.frame(names(P), P) :   
 arguments imply differing number of rows: 0, 1



This error means you should update your pressures matrix because it expects there to be components that your region does not have.

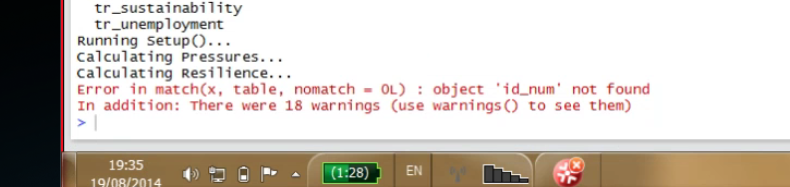
### 'Error in matrix...'

Example: > 

This error means there is an empty column in pressures\_matrix.csv, and the Toolbox cannot handle empty columns.

## Calculating Resilience ...

### 'Error in match(x, table, nomatch = OL) : object id\_num not found'



This error means you should check that there is at least one entry for each goal (for each row) in resilience\_matrix.csv.