



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

An introduction to the WHATapp tool for visualising high seas allocations



FFA

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1 Introduction

The establishment of hard limits and allocations for the high seas were addressed in CMM 2017-01 with decision making scheduled for the 2019 commission meeting. In preparation, FFA members have conducted a series of workshops to develop criteria and a strategy for approaching the allocation process. These have highlighted the complexity of the issues involved, the large number of potential criteria that may be considered, the diverse approaches taken by other tuna RFMOs and similar bodies, and the potentially conflicting rankings that different actors in the WCPFC will give to different criteria.

Although there are difficulties in identifying and sometimes formulating criteria, what is clear is the need for members to have a means of visualising allocations under different scenarios. This is particularly the case when allocations are based on multiple criteria with the possibility of applying different weightings. Initial tools to this end were constructed in excel and have recently been extended to ‘Shiny’ - software based on the R statistical language that allows the construction of interactive web-based apps. This report is intended to be a support document for the app that demonstrates how to install and run the app, the range of features that can be modified, and explicitly outlines the calculations behind the scenarios included.

The app is simply a tool to visualise the criteria (and their weightings) and the difficulties are instead centred around the selection and formulation of the criteria. For example, some criteria such as economic dependency are difficult to define and synthesise into discrete values for each CCM. The set of criteria included in the app and the methods to weight them should not therefore be considered a final set or an accepted methodology and we will continue to develop the app to suit the needs of the membership as further criteria are suggested or existing criteria are modified.

2 Running the app

Shiny apps typically run via a local server or are web-based which requires users to have the R software (and applicable packages) installed, and in the case of the latter, a reliable internet connection. These are both barriers to easy distribution of an app, for example at workshops, particularly in the Pacific where internet connectivity can be limited.

We have therefore developed a fully portable version of the app that does not require internet access, or the installation of R and knowledge of its use. The downside of this approach is that a web browser and a portable version of R must be packaged together with the usual components of the app. This leads to a relatively large file size, although no true ‘installation’ is necessary and so deletion of the app after use is simple. At this stage it is also restricted to windows operating systems.

The first step in using the app is to download the zipped file from the web or copy it from an external harddrive. This should be unzipped to where you want to store and run the app from. It is recommended to unzip the file to somewhere other than the ‘downloads’ folder as it may be difficult to run a .bat or .vbs from this location. Now click into the WHATapp folder and you should see a file structure very similar to that shown in Fig. 1. Running the app is a simple matter of double clicking run.vbs as a first choice, or alternatively run.bat (both circled in Fig. 1). Note that if utilising the run.bat option you must not only close the app window but also close the black command prompt window (Fig. 2) to completely terminate the app after

you have finished using the app.

Depending on your machines security settings you may encounter a warning popup window the first time you double click the run.vbs or run.bat. **Click XXXX..** Alternatively, try right clicking the run.vbs or run.bat and selecting 'Run as administrator'. With any luck the app will successfully launch after a few seconds and you should see a screen similar to Fig. 3. If the formatting of the browser window is messy then it should be possible to adjust this by zooming in (press 'ctrl' and '+') or out (press 'ctrl' and '-').

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
GoogleChromePortable	10/10/2018 2:49 PM	File folder	
R-Portable	10/10/2018 2:51 PM	File folder	
shiny	10/10/2018 3:04 PM	File folder	
.Rhistory	10/10/2018 3:00 PM	RHISTORY File	1 KB
run.bat	10/10/2018 1:58 PM	Windows Batch File	1 KB
run.vbs	10/10/2018 2:45 PM	VBScript Script File	1 KB
runShinyApp.r	11/10/2018 4:54 PM	R File	2 KB
ShinyApp.log	6/11/2018 8:51 AM	Text Document	0 KB

Figure 1: The cmd.exe screen that must be closed when exiting WHATapp when running via the run.bat option.

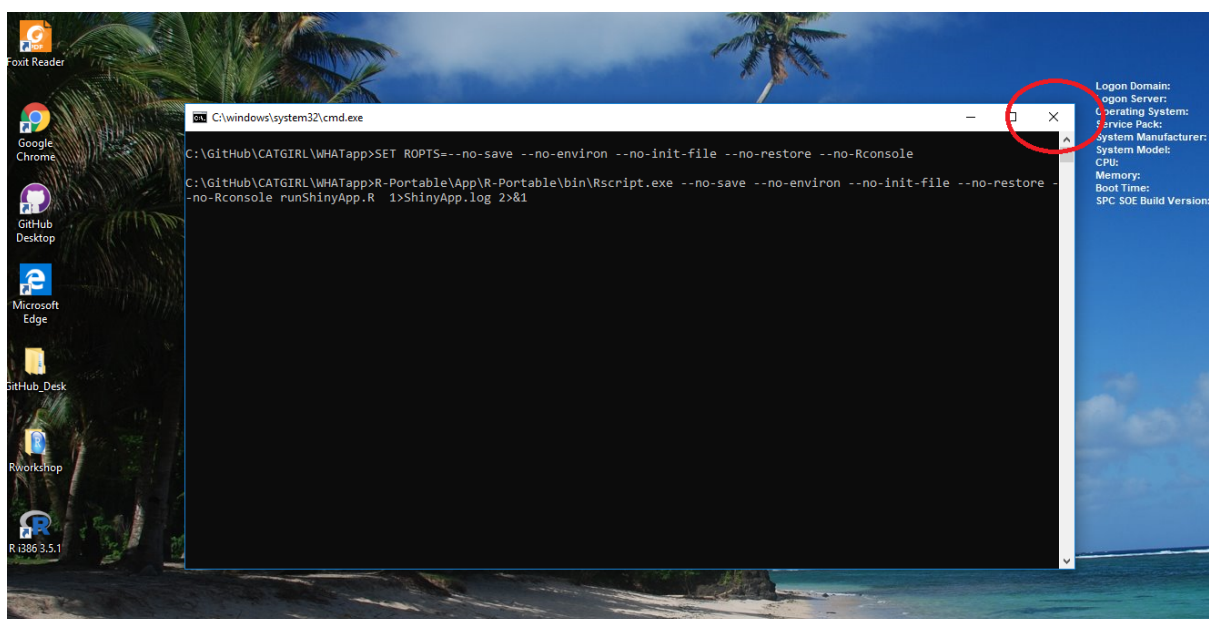


Figure 2: The cmd.exe screen that must be closed when exiting WHATapp when running via the run.bat option.

3 Features of the app

Once the app is running you will see two columns of text and features on the left hand side of the dashboard (Fig. 4). These control the scenarios that you can investigate and also some

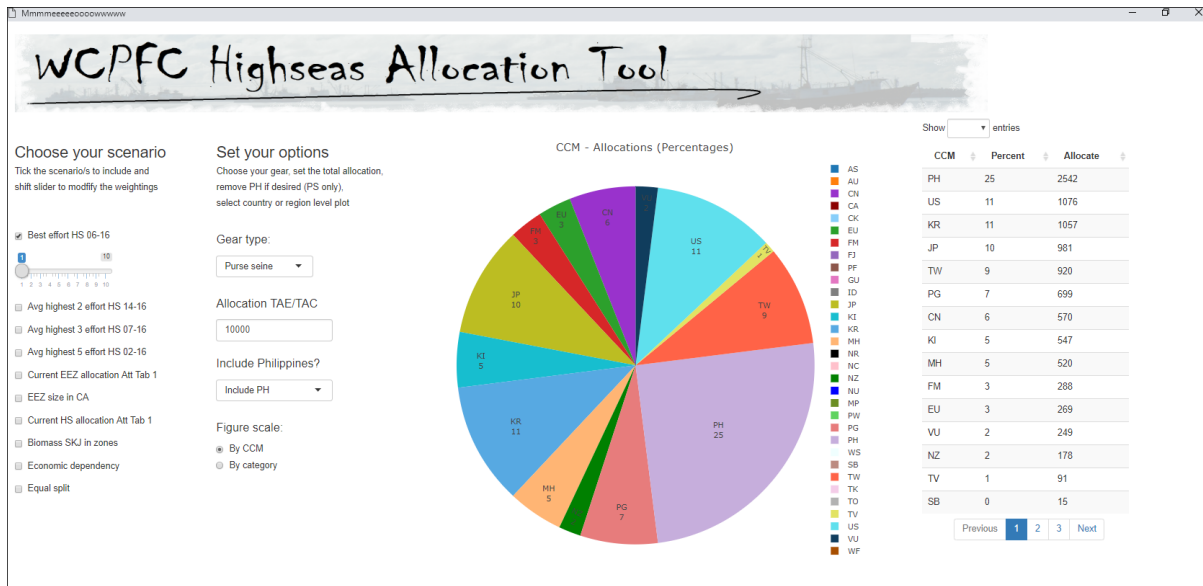


Figure 3: The cmd.exe screen that must be closed when exiting WHATapp when running via the run.bat option.

other features of the plots and tables that show the resulting allocations. To control the app you can modify the following:

- The left-most column shows each of the **X** criteria that can be selected and any number can be selected at once by clicking the check boxes (see letter **A**).
- Once a check box is selected and a tick appears, a slider bar will also be activated for that criteria (**B**). The slider bar sets the weighting of that particular criteria with values between 1 and 10 being allowable. If only one tick box is checked then moving the slider will not impact the allocation at all (the plot and table will not change). However, if multiple boxes are ticked then the sliders determine how much weight is given to each criteria. For example, if the first two boxes are ticked and the slider for criteria 1 is set at 1, and for criteria 2 it is set at 3, then the latter will have 3 times the weighting of the former. If the slider bar for each criteria is set at 1 then they will all have the same weighting.
- The second column of widgets defines features of the app other than the criteria to be considered. The drop down menu (**C**) allows switching between the purse seine and longline allocations. Note that there are different criteria present for the two gear types.
- The box shown with the **D** defines the total allowable effort (TAE; in days) and total allowable catch (TAC; in metric tonnes) for purse seine and longline respectively, from which the allocations are made. The value can be modified by clicking on the box and typing in the desired value. This number represents the total catch or effort on the high seas that must be decided before individual CCMs can be allocated specific quantities.
- Under the purse seine scenario there is a drop down menu that allows allocations to be made either including or excluding the Philippines (PH). The option to exclude PH is in response to the unique nature of this fleet on the high seas: they have special conditions under the CMM; are predominantly operating in high seas pocket 1; they have very low CPUE and are operationally very different from other fleets; they have a very high effort that can dominate the effort allocations when based on historical effort criteria. For these

Choose your scenario

Tick the scenario/s to include and shift slider to modify the weightings

A ☒ Best effort HS 06-16 **B**

☐ Avg highest 2 effort HS 14-16

☐ Avg highest 3 effort HS 07-16

☐ Avg highest 5 effort HS 02-16

☐ Current EEZ allocation Att Tab 1

☐ EEZ size in CA

☐ Current HS allocation Att Tab 1

☐ Biomass SKJ in zones

☐ Economic dependency

A ☒ Equal split

Set your options

Choose your gear, set the total allocation, remove PH if desired (PS only), select country or region level plot

Gear type: **C**

Purse seine

Allocation TAE/TAC **D**

10000

Include Philippines? **E**

Include PH

Figure scale:

☒ By CCM

F ☐ By category

Figure 4: The cmd.exe screen that must be closed when exiting WHATapp when running via the run.bat option.

reasons, it may be necessary for this fleet to be treated differently during allocations, and its presence in the app can obscure patterns of allocations among the remaining CCMs under certain conditions. It is therefore up to the user to determine if this fleet should be excluded.

- The final option allows the user to switch between viewing the allocations by individual CCMs or by subregional groupings by clicking on the desired button. These groupings are distant water fishing nations (DWFN), FFA members that also belong to the PNA (FFA-PNA), other FFA members (FFA-OTH), Indonesia and Philippines (IDPH) and other CCMs that do not belong to any of these categories (OTH; for example New Caledonia and French Polynesia).

Once a certain scenario has been set and the criteria for the allocations chosen, then the app will automatically update and display the allocations for each CCM or sub regional group. This is in the form of a pie chart with the CCM/group and the proportional allocation (%), and also a table that allocates the TAE/TAC into absolute allocations to the individual CCMs/groups in days (purse seine) and metric tonnes of catch (longline). Note that the format of the table is interactive with the number of entries shown and their order completely user defined.

4 General discussion