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COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

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FishStatJ: Background, status and future directions

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Background

The FishStat suite of statistical applications was first created in the early 1990's by the FAO Fishery Information, Data and Statistics Unit (FIDI) as a series of MS DOS Dbase Clipper programs. Each Dbase program was specifically designed to allow various data selection functions, statistical analyses and graphical presentations on the desktop for an individual set of time-series data. For example, FishStat-CAPTURE was designed for analysis of Capture data while FishStat-AQUA allowed statistical processing of Aquaculture data. There was even a FishStat-GFCM program for performing desktop analysis of fishing statistics for the GFCM commission.

In the late 1990's, FIDI decided that a single MS Windows application could be created to handle a variety of time-series datasets. The highly successful FishStat+ program was created to allow processing of many time-series within the Windows environment within a single executable. FishStat+ evolved and went through many different versions before it was finally retired in 2013 because it was no longer compatible with modern MS Windows operating systems.

In 2010, it was decided to create a Java-based version of FishStat that would ensure operability on 64-bit PC. A side-benefit for developing FishStat with Java was that the same program could be recompiled for different environments and therefore Mac and LINUX versions would be possible. In 2012, the FishStatJ system was released with 2 workspaces that could be loaded. One workspace contains time-series data on a global nature (i.e. Capture Production, Aquaculture Quantities and Values and Commodities). Another workspace covers regional datasets such as CECAF, GFCM and RECOFI.

Status

FishStatJ Dissemination Application

The current version of the FishStatJ dissemination application (for client usage) is 2.11.4 and is available for MS Windows, LINUX and Mac. Installation of the software is accomplished by simply downloading the zip archive file and decompressing it to any directory or subdirectory location that is desired – being sure to maintain the zipped file structure that is mandatory for proper operation of the program. On the desktop environment, it is recommended to create a shortcut aimed at the FishStatJ executable for facilitating ease of program execution. Once the program is available on the desired platform, either or both of the available workspaces (Global or Regional) should be downloaded and imported into FishStatJ to make them available for the application.

As in the former FishStat+ application, FishStatJ is a powerful yet simple to use desktop tool offering two main set of features:

1. Statistical datasets browsing, data mining, charting, reporting and exporting
2. Filtering, grouping and aggregation through hierarchical dimensions with a rich suite of statistical functions available

In addition, FishStatJ is a standalone system that can potentially provide access to many time-series datasets in an 'off-line' mode that can facilitate analysis in remote environments without the necessity of Internet access.

A downloadable PDF manual is available along with recently published FAQ's on the FishStatJ website.

There are also now available on the FishStatJ website a series of video tutorials that assist users with operation of the software and dataset analysis. Currently 3 videos are available and more will be released soon.

FishStatJ Administration Console

An administrative console is available that allows creation of new FishStatJ workspaces. A manual is being written to allow anyone the capability to create workspaces with their own time-series data.

Currently, tests are being conducted on incorporating the IATTC data within FishStatJ as a new workspace and very positive results have been achieved.

Future directions

Currently research is being conducted into expanding the functionality and capability of FishStatJ. These include various possibilities such as:

- New RFB time-series datasets (i.e. IATTC and other possible partners)
- Possible modifications to facilitate finer time resolution for time-series (i.e. monthly)
- New types of analysis and reporting (i.e. Food Balance Sheets, Catch and Effort)
- Possible migration of FishStatJ to a web-based interface

User feedback for creating guidance for the future of FishStatJ is very important and welcome. CWP is invited to offer suggestions or comments that will assist with the possible evolution of FishStatJ.