

August 25, 2020 Social Science Working Group Call

Attendees: Cindy Hu, Deepak Ray, Güray Hatipoğlu, Peter Hawthorne, Kira Sullivan-Wiley, Jaime Ashander, Jody Peters

Agenda/Notes:

1. Look through the Visualization Task View together during the call to see where this group can provide input. You can find an overview of the Task Views as well as a link to the Reproducible Forecasting Workflows Task View, which is the first one that has been completed here: <https://ecoforecast.org/efi-task-views/>.
 - Audiences - 1) people just getting into forecasting to know what resources people typically use in forecasting to get them started and 2) people who already forecast to see what others are doing
 - Highlight static vs interactive
 - Kira/Jaime - had a call with Dennis V who led an ESA session on visualization that Melissa participated in. He is developing a community of practice on decision support and visualization.
 - Need to have a strong distinction between visualization and decision support. There is a larger body of decision support literature and study
 - Visualization is a broad category - doesn't have to be geared towards a decision. If you call something a decision - you need to work with a decision maker. So this could be a subset of visualizations that could be produced.
 - Create a separate section for if you want to create visualizations for decision support
 - Wonder if it should be included in this Task View or reference something (e.g.n another Task View) that stands separate. How you approach modeling or the type of data you collect will depend on what your goal is
 - Are you doing this for scientific knowledge or decision support?
 - Would you use an overlapping set of tools for both decision tools or scientific exploration?
 - If there is a common set of tools, then make the distinction up front how you are using the visualization for (scientific knowledge vs decision support tools)
 - Decision tools do not always have visualization involved.
 - Current outline looks too IT-ish
 - Reorganize it by use case
 - E.g., Time series, spatial visualization, etc. This would follow nicely with the way the Uncertainty/Models/Stats group is organizing their Task View
 - Have a link to a paper or a tool - this was developed using this topic. Have an example that people can look at. Provide an example of what the visualization will look like

- Next step - see if we can find a shared meeting time between CI/Methods group to go over this
2. The group working on developing Forecasting Standards for forecast metadata and archiving has created a couple of vignettes: <https://eco4cast.github.io/EFstandards/articles/flare-metadata-example.html> and <https://eco4cast.github.io/EFstandards/articles/logistic-metadata-example.html> and plans to add a view more (e.g., particle filtering, spatial example) to show how to read the forecast output, metadata, and visualizations. The vignettes or the Standards Documentation, which is still in the process of being edited, may be good places for this group to provide input on what is important to consider for forecast visualization.
- Standards - are interesting and have well developed content. Uncertainties that go into the forecast is a major component
 - Return to this next time after people have a chance to look at the vignettes and Standards Document
 - The Standards allow people to have tags to know what was done with the model
 - Would there be anything useful to include in the standards that we want for a best practice for visualization
 - See how the Standards intersects with questions from the Social Sciences
 - For the next call - use the vignettes and Standards as context at the high level. Start with the vignettes and then think about what kind of things the group would want to do with the output for analyses. Intermodal comparison/comparatory visualization
 - Read the Standards Draft First.
 - Then see the vignettes linked above
3. Blog Post Updates
- Background on the project: It is an open, on-going project that anyone in the group can participate in. Use the posts as a way to advertise the work people in the group are doing or that are relevant to forecasting/forecasters - use this as a way to advertise the group and what people should consider on the social science side of things when creating forecasts
 - Jaime will bug co-authors this week about his post
 - Güray has been working on a post summarizing whether environmental legislation talks about forecasts
 - Used a database of environmental legislation (ecolex.org). Focus on management regulations (ag, forest, water, etc). Looking for legislations with “forecast” in it. Have 20 regulations that use ecological forecasting. Trying to find direct examples of using decision support tools in connection with legislation. Formal inclusion of ecological forecasting at the global level (or at least for legislation written in English).
 - Before the next big call will have a call with Güray, Jaime, and Kira. Anyone who wants to be involved on this call, let them know. (note it here or email Jaime or Kira before end of 8/26)

4. RCN NEON Forecasting Challenge Updates

- Nothing major to discuss now. The Design Teams continue to meet and the Steering Committee are starting to go through to harmonize across the forecast topics for consistency.
- Once there is more direction from the Design Teams/Steering Committee, then we can look for places where the Social Science group can provide input or feedback