Vismon: An Interactive Tool to Visualize Fisheries Data
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Abstract
We introduce Vismon, a tool for the analysis of two independent dimensions (also referred to as management options) and multiple dependent dimensions (also referred to as performance indicators). Vismon enables the study of trade-offs among different management options based on simulated fish population data over several decades. The primary users are policy makers and fishery scientists. Besides providing an overview of the complete data set and the ability to interact with it like traditional, paper-based methods, Vismon includes a number of novel interaction techniques. First, it enables users to restrict the acceptable values of indicators. While simple, this is a very powerful interaction technique to constrain the number of options to consider. Further, Vismon enables a detailed comparison of trade-offs among numerous management options using several different views. Finally, plots allow the incorporation of uncertainty, allowing managers and fishery scientists to take uncertainty into account when studying the trade-offs. In an expert review, two fishery scientists critically evaluated the system. In addition, we presented the tool at a workshop of 40 staff from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to a strong positive reception.