

## Sample code

Source code for a sample plugin can be found at

...Ecopath6\Sources\EwETutorials\CEFASPluginSample

To view and run the sample code in Visual Studio

- i. Load ...Ecopath6\Sources\EwE6.sln into Visual Studio.
- ii. Add the CEFASPluginSample.vbproj by right clicking on **Solution Explorer** and selecting **Add>Existing Project...** and finding ...Ecopath6\Sources\EwETutorials\CEFASPluginSample
- iii. Set a reference to CEFASPluginSample in the ScientificInterface project by right clicking on the ScientificInterface node in the **Solution Explorer** and selecting **Add Reference...** click the **Add...** button from the **Projects** tab select CEFASPluginSample
- iv. Run the CEFASPluginSample by compiling and running EwE6. From EwE6 main menu select **Tools>CEFAS plug-in sample**

## Running Ecosim on a variable time step

By default Ecosim runs on a monthly time step, 12 time steps per year. To accommodate a variable time step Ecosim can be told to run more than one time step in a month via the `cEcosimDataStructures.StepsPerMonth` property. The `StepsPerMonth` property is only accessible from code and can not be set in the Scientific Interface. This allows Ecosim to run on a sub time step scheme by setting the `cEcosimDataStructures.StepsPerMonth` property to the number of sub time steps to run in a month. At the end of each run Ecosim will set `cEcosimDataStructures.StepsPerMonth?` back to its default value of one.

Sub time step data

When running on sub time steps Ecosim will only update its results objects `cCore.cEcoSimResults()`, `cCore.cEcosimGroupOutput()`, `cCore.cEcosimOutput()` and `cCore.cEcosimFleetOutput()` once at the end of the month. Data computed for the sub time step can only be access via the `cEcosimDataStructures` provided by the `IEcosimSubTimestepsPlugin.EcosimSubTimeStepBegin()` and `IEcosimSubTimestepsPlugin.EcosimSubTimeStepEnd()` plugin points. The `IEcosimBeginTimeStepPlugin.EcosimBeginTimeStep()` and `IEcosimEndTimeStepPlugin.EcosimEndTimeStep()` will only be call at the start and end of the month not during the sub time step and will not contain the sub time step data.

**Sub time step plugin points**

```
IEcosimSubTimestepsPlugin.EcosimSubTimeStepBegin(ByRef BiomassAtTimestep() As Single, ByVal TimeInYears As Single, ByVal Del
```

- Called at the start of a sub time step.
- `BiomassAtTimestep()` contains the biomass that will be used for the time step. Any changes to biomass by a plugin point will be use be by Ecosim for the time step.

```
IEcosimSubTimestepsPlugin.EcosimSubTimeStepEnd(ByRef BiomassAtTimestep() As Single, ByVal TimeInYears As Single, ByVal Del
```

- Called at the end of a sub time step.
- `BiomassAtTimestep()` contains the biomass computed for the time step.

## Running Ecosim on a separate thread

Ecosim can be run on its own thread by setting the `cEcosimDataStructures.bMultiThreaded` Boolean flag to `True`. The next time Ecosim is run it will run on its own thread. Once the Ecosim run has completed the `cEcosimDataStructures.bMultiThreaded` flag will be automatically set to its default value of `False` and all subsequent runs will be on the main application thread. All plug-in calls that originate on a thread other than the main thread will be marshaled to the main thread. This is for robustness, in .NET user interface controls cannot be accessed from a thread other than that which they were created on. Plug-ins are created and run on the main thread by the EwE framework. By automatically marshaling all plug-in calls to the main thread plug-in points do not have to marshal calls to an interface.