



## Frequently Asked Questions

Both students and teachers who use Ecosim for the first time, run into some questions on how to use the various functions of Ecosim. Here are some recurring questions and their answers.

### **1. Can I carry out various surveys in different places in the same year?**

If you select two or more areas within a single survey, the program will lump the results and you won't be able to compare the areas.

In order to compare areas, you need to carry out a separate survey for each area. Just open the survey menu, choose an area you want to survey and click on 'accept'. Then go to another area and repeat the procedure. This one will be carried out as a separate survey.

Make sure however to give each survey a separate name.

### **2. How can I give a name to my survey and what is a good name?**

In the New Survey menu, you can give each survey its own name (the light grey field behind 'name'). We advise to give a name that refers to the area only, perhaps with the addition of the type of survey. Ecosim automatically already adds the species that is surveyed.

For example if you use fish traps, we suggest for a survey in a lake to name the survey: "fish traps lake 1". Ecosim will automatically call each generated trend line "fish traps lake 1 sunfish", "fish traps lake 1 pike", etc.

### **3. Can I automatically survey an area several years in a row?**

Yes, there is a light grey box behind 'duration' in the survey menu. Here you can enter the number of years you want to survey. The costs will be subtracted from the budget directly, while the same survey is carried out automatically each year you proceed.

### **4. How can I select which trendlines I want to plot?**

If you carry out a lot of surveys, the graph can become a real mess. You can select the trendlines you want to plot in each individual graph.

Click on the graph editor and first clear the selection by clicking 'clear all'. Subsequently click in the list the one on the species / survey method you want to plot. Then click the years you want to plot, or 'select all' if you want to show all years the survey was carried out. If you are happy with your selection, click 'generate' to produce the graph.

### **5. How can I edit or export the graph?**

Once you've produced a graph, you can change the Y-axis range by changing the numbers behind 'value range'. By default, there are no values in the points in the graph. They will appear if you click 'show values'.

To use the graph in a report, click save. You can now export the graph as PNG-file - a general image file you can use directly in powerpoint or text processing software.

### **6. How can I enter the menu with the population variables?**

Press CTRL-SHIFT-HOME to open the password bar. then enter the password 'formulas'.