

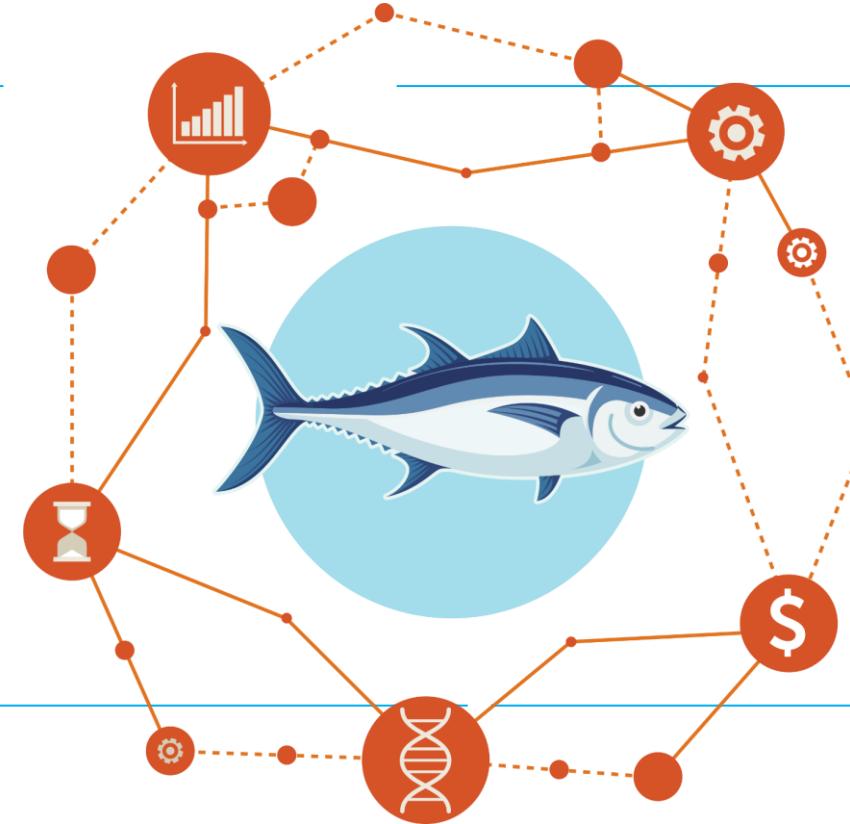


An SCRS Update on BFT Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)

October 2021

References

1. BFT MSE summary 4-page
2. BFT MSE summary 1-page



General Information for SCRS/BFT WG – MSE Ambassador Meetings



Primary Objective: To provide all stakeholders with a basic understanding of the MSE approach, performance indicators and the tradeoffs associated with different CMP's.

Our approach is:

- *To undertake a series of standard virtual presentations in all three official ICCAT languages with a focus MSE and associated issues.*
- *To encourage participants to openly ask questions in their own language about how MSE works and/or regarding aspects of MSE they don't understand.*
- *To promote open discussion/questions on the floor during the meeting for all to hear rather than to have multiple discussions in the “Chat”.*

Questions or discussions on Policy or the 2021 SCRS advisory report management recommendations are discouraged and will not be entertained during these meetings



Presentation Overview:

- What is MSE and Management Procedures?
- BFT MSE specifics
 - Operating models
 - Indices
 - Management Procedures
- Preliminary results
- Next steps



SCRS on track to present 2-3 final CMPs to the Commission in 2022 for providing TAC advice starting in 2023, after feedback from Panel 2.



What is Management Strategy Evaluation

- *Management Strategy Evaluation* is a means to develop a robust, consensus-driven and realistic **Management Procedure**. It is an iterative process that involves substantial dialogue between Scientists, Managers, and Stakeholders.
- **Management procedure (MP)**: A pre-agreed framework for setting catch limits, designed to achieve specific **management objectives**.
- **Management objectives (MO)**: Formally adopted goals for the fishery.



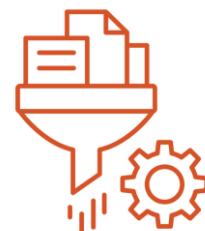
A Brief Overview of Management Procedures

- A pre-agreed framework for making management decisions
- Evaluated and selected using MSE
- Three main elements

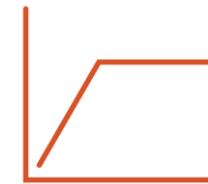
Monitoring data with collection plan



Analysis method
(ex: evaluation of level and trend in indices)



Harvest control rule
(HCR)



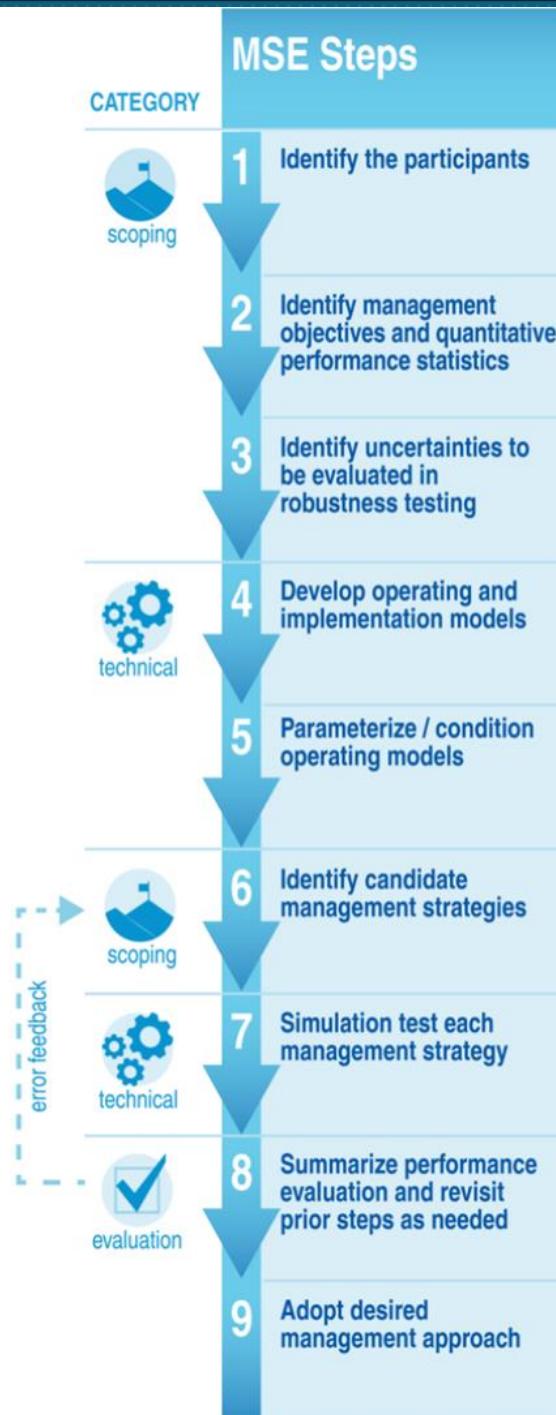


Diagram of MSE Process

Management objectives

Operating models

Management procedures

1 Identify the participants

2 Identify management objectives and quantitative performance statistics

3 Identify uncertainties to be evaluated in robustness testing

4 Develop operating and implementation models

5 Parameterize / condition operating models

6 Identify candidate management strategies

7 Simulation test each management strategy

8 Summarize performance evaluation and revisit prior steps as needed

9 Adopt desired management approach



Management objectives

- ***Conceptual Management Objectives:*** Desired goals for fishery
- ***Operational Management Objectives:*** Specific, codified and measurable objectives, with timelines and minimum required probabilities

Conceptual: Want
stable TAC

Operational: TAC varies
by less than 20% in each
year



Management Objectives for this MSE

🐟 Per Resolution 18-03

- 🐟 The stock should have a greater than [__]% probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix
- 🐟 There should be a less than [__]% probability of the stock falling below B_{LIM} (to be defined)
- 🐟 Maximize overall catch levels
- 🐟 Any increase or decrease in TAC between management periods should be less than [__]%



Performance Statistics for this MSE

- The stock should have a greater than [__]% probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix
- There should be a less than [__]% probability of the stock falling below B_{LIM} (to be defined)
- Maximize overall catch levels
- Any increase or decrease in TAC between management periods should be less than [__]%

- **AvgBr** – Average Br [i.e., biomass ratio, or spawning stock biomass (SSB) relative to dynamic SSB_{MSY}] over projection years 11-30
- **Br30** – Br after 30 years
- **OFT** – Overfished Trend, SSB trend if Br30<1.
- [F statistic – once finalized]



Performance Statistics for this MSE

- The stock should have a greater than  $[__]$ % probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix
- There should be a less than $[__]$ % probability  of the stock falling below B_{LIM} (to be defined)
- Maximize overall catch levels
- Any increase or decrease in TAC between management periods should be less than $[__]$ %



- **LD** – Lowest depletion (i.e., SSB relative to dynamic SSB_0^2) over 30-year projection period



Performance Statistics for this MSE

- The stock should have a greater than  [__] % probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix
- There should be a less than [__] % probability of the stock falling below B_{LIM} (to be defined)
-  Maximize overall catch levels
-  Any increase or decrease in TAC between management periods should be less than [__] %

- **AvC10** – Mean catches (t) over first 10 years
- **AvC30** – Mean catches (t) over 30 years



Performance Statistics for this MSE

- The stock should have a greater than % probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix
- There should be a less than % probability of the stock falling below B_{LIM} (to be defined)
- Maximize overall catch levels
- Any increase or decrease in TAC between management periods should be less than %



- **AAVC** – Average annual variation in catches (%)

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Key Concepts: Operating Models

- **Operating model (OM):** A model representing a plausible scenario for stock and fishery dynamics that is used to simulation test the management performance of CMPs.

Key Concepts: Identifying Uncertainties

- Multiple OM will usually be considered to reflect the uncertainties about the dynamics of the resource and fishery, thereby testing the robustness of management procedures.

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Key Concepts: Operating Models

Reference set: most plausible scenarios or hypotheses with greatest impact on outcomes, can be equally or differentially weighted

Robustness set: unlikely but still possible scenarios or hypotheses. What-if and worst-case scenarios.

Reference set: screen all Management Procedures



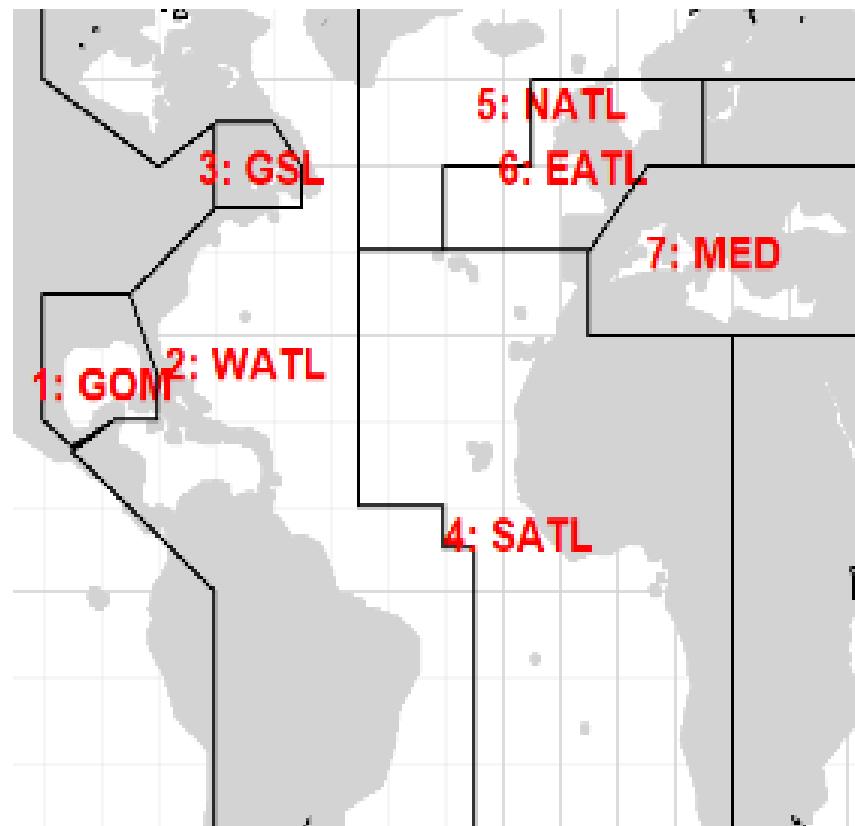
Robustness set: screen top performing Management Procedures





Operating Model structure

- Spatial definitions



- Specifications

- Time period (history) 1864-2019
- 7-area model
- 4 Quarters (Jan-Mar, Apr-Jun, Jul-Sept, and Oct-Dec)
- Spawning occurs for both stocks in quarter 2
 - Mediterranean for Eastern stock
 - Gulf of Mexico & Western Atlantic for Western stock
- Age structured (3 age groups)
- Multi-fleet (indices for fitting OM's)
 - 14 CPUE indices
 - 5 fishery independent indices



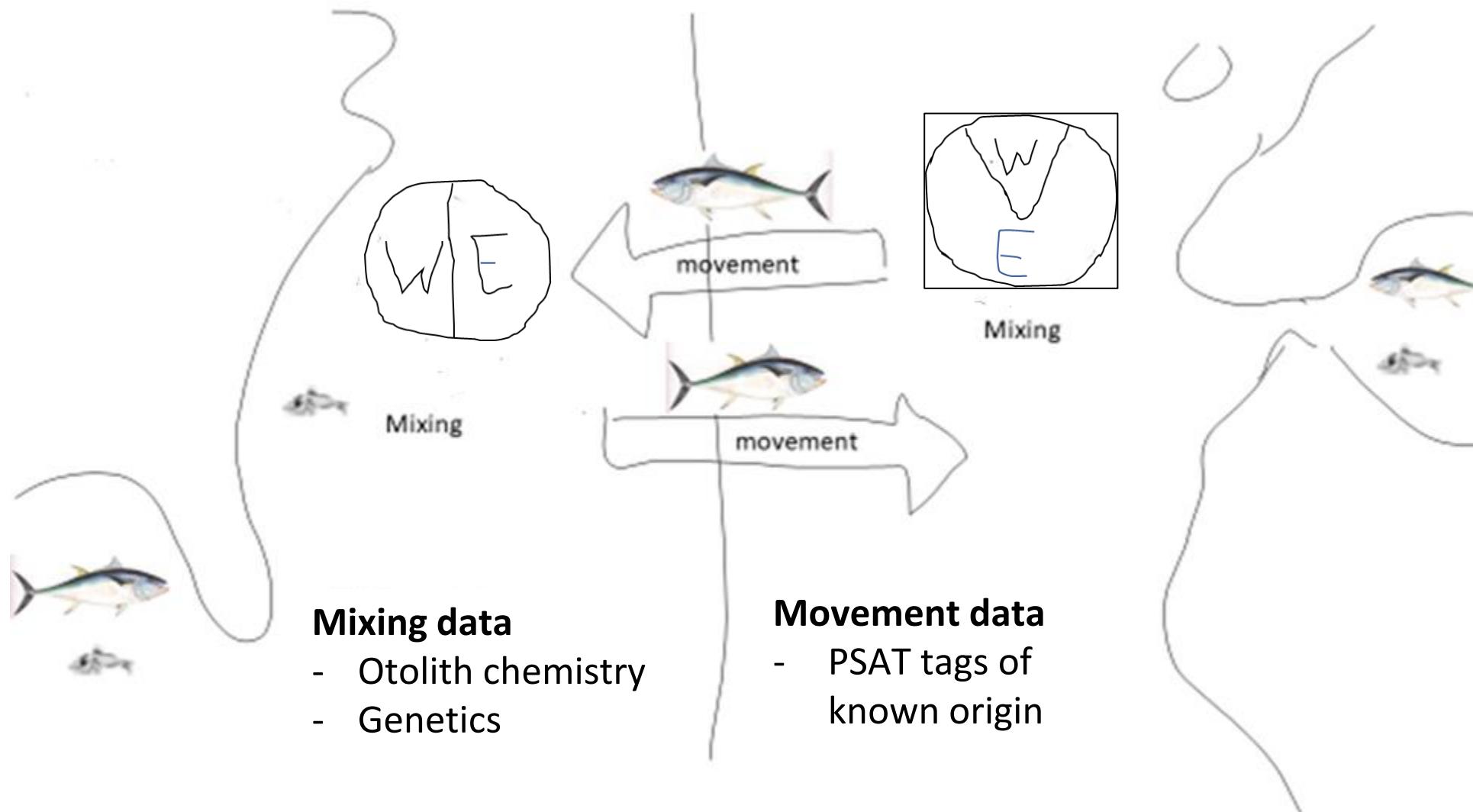
Conditioning: Grounding operating models to data and assumptions



- i.e., ensure that they are consistent with historical data to be considered plausible
- OMs reflect full range of plausible past stock trajectories.
- fit to data, similar to fitting a stock assessment model, but with multiple assumptions about the population dynamics
- Key data for bluefin tuna: catch, indices, length composition, movement (electronic tags) and mixing (otolith chemistry and genetics)



Movement (rate of fish moving) vs mixing (proportion in each area)



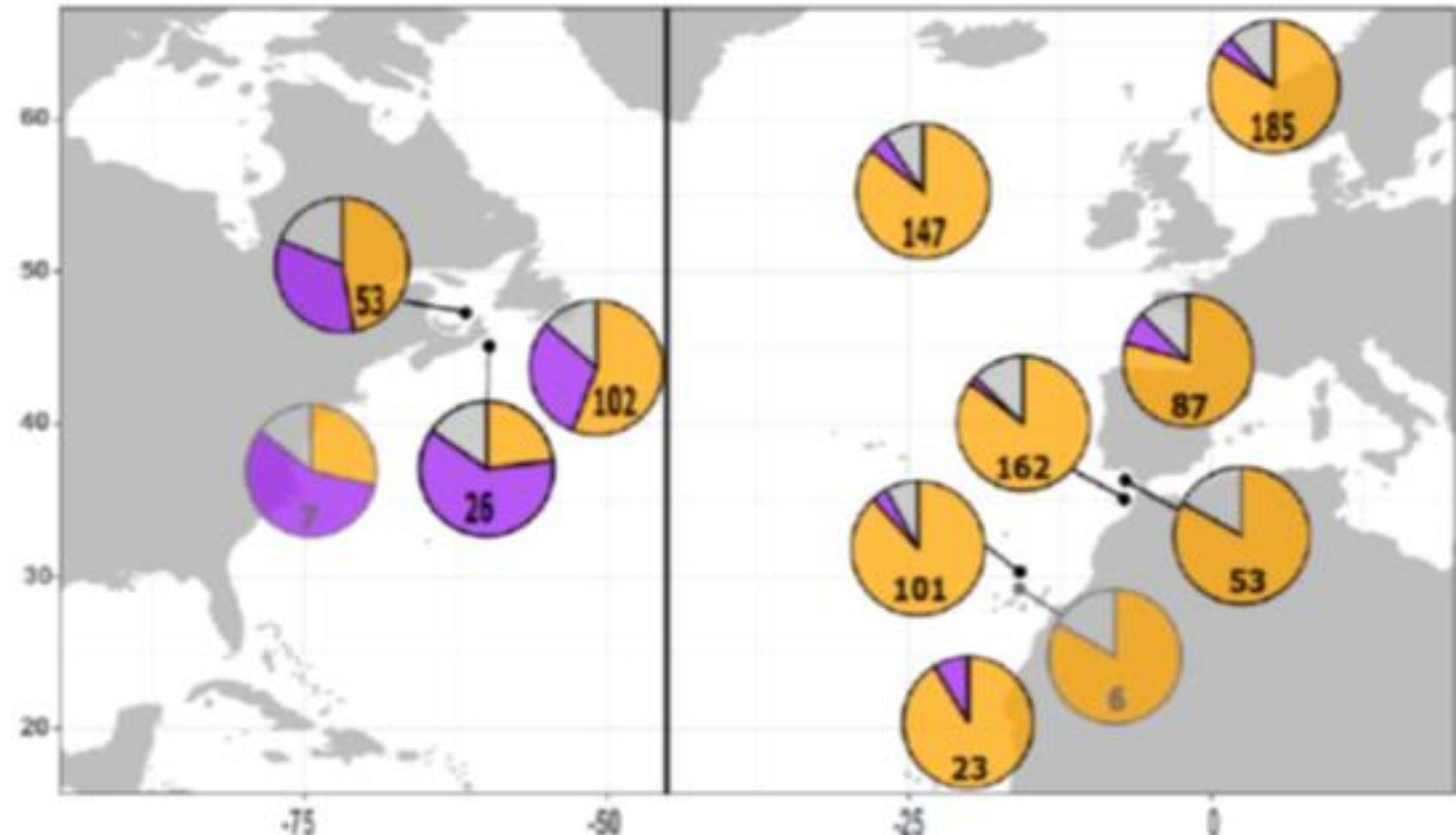


Genetic mixing data

Mediterranean (orange) or Gulf of Mexico (purple).

Black outline indicates mixing aggregates, grey outline indicates Slope Sea larvae and Canary island YOY.

Numbers are sample sizes.



Otolith microchemistry mixing data

Table 1. From Rooker et al. 2014. Predicted origin of medium and large bluefin tuna collected from different regions of the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea based on a maximum likelihood estimator (MLE) and maximum classification likelihood estimator (MCL). Estimates are given as percentages, and the mixed-stock analysis (HISEA program) was run under bootstrap mode with 500 runs to predict the error (± 1 SD) around estimated percentages

Region	N	MLE			MCL		
		% East	% West	% Error	% East	% West	% Error
Central North Atlantic Ocean							
2010+2011	202	79.5	20.5	6.5	62.7	37.3	6.9
2010	108	63.9	36.1	9.6	47.7	52.3	9.0
2011	94	90.7	9.3	5.3	78.3	21.7	9.7
West of 45° W							
2010+2011	25	44.0	56.0	16.8	22.5	77.5	17.0
East of 45° W							
2010+2011	177	84.9	15.1	4.9	67.4	32.6	6.0
2010	106	60.9	39.1	8.5	46.1	53.9	8.4
2011	71	98.1	1.9	2.0	95.3	4.7	5.5
Northeast Atlantic Ocean							
Morocco	81	93.9	6.1	4.7	77.4	22.6	7.0
Portugal	93	100.0	0.0	0.0	97.5	2.5	3.7
Strait of Gibraltar							
Spain	97	100.0	0.0	0.0	99.6	0.4	1.4
Mediterranean Sea							
Balearic Islands	9	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Sardinia	20	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Malta	82	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Cyprus	48	99.1	0.9	2.9	84.0	16.0	9.6

Movement. PSAT tracks from fish used in operating models. Left column fish less than 150 cm SFL, right column fish ≥ 150 cm SFL. Top row are fish that went definitively into the Gulf of Mexico spawning grounds. Middle row are fish that went definitively into the Mediterranean Sea

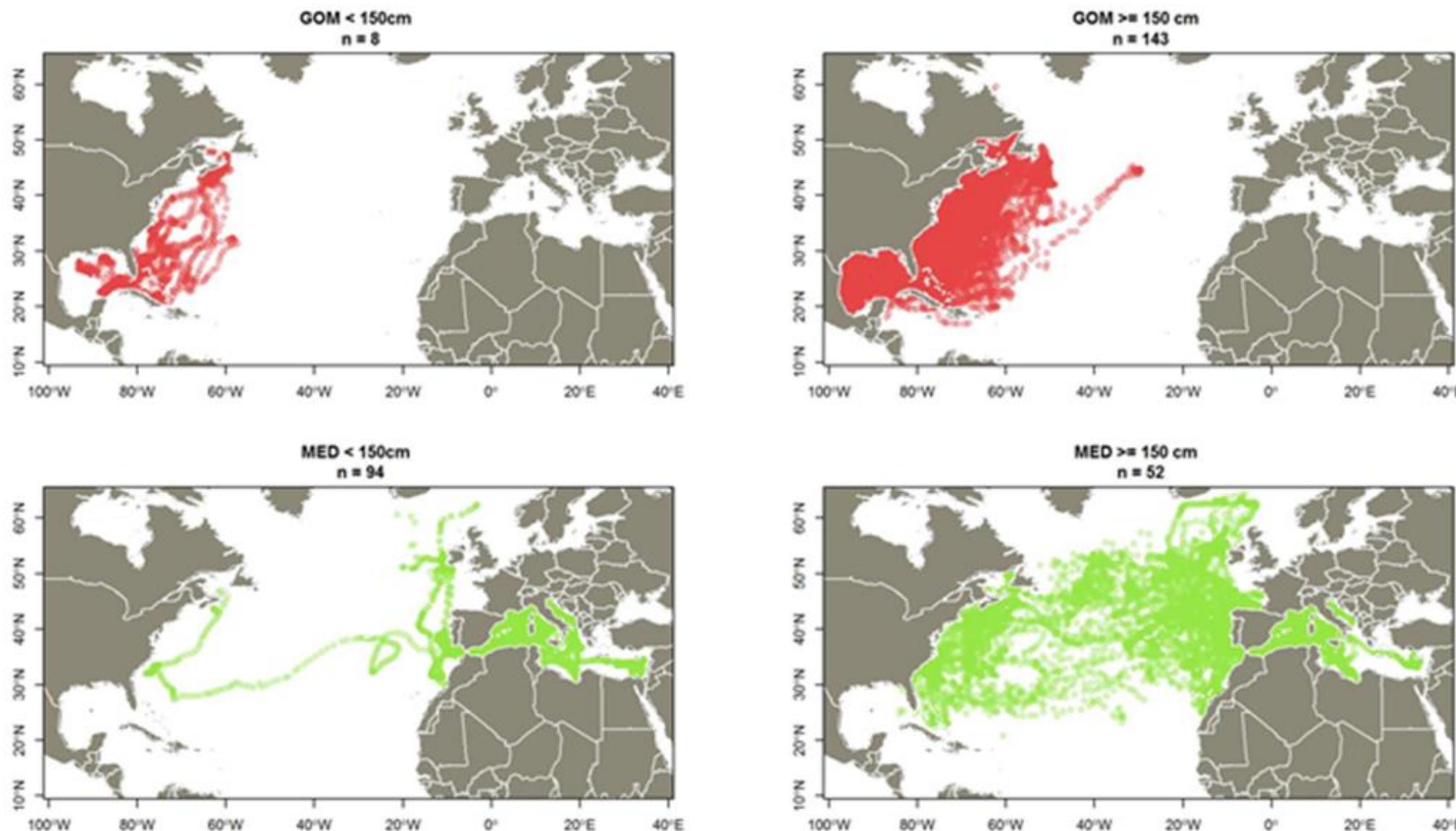


Figure courtesy of Ben Galuardi (NOAA-Fisheries)



Reference Grid (% plausibility weight)

Category of key uncertainties	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Recruitment (age 1 fish)	western stock – “low” scenario (i.e., switch from high to low 70s); eastern stock – switch from low to high in 80s (40%)	western stock – “high” recruitment scenario; eastern stock – no regime shift, high recruitment (40%)	same as Level 1, with regime shift back to early period 10 years into the projections (20%)	
Spawning fraction/ Natural mortality (M)	Young spawning/ high M (50%)	Older spawning/ low M (with senescence) (50%)		
Scale: abundance in each mgmt area	15 kt W/200 kt E (30%)	15 kt W/400 kt E (30%)	50 kt W/200 kt E (15%)	50 kt W/400 kt E (25%)
Length composition weighting	Low 0.05 (50%)	High 1 (50%)		

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Operating model questions

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Management procedures

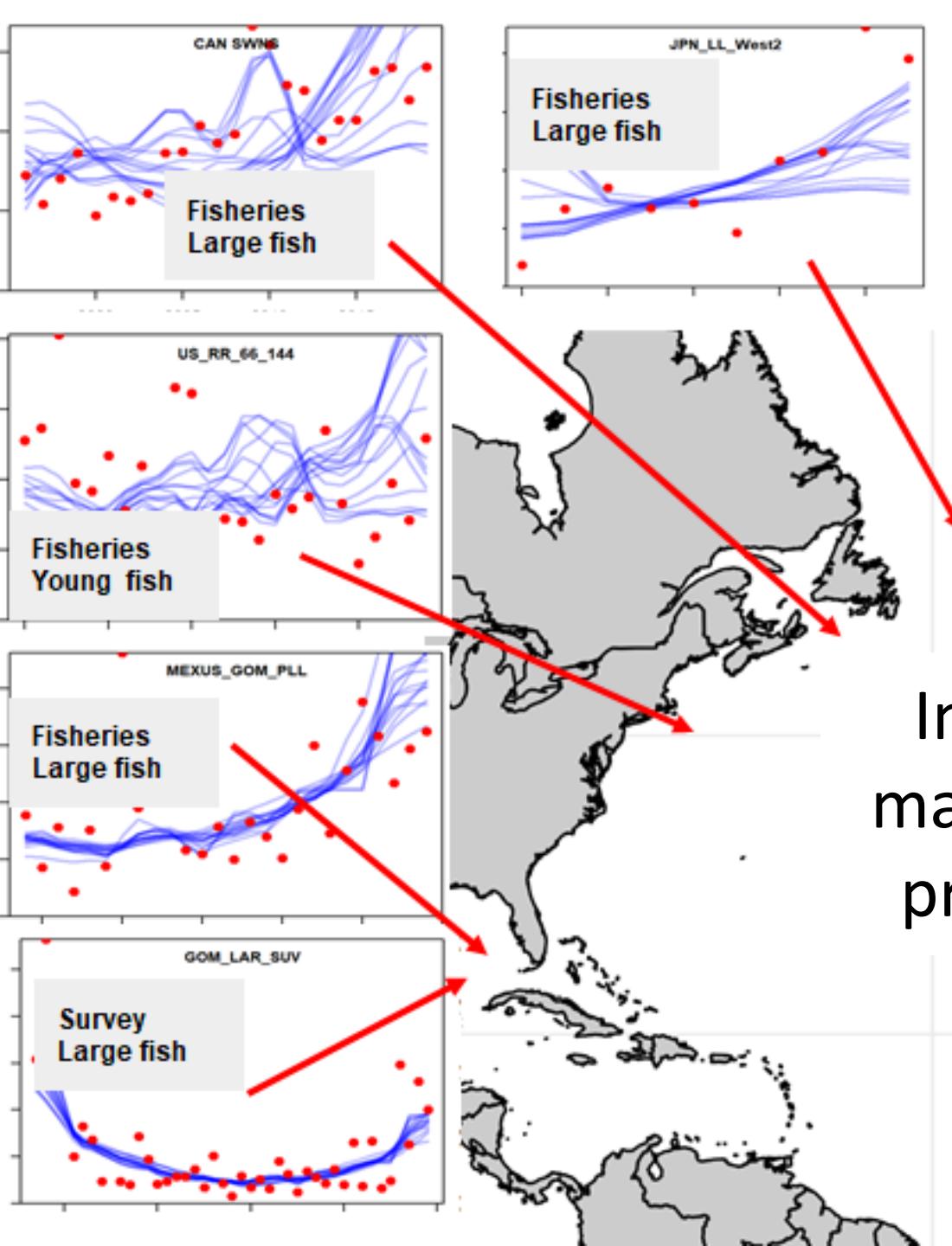
Empirical management procedures

- Use empirical “proxies”, such as indices
- Simple to explain and implement:

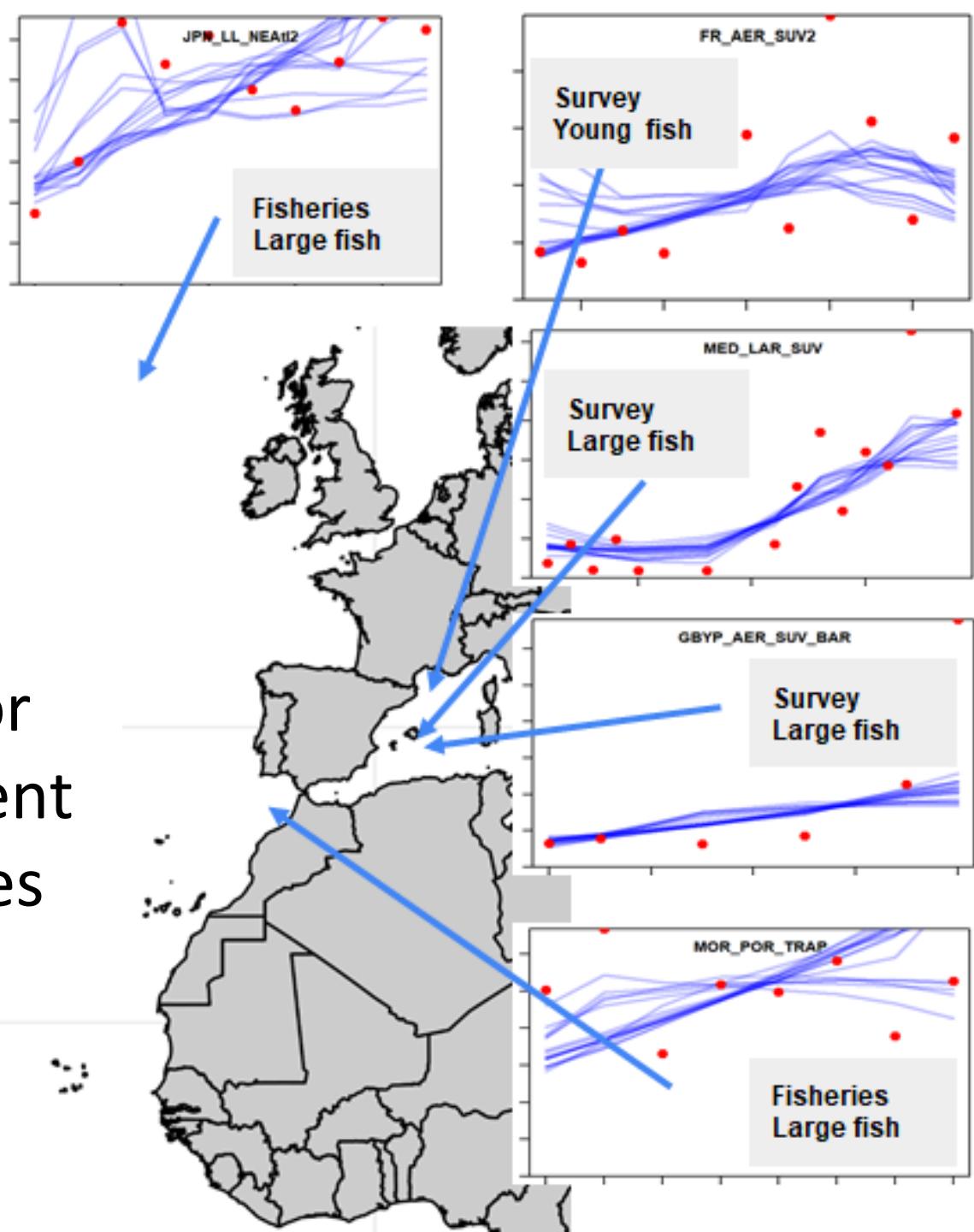
index TAC and index TAC

Model based management procedures

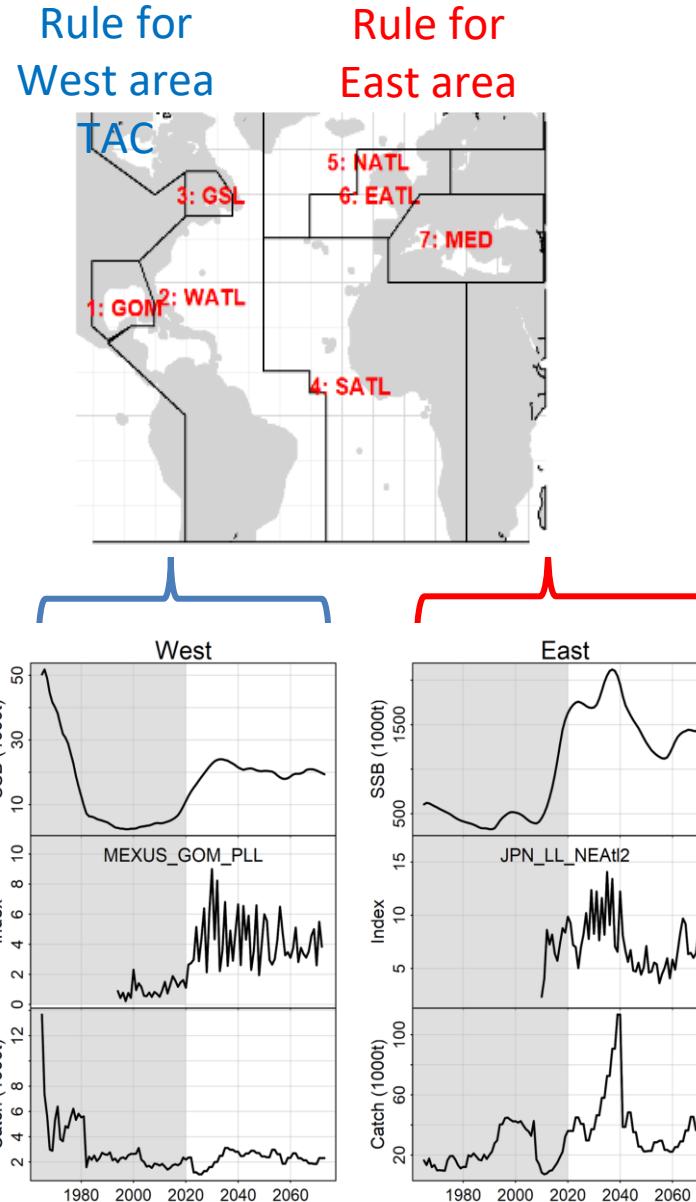
- Use quantities estimated from stock assessment model (e.g., B_{MSY} , F_{MSY}) to derive TAC advice.
- Similar to stock assessment advice framework



Indices for
management
procedures



How a BFT Management Procedure would work



MP gives 2 catch rules, one for each area

- Time series plots show historical period (shaded) and projections for one potential outcome from one example MP in a single operating model.
- MP gets index values, derives a TAC, TAC is taken from each area and stock biomass responds, resulting in new indices.
- Cycle repeats each iteration of MP application (2 years for now).
- We then compare results to operational management objectives.

Statistics apply to
“Biological” Stock,
Status & Safety

Statistics apply to
Area to **Yield & Stability** of catch

Conceptual vision for a Bluefin Management Procedure

WEST

EAST

collect 3 years of index

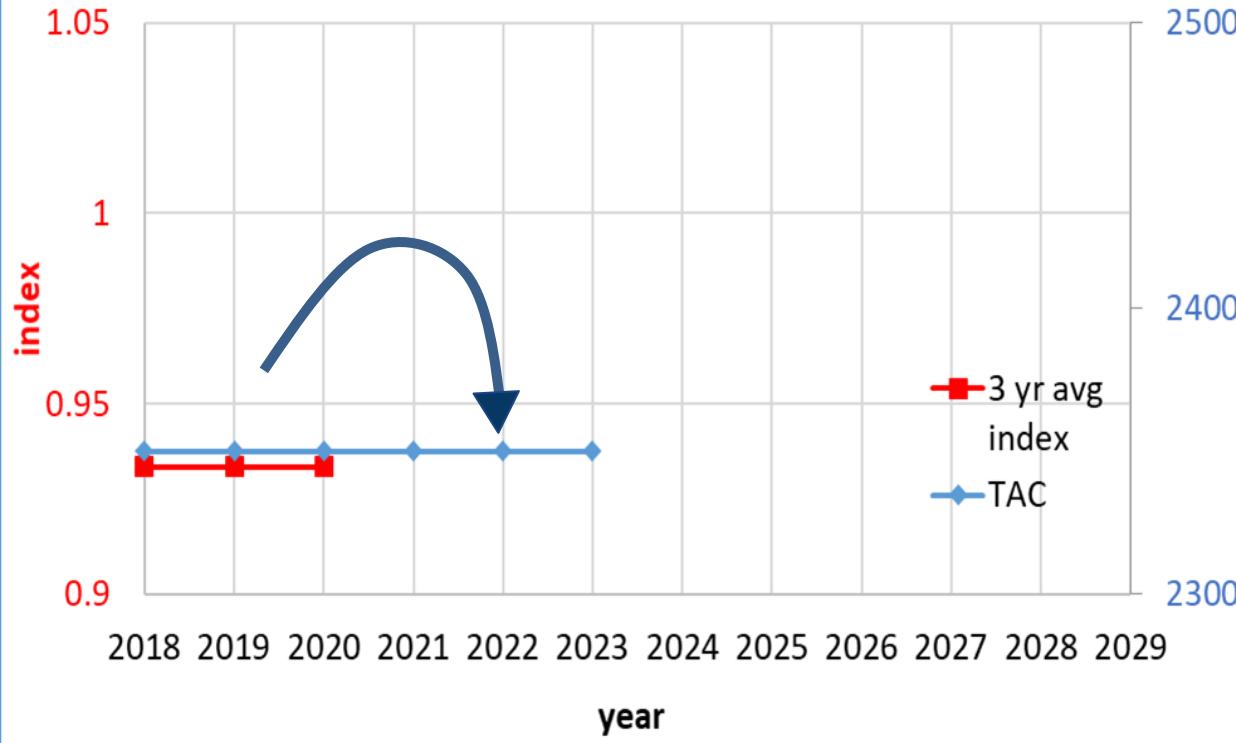


- Empirical management procedure based on index
- SCRS collects data, applies MP
- Commission sets TAC based upon MP advice
- TAC remains for X years

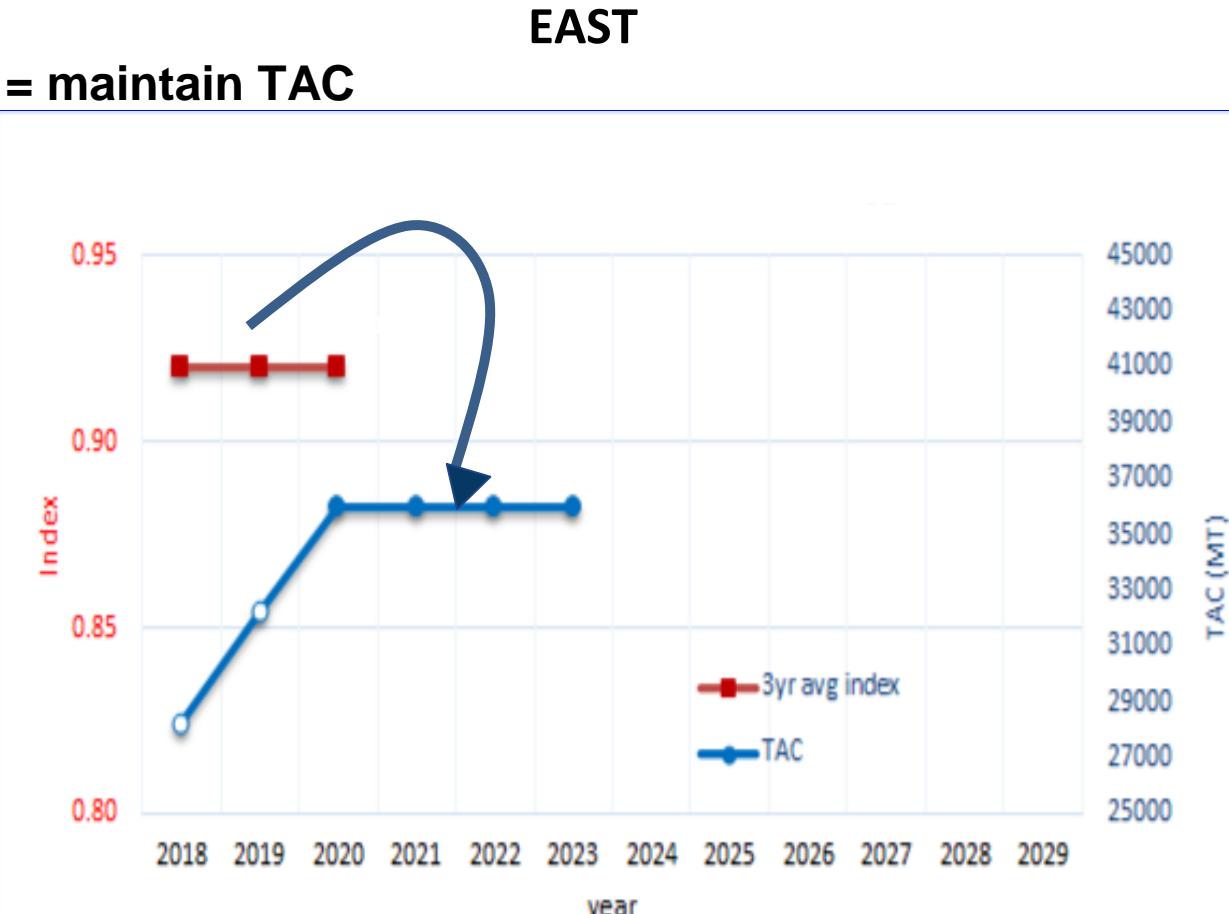
Conceptual vision for a Bluefin Management Procedure

WEST

index constant = maintain TAC



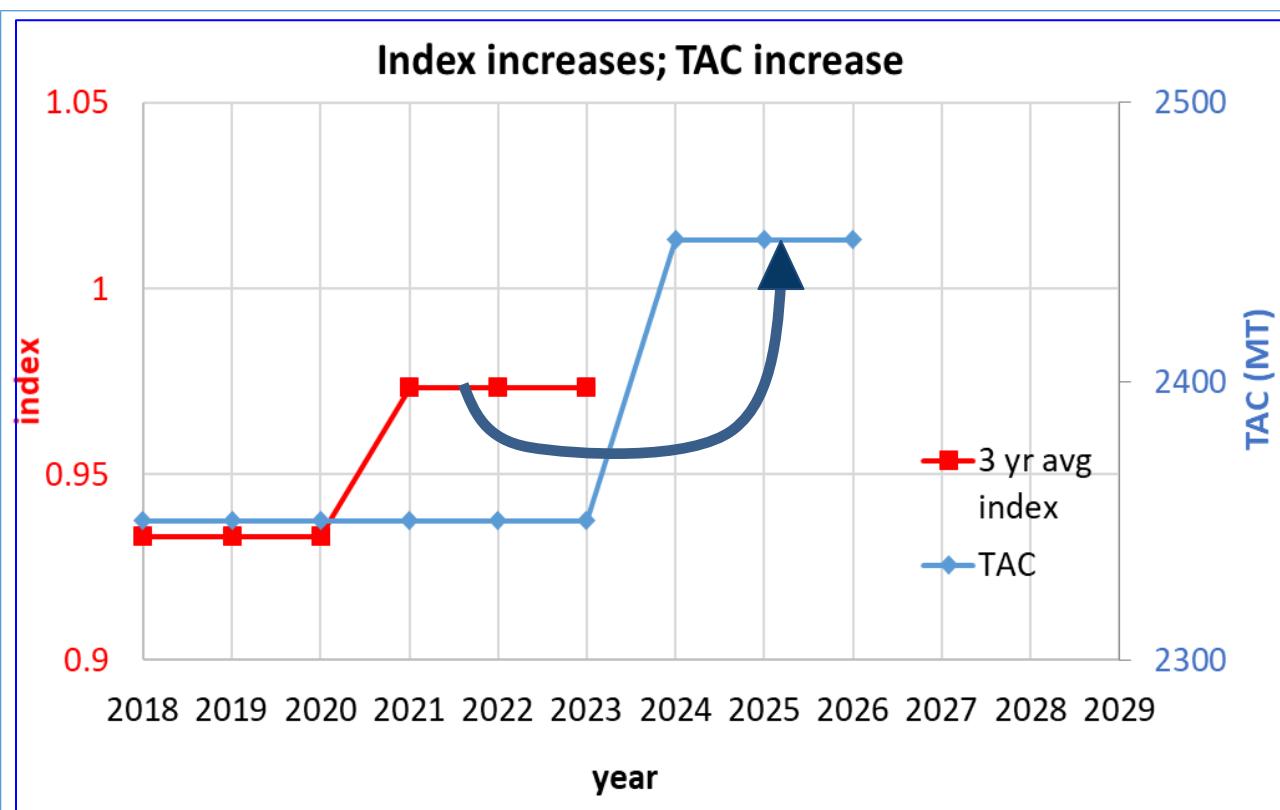
EAST



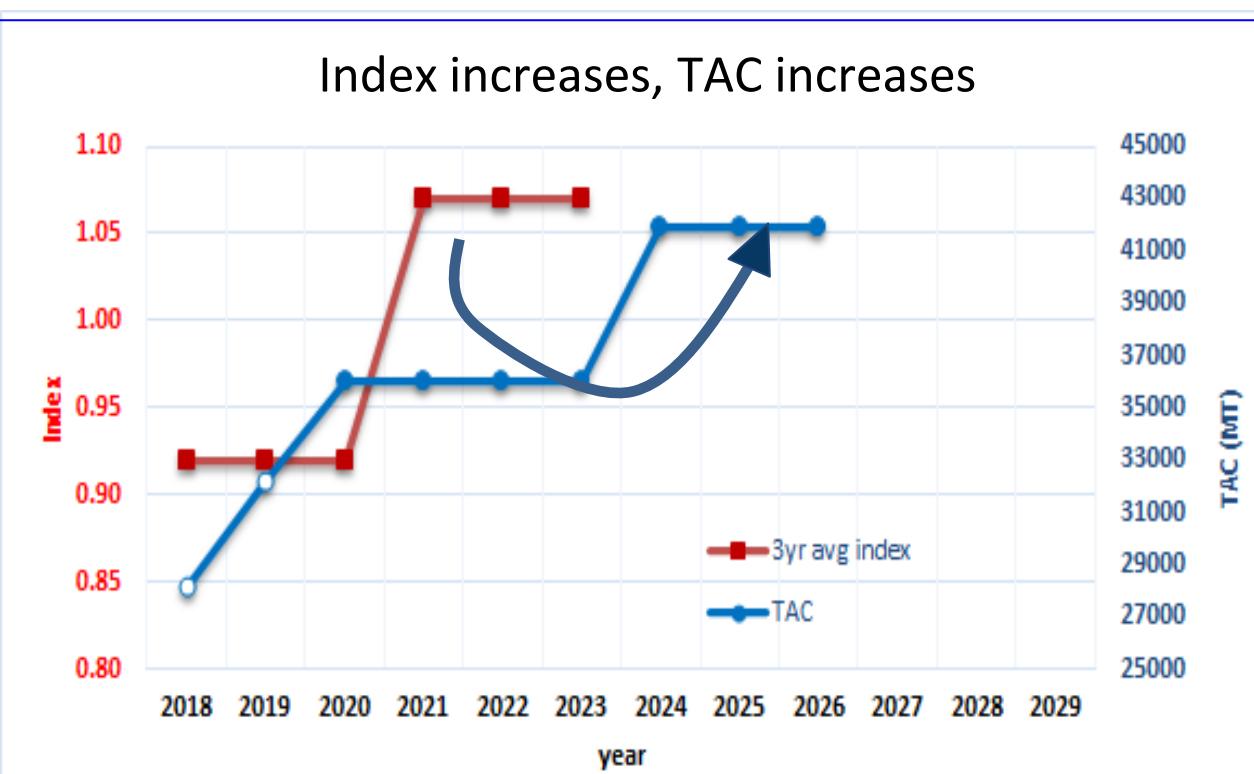
* Note that this is simply for illustration purposes and does not imply what would actually happen in the future.

Conceptual vision for a Bluefin Management Procedure

WEST



EAST

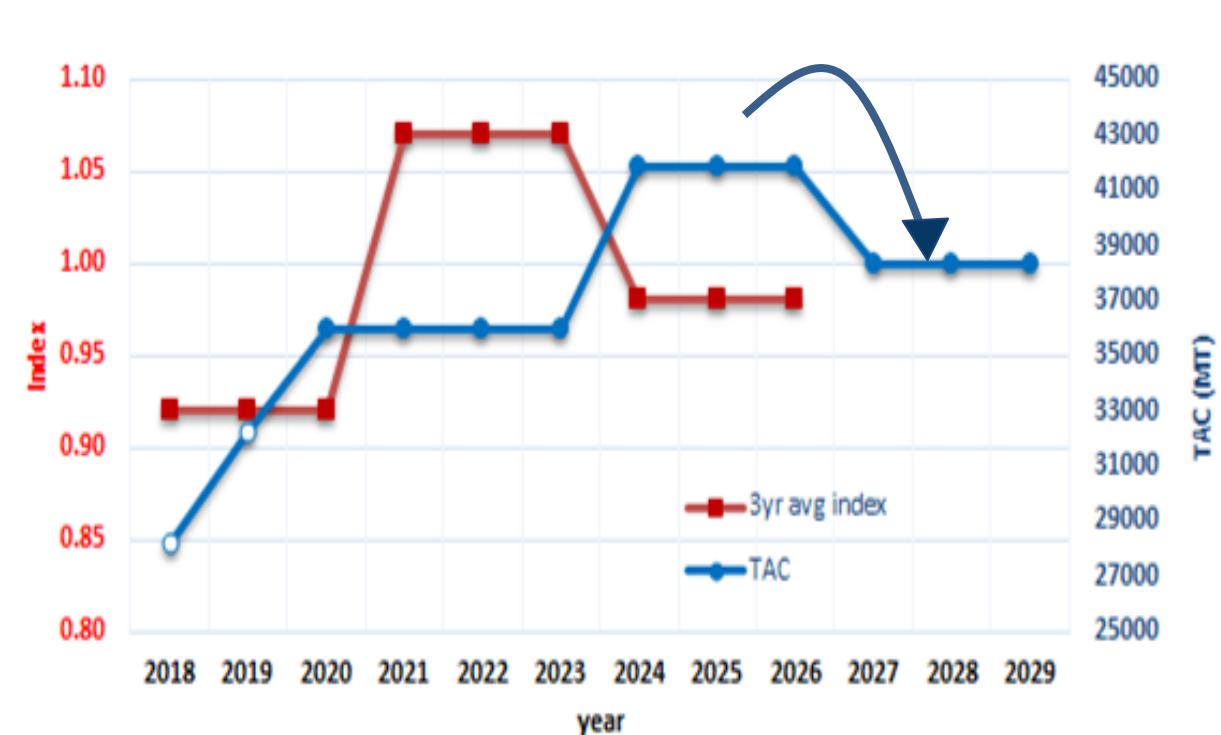
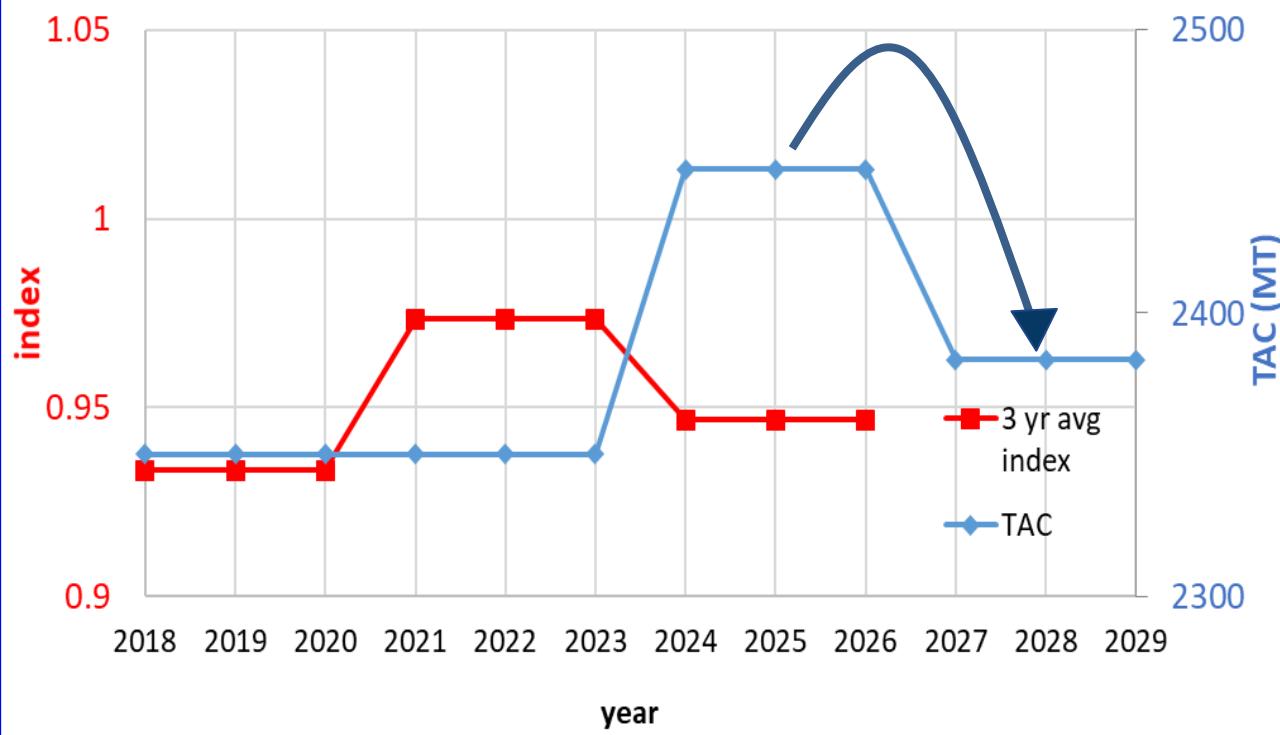


Conceptual vision for a Bluefin Management Procedure

WEST

EAST

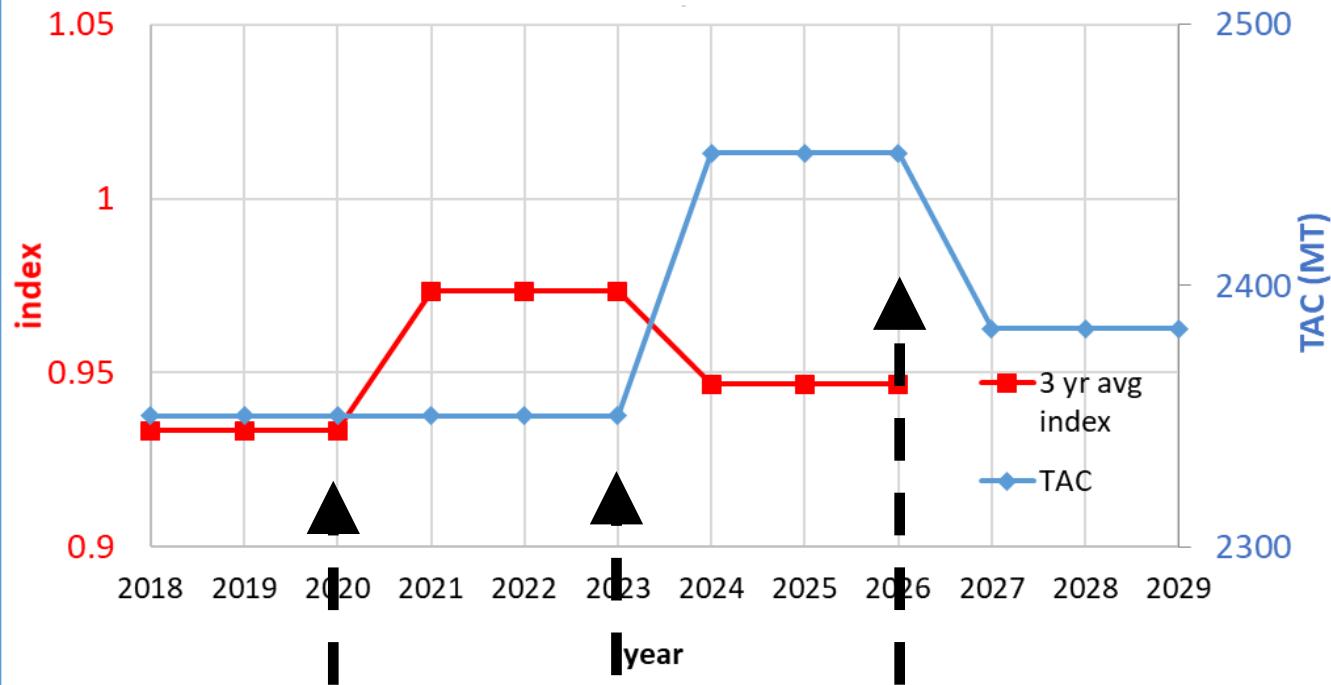
index decreases, TAC decreases



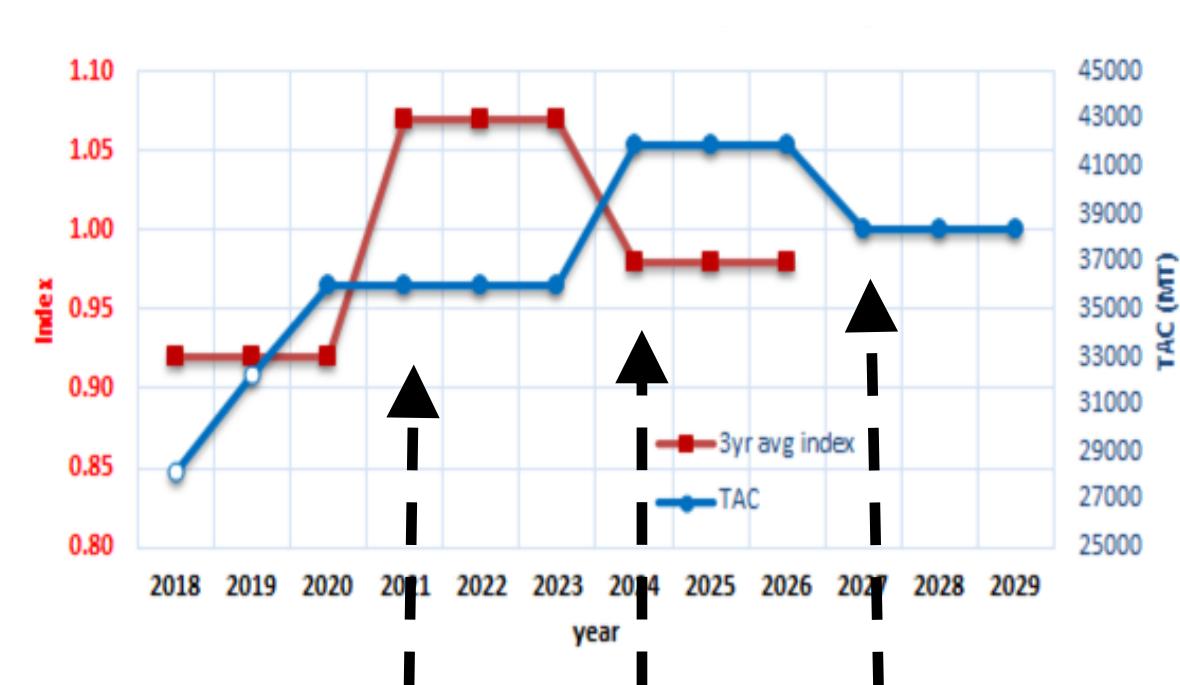
Conceptual vision for a Bluefin Management Procedure

WEST

TAC set every three years



EAST

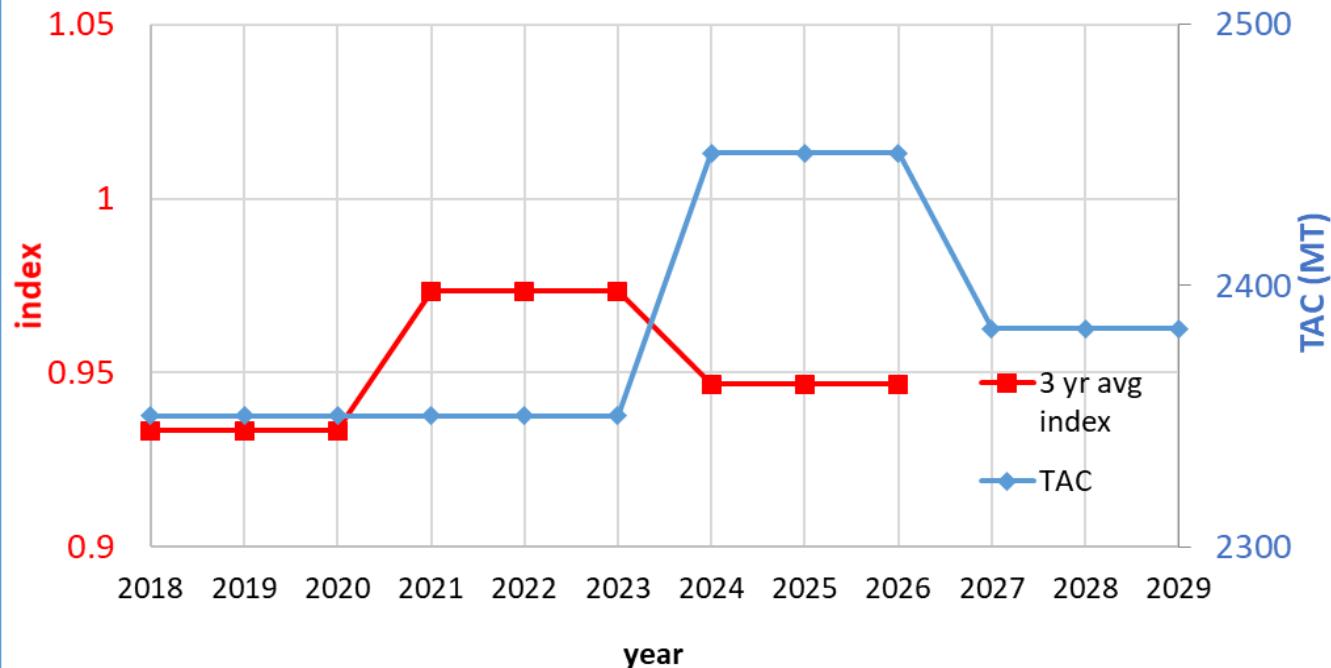


At pre-specified intervals Commission adopts a new TAC, based on pre-agreed Management Procedure

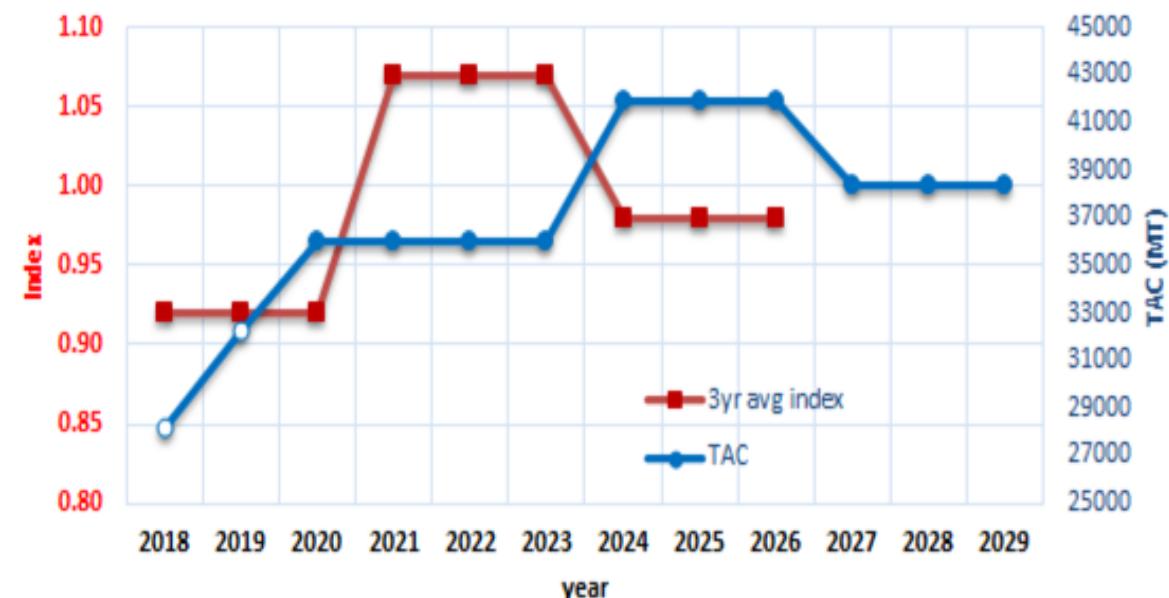
Conceptual vision for a Bluefin Management Procedure

WEST

TAC set every three years



EAST



- Adopted MP would have been simulation tested
- To have high probability of achieving **Operational Management Objectives**
- Process has inherent stability, uses terminal year TAC, % change usually limited
- Routine, but less frequent stock assessments would continue

Candidate Management Procedures (9)



CMP	Indices used		Formulae for calculating TACs	References
	EAST	WEST		
FZ	FR AER SUV2 JPN LL NEAtl2 W-MED LAR SUV	US RR 66-144, CAN SWNS RR US-MEX GOM PLL	TACs are product of stock-specific F0.1 estimates and estimate of US-MEX GOM PLL for the West and W-MED LAR SUV for the East.	SCRS/2020/144 SCRS/2021/122
AI	All	All	Artificial intelligence MP that fishes regional biomass at a fixed harvest rate.	SCRS/2021/028
BR	FR AER SUV2 W-MED LAR SUV MOR POR TRAP JPN LL NEAtl2	GOM LAR SUV US RR 66-144 US-MEX GOM PLL JPN LL West2 CAN SWNS RR	TACs set using a relative harvest rate for a reference year (2018) applied to the 2-year moving average of a combined master abundance index.	SCRS/2021/121 SCRS/2021/152
EA	FR AER SUV2 W-MED LAR SUV MOR POR TRAP JPN LL NEAtl2	GOM LAR SUV JPN LL West2 US RR 66-144 US-MEX GOM PLL	Adjust TAC based on ratio of current and target abundance index.	SCRS/2021/032 SCRS/2021/P/046
LW	W-MED LAR SUV	GOM LAR SUV	TAC is adjusted based on comparing current relative harvest rate to reference period (2019) relative harvest rate.	SCRS/2020/127
NC	MOR POR TRAP	US-MEX GOM PLL	TAC is updated using an average of an index in recent years compared to and average in previous years. The scale of TAC increase/decrease is controlled based on the trend in catches and indices	SCRS/2021/122
PW	JPN LL NEAtl2	US-MEX GOM PLL	TAC is adjusted based on comparing current relative harvest rate to reference period (2019) relative harvest rate.	SCRS/2021/155
TC	MOR POR TRAP JPN LL NEAtl2 W-MED LAR SUV GBYP AER SUV BAR	US RR 66-144	TAC is adjusted based on F/F_{MSY} and B/B_{MSY} .	SCRS/2020/150 SCRS/2020/165
TN	JPN LL NEAtl2	US RR 66-144 JPN LL West2	Both area TACs calculated based on their respective JPN_LL moving averages, unless drastic drop of recruitment is detected by US_RR index.	SCRS/2020/151 SCRS/2021/041

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Management procedure questions

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Simulation test, Summarize Performance, Evaluate Trade-offs, and Revisit



Initial results: Tradeoff between stock status and yield

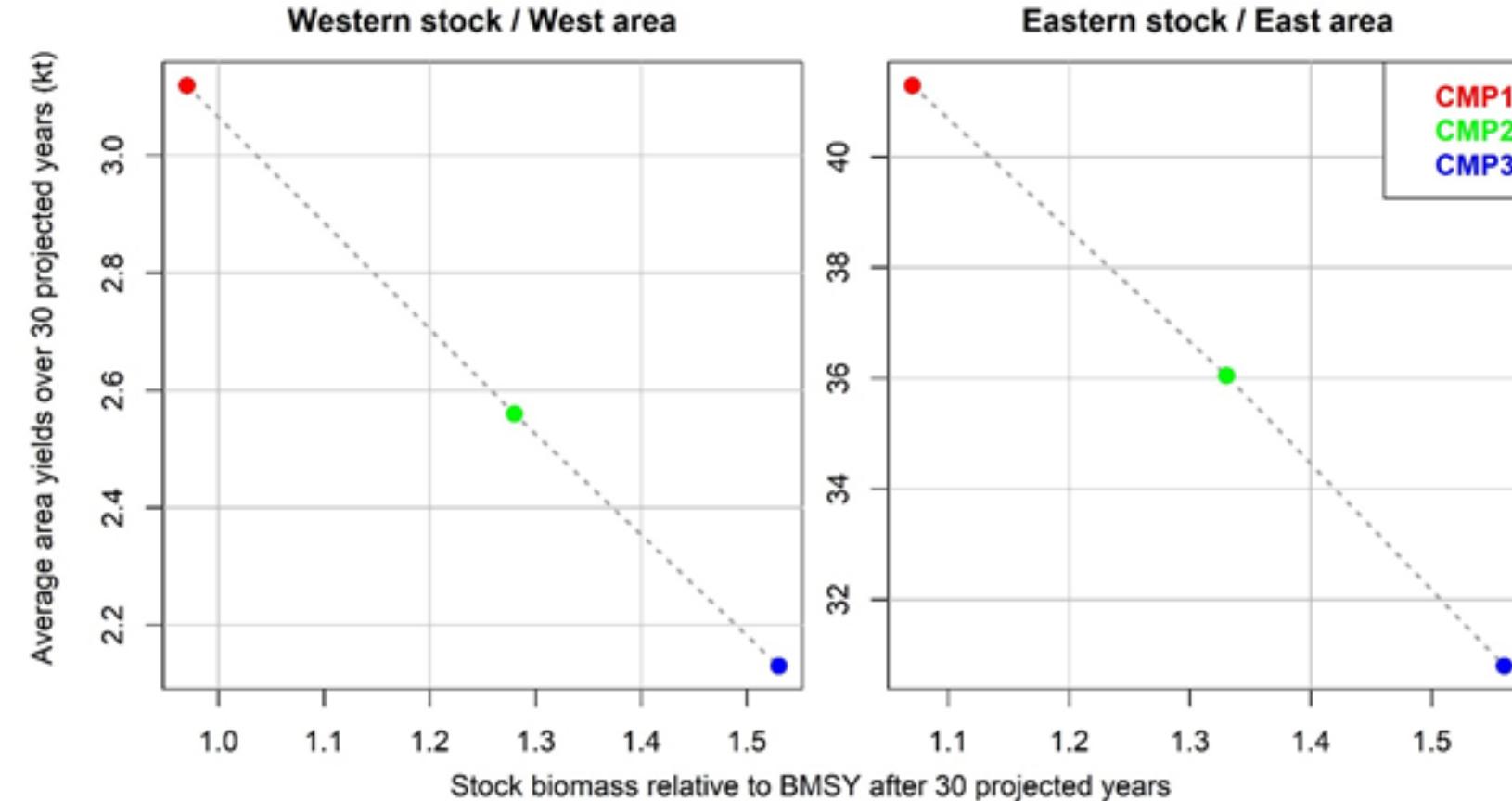


Figure 1. An example of the primary trade-off between yields (what is taken by fishing over 30 years, expressed as an annual average) and stock biomass (what remains in the resource after those 30 years) for three CMPs (CMP1 – red, CMP2 – green, CMP3 – blue). The left panel features western stock biomass (relative to B_{MSY}) on the horizontal axis and West area catch (in 1000s of tons) on the vertical axis. The right panel features eastern stock biomass (relative to B_{MSY}) on the horizontal axis and East area catch (in 1000s of tons) on the vertical axis. CMP1 has the highest catches but also the lowest eventual biomass relative to B_{MSY} . CMP3 has the lowest catches but also the highest eventual biomass relative to B_{MSY} . CMP2 has intermediate performance for both catch and biomass.



Initial results: Tradeoff between yield and variability in yield

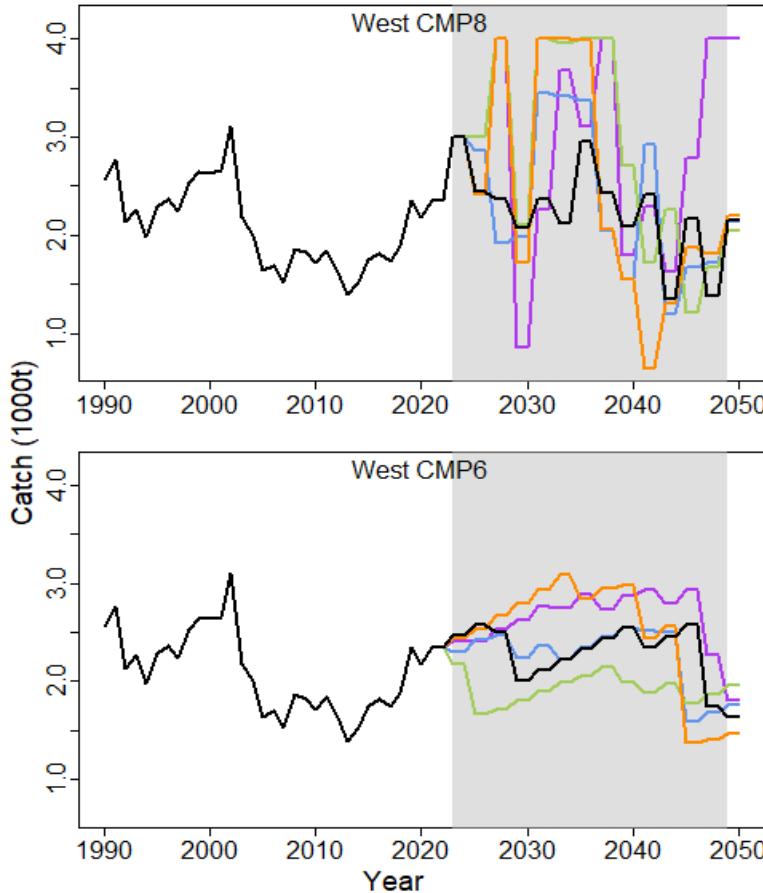
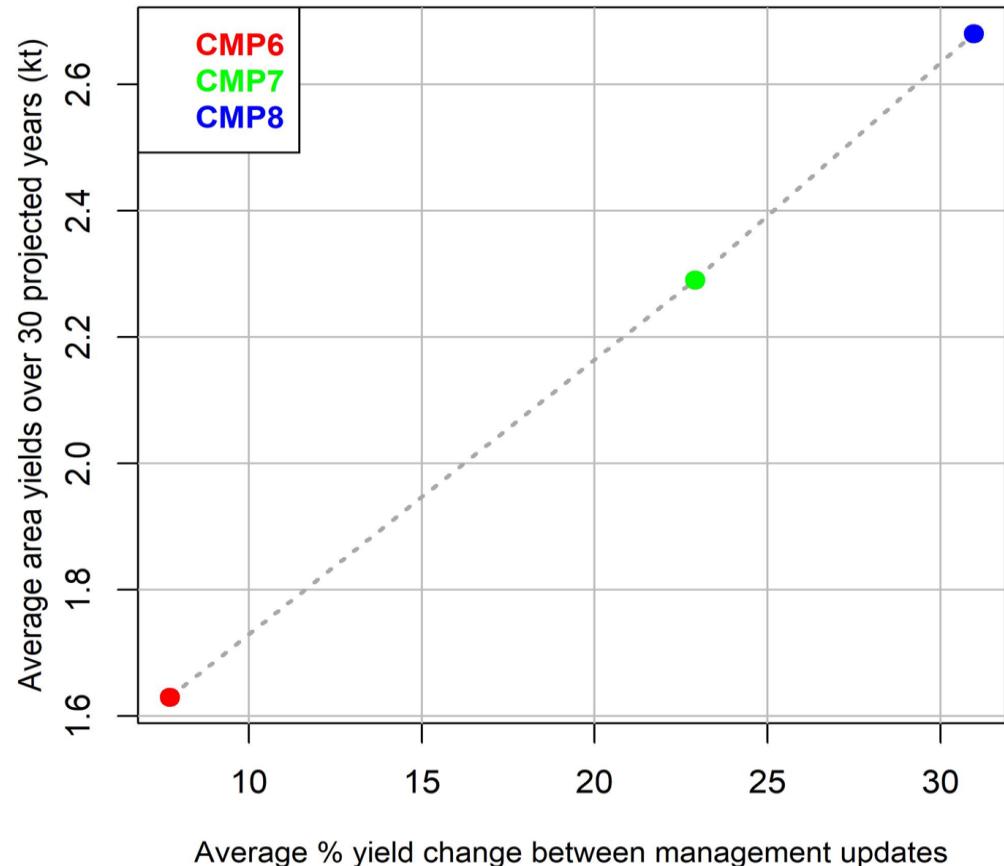
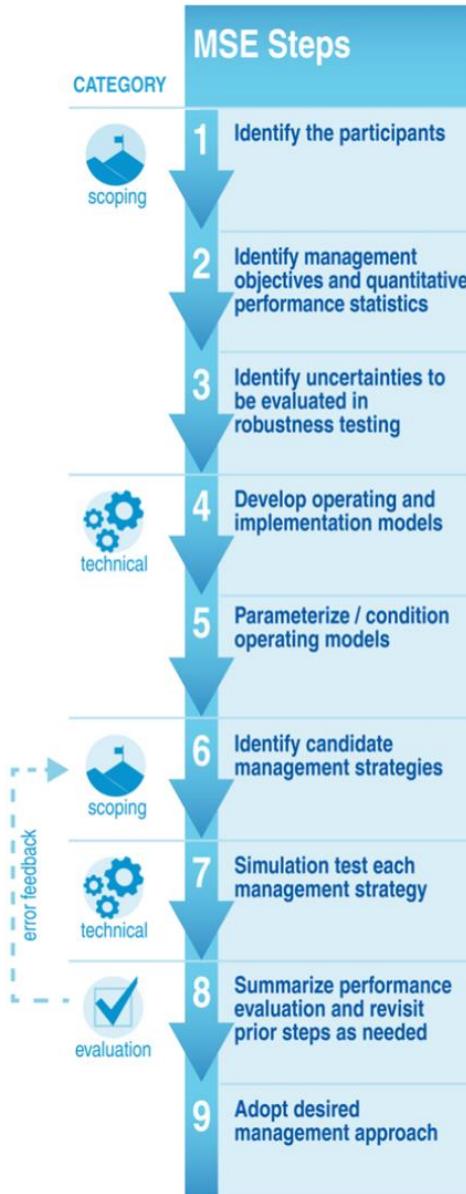


Figure 2. Performance trade-off between West area yields and yield variability. The left panel shows the tradeoff on average over the 30-year projection period across three CMPs (CMP6 – red, CMP7 – green, CMP8 – blue) with comparable biomass performance. Higher catches of CMP8 (upper right blue point) result in higher variability (>30%) whereas CMP6 (lower left red point) has lower but more stable catches (<10% average annual change in TAC). The right panel shows the time series of annual catches for CMP6 (bottom right) and CMP8 (top right) for the 30-year projection period (shaded), as well as the historical period. Each of the five lines depict projections from five different possible future realities (arising mainly from differences in future recruitments) generated from one operating model to display the potential variability. The tighter cluster of runs in CMP6 illustrates the greater stability in catches compared to CMP8 with its higher average yield, demonstrating the trade-off between yield and yield variability.



Next Steps - 2022



ICCAT Commission & SCRS workplan toward 2022 adoption

November 2021 Panel 2
MSE meeting &
Commission meeting

2022

**March Commission
Panel 2 meeting**

Dec.-Feb. **BFT MSE TT**. CMP
developers incorporate
Commission P2 advice

May/June Panel 2 meeting

May/June **BFT MSE TT CMP**
Developers incorporate P2 advice

April BFT WG intersessional

**June/Sept BFT WG intersessional .
Species Groups/SCRS.** Finalize
CMPs incorporating feedback
from **P2/SWGSM**

October/November Panel 2 / November Commission
SCRS Present to Commission CMPs, Commission adopts
an interim MP at the Annual Meeting



Draft November PA2 Agenda

1. BFT MSE essentials
2. Overview of MP implementation
3. Brief overview of candidate management procedures
4. Illustrating the tradeoff space
5. Decision points on operational management objectives & performance statistics
6. What to expect in 2022
7. Nature of SCRS/Panel 2 dialogue



Key Discussion Points for PA2

- Acceptable ranges in tradeoffs (e.g., catch vs. biomass, catch vs. stability)
- Refinement of operational management objectives and associated performance statistics
- CMP structure (e.g., TAC setting interval, limitations on max/min TAC and catch stability)
- Reference points, including a potential limit reference point for stock size (B_{LIM})



Key MSE documents

1. BFT MSE summary 4-page
2. BFT MSE summary 1-page

Other Resources

[Harveststrategies.org](https://harveststrategies.org)

MSE outreach materials (multiple languages)



[Atlantic Bluefin Tuna MSE splash page, including interactive Shiny App \(Eng only\)](#)



Atlantic Bluefin Tuna MSE

Tom Carruthers tom@bluematterscience.com

28 July, 2021



Documentation

[Trial Specifications Doc \(.docx\)](#)

[Trial Specifications Doc \(.pdf\)](#)

[CMP Developers Guide \(.html\)](#)

Shiny App

[Latest version](#)

[Legacy \(2020\) version](#)

R package

[ABTMSE R Package](#)

Operating Model Reports

Summary Reports

[Low length comp fit OM comparison \(.html\)](#)

[High length comp fit OM comparison \(.html\)](#)

Index Statistic Summary Reports

[Low length comp fit index stats \(.html\)](#)

[High length comp fit index stats \(.html\)](#)

Individual OM Diagnostic Reports

[Reference Grid OM summary and individual reports \(.html\)](#)

[Robustness Set OM OM summary and individual reports \(.html\)](#)

Meeting reports

[September 2020 Second Intersessional Meeting of the ICCAT ABT MSE technical group \(ENG\) \(.pdf\)](#)

[April 2021 First Intersessional Meeting of the Bluefin Tuna Species Group \(ENG\) \(.pdf\)](#)

Acknowledgements

This work was carried out under the provision of the ICCAT Atlantic Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP), funded by the European Union, several ICCAT CPs, the ICCAT Secretariat and by other entities (see <http://www.iccat.int/GBYP/en/Budget.htm>). The contents of these materials do not necessarily reflect the point of view of ICCAT or other funders and in no ways anticipate ICCAT future policy in this area.



Extra material

Appendix D. Key terminology used in this document

Limit reference point (LRP): A benchmark for an indicator that defines an undesirable biological state of the stock such as the B_{lim} or the biomass limit which is undesirable to be below. To keep the stock safe, the probability of violating an LRP should be very low.

Management objectives: Formally adopted social, economic, biological, ecosystem, and political (or other) goals for a stock and fishery. They include high-level or conceptual objectives often expressed in legislation, conventions or similar documents. They must also include operational objectives that are specific and measurable, with associated timelines. When management objectives are referenced in the context of management procedures, the latter, more specific definition applies, but sometimes conceptual objectives are adopted first (e.g., Rec. 18-03 for ABFT).

Management procedure (MP): Some combination of monitoring, assessment, harvest control rule and management action designed to meet the stated objectives of a fishery, and which has been simulation tested for performance and adequate robustness to uncertainties. Also known as a harvest strategy.

Management strategy evaluation (MSE): A simulation-based, analytical framework used to evaluate the performance of multiple management procedures relative to the pre-specified management objectives.

Operating model (OM): A model representing a plausible scenario for stock and fishery dynamics that is used to simulation test the management performance of CMPs. Multiple models will usually be considered to reflect the uncertainties about the dynamics of the resource and fishery, thereby testing the robustness of management procedures.

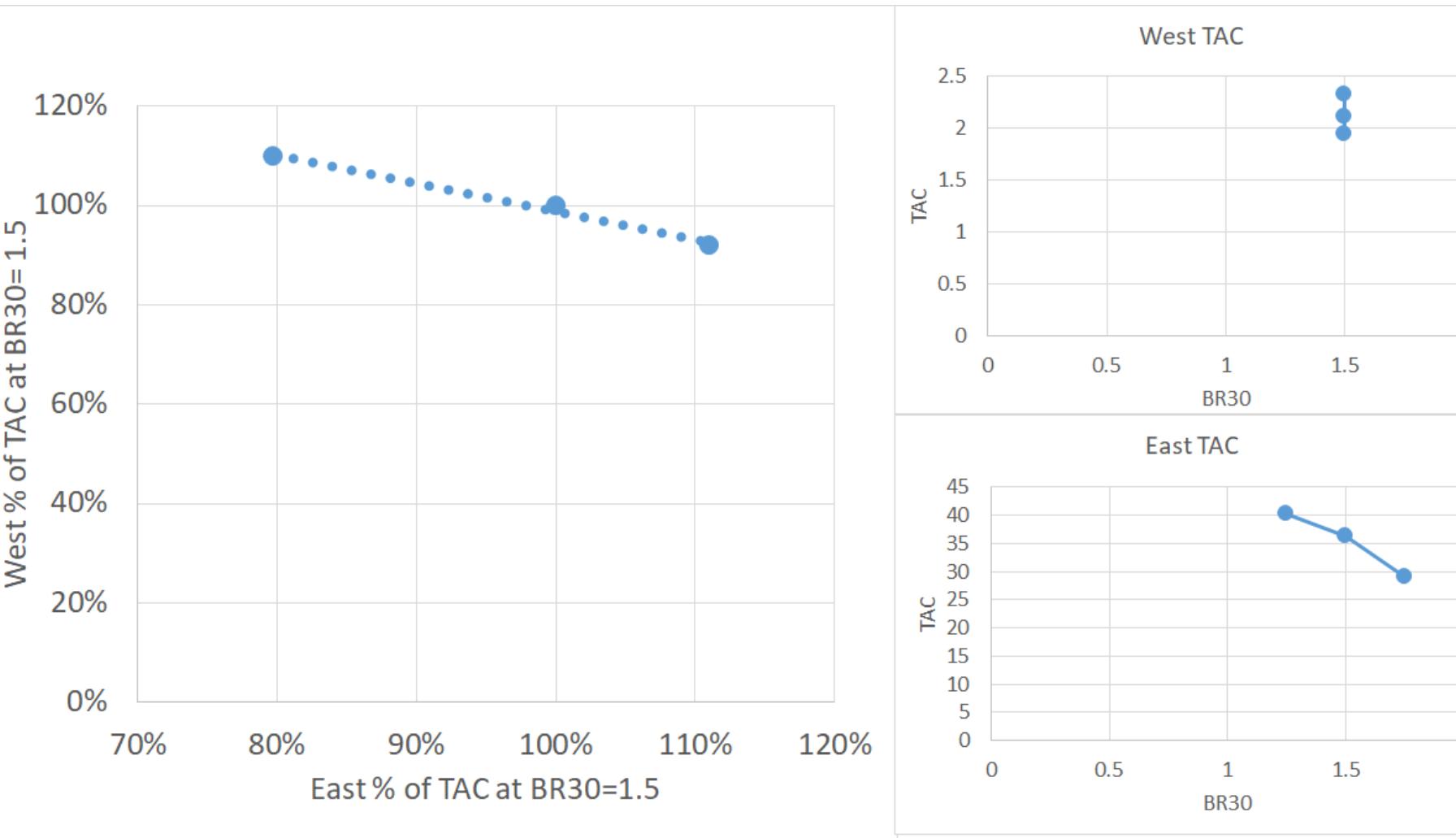
Performance statistic: A quantitative expression of a management objective used to evaluate how well an objective is being achieved by determining the proximity of the current value of the statistic to the objective. Also known as a performance metric or performance indicator.

Reference Grid: The operating models that represent the most important uncertainties in stock and fishing dynamics, which are used as the principal basis for evaluating CMP performance. The reference operating models are specified according to factors (e.g., natural mortality rate) that have multiple levels (possible scenarios for each factor, e.g., high / low natural mortality rate). Reference operating models are organized in a usually fully crossed orthogonal 'grid' of all factors and levels.

Robustness Set: Other potentially important uncertainties in stock and fishing dynamics may be included in a Robustness Set of operating models that provide additional tests of CMP performance robustness. They can be used to further discriminate between CMPs. Compared to the Reference Grid operating models, the Robustness Set models will be typically less plausible and/or influential on performance.



Initial results: Tradeoff between East and West



One natural concern with mixed stock fisheries is that what happens with one stock affects the other.

With many eastern fish in west, a different TAC for the east area will have some impact on the west TAC.

Indications thus far are that this effect will probably not be too large.

In this figure, for one example CMP, we see that the main sensitivity lies on the original East yield vs East status.

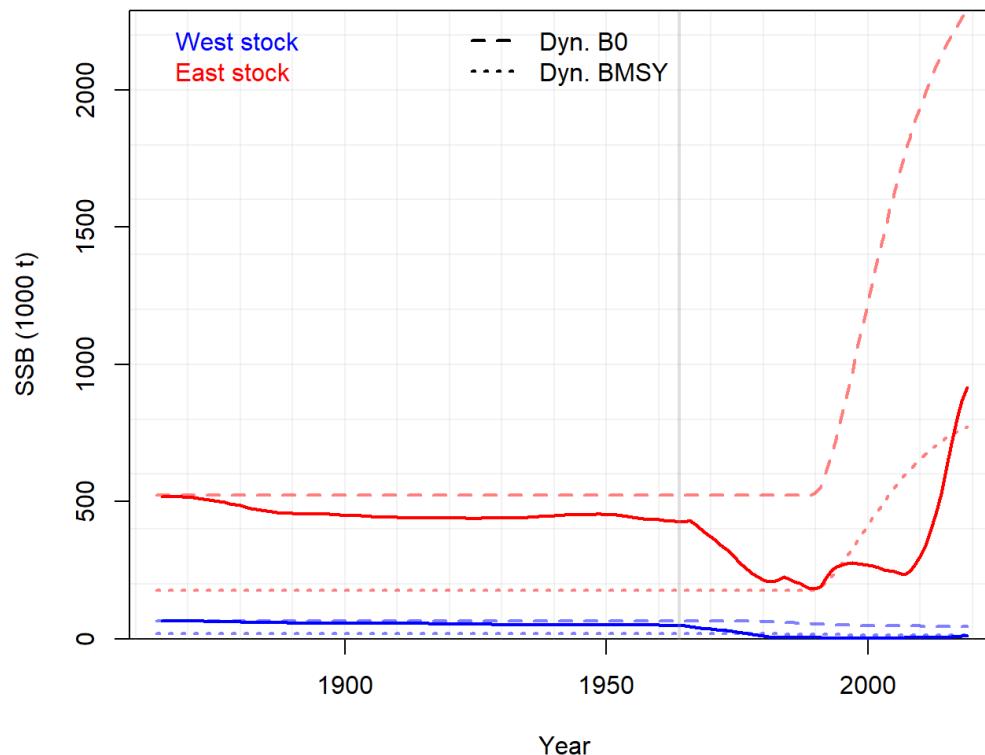
West status is fixed at the same BR30 but it is East yield that varies most, with much less sensitivity on West yield.

We will expand on this further as CMPs are refined during 2022



Dynamic Bmsy:

Dynamic unfished spawning biomass (Dyn. B0) is calculated using year-specific estimates of unfished recruitment (depending on which R0 phase the model is in) assuming that there was zero fishing (ie it lags shifts in productivity). Dynamic BMSY is a fixed fraction of B0 based on the most recent estimates of BMSY relative to unfished (the steepness parameter assumed for 2016). Since in some operating models, R0 is changing over time, the maximum achievable level of stock biomass is also changing and keeping track of dynamic B0 provide a realistic yardstick for evaluating management performance.



This is for OM1 which has a regime shift where the Eastern stock recruitment shifts from medium to high and the Western stock recruitment shifts from high to low.

The resulting B0 and Bmsy are dynamic and shift commensurately but with a lag