

Draft metarules for the Cape Town Management Procedure

Prepared for the 2020 OMMP meeting, June 2020.

Introduction

The metarules specified for the Bali Procedure (att10 ESC 2013) have been slightly updated for the Cape Town Management Procedure. Changes are highlighted. These meta-rules provide a safety net around implementation of the MP.

Metarule Process

Preamble

Metarules can be thought of as a set of conventions for the implementation of the Management Procedure. This includes pre-specified "rules" which prespecify what should happen in unlikely, exceptional circumstances when application of the total allowable catch (TAC) generated by the management procedure (MP) is considered to be highly risky or highly inappropriate. Metarules are not a mechanism for making small adjustments, or 'tinkering' with the TAC from the MP. It is difficult to provide ~~firm~~ very specific definitions of, and be sure of including all possible, exceptional circumstances. Instead, a process for determining whether exceptional circumstances exist and whether the implication(s) arising from them is sufficiently severe to warrant revising the TAC advice from the MP is described below. The need for invoking exceptional circumstances provisions a ~~metarule~~ should only be evaluated at the ESC based on information presented and reviewed at the ESC.

All examples given in this document are meant to be illustrative and are not ~~NOT~~ meant as complete or exhaustive lists.

Process to determine whether exceptional circumstances exist

Every year the ESC will:

- Review stock and fishery indicators, and any other relevant data or information on the stock and fishery; and
- Consider and examine whether the inputs to the MP are affected
- Consider if the population dynamics are potentially substantially different from those for which the MP was tested (as defined by the 2019 Reference set of OMs)
- Consider if the fishery or fishing operations have changed substantially
- Consider if recent catches and other removals have been greater than the MP's recommended TACs
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On the basis of this review, determine whether there is evidence for exceptional circumstances.

Examples of what might constitute an exceptional circumstance include, but are not limited to:

- A gene-tagging juvenile abundance estimate Recruitment, or a series of recruitment values outside the range¹ for which the MP was tested (ie. the 2019 reference set of OMs);
- A scientific aerial survey or CPUE result outside the range for which the MP was tested;

- Substantial improvements in knowledge, or new knowledge, concerning the dynamics of the population which would have an appreciable effect on the operating models used to test the existing MP; and
- Missing input data for the MP, resulting in an inability to calculate a TAC from the MP (i.e. consistent with the manner in which it was tested).

Every three years (not coinciding with years when a new TAC is calculated from the MP) the ESC will:

- Conduct an in-depth stock assessment; and
- On the basis of the assessment, indicators and any other relevant information, determine whether there is evidence for exceptional circumstances (an example of exceptional circumstances would be if the stock assessment was substantially outside the range of simulated stock trajectories considered in MP evaluations, calculated under the reference set of operating models).

Every six years (not coinciding with years when a new TAC is calculated from the MP) the ESC will:

- Review the performance of the MP; and
- On the basis of the review determine whether the MP is on track to meet the rebuilding objective or a new MP is required.

If the ESC concludes that there is no or insufficient evidence for exceptional circumstances, the ESC will:

- Report to the Extended Commission that exceptional circumstances do not exist.

If the ESC has agreed that exceptional circumstances exist, the ESC will:

- Determine the severity of the exceptional circumstances; and
- Follow the "Process for Action".

Process for Action

Having determined that there is evidence of exceptional circumstances, the ESC will in the same year:

- Consider the severity of the exceptional circumstances (for example, how severely "out of bounds" is the CPUE);
- Follow the Principles for Action (see below);
- Formulate advice on the action required (for example, there may be occasions, if there appears to be 'exceptional circumstances', but the severity is deemed to be low, when the advice is not for an immediate change in TAC, but rather a trigger for a review of the MP or collection of ancillary data to be reviewed at the next ESC); and
- Report to the Extended Commission that exceptional circumstances exist and provide advice on the action to take.

The Extended Commission will:

- Consider the advice from the ESC; and
- Decide on the action to take.

Principles for Action

If the risk is to the stock, principles may be:

- a) The MP-derived TAC should be an upper bound;
- b) Action should be at least an x% change to the TAC, depending on severity.

If the risk is to the fishery, principles may be:

- a) The MP-derived TAC could be a minimum;
- b) Action should be at least an x% change to the TAC, depending on severity.

An urgent updated assessment and review of indicators will take place, with projections from that assessment providing the basis to select the value of the x% referred to above.

ⁱ The "range" refers to 95% probability intervals for projections for the index in question made using the reference set ("grid") of the operating models during the testing of the MP ([i.e. 2019 operating models](#)).