

**INITIAL SUGGESTIONS REGARDING A PROCEDURE TO BE ADOPTED FOR
REVIEW OF AN OMP FOR HAKE**

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BACKGROUND

In its process of developing a new OMP for hake, the Demersal Working Group has asked that proposals be drafted to clarify the circumstances under which any OMP adopted might be reviewed and consequently possibly modified.

The Annex attached is an extract from the specification document for a Management Procedure (OMP-equivalent) whose adoption by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) is now imminent. This extract deals with two issues:

- Circumstances under which a scientific recommendation for a TAC differing from the Management Procedure output might be given
- Circumstances under which a review of the Management Procedure itself might be initiated

It is suggested that this extract serve as a template for the development of similar specifications for the hake OMP currently under development (indeed it might usefully serve this purpose for other SA fisheries for which scientific recommendations are based on OMPs as well).

To that end, an adaptation of the Annex pertinent to a hake OMP is under development and will shortly be circulated. This document is circulated now for the information of others also involved in drafting proposals concerning an OMP review process.

Correspondences

To aid in reading the Annex in the context of adaptation for hake, it is necessary to be aware of some different circumstances and terminology that apply in the SBT case. To this end a set of (possible) correspondences is outlined below.

SBT

TACs set every *three* years

In-depth assessment: every *three* years

Mandatory MP review: every *nine* years

Management Procedure (MP)

SAG/SC (Scientific Committee + sub-group)

Commission/CCSBT

Member or independent panel

OM (operating model(s) used to test MP)

HAKE

TACs set *annually*

Every *two* years (to be proposed)

Every *four* years (to be proposed)

OMP

MCM Demersal WG

Director Research: MCM

Member or observer of WG

Ditto for OMP testing

ANNEX

Extract from: CCSBT Management Procedure Specification

3. Metarule Process

Metarules can be thought of as “rules” which prespecify what should happen in unlikely, exceptional circumstances when application of the TAC generated by the 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 definitions of, and be sure of including all possible, exceptional circumstances. Instead, a process for determining whether exceptional circumstances exists is described below. The need for invoking a metarule should only be evaluated at the SAG/SC based on information presented and reviewed at the SAG/SC. (Note: All examples provided are illustrative, and not meant as complete or exhaustive lists.)

3.1 *Description of Process to Determine Whether Exceptional Circumstances Exist*

Except for identifying broad circumstances that may invoke the metarules process, it is not possible to pre-specify the data that may trigger a metarule. If a Member or the independent panel is to propose an exceptional circumstances review, then that Member or the panel must outline the reasons why they believe exceptional circumstances exist and must either indicate where the data are found supporting the review or they must supply those data in advance of the SAG/ESC meeting.

Every year the SAG will:

- Review stock and fishery indicators, and any other relevant data or information on the stock and fishery.
- On the basis of this, determine whether there is evidence for exceptional circumstances.

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

- Recruitment well outside the ranges for which the MP was tested)
- CPUE trends that are notably outside the bounds predicted in the MP testing.

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

- Conduct an in depth stock assessment
- On the basis of the assessment, indicators and any other relevant information, determine whether there is evidence for exceptional circumstances (a core example of exceptional circumstances here is if the stock assessment is substantially outside the range of simulated stock trajectories considered in MP evaluations).

(Every year) IF the SAG concludes that there is no or insufficient evidence for exceptional circumstances, the SAG will:

- Report to the SC that exceptional circumstances do not exist

The SC will consider the advice from the SAG and report to the Commission

IF the SAG has agreed that exceptional circumstances exist, the SAG will:

- Determine the severity of the exceptional circumstances
- Follow the “Process for Action” described below.

3.2. Specific issues that will be considered annually (Underlying Assumptions of the OM for the MP Testing Process)

The following critical assumptions underlying the operating model need to be monitored after MP implementation. Any substantive deviation from these underlying assumptions may constitute an exceptional circumstance (i.e. potential meta rule circumstance) and will require a review, and possible revision, of the OM:

- Catch split between the fisheries considered in projections is not substantially different from the average of catch proportions for 2001-2003 assumed in the OM.
- Selectivity of the fisheries varies within the bounds admitted in the OM.
- The relationship between CPUE and the size of the exploitable stock for the main Japanese longline fishery remains within the bounds admitted in the OM.
- Recruitment levels are within bounds projected by the OM.
- Life-history parameters remain estimated to be within the range of values assumed in the OM.

Annual comparisons should be conducted between officially reported catch weights and catches calculated from raised size data. Some of the catch data used in the MP will be calculated from raised size data and an annual comparison would ensure that a diverging trend in the catch estimates would be identified. Such annual comparisons could be conducted by the Secretariat

3.3 Description of Process for Action

Having determined that there is evidence of exceptional circumstances, the SAG will, at the same meeting/ in the same year:

- Consider the severity of the exceptional circumstances (for example, how severely “out of bounds” are the CPUEs or recruitment)
- Follow the principles for action (see examples below).
- Formulate advice on the action required (this could include an immediate change in TAC, a review of the MP or collection of ancillary data to be reviewed at the next SAG).

- Report to the SC on their suggested advice for action.

The SC will:

- Review the advice from the SAG.
- Report to the Commission that exceptional circumstances exist and provide advice on the action to take.

The Commission will:

- Consider the advice from the SC.
- Decide on the action to take.

Examples of 'Principles for Action'

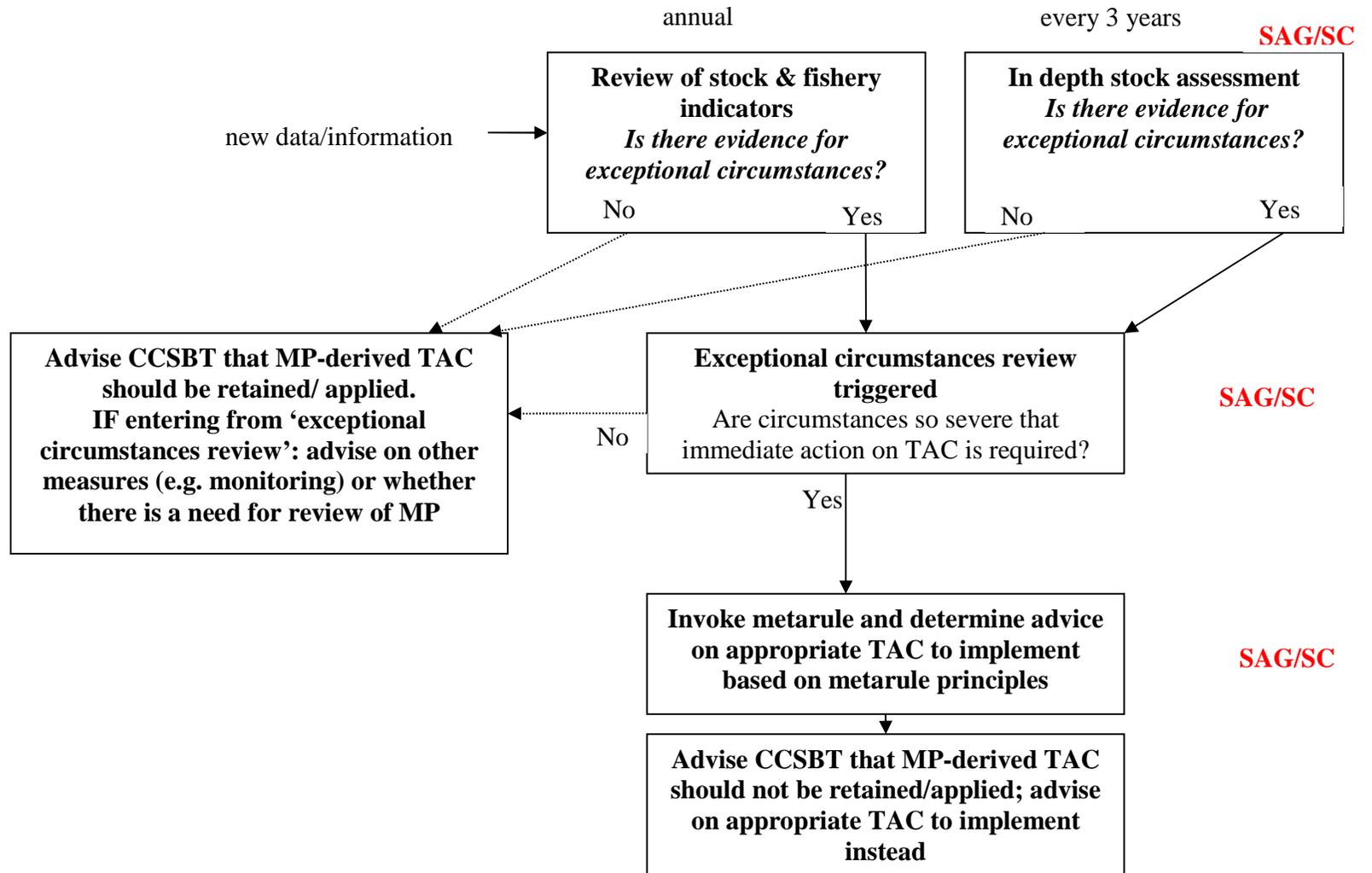
If the risk is to the stock, principles may be:

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

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

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

Figure 2: Flowchart for Metarules Process



4. Regular MP Review and Revision Process

The procedure for regular review and potential revision of the MP is the process for updating and incorporating new data, new information and knowledge into the management procedure, including the operating model. This process should happen on a relatively long time-scale to avoid jeopardising the performance of the MP, but can be initiated at any time if the SAG/SC consider that there is sufficient reason for this, and that the effect of the revision would be substantial. During the revision process the MP should still be used unless a metarule is invoked.

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

4.1 Description of Process for Regular Review

Every year the SAG will:

- Consider whether the procedure for Metarule Process has triggered a review/revision of the MP

Every three years the SAG will:

- Conduct an in depth stock assessment and review stock and fishery indicators, and any other relevant data or information on the stock and fishery.
- On the basis of this, determine whether the assessment (or other) results are outside the ranges for which the MP was tested (Note that evaluation for exceptional circumstances would be done in parallel with this process; see procedure for Metarule Process), and whether this is sufficient to trigger a review/revision of the MP.
- Consider whether the procedure for Metarule Process triggered a review / revision of the MP.

Every nine years since the last revision of the MP the SAG will:

- Review whether we have learned enough to appreciably improve/change the operating model, or improve the performance of the MP, or to provide new advice on tuning level (the achievability of management objectives).
- On the basis of this, whether the new information is sufficient to trigger a review/revision of the MP.

In any year, IF the SAG concludes that there is sufficient new information to trigger a review/revision of the MP, the SAG will:

- Outline the work plan and timeline (e.g. over a period of 2-3 years) envisaged for conducting a review.
- Report to the SC that a review/revision of the MP is required with details of the proposed work plan and timeline.

- Confirm to the SC that the MP can still be applied while the revision process is being completed.

In any year, IF the SAG concludes that there is no need to commence a review/revision of the MP, the SAG will:

- Report to the SC that a review/revision of the MP is not yet required.

The SC will:

- Consider the advice from the SAG, and if the SC agrees with the SAG, prepare a report to the Commission:
- Summarising the need for a review/revision.
- Proposed work plan and timeline.
- Budgetary implications.
- Confirm to the Commission that the MP can still be applied while the revision process is being completed.

The Commission will:

- Review the report from the SC.
- Decide whether to initiate the review/revision process.

Figure 3. Flowchart for Review and Revision Process

