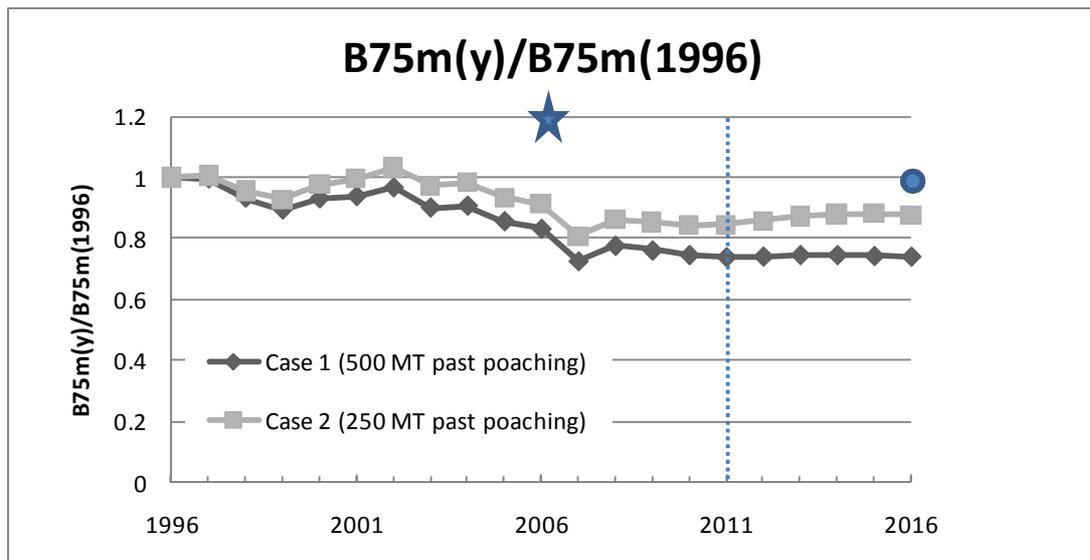


SUMMARY OF PROJECTIONS OF THE WEST COAST ROCK LOBSTER RESOURCE

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Figure 1 below provides a summary of assessments and projections carried out thus far in the process of revising the west coast rock lobster OMP. The OMP itself has yet to be revised, so that the projections below have assumed continuation of the existing OMP (though making allowance for introduction of a subsistence sector). There is currently uncertainty about the extent to which poaching has increased over the last two years, and the median trajectories below reflect a form of averaging over the range of this uncertainty. There is also debate concerning the level of poaching in the past, and the two plots shown reflect results for the extremes of the range in this debate.

The specification of a resource recovery target will be of key importance in the OMP revision process. Figure 1 shows the two previous recovery targets set in 1996 and in 2007. It is clear that neither has been achieved, and in broad terms that the resource has declined since 1996. In present circumstances, achieving some reasonable extent of recovery (at the median level) over the coming decade will require a substantial reduction in the TAC. Specific trade-off tabulations of TAC reduction vs extent of recovery will be presented as the process of OMP revision develops further.



★ Recovery target set in 1996

● Recovery target set in 2007

Figure 1: Coast-wide male rock lobster biomass above 75mm carapace length relative to level in 1996. Trajectories are shown for assessments conducted in 2011 using the most recent resource monitoring data available. Projections from 2011 to 2016 are medians of distributions calculated under the assumption of continued application of the current OMP, and involve averaging over a range of assumptions for recent increases in poaching. Results are shown for two assumptions for past poaching levels. The plot also shows median target recovery levels set in 1996 and as revised in 2007.