

Initial results from the development of a new OMP 2020 for Tristan da Cunha island rock lobster resource

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Executive Summary

The first aspect one needs to consider when examining future candidate OMPs for any resource is the current status of the stock. The updated 2020 Tristan rock lobster assessment estimates current levels of spawning biomass to be 75% of pre-exploitation (or pristine) levels (Johnston and Butterworth 2020). This is a very healthy level – the resource is under no conservation threat in terms of international fishery norms.

The two alternative 2020 candidates (CMP1 and CMP2) which have been put forward for a revised OMP incorporate all three indices of population abundance (powerboat catch rates, Edinburgh/GS catch rates and the biomass survey index value) into the TAC setting formula (the powerboat catch rates receive much the most weight, and the Edinburgh/GS relatively little).

Both CMP1 and CMP2 reflect slightly less conservation risk (of undue resource depletion) than was accepted for the current OMP 2016.

CMP1 is very similar to that current OMP, and is expected to maintain annual TACs close to 120 MT. In contrast, under CMP2 TACs would be anticipated to increase slightly over the next decade, accompanied by a slight decrease in the catch rate compared to that under CMP1. Figure 1 shows these tradeoffs graphically.

Reference

Johnston, S.J. and Butterworth, D.S. 2020. Updated 2020 Tristan rock lobster assessment. MARAM document, MARAM/Tristan/2020/FEB/04.

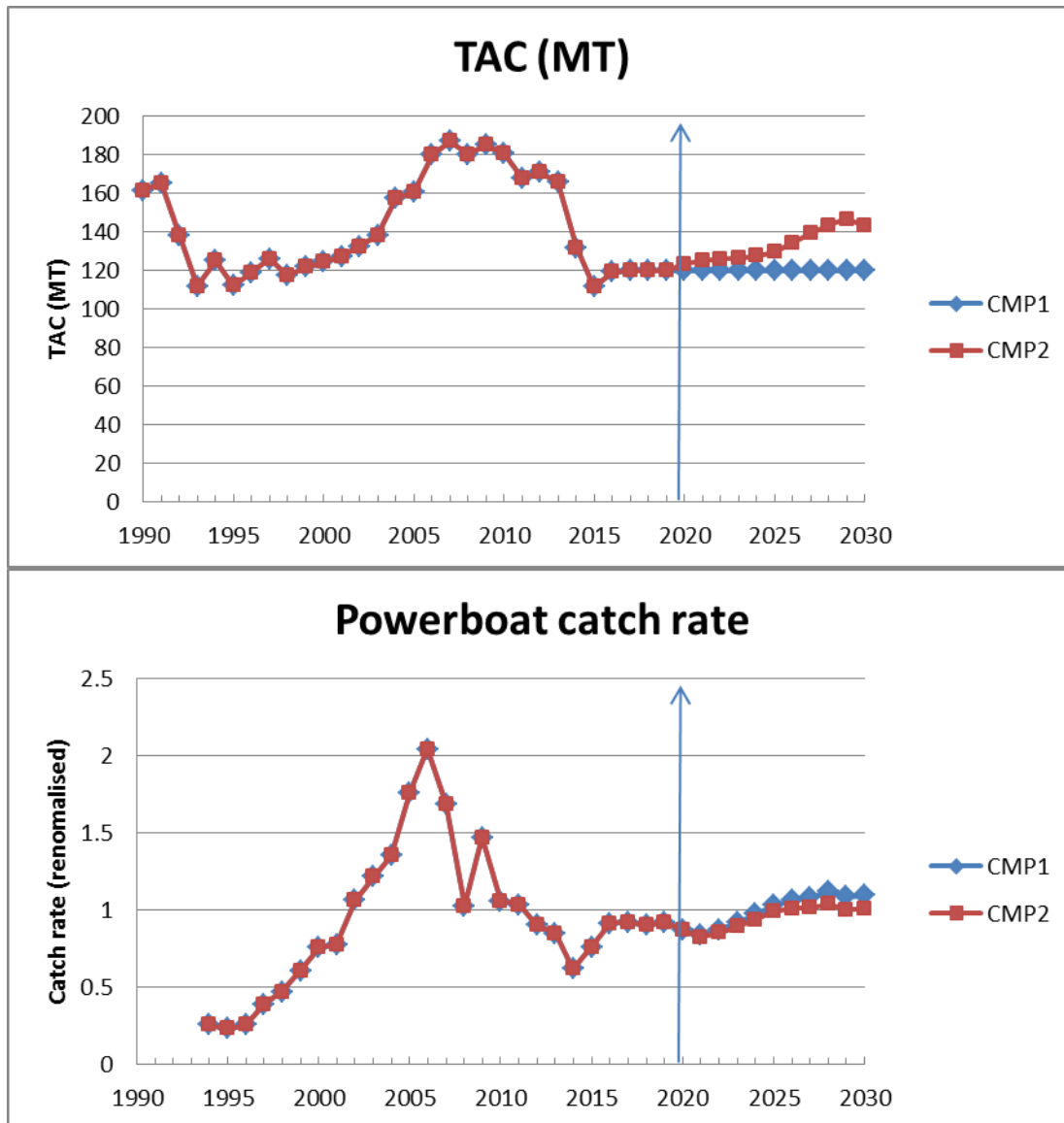


Figure 1: Anticipated TAC and powerboat catch rates over the next decade, showing the tradeoff between CMP1 and CMP2. Projections commence to the right of the vertical line.