

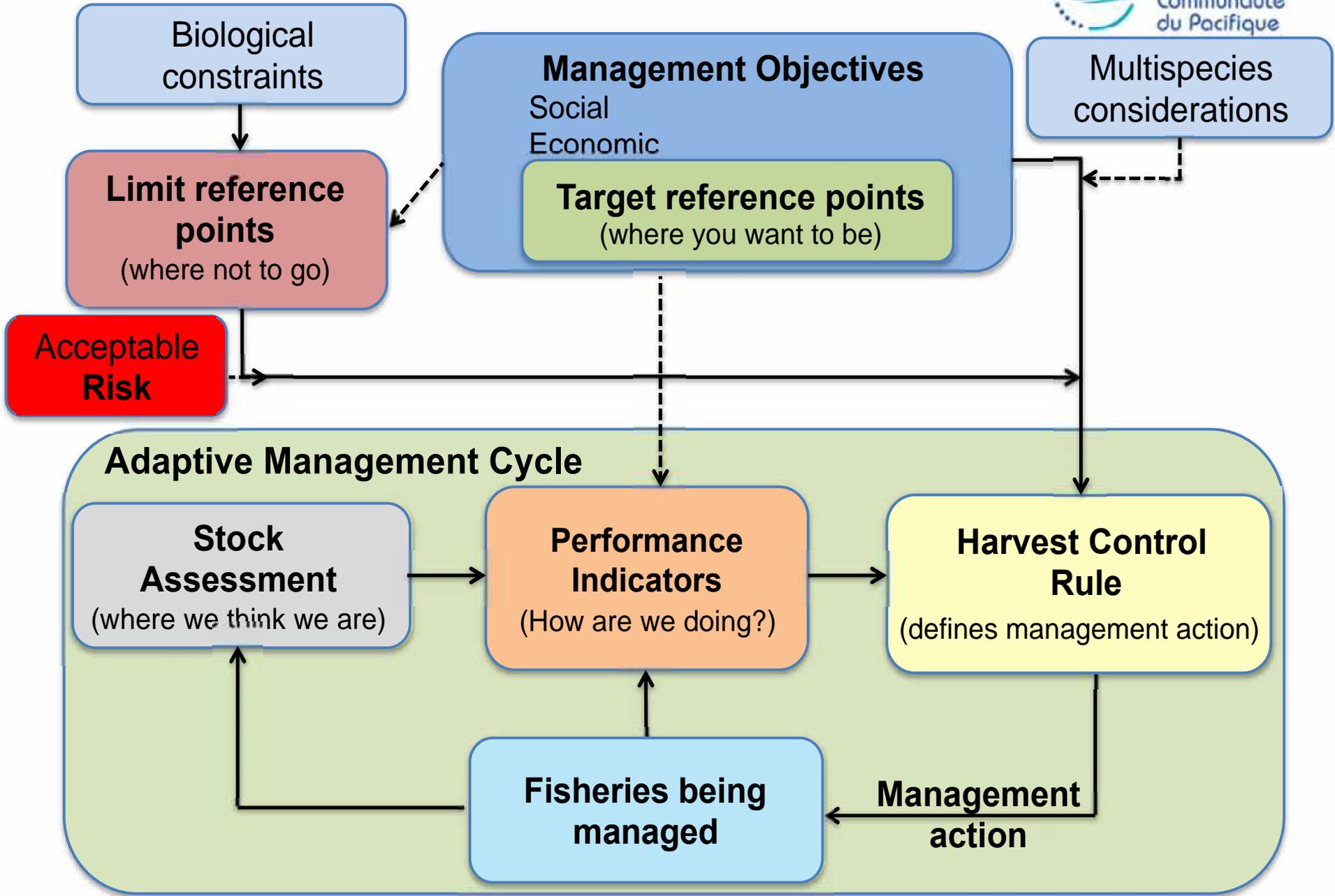


# **Report on the Harvest Strategy Workshop (MOW4)**

**30 November – 1 December**

# Previous Meetings

- **MOW1 – 2012.** The use and application of management objectives, indicators and reference points. Preliminary discussions on management objectives for key fisheries
- **MOW2 – 2013.** ‘Strawman’ with a candidate list of management objectives, PIs and TRPs for each major fishery. Maintaining viable fisheries across the extent of the stocks, management strategies for skipjack and albacore tuna, options to address bigeye tuna overfishing
- **MOW3 – 2014.** Harvest strategy-based management framework (CMM 2014-0). Preliminary advice on a proposal for a TRP for skipjack tuna and a management framework/ harvest strategy for south pacific albacore fishery.



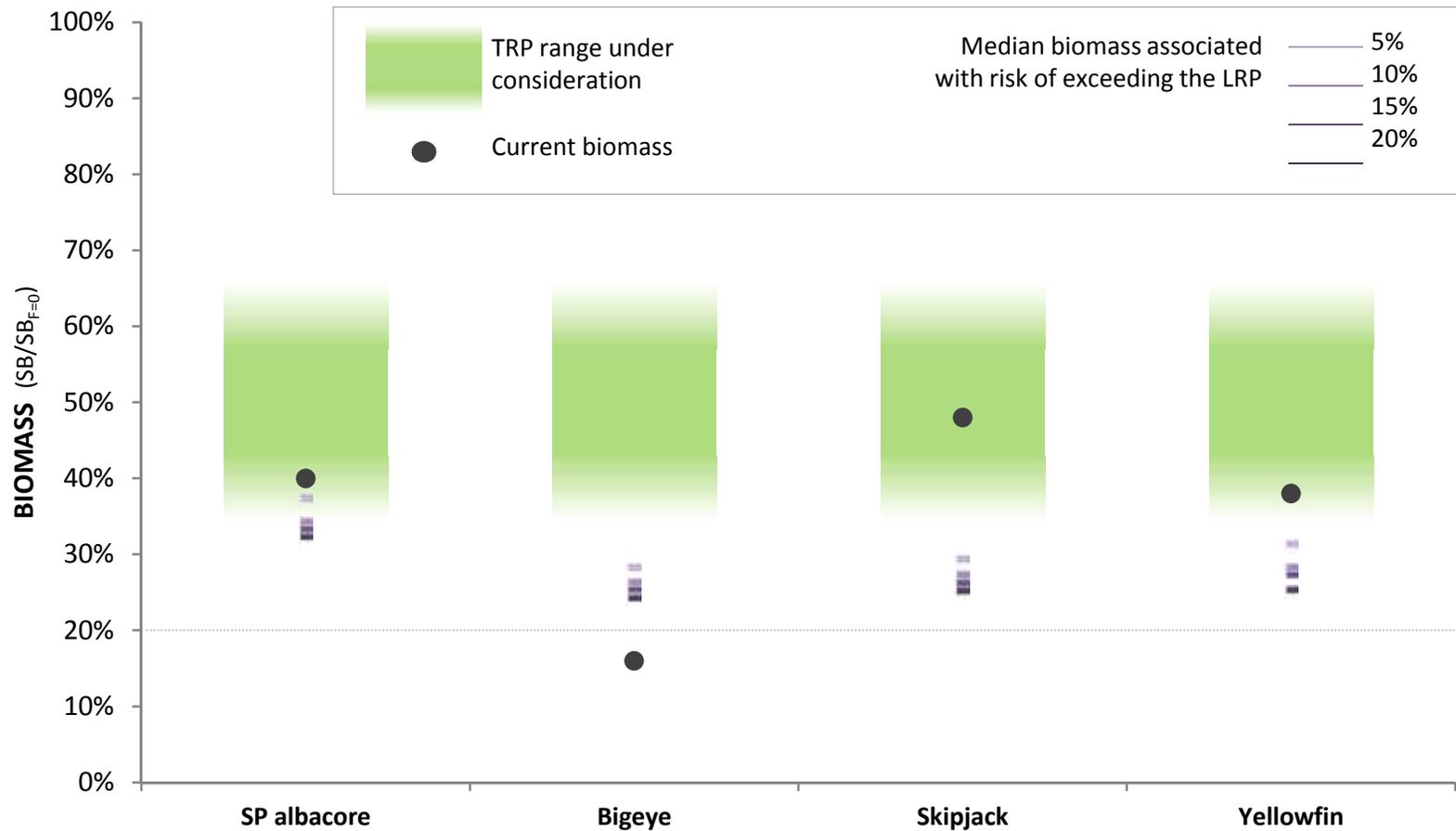
# Management strategy evaluation

- 1. A process of applying a proposed management strategy to a model of the fishery ....*
- 2. and projecting the model into the future under various scenarios to account for likely variation.....*
- 3. to see how well the strategy is likely to perform in achieving its objectives.*

# Other RFMO activities

- **ICCAT – N. Atlantic Albacore.** Objectives and generic HCR, which prescribes actions for stocks in various quadrants of the Kobe Plot. In 2006 will identify and test a variety of reference points and HCRs using MSE
- **CCSBT- Southern Bluefin.** Development and use of a management procedure and use of a meta-rule process to cover exceptional circumstances
- Most tRFMOs have embarked on a similar process

# Acceptable levels of risk for breaching an LRP



# Some discussion points

- Context important in making comparison (Atlantic albacore vs. SBT)
- Variations between RFMOs - assumptions on stock-recruitment relationships (robustness testing important); risk levels, LRPs etc
- Capacity building and engagement – role of ABNJ, regional organisations etc
- Risk levels have slipped through the cracks (in SP-ALB CMM).
- Advantageous for allocation to have been decided in advance of developing a harvest strategy – but not an essential prerequisite.

# Draft Skipjack CMM

- CMM Presentation
- Alternative CPUE-abundance dynamics in purse seine fisheries
- Harvest Control Rule

# SJ Working Group outcomes

- The proposed TRP (50%) for SJ meets a broad range of objectives by maintaining the fishery at around current levels of catch and effort
- some concern was expressed about potential impacts on artisanal/coastal fleets; difficult to quantify
- Period of review of effort settings depends on stock status; meta-rule useful model for exceptional circumstances

# SJ Working Group outcomes

- Support for limits to HCR-driven adjustments, with offsets – smaller up, larger down
- Limits on change between management periods (<< 20%)
  - Tight limits = more frequent adjustments and harder to keep in target range
  - Wide limits = less frequent but large changes may be required

# Outcomes

- Frequency of HCR evaluation – needs throughout MSE testing to provide longer periods between review
- Planned further comparison of HCRs via MSE testing; needs indicators for SC consideration – suggestions made
- HCRs can be based on economic indicators

# Draft albacore CMM

- Revised bio-economic TRPs for south Pacific albacore (SPC paper)
- Continuing to fish at recent levels leads to further stock and fishery CPUE declines, and a 20% chance of the stock falling below the LRP
- To achieve an acceptable (to FFA) risk level of 5%, the stock will need to fall marginally to 37%  $SB_{F=0}$
- The TRP at 45%  $SB_{F=0}$  results in CPUE being 17% higher than now, and “Average vessel” profit of 20% profit (@ costs of \$1.10 per hook).

# Albacore Working Group outcomes

- Many participants (especially SIDs) worry that catch rates and profits have progressively worsened in recent years (though 2015 appears to be better). This worry is independent of what the stock assessment indicates.
- Some fleets would like to maintain current catch levels (status quo). But the assessment shows this cannot be sustained.
- Proponents of draft CMM would like to transition from the current state to a stable CPUE state that would be more profitable.
- an interim TRP that will enable HS work to go on, and not necessarily agree to a specific catch reduction

# Work Plan

- As presented by Australia
- Need for flexibility and review arrangements
- Consideration of arrangements for NC

# Links between harvest strategies and CMMs

- CMMs as binding resolutions of the Commission and Resolutions, decisions, and other non-binding instruments
- The approach of using an overarching CMM consolidating CMMs containing elements of harvest strategies.
- There is a rationale for other approaches and these should be considered.
- Important that harvest strategy approach is not used by some CCMs as a means to undermine existing arrangements in the waters of SIDS

# Where to from here?

- Restructure/task existing WCPFC bodies (TCC/SC)
- Continue Harvest Strategy Workshop
- Establish an independent panel of experts to progress HS work (intersessional work, electronic)
- Extend the Commission meeting
- Shorten the Commission's agenda
- Consider options for progressing HS work including restructuring/tasking existing WCPFC bodies (TCC/SC).

# Where to from here (2)

- Suggestion as a compromise that there could be a one-day workshop following the Scientific Committee meeting.
- The issue of capacity building, given the complexity and extent of the work required, particularly for SIDs was highlighted.
- Capacity building activities should not be restricted to large, occasional regional workshops. This work should be mainstreamed through the year
- If CCMs, and in particular SIDs are to be engaged, there is a high priority need for in-country capacity building of national fisheries administrations.