Dolphin MSE:
Management Procedure (MP) design

March SAFMC meeting
2026

Key questions:

- **static vs. dynamic** management?
  - ACL; trip / bag limits; size limits

- **regional variation** (e.g., region-specific ACL, bag limits, size limits)?

- **sector variation** (e.g., private rec vs. for hire)?

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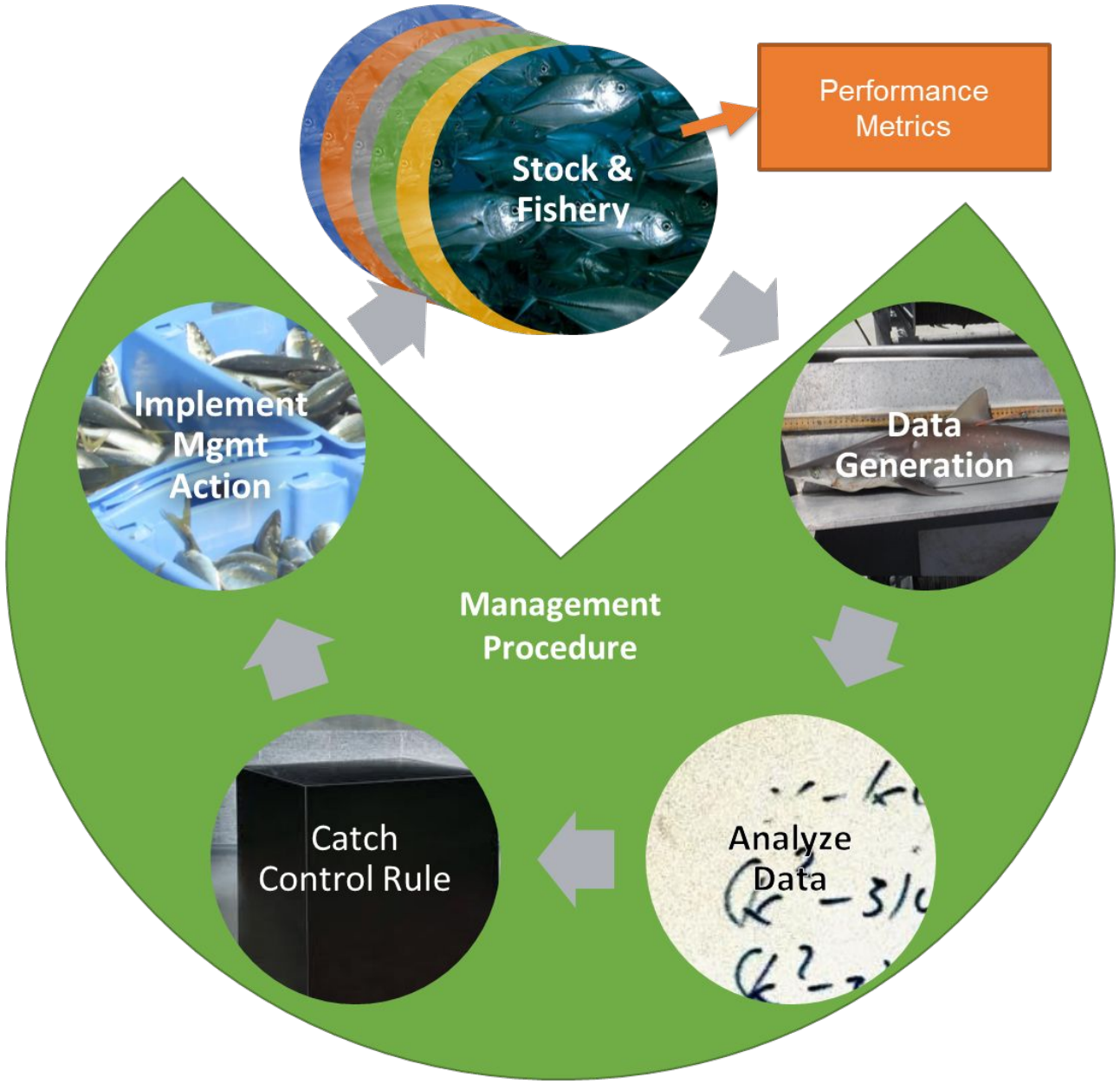

1. The Mahi Management Procedure

Static management – fixed tactical regulations that do not change over time

Adaptive / dynamic management – regulations respond to the observed behavior of the stock

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Static management – fixed tactical regulations that do not change over time
Adaptive / dynamic management – regulations respond to the observed behavior of the stock

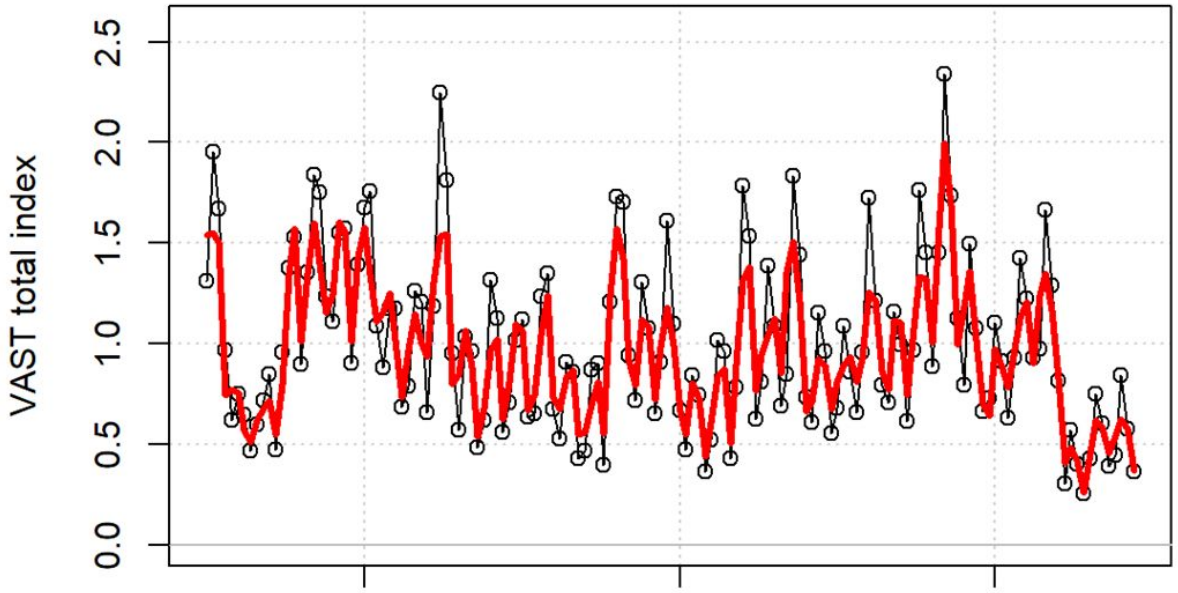
Dynamic mahi management procedure (MP) is made up of:

A. **index** (i.e., index of abundance) that tracks stock behavior
B. **management levers** or the management regulation that is subject to change with stock behavior
C. **control rule** specifies the relationship between the indicator and management lever

1. The Mahi Management Procedure

A. Index

- Index from pelagic longline logbook data (Damiano et al. 2024)



- **Dynamic MP** uses index (or other indicator) to adaptively adjust a management lever in the next year

1. The Mahi Management Procedure

B. Management levers

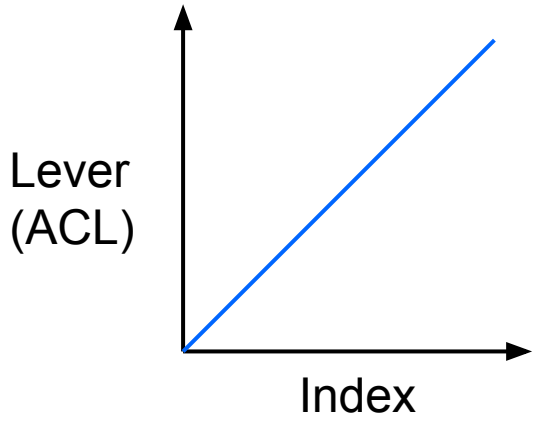
- **ACL** by fleet and area
- **Effort** (access) relative to today by fleet and area
- **Vessel limit** by fleet
- **Minimum size limit** by fleet and area

1. The Mahi Management Procedure

B. Management levers

- **ACL** by fleet and area
- **Effort** (access) relative to today by fleet and area
- **Vessel limit** by fleet
- **Minimum size limit** by fleet and area

C. Control rule – specifies how change in index relates to recommended change in management lever



2. What management procedure?

Status quo

- 1,719k lbs commercial ACL
- 22,850k lbs recreational ACL
- Recreational vessel limit of 54 fish / bag limit 10 fish
- 20” FL minimum size in SC, GA and FL

The Mahi MP can be configured to any of these various options:

INPUT DATA	LEVER	CONTROL OPTIONS
VAST index	ACL	Control rule
CPUE indices	Effort	Min / Max for any lever
Size composition	Trip limit	Max change for any lever
Catch	Minimum size	

3. Operationalizing management objectives

Conceptual objectives

1. Status
2. Yield by fleet and area
3. Stability
4. Catch rate by fleet and area
5. Probability of fishery closure / opportunity
6. Size of fish caught by fleet and area

Operational objectives

catch rate - ensure probability of catching *X* number of fish per charter trip is greater than *YY*% over the short term (years 2026-2035)

probability of fishery closure - ensure probability that the commercial ACL is capped (e.g., commercial closure) is less than *ZZ*% over the 30 year projection period

3. Worked example: Empirical (index-based) Management procedure

yr	Q	D. ACL update (MP or IA)	Action
2025	4	Council action (1.5 years)	
2026	1	Council action (1.5 years)	
2026	2	Council action (1.5 years)	MP adopted
2026	3	NMFS rulemaking (6 months)	
2026	4	NMFS rulemaking	MP implementation
2027	1		ACL from MP
2027	2		Exceptional circumstances check
2027	3		
2027	4	SEFSC internal, SSC, AF/CE, Rulemaking (3 mos)	
2028	1		ACL from MP
2028	2		Exceptional circumstances check
2028	3		
2028	4	SEFSC internal, SSC, AF/CE, Rulemaking (3 mos)	
2029	1		ACL from MP
2029	2		Exceptional circumstances check
2029	3		
2029	4	SEFSC internal, SSC, AF/CE, Rulemaking (3 mos)	
2030	1		ACL from MP
2030	2		Exceptional circumstances check
2030	3		
2030	4	SEFSC internal, SSC, AF/CE, Rulemaking (3 mos)	
2031	1		ACL from MP
2031	2		Exceptional circumstances check
2031	3		
2031	4	SEFSC internal, SSC, AF/CE, Rulemaking (3 mos)	
2032	1	SEFSC internal (3 mos)	ACL from MP
2032	2	SEFSC internal (3 mos)	MSE review/status check
2032	3	SSC review (3 mos)	MSE review/status check
2032	4	Council action (6 mos)	
2033	1	Council action (6 mos)	ACL from MP
2033	2	AF/CE (3 mos)	
2033	3	NMFS rulemaking (3 mos)	
2033	4	AF/CE (3 mos)	
2034	1	NMFS rulemaking (3 mos)	ACL from existing or revised MP

Initial MP adoption would require full rule-making in a Framework action. But once specified annual or biennial TAC setting could be nearly automatic

Scope for efficiency gains in SEFSC, council and rulemaking

Exceptional circumstances determination by either SEFSC or SSC. Situations, often not deemed plausible, where the MP may no longer apply

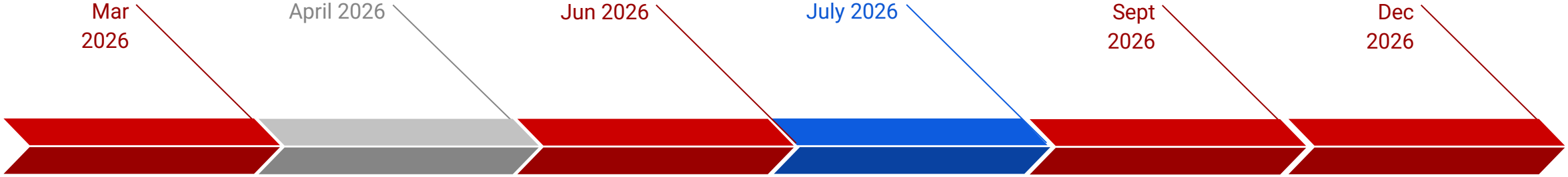
MSE review process (9 years)

3. Draft Timeline & Schedule

* Timing of results will depend on ability to meet target timeline

Legend:
OM: operating models
PM: performance metrics
MP: management procedures

Council Meeting
SSC Meeting
CIE Review



March Council

Identify MP options:

- **Identify MP** options

Spring SSC

Scientific Review:

- *Regulatory Amendment 3 scoping*
- *Scientific sign-off on MSE framework / methodology*

June Council

Select preferred:

- *Regulatory Amendment 3 scoping*
- operationalize management objectives
- **MP revision**

CIE Review

Review of MSE framework

Sept Council

Final action:

- **Final action to adopt preferred MP**

Dec Council

- **Exceptional circumstance provisions & review schedule**

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Acknowledgements

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Blue Matter

Tom Carruthers, Adrian Hordyk, Quang Huynh

MSE Modelling Technical Team

Cassidy Peterson, Mandy Karnauskas, Matt Damiano, Kyle Shertzer, Jie Cao, John Walter

Stakeholder Science Team

Matt McPherson, Suzana Blake, Julia Byrd, John Hadley, Nikhil Mehta, Wess Merten, Lela Schlenker.

Stakeholder Small Group