Project Team Updates Since May 22

Updates on Modeling Work

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Outline

1. Progress update

2. Summary of de minimis concepts, ideas, and proposals submitted by the Project Team and other interested members of the public

3. Obtain Project Team feedback in designing a de minimis fishery

Progress update

- Team calls to coordinate work efforts, discuss next steps from May 22 Project Team meeting, and plan for July 18 Project Team discussion

- We have developed of a work plan with milestones and timelines

    - Today: continue to seek input from project team on de minimis design

    - August in-person meeting: Modeling team to present set of de mimimis options that will be subject to management strategy evaluation (MSE)

    - September webinar: Present preliminary MSE results to the Project Team

Progress update

- Reviewed concepts, ideas, and proposals submitted by the Project Team and other interested members of the public to gain understanding of priorities and informational needs

- We have completed updating of the operating model to include low density dynamics, and we are prepared to conduct sensitivity runs on this issue. This was a request from the Peer Review

- Modeling team is reviewing finer technical details of the operating model, modifying if necessary, but no major changes

- Planning for an additional block of modeler calls to substantially move the project forward

Summary of de minimis concepts, ideas, and proposals

- 8 written proposals
- Also, ideas shared during the break-out group discussions during the May 22 Project Team meeting

http://www.opc.ca.gov/2019/05/red-abalone-management-strategies-integration/

- Very detailed proposals – thank you!
- We have grouped ideas into common elements – we will review these details as we move through this presentation
- Your ideas will shape de minimis management strategies to be evaluated

Project team feedback in designing a de minimis fishery

1) Determine which indicators to include in management strategy evaluation (MSE)
    - Which indicators will inform the de minimis fishery?

2) Determine the structure of the decision framework (e.g. harvest control rule)
    - How do we define triggers for decision-making, based on selected indicators

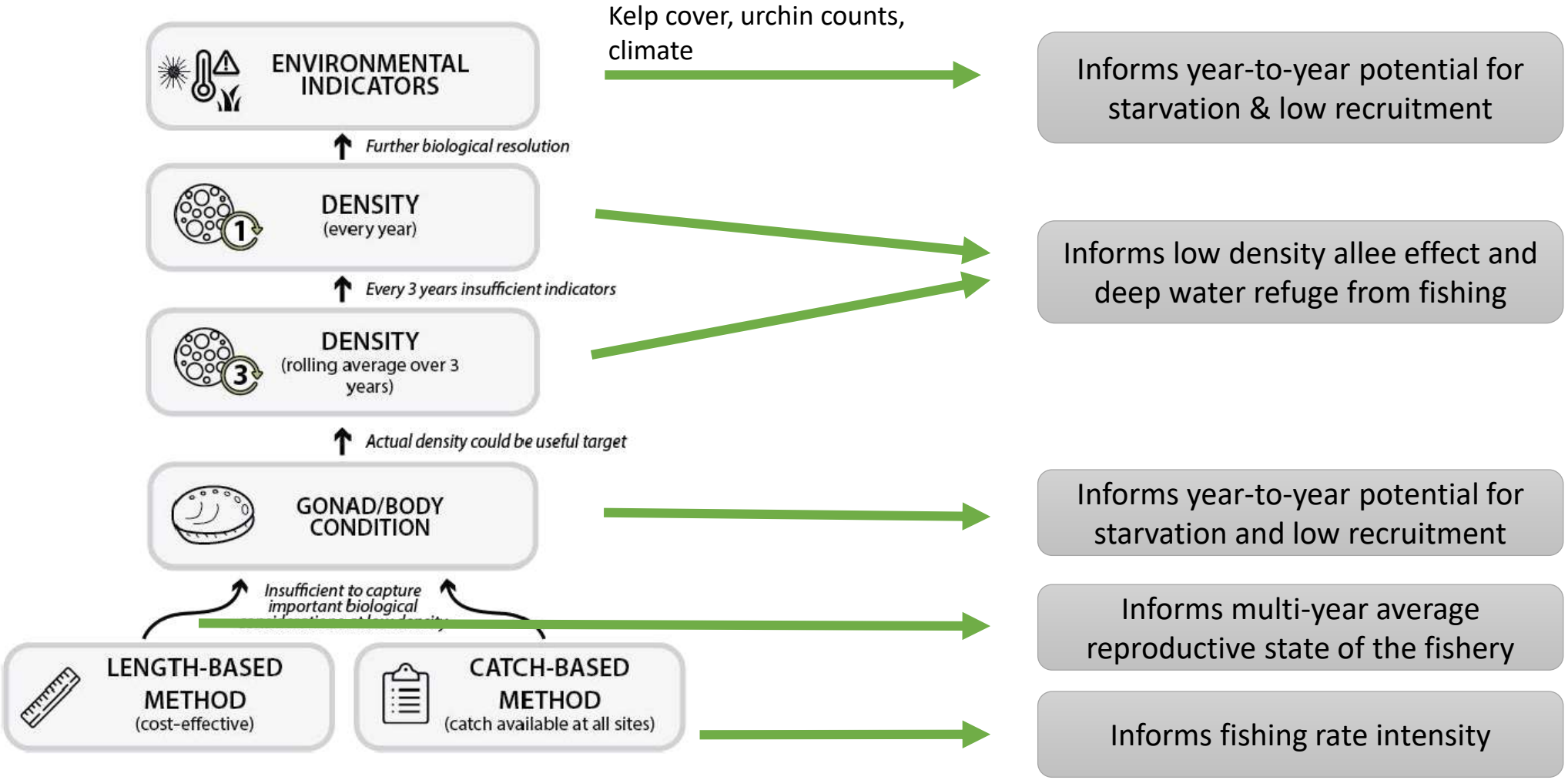
3) Establish de minimis total allowable catch (TACs), and spatial areas where fishing occurs, and other regulations
    - Should we prioritize TACs based on scientific sampling needs?
    - Should we prioritize selection of fishing sites based on scientific sampling needs?

4) Evaluate de minimis fishery design within the MSE process

5) Explore the feasibility /enforcement / allocation

Step 1: Determine which indicators to include in MSE

How does each indicator contribute to informing the question of fishery sustainability?



Project Team Proposal Input:

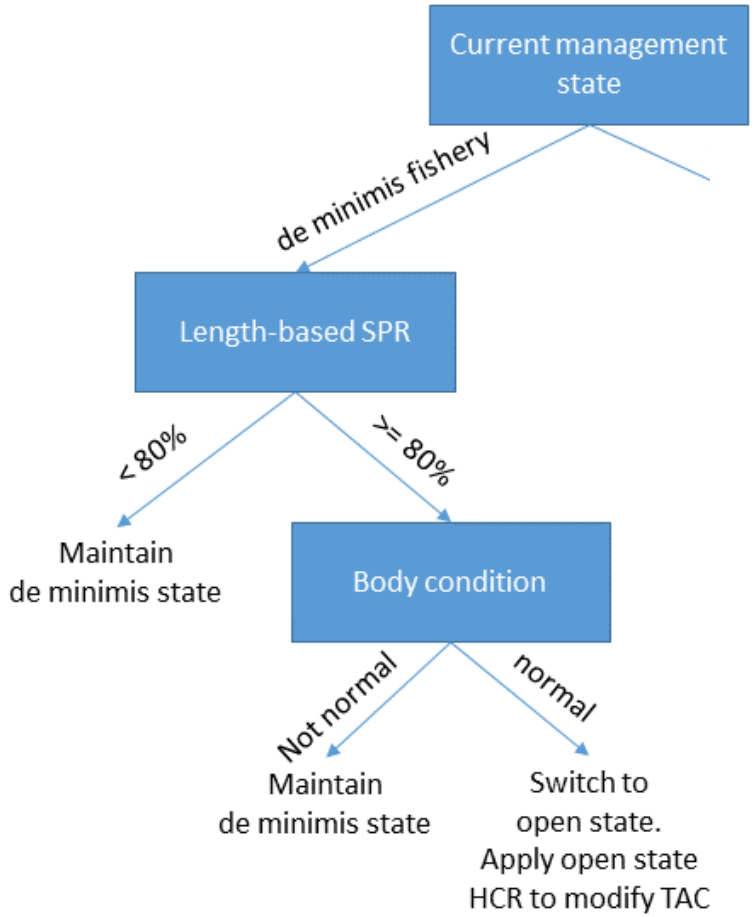
Data collection by fishers / citizen scientists:

- Restricted access design should coincide with scientific data needs
- That is, produce a fishery that provides useful data

Data collection by organizations:

- Stronger scrutiny of existing data streams is a priority, before continuing their use
- Consider role of environmental/kelp/urchin data in assessing resource

Step 2: Determine the structure of the decision framework (A motivating example)



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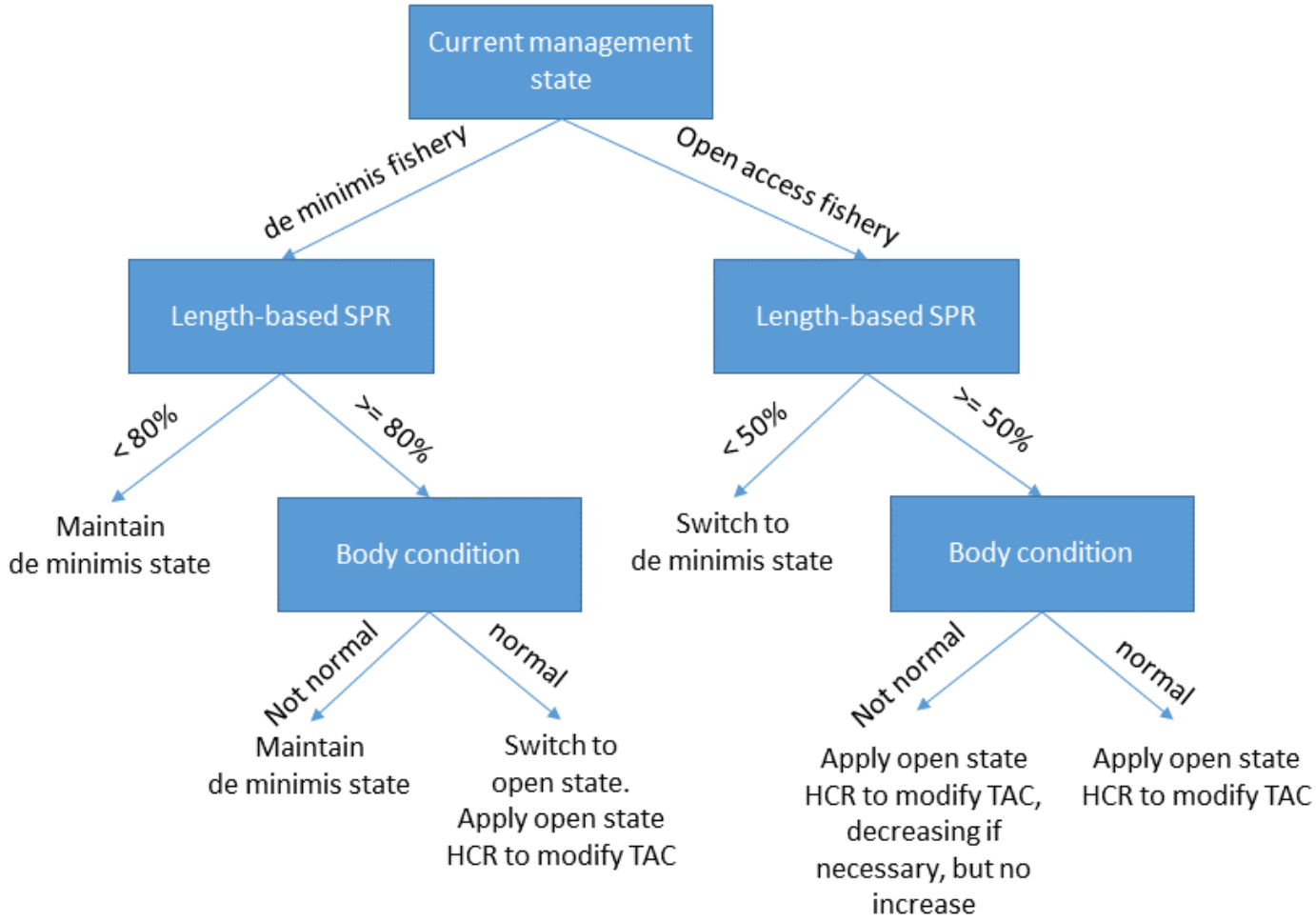


Step 3: Establish de minimis TACs, and spatial areas where fishing occurs, and other regulations

De minimis TACs:

- Focus on the process or rationale
- E.g., Consider TACs based on analysis of scientific sample sizes
- E.g., Consider TACs based on % of historical catch

Fishing sites:

- Consider selection of fishing sites based on scientific sampling needs
- Is it desirable to have consistent sites year-to-year vs. filling in data gaps through time by systematically changing sites?

Project Team Proposal Input:

Restricted access (TACs) with Project Team and stakeholder input:

- Various TACs were proposed
- But, most proposals suggested that this was an issue for Admin/Modeling team to advise on
- Emphasis on science-driven decision-making

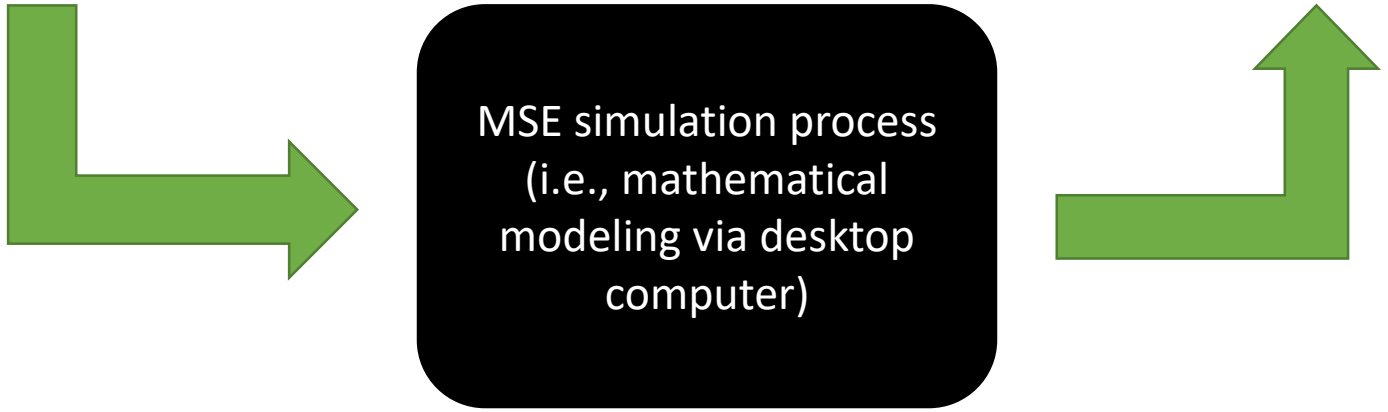
Minimum harvest length

- Current is 7 inches
- Proposals for 8 or 9 inches

Step 4: Evaluate de minimis fishery design within the MSE process

Scenarios to analyze

- TAC option(s)
- Spatial configuration(s) of fished sites
- Structure of decision framework
- Indicators
- Triggers
- Minimum harvest length
- Fishing season



Scenario outputs

- Probable catch length composition
- Probable recovery trajectories of abalone abundance
- Informed trade-offs among scenarios

Step 5: Explore the feasibility /enforcement / allocation

- Allocation of TAC among citizens – not an issue that can be handled by MSE
- Needs further discussion in relation to de minimis fishery design

Project Team Proposal Input:

- De minimis is the priority, and in the future, still emphasis on open access
- Importantly, maintain some access of citizens

- Restricted access (i.e., total allowable catch distributed among fishers)
- Suggested protocols for distribution of tags (lottery, fees for tags, etc.)
- Eyes on the water, regarding poaching (also, increase fines for poaching)
- Season length (good for enforcement, but may introduce fishing safety concerns)
- Sharing tags with partner diver, encourages safe diving practices
- Fishers interested in fisher-led data collection

Discussion Questions

- Which indicators will inform the de minimis fishery?
- Should we prioritize TACs based on scientific sampling needs?
- Should we prioritize selection of fishing sites based on scientific sampling needs?
- What are the feasibility issues associated with site selection for fishing?
- What types of scenarios are of the highest priority for MSE?