
December 2016 CZ stock assessment - recap

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December 2016 Central Zone stock assessment

The stock assessment report published in December 2016 was prepared to inform the TACC setting for the 2017/18 fishing year

The report included:

- fishery dependent data collected up until the end of the 2015/16 fishing year (CPUE information from logbooks); and
- fishery independent data collected up until the end of the 2016 calendar year (pre-recruit and recruit info from FIS).

The report summarised information for the 12 Spatial Management Units (SMUs), that collectively encompass 94 reef codes in the Central Zone.

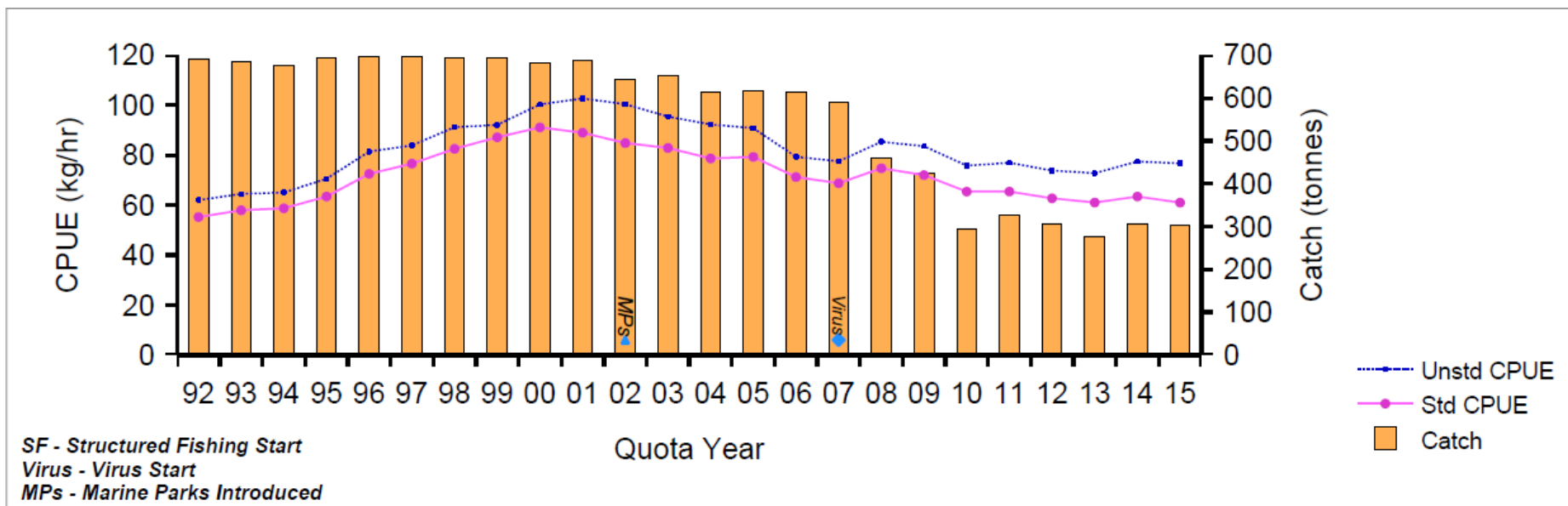
The report was independently peer reviewed to ensure rigour in interpretation of data. The approach was consistent across all zones.

Summary of assessment

- Fisheries independent and fisheries dependent data indicates a decline in the blacklip abalone resource since 2003.
- There has been no demonstrated recovery following reductions in the TACC over several years.
- Recruitment to the fishery (and therefore the breeding stock) is expected to remain low in the short-term.
- Environmental factors are thought to be influencing abalone abundance.
- There is a risk that Central Zone stocks will not rebuild and may continue to decline at the current level of fishing pressure - if recruitment and abundance remain at current levels.

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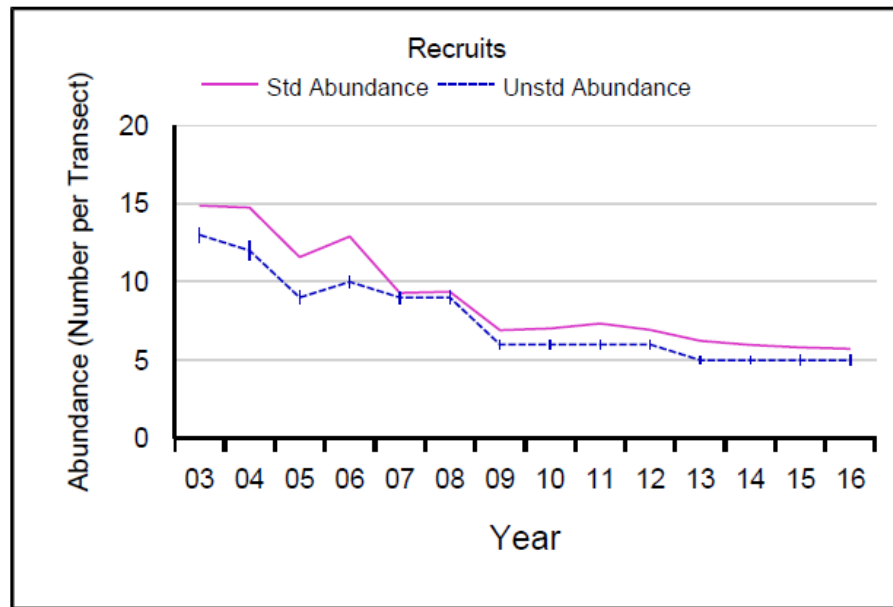
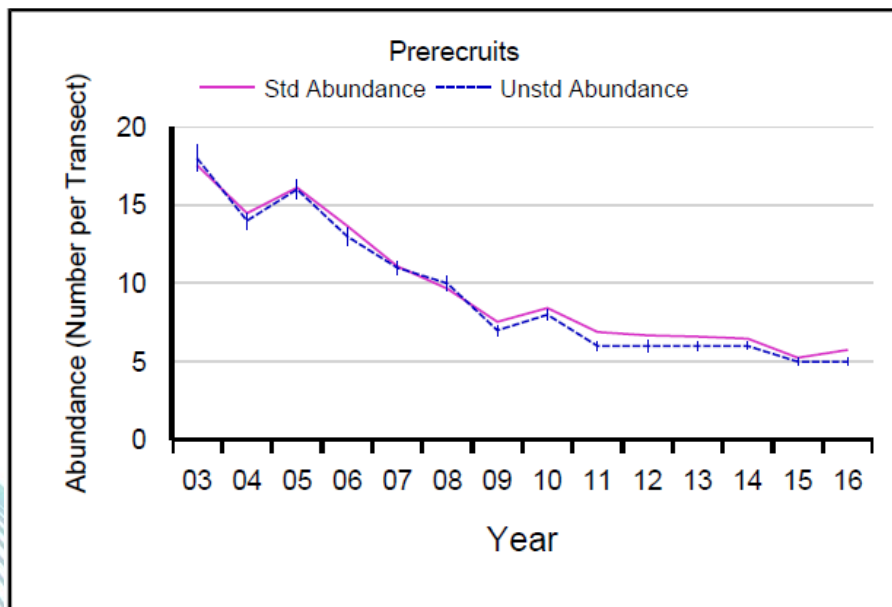
Standardised CPUE Analysis				
Trends		Statistics		
Start Year	End Year	Slope Direction	P-Value	Significant
1992	2000	Positive	< 0.05	Yes
2000	2015	Negative	< 0.05	Yes



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Standardised Prerecruits Analysis				
Trends		Statistics		
Start Year	End Year	Slope Direction	P-Value	Significant
2003	2009	Negative	< 0.05	Yes
2009	2016	Negative	< 0.05	Yes

Standardised Recruits Analysis				
Trends		Statistics		
Start Year	End Year	Slope Direction	P-Value	Significant
2003	2009	Negative	< 0.05	Yes

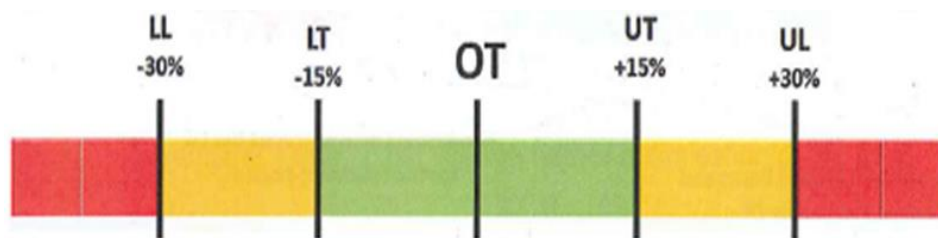


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SUMMARY OF KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES - CPUE AND ABUNDANCE TREND - SMU			
Block	CPUE Trend	Prerecruits	Recruits
SHIPWRECK COAST	Insufficient Data	+	+
CAPE OTWAY	-	-	-
SURFCOAST	-	No Data	No Data
PPB	-	NS	-
BACK BEACHES	-	-	NS
FLINDERS	-	-	-
PHILLIP ISLAND	-	-	NS
KILCUNDA	-	No Data	No Data
CAPE LIPTRAP	-	-	-
PROM WESTSIDE	-	-	NS
PROM EASTSIDE	NS	No Data	No Data
CLIFFY GROUP	NS	No Data	No Data

SMU Management

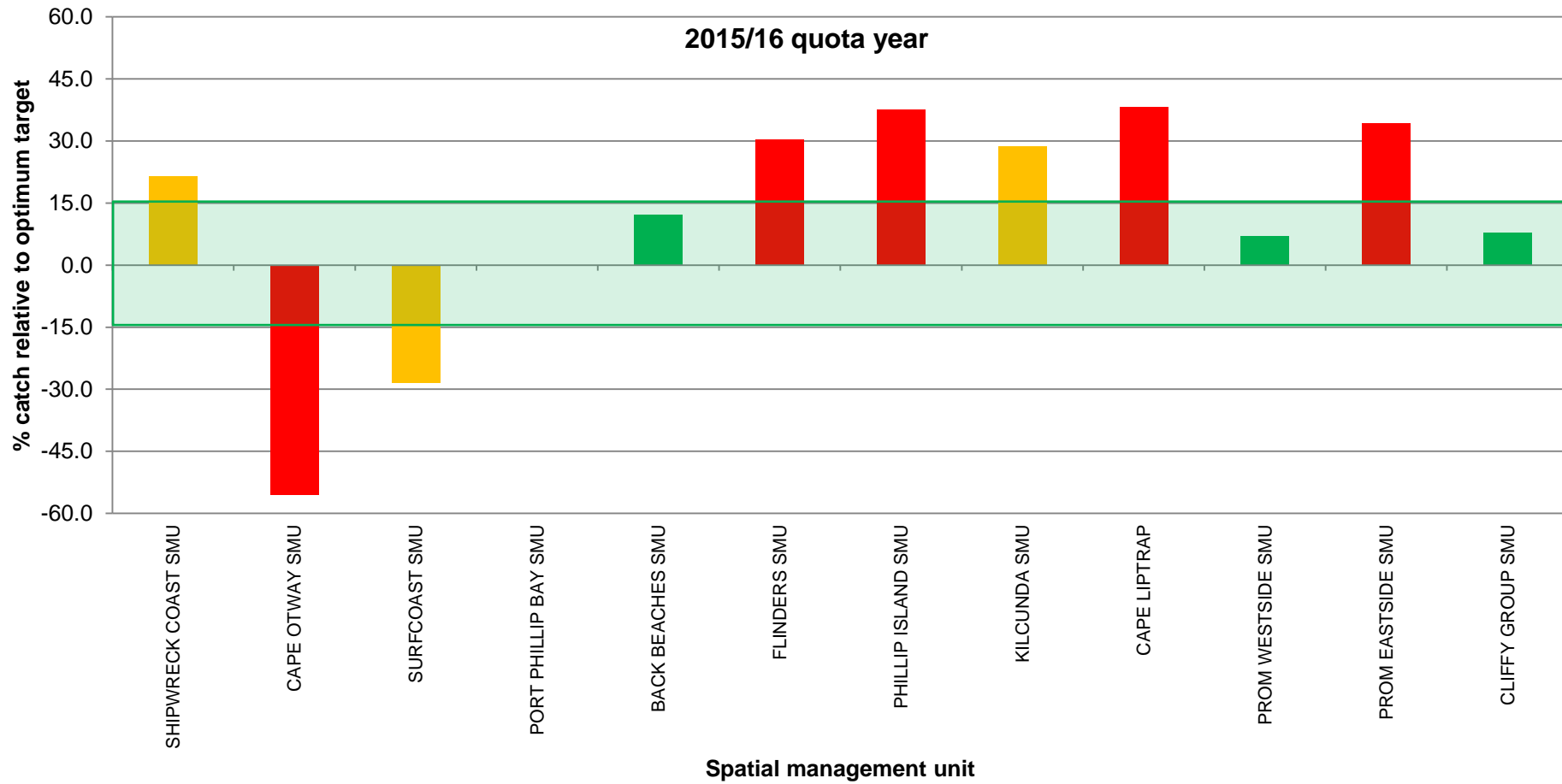
Ensuring that catch remains within the optimum target (i.e. $\pm 15\%$ of the allocated SMU catch) is an integral requirement to effectively manage the fishery



The performance of each SMU over the 2015/16 season is described relative to the targets agreed to during the TACC forums.

Catches in the Central Zone are generally not being managed within the target range increasing the risk to the sustainability of the resource.

SMU management



Catch and optimum targets



SMU	2015/16		2016/17		2017/18	
	Total catch	Optimum Target	Total catch	Optimum Target	Total catch (as at 18 Sept 2017)	Optimum Target
Shipwreck Coast	21.3	17.5	24.0	18.4	5.8	21.2
Cape Otway	40.1	90.0	54.3	61.5	13.4	52.3
Surfcoast	3.9	5.5	0.7	5.8	0.3	4.0
Port Phillip Bay	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0
Back Beaches	70.7	63.0	78.3	66.2	19.2	66.2
Flinders	43.6	33.4	23.5	30.0	15.5	30.0
Phillip Island	57.4	41.7	54.1	41.7	20.6	41.7
Kilcunda	18.1	14.1	3.9	14.1	8.6	14.1
Cape Liptrap	17.3	12.5	10.4	12.5	1.6	12.5
Prom Westside	21.4	20.0	20.3	20.0	5.4	20.0
Prom Eastside	6.7	5.0	7.4	5.0	6.4	7.0
Cliffy Group	5.4	5.0	2.9	5.0	3.4	5.0
TOTAL	305.9	307.7	279.8	280.2	101.4	274.0