

# Namibian hake model update, 2025

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```
library(knitr)
hook_output <- knitr_hooks$get("output")
knitr_hooks$set(output = function(x, options) {
  # this hook is used only when the linewidth option is not NULL
  if (!is.null(n <- options$linewidth)) {
    x <- knitr::split_lines(x)
    # any lines wider than n should be wrapped
    if (any(nchar(x) > n)) x <- strwrap(x, width = n)
    x <- paste(x, collapse = "\n")
  }
})
```

```

}
hook_output(x, options)
})

knitr::opts_chunk$set(collapse = TRUE, comment = " ", fig.align = "center", cache = FALSE,
knitr::opts_knit$set(root.dir = here::here())
# knitr::opts_chunk$set(warning=F, message=F, echo=F, results=F,fig.width=6, fig.height=5)

```

## Assessment model runs

The original base-case model was evaluated for a number of features and extensions. These included focus on what data components were fit well and how improvements in consistency can be made. For the latter part, we found that the fits to the index and CPUE data were particularly poor and could be improved. We reviewed the model from Ianelli et al. (2023) and decided that whilst reassuring that alternative assessment approach provide similar results, for consistency and due to the added features of the Namibian model, it was preferred to make necessary changes in that code base. Give the short time available for training and implementation, we decided to focus on the base-case model and make necessary changes. The following sections outline the model runs and the results relative to the previous assessment.

### Model descriptions

The following table was developed based on testing the model with different assumptions and data sources. Key differences from the 2023 assessment configuration was the assumption that model estimation of variance terms was appropriate. This feature resulted in unacceptable residual patterns and essentially a complete down weighting of the index data. We used the assumed variance terms (CVs) for the indices in all of the following model configurations:

Model	Description
Previous base case	As specified in past assessments, estimated steepness and all variance terms
Base case (m0)	Model with survey “minus group” to be ages 0, and 1 instead of 0, 1, and 2 as done in the past, steepness fixed at 0.7, q estimated, and time-varying fishery asymptotic selectivity specified.
Base case but updated 2025 data	Model with survey “minus group” to be ages 0, and 1 instead of 0, 1, and 2 as done in the past, steepness fixed at 0.7, q estimated, and time-varying fishery asymptotic selectivity specified.

Model	Description
m1	As base case but with survey catchability fixed at 1.0
m2	As base case but with survey catchability fixed at 0.5
m3	As base case but with natural mortality estimated
m4	As base case but with fishery selectivity allowed to be dome-shaped
m5	As base case but with stock-recruit steepness fixed at 0.5
m6	As base case but with stock-recruit steepness fixed at 0.9

```

library(NamibianHake)
library(flextable)
library(here)
library(tidyverse)
library(ggthemes)
theme_set(ggthemes::theme_few())
library(xtable)
library(kableExtra)
set_flextable_defaults(digits = 3, decimal.mark = ".", big.mark = ",", na_str = "<na>")

mod_ref <- c("old_bc", "m25", "m0", "m1", "m2", "m3", "m4", "m5", "m6")
mod_dir <- c("old_bc", "2025", "m0", "m1", "m2", "m3", "m4", "m5", "m6")
mod_label <- c("2023 base case", "2025 Update", "2024 base case", "Model 1", "Model 2",
  "Model 3", "Model 4", "Model 5", "Model 6")

#---Main code that extracts all the results from the model lists above-----
res <- get_results(mod_names. = mod_label, moddir = mod_dir)

modlst <- res$modlst
old_bc <- modlst[[1]]
m0 <- modlst[[3]]
m25 <- modlst[[2]]
moddiag <- res$moddiag
dfsrr <- data.frame()
for (i in 1:length(mod_ref)) {
  dfsrr <- rbind(dfsrr, data.frame(Model = mod_label[i], SSB = modlst[[i]]$SSB,
    R = modlst[[i]]$Pred_Rec))
}
mods <- data.frame()
for (i in 1:length(mod_ref)) {
  mods <- rbind(mods, data.frame(moddiag[[i]], Model = names(moddiag[i])))
}

```

```
}
```

## Fits to index data

After delving into the details of the model specifications, our main conclusion was that the previous assessments were generally insensitive to the trend data (surveys and CPUE series). This was due to the fact that the variance terms (CVs) were estimated. A more standard approach, where CVs are specified based on the data (e.g., from design-based sampling theory), was used and this performed better (Figure 1, Figure 2). In the previous assessment, the fit to the early period of CPUE data was better, but in this case the CV was estimated to be about 10%, and extremely low value for this type of data (Figure 3).

Similarly, we re-evaluated the ability of this model to estimate the stock recruitment productivity parameter (steepness). It is extremely rare that sufficient data are available to freely estimate this, even with extensive high-quality index data. Therefore we evaluated what assumptions were taken elsewhere (for this and related species, e.g., South African hake) and ran the models with steepness fixed at 0.7.

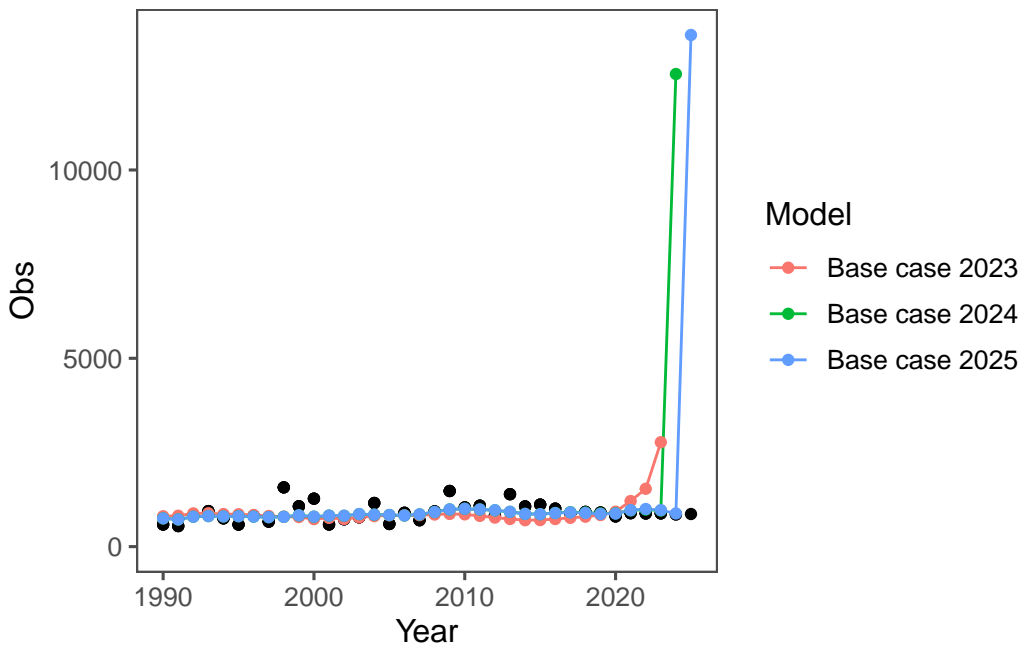


Figure 1: Base case model fits to main survey data compared to the previous assessment.

```
dfcpue <- rbind(data.frame(Year = 1964:2023, Obs = old_bc$Obs_CPUE_1, predicted = old_bc$e_CPUE_1,
  Model = "Base case 2023"), data.frame(Year = 1964:2024, Obs = m0$Obs_CPUE_1,
  predicted = m0$e_CPUE_1, Model = "Base case 2024"))
```

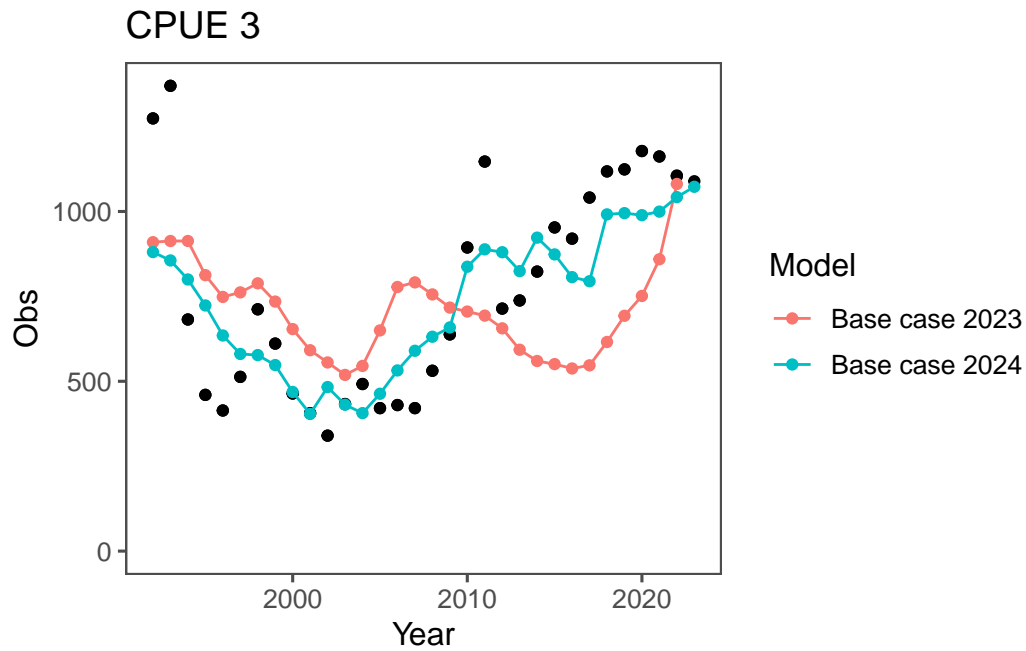


Figure 2: Base case model fits to the CPUE index 3 data compared to the previous assessment.

```
dfcpue |>
  filter(Obs > 0) |>
  ggplot(aes(x = Year, y = Obs, color = Model)) + geom_point(color = "black") +
  geom_line(aes(y = predicted)) + geom_point(aes(y = predicted)) + ggtitle("CPUE 1") +
  ylim(0, NA)
ggsave(here("mods", "figs", "cpue1.png"), width = 6, height = 5)
```

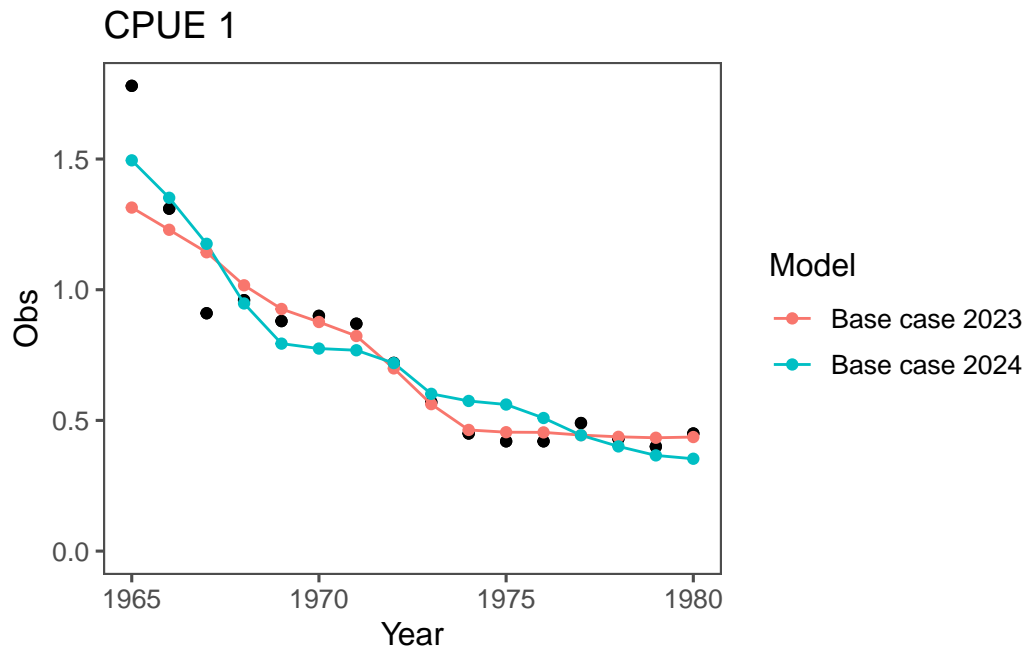


Figure 3: Base case model fits to the CPUE index 1 data compared to the previous assessment.

```
dfcpue <- rbind(data.frame(Year = 1964:2024, Obs = m0$Obs_CPUE_3, predicted = m0$e_CPUE_3,
  Model = "Base"), data.frame(Year = 1964:2024, Obs = modlst[[3]]$Obs_CPUE_3, predicted = m1$e_CPUE_3,
  Model = "Model 1, q=1.0"), data.frame(Year = 1964:2024, Obs = modlst[[4]]$Obs_CPUE_3,
  predicted = modlst[[4]]$e_CPUE_3, Model = "Model 2, q=0.5"))
dfcpue |>
  filter(Obs > 0) |>
  ggplot(aes(x = Year, y = Obs, color = Model)) + geom_point(color = "black") +
  geom_line(aes(y = predicted)) + geom_point(aes(y = predicted)) + ggtitle("CPUE 1") +
  ylim(0, NA)
ggsave(here("mods", "figs", "cpue1_all.png"), width = 6, height = 5)
```

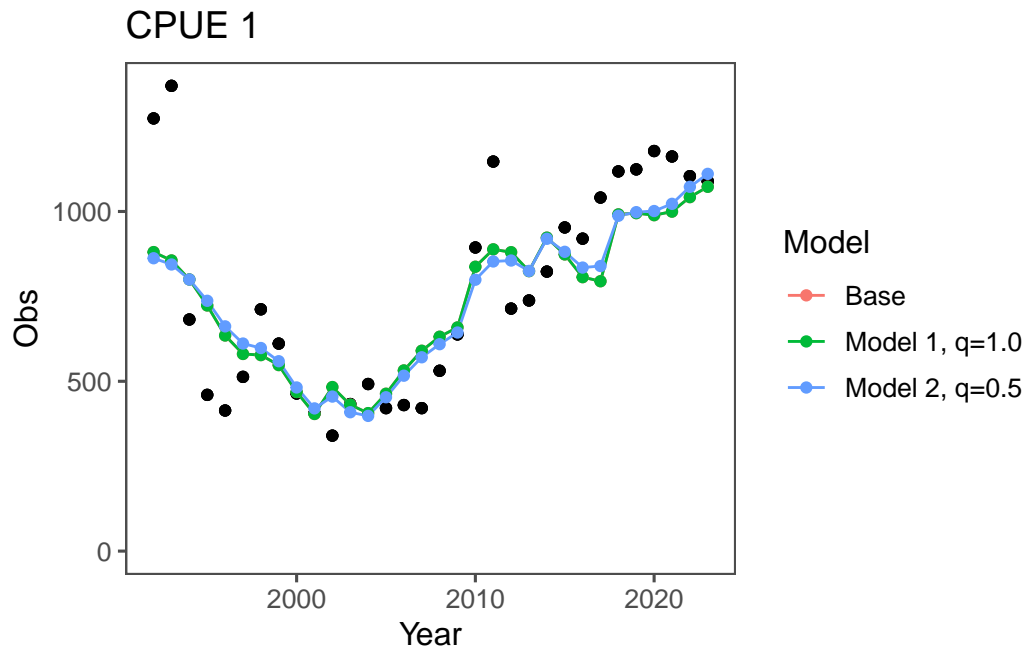


Figure 4: Base case model fits to the CPUE index 3 data compared to models 1 and 2.

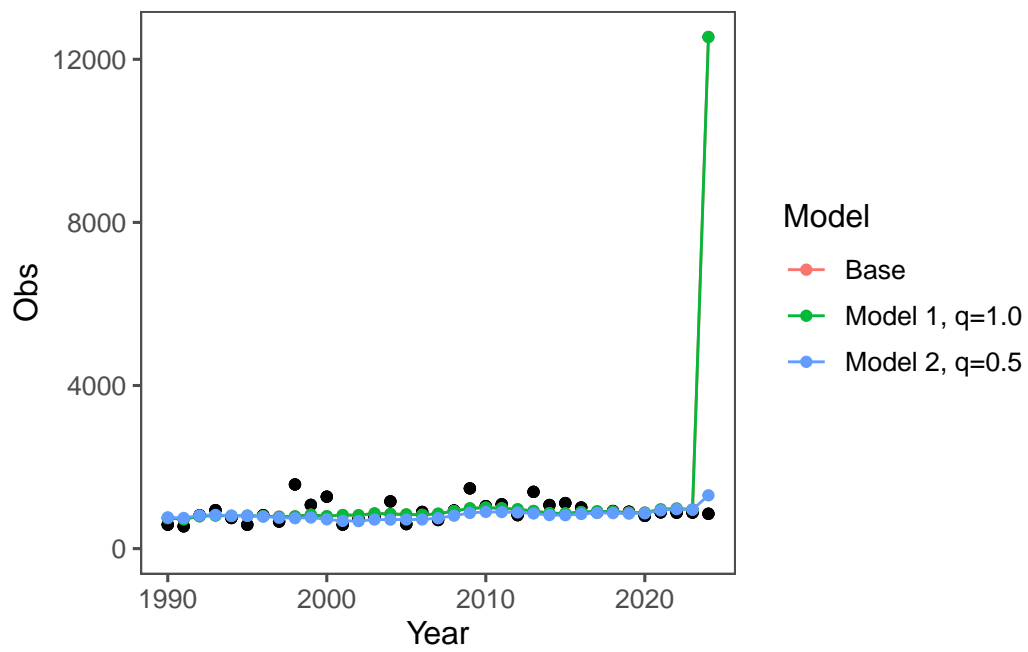


Figure 5: Base case model fits to main survey data compared to models 1 and 2.

## Age composition fits

The age composition fits for the base case model are shown in Figure 6 and Figure 7. The base case model uses a ‘minus group’ equal to ‘1’ for the survey data and for the fishery it was set to 2 (as was done previously).

```
PlotAgeFit(x = m0, title = "Base case", type = "fishery", fage = 2, lage = 7) + ggthemes::th
ggsave(here("mods", "figs", "Age_comp_fish.png"), width = 9, height = 8)
```

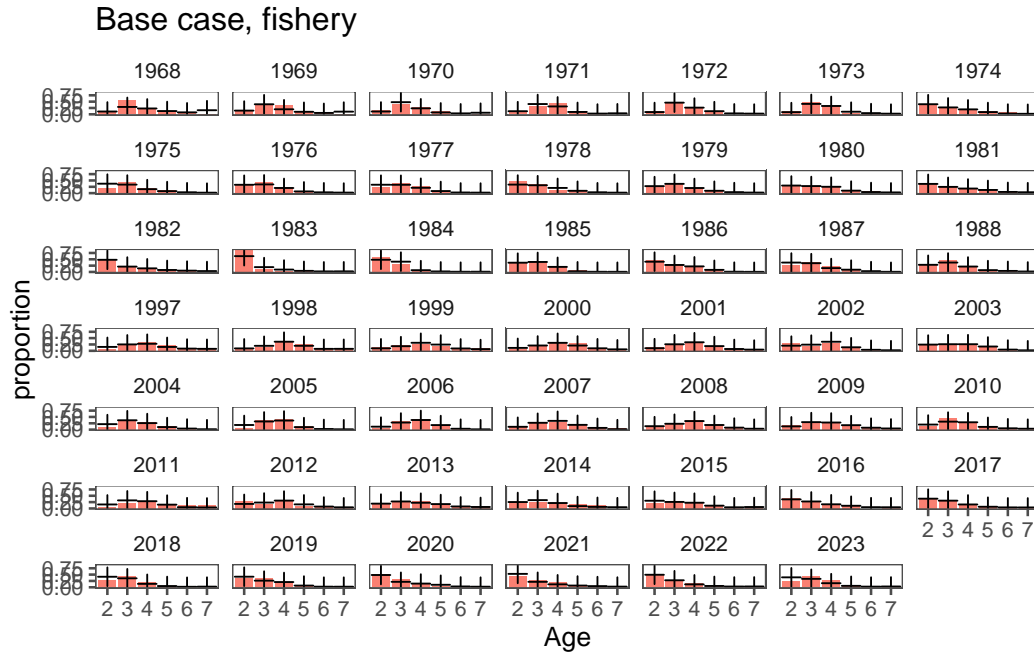


Figure 6: Base case model fits to the fishery age composition data. Note that the base case model uses a ‘minus group’ equal to ‘2’ for the fishery data.

```
PlotAgeFit(x = m0, title = "Base case", type = "survey1", fage = 1, lage = 7) + ggthemes::th
ggsave(here("mods", "figs", "Age_comp_surv.png"), width = 9, height = 8)
```



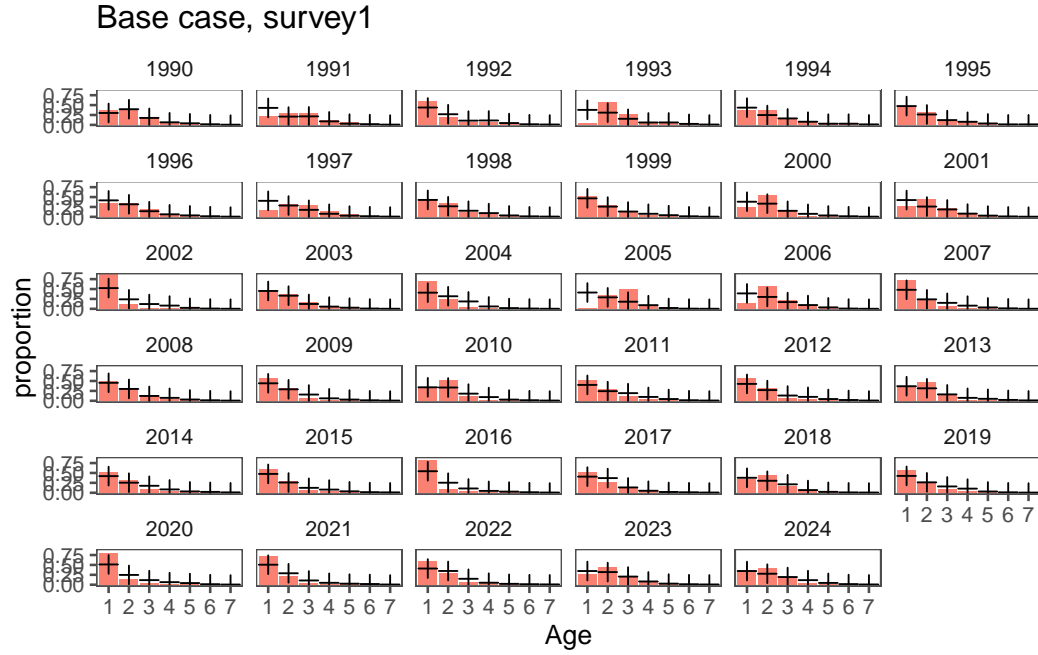


Figure 7: Base case model fits to the survey age composition data. Note that the base case model uses a ‘minus group’ equal to ‘1’ for the survey data.



## Selectivity

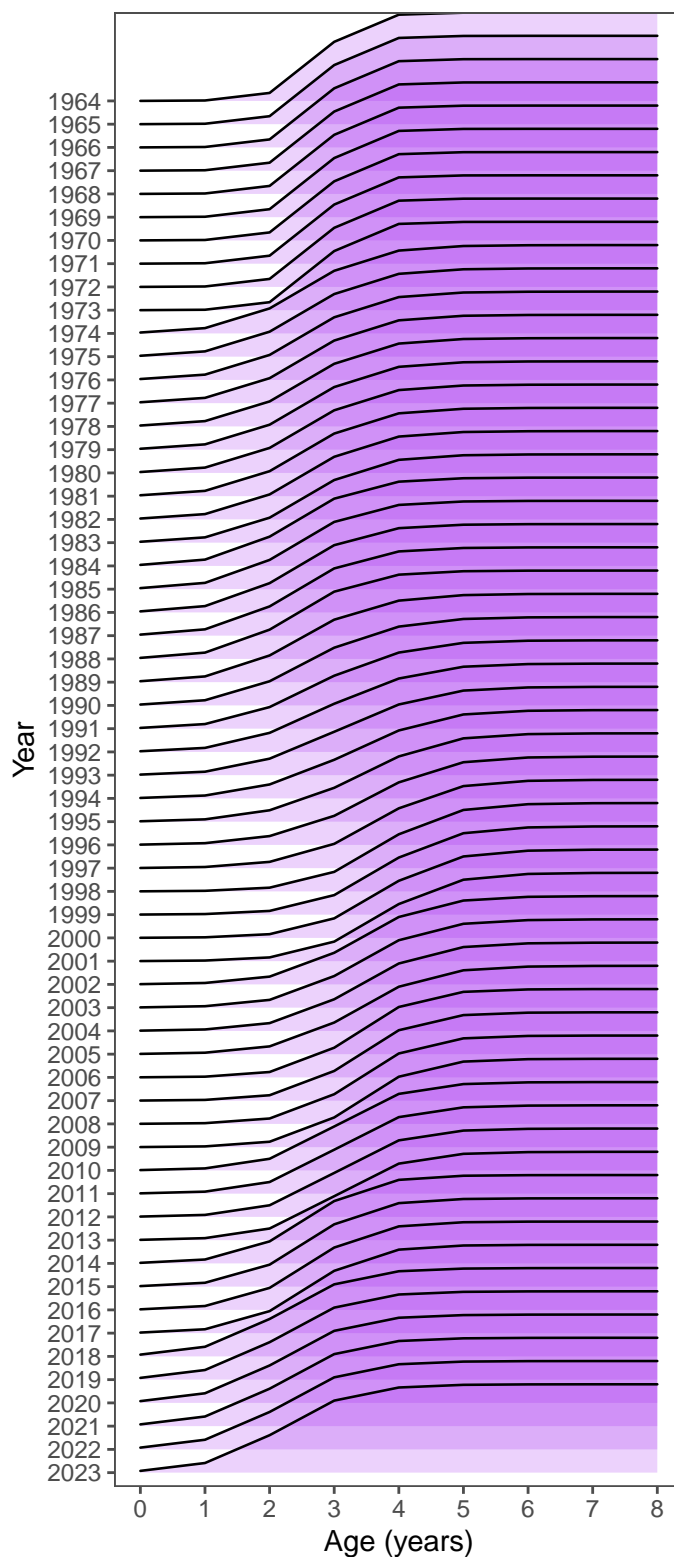


Figure 8: Selectivity estimates for the base-case model run.

## Spawning biomass trends

Figure 9 shows the SSB estimates for the base case model compared to the previous assessment. The horizontal lines correspond to the Bmsy values for the separate models.

```
dftmp <- data.frame(Model = mod_label[1], Bmsy = (modlst[[1]]$Bmsy))
dftmp <- rbind(dftmp, data.frame(Model = mod_label[2], Bmsy = (modlst[[2]]$Bmsy)))
mods |>
  filter(Model %in% mod_label[1:2], Year > 1960, Variable == "SSB") |>
  ggplot(aes(x = Year, y = value, ymin = ymin, ymax = ymax, type = Model, fill = Model)) +
  geom_ribbon(alpha = 0.24) + ggthemes::theme_few() + coord_cartesian(ylim = c(0,
  6000)) + geom_line(aes(color = Model)) + geom_hline(yintercept = dftmp$Bmsy[1],
  color = 2) + geom_hline(yintercept = dftmp$Bmsy[2], color = 3) + geom_point(aes(color = 1,
  shape = Model), size = 1) + ylab("SSB") + xlab("Year")
ggsave(here("mods", "figs", "ssb1.png"), width = 6, height = 5)
```

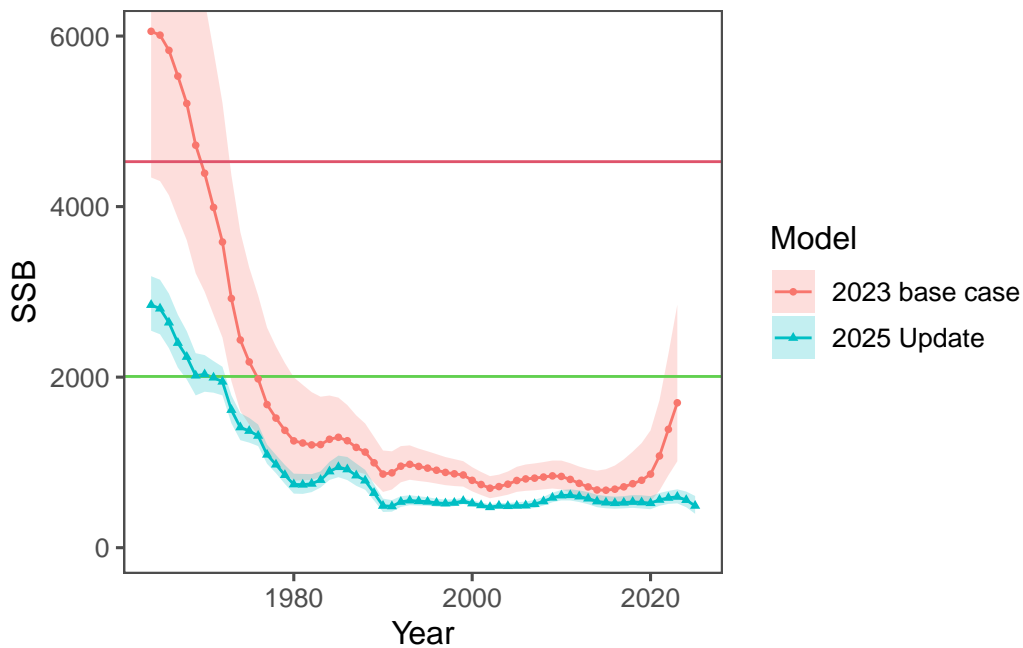


Figure 9: Base case model showing the SSB estimates compared to the previous assessment. The horizontal lines correspond to the Bmsy values for the separate models.

Another way to evaluate the relative trends in spawning biomass is to examine the so-called “depletion” levels. This is the ratio of the current SSB to the theoretical unfished value. The results are shown in Figure 10 for the base case model and in Figure 11 for the alternative models.

```

mods |>
  filter(Model %in% mod_label[1:2], Year > 1960, Variable == "Depletion") |>
  ggplot(aes(x = Year, y = value, ymin = ymin, ymax = ymax, type = Model, fill = Model)) +
  geom_ribbon(alpha = 0.24) + ggthemes::theme_few() + geom_line(aes(color = Model)) +
  geom_point(aes(color = Model, shape = Model), size = 1) + ylab("Relative SSB") +
  xlab("Year")
ggsave(here("mods", "figs", "depl1.png"), width = 6, height = 5)

```

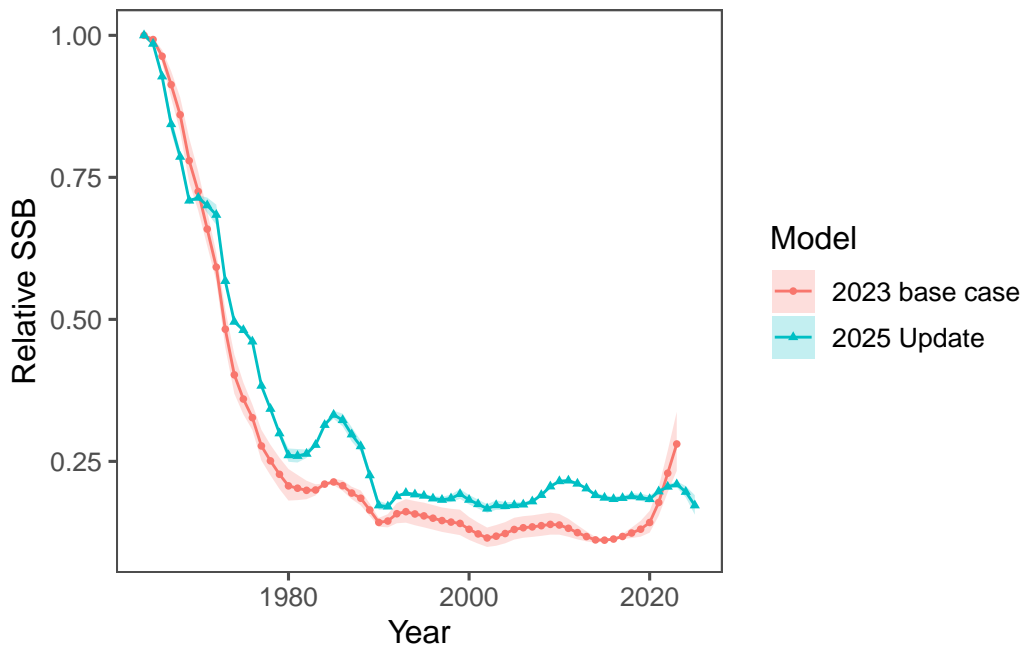


Figure 10: Base case model showing the relative SSB estimates compared to the previous assessment.

```

mods |>
  filter(Model %in% mod_label[2:9], Year > 1960, Variable == "Depletion") |>
  ggplot(aes(x = Year, y = value, ymin = ymin, ymax = ymax, type = Model, fill = Model)) +
  geom_ribbon(alpha = 0.24) + ggthemes::theme_few() + geom_line(aes(color = Model)) +
  geom_point(aes(color = Model, shape = Model), size = 1) + ylab("Relative SSB") +
  xlab("Year")
Warning: The shape palette can deal with a maximum of 6 discrete values because more
than 6 becomes difficult to discriminate
i you have requested 8 values. Consider specifying shapes manually if you need
that many of them.
Warning: Removed 122 rows containing missing values or values outside the scale range
(`geom_point()`).

```

```
ggsave(here("mods", "figs", "depl2.png"), width = 6, height = 5)
```

Warning: The shape palette can deal with a maximum of 6 discrete values because more than 6 becomes difficult to discriminate

i you have requested 8 values. Consider specifying shapes manually if you need that many of them.

Removed 122 rows containing missing values or values outside the scale range (``geom_point()``).

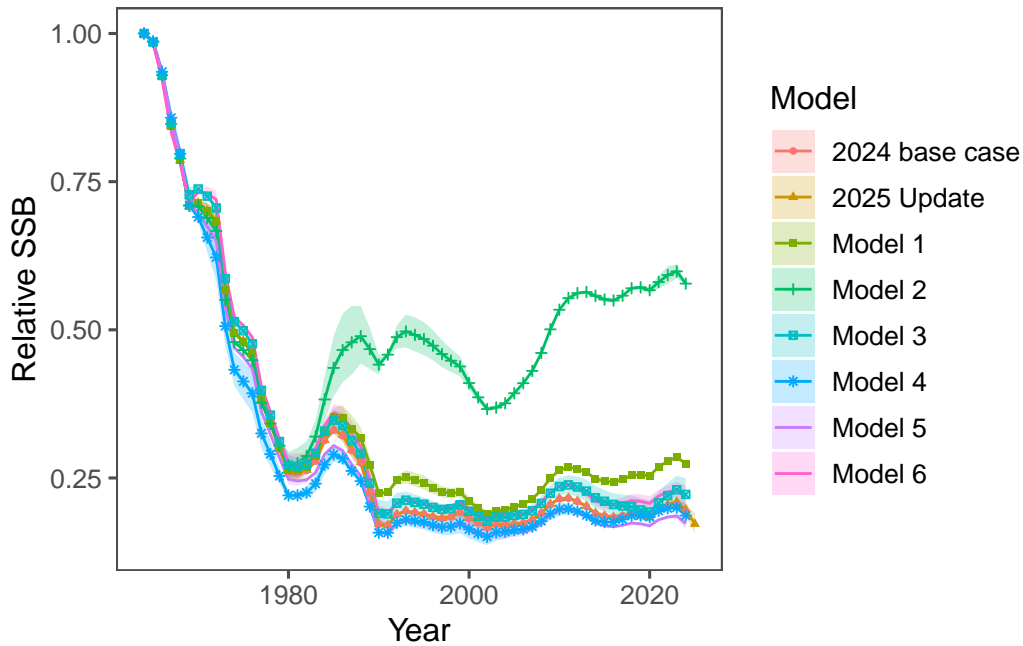


Figure 11: Alternative model results showing the relative SSB estimates.

## Recruitment estimates

The recruitment results are consistent with those seen for the spawning biomass. The base case model shows a decline in recruitment estimates compared to the previous assessment, as shown in Figure 12. Compared to the base case model, the alternative models show a range of recruitment estimates, as shown in Figure 13.

```
mods |>
  filter(Model %in% mod_label[1:2], Year > 2010, Variable == "R") |>
  ggplot(aes(x = Year, y = value, ymin = ymin, ymax = ymax, type = Model, fill = Model)) +
  geom_errorbar(width = 0.95, position = "dodge", alpha = 0.3) + geom_bar(width = 0.95,
  stat = "Identity", position = "dodge") + ggthemes::theme_few() + ylab("Recruitment age 0")
```

```

xlab("Year")
ggsave(here("mods", "figs", "rec.png"), width = 6, height = 5)

```

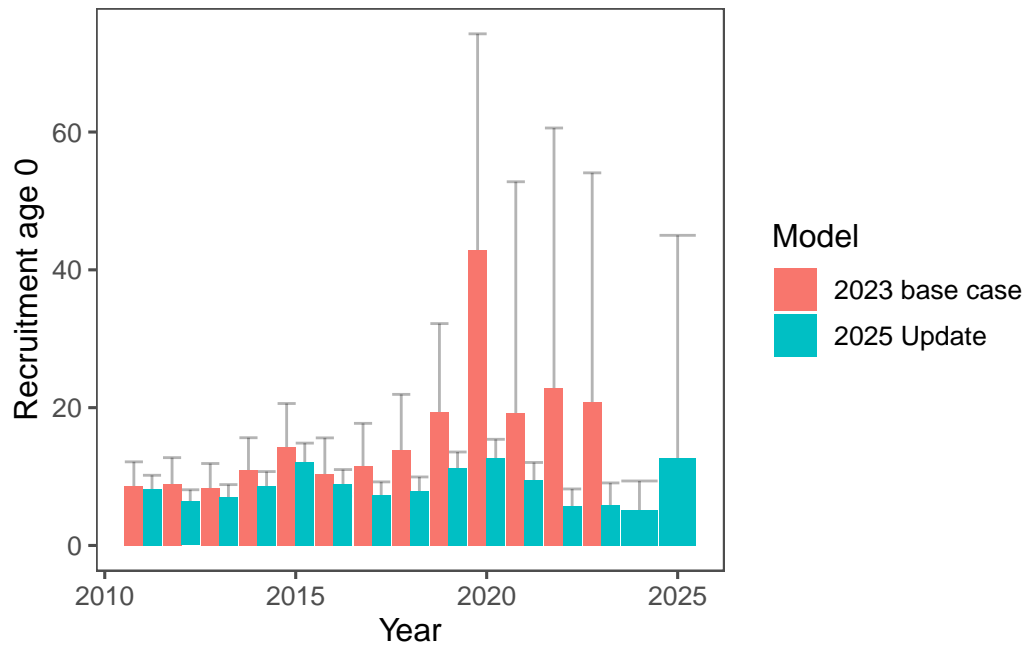


Figure 12: Alternative model results on recruitment estimates.

```

mods |>
  filter(Model %in% mod_label[2:9], Year > 2010, Variable == "R") |>
  ggplot(aes(x = Year, y = value, ymin = ymin, ymax = ymax, type = Model, fill = Model)) +
  geom_errorbar(width = 0.95, position = "dodge", alpha = 0.3) + geom_bar(width = 0.95,
  stat = "Identity", position = "dodge") + ggthemes::theme_few() + ylab("Recruitment age 0")
  xlab("Year")
ggsave(here("mods", "figs", "recalt.png"), width = 6, height = 5)

```

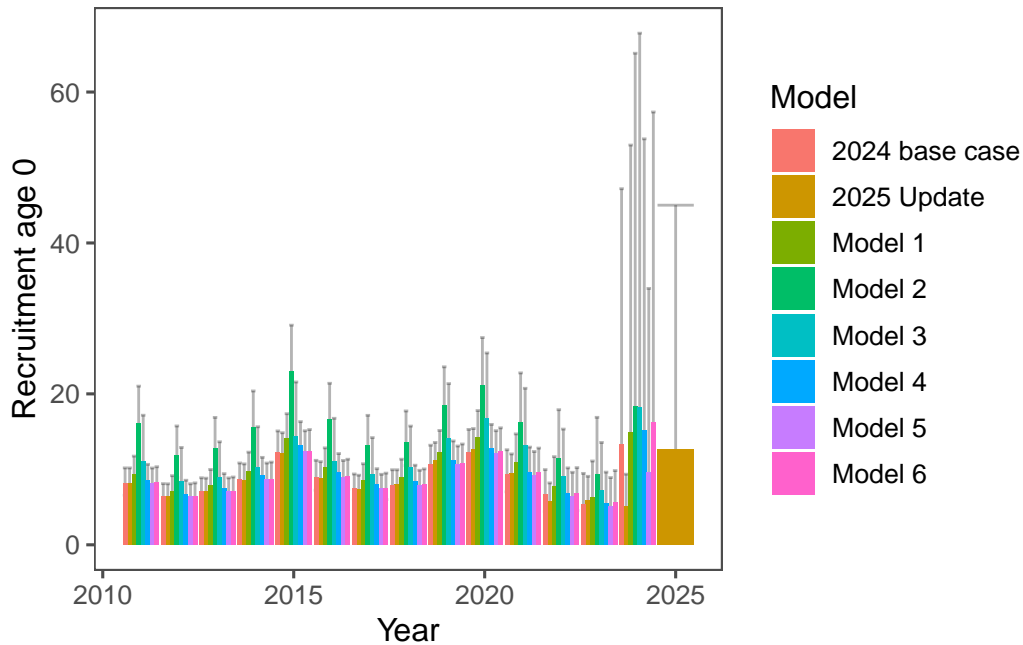


Figure 13: Alternative model results on recruitment estimates.

### Stock recruitment relationships

For each of the models there were some specified and estimated differences in the stock-recruitment relationships (Figure 14). When overlain with the recruitment estimates, these relationships appear to be relatively poorly defined (Figure 15).

```
p1 <- dfsrr |>
  ggplot(aes(x = SSB, y = R, color = Model, shape = Model)) + geom_point() + geom_line() +
  xlim(c(0, 4000))
p1
Warning: The shape palette can deal with a maximum of 6 discrete values because more
than 6 becomes difficult to discriminate
i you have requested 9 values. Consider specifying shapes manually if you need
that many of them.
Warning: Removed 67 rows containing missing values or values outside the scale range
(`geom_point()`).
Warning: Removed 7 rows containing missing values or values outside the scale range
(`geom_line()`).
ggsave(here("mods", "figs", "srr_curves.png"), width = 6, height = 5)
Warning: The shape palette can deal with a maximum of 6 discrete values because more
than 6 becomes difficult to discriminate
```



i you have requested 9 values. Consider specifying shapes manually if you need that many of them.  
 Warning: Removed 67 rows containing missing values or values outside the scale range (``geom_point()``).  
 Warning: Removed 7 rows containing missing values or values outside the scale range (``geom_line()``).

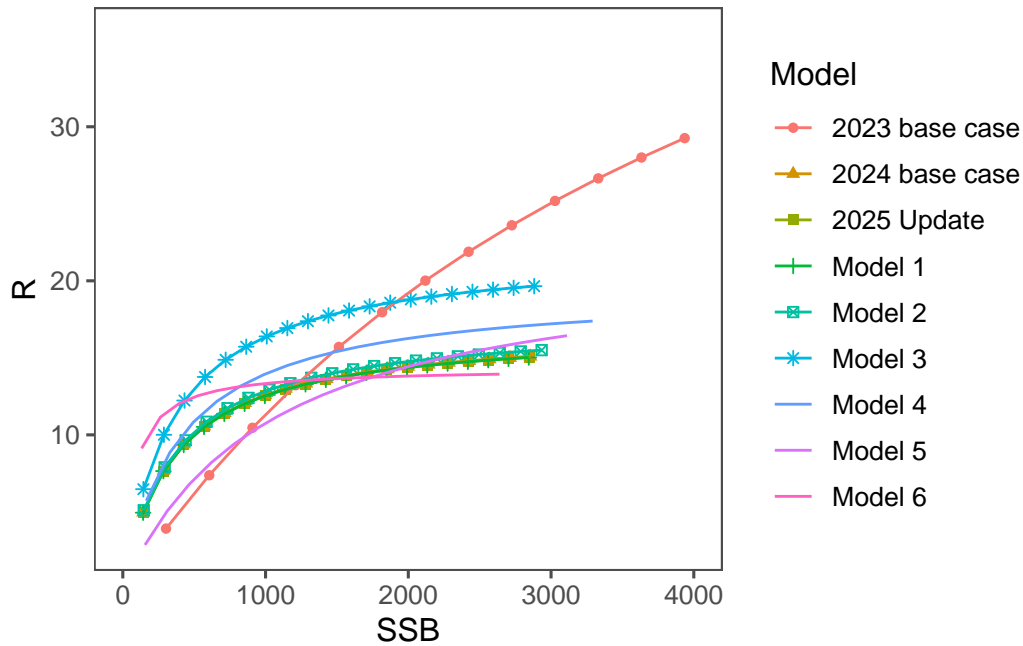


Figure 14: Stock-recruitment curves noted for the previous base-case and the updated model alternatives.

```
# |
mods |>
  filter(Model %in% mod_label[2:9], Variable == "R" | Variable == "SSB") |>
  select(c(1:3, 6)) |>
  pivot_wider(names_from = Variable, values_from = value) |>
  ggplot(aes(x = SSB, y = R, label = Year, color = Model, fill = Model)) + geom_text(alpha
size = 3) + ggthemes::theme_few() + facet_wrap(. ~ Model) + geom_line(data = dfsrr |>
  filter(Model %in% mod_label[2:9]), aes(y = R, x = SSB, color = Model), inherit.aes = FAL
ggsave(here("mods", "figs", "srr_yrs.png"), width = 6, height = 5)
```

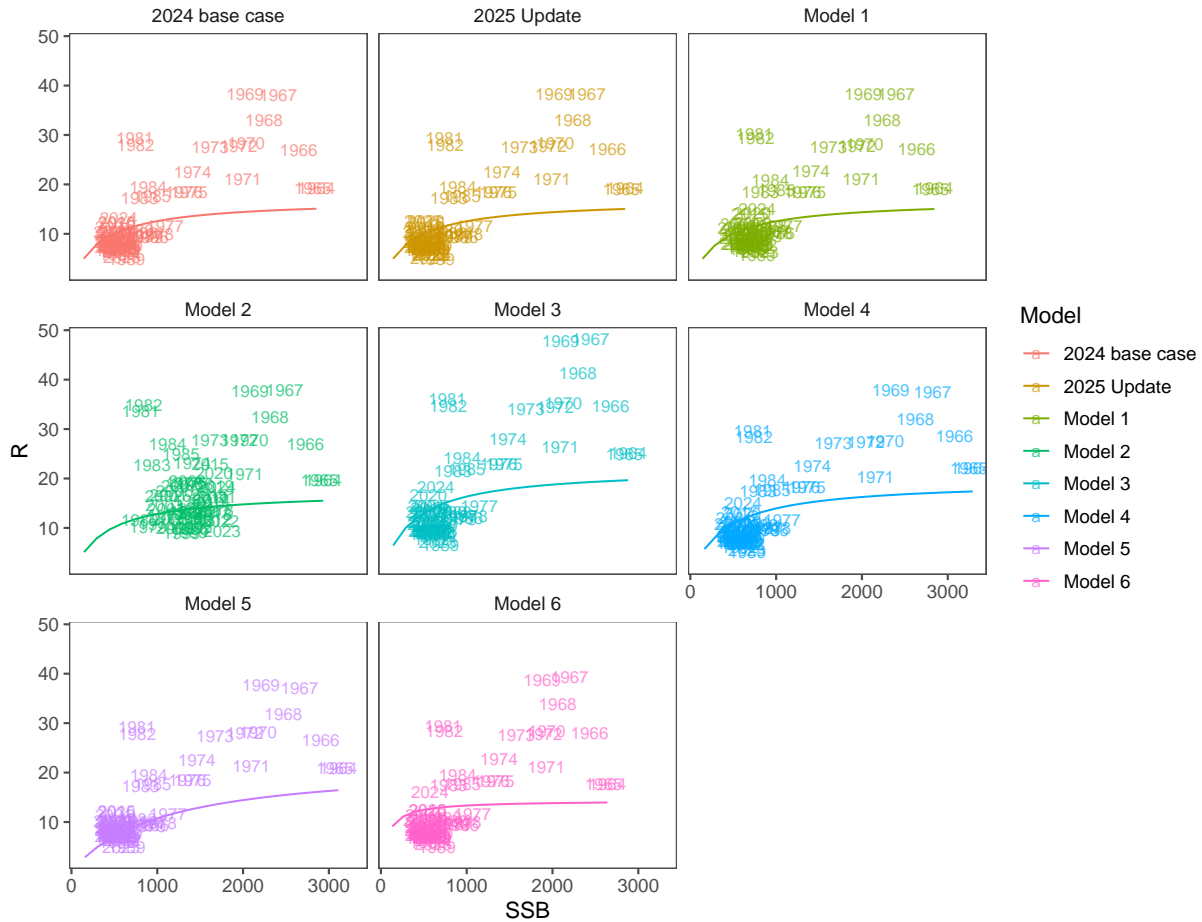


Figure 15: Stock-recruitment curves and year-class estimates for alternative models

To show the history relative to the replacement yield, we can plot the SSB/Bmsy and the catch/replacement yield (Figure 16). This shows a significant difference between the previous assessment and that proposed as the base-case for this year. The alternative models show a range of results, as shown in Figure 17.

```
tmp <- mods |>
  select(Year, Model, Variable, value) |>
  filter(Model %in% mod_label[1:2], Year > 1980, Variable %in% c("Catch_RY", "B_Bmsy")) |>
  pivot_wider(names_from = Variable, values_from = value) |>
  arrange(Model, Year) #|>
tmp |>
  ggplot(aes(x = B_Bmsy, label = Year, y = Catch_RY, shape = Model, color = Model,
    fill = Model)) + geom_path() + ggthemes::theme_few() + geom_point() + geom_text(alpha = 0.5) +
  geom_hline(yintercept = 1) + geom_vline(xintercept = 1) + xlab("SSB/Bmsy") +
```

```
ylab("Catch / replacement Yield")
ggsave(here("mods", "figs", "kobe1.png"), width = 6, height = 5)
```

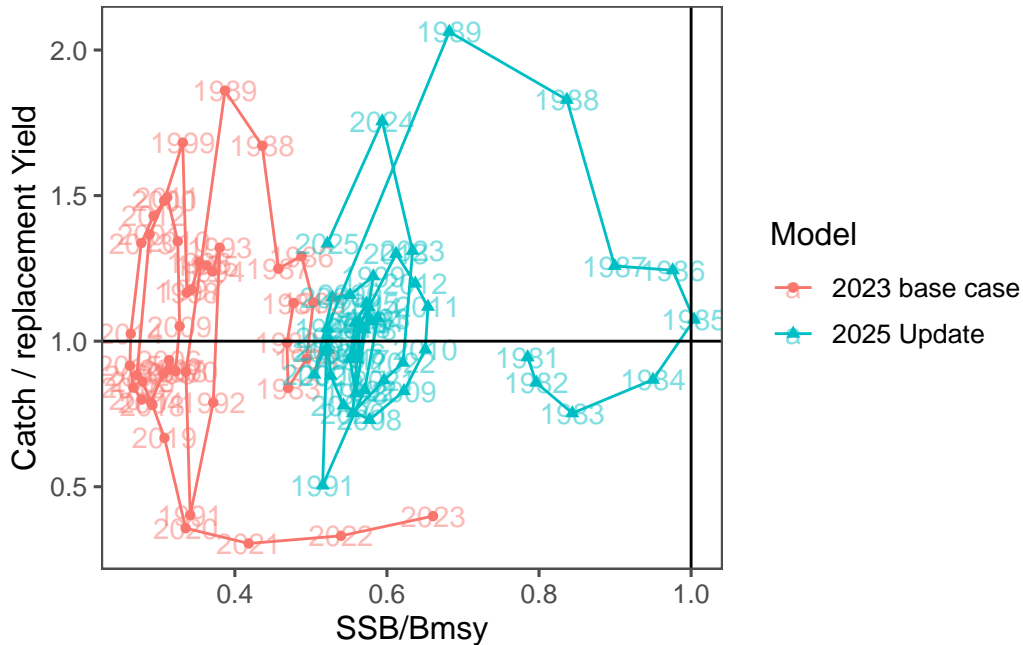


Figure 16: Base case model showing the relative SSB estimates compared to the previous assessment.

```
tmp <- mods |>
  select(Year, Model, Variable, value) |>
  filter(Model %in% mod_label[1:2], Year > 1980, Variable %in% c("Catch_RY", "Depletion"))
  pivot_wider(names_from = Variable, values_from = value)
tmp <- mods |>
  select(Year, Model, Variable, value) |>
  filter(Model %in% mod_label[c(2:3, 7:8)], Year > 1980, Variable %in% c("Catch_RY",
    "B_Bmsy")) |>
  pivot_wider(names_from = Variable, values_from = value) |>
  arrange(Model, Year) #|>
tmp |>
  ggplot(aes(x = B_Bmsy, label = Year, y = Catch_RY, shape = Model, color = Model,
    fill = Model)) + geom_path() + ggthemes::theme_few() + geom_point() + geom_text(alpha
  geom_hline(yintercept = 1) + geom_vline(xintercept = 1) + xlab("SSB/Bmsy") +
  ylab("Catch / replacement Yield")
ggsave(here("mods", "figs", "kobe2.png"), width = 6, height = 5)
```

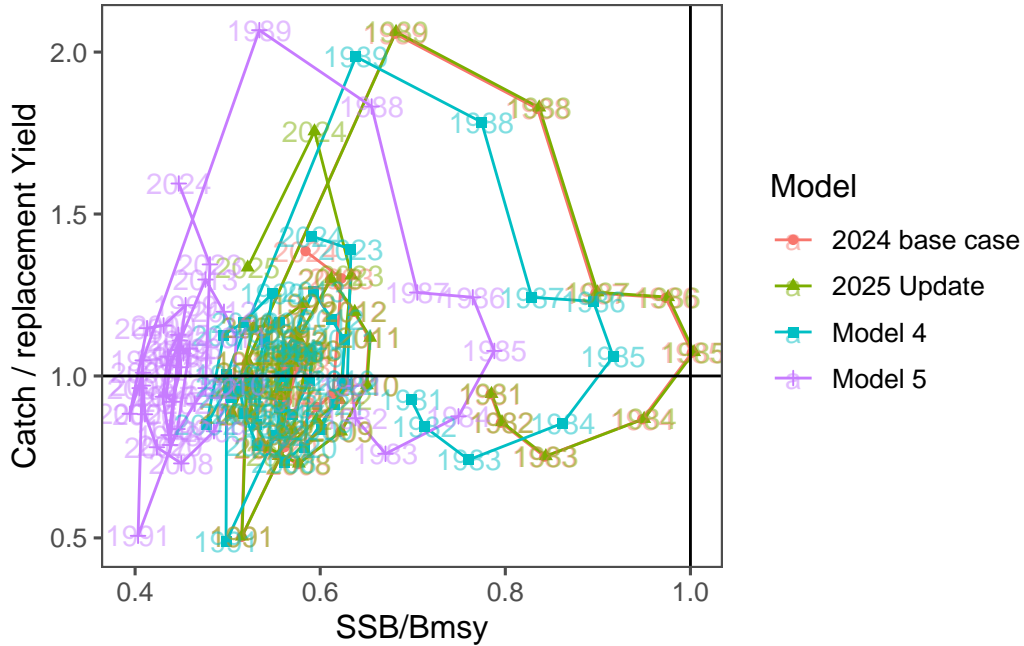


Figure 17: Base case model showing the relative SSB estimates compared to the model alternatives assessment.

### Stock status comparisons

The Table 2 show the results of the base case model compared to the alternative models for a number of key statistics. Among these, the best fitting models were the base-case and Model 5. However, model 5 fits indicated that the basis for fitting the data was virtually identical and that the slight benefit based on the AIC arises from the stock-recruitment residuals. For advice and consistency with productivity assumptions (i.e., the specification of the steepness parameter fixed at 0.7 as done for South Africa) we selected the base-case scenario.

```
# |
dftmp <- NULL
mod_scen <- c(2:8)
filler <- " "
names(filler) <- "-ln(Likelihood)"
for (ii in mod_scen) {
  x <- modlst[[ii]]
  nll <- round(x$objFun, 0)
  names(nll) <- "Overall"
  CPUE <- round(x$CPUE_Like, 0)
  names(CPUE) <- "CPUE"
```

```

surv <- round(x$Survey_Like, 0)
names(surv) <- "Survey"
caa <- round(x$CAA_Likelihood, 0)
names(caa) <- "Commercial CAA"
caas <- round(x$CAAS_Likelihood, 0)
names(caas) <- "Survey CAA"
oneyrold <- round(x$Oneyearold_Likelihood, 0)
names(oneyrold) <- "One yr-old biomass"
rec <- round(x$RecRes_Likelihood, 0)
names(rec) <- "Rec. resids."
datalike <- nll - rec
names(datalike) <- "Data likelihood sub-total"
NumPars <- round(x$Npars, 0)
names(NumPars) <- "Number parameters"
AIC <- round(x$Akaike, 1)
names(AIC) <- "AIC"
v <- c(filler, nll, CPUE, surv, caa, caas, oneyrold, datalike, rec, NumPars,
      AIC)
dftmp <- cbind(dftmp, v)
}
dftmp <- data.frame(rownames(dftmp), dftmp, row.names = NULL)
names(dftmp) <- c("Component", mod_label[mod_scen])
tabcap <- "Model fits to data components"
flextable(dftmp) |>
  set_caption(caption = tabcap) |>
  colformat_double() |>
  autofit()

```

Table 2: Model fits to data components

Component	2025 Update	2024 base case	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	M
-ln(Likelihood)						
Overall	-44	-42	-25	30	-36	-
CPUE	-48	-47	-49	-46	-45	-
Survey	-33	-32	-21	-18	-31	-
Commercial CAA	-128	-124	-116	-68	-126	-
Survey CAA	91	90	95	113	86	9
One yr-old biomass	68	68	69	73	69	6

Component	2025 Update	2024 base case	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
Data likelihood sub-total	-60	-57	-39	21	-52	-1
Rec. resid.	16	15	14	9	16	1
Number parameters	80	79	79	79	78	8
AIC	71.7	73.1	108.3	218.3	83.5	8

```

dftmp <- NULL
mod_scen <- c(2:8)
for (ii in mod_scen) {
  x <- modlst[[ii]]
  Ksp <- round(x$KspSTD, 0)
  names(Ksp) <- "Unfished spawning biomass"
  Kexp <- round(x$KexpSTD, 0)
  names(Kexp) <- "Unfished expl. biomass"
  steepness <- round(x$Steep, 3)
  names(steepness) <- "SRR steepness"
  Cur_B <- round(x$Bstd[length(x$Bstd)], 3)
  names(Cur_B) <- "2024 SSB"
  Bmsy <- round(x$Spmsy, 0)
  names(Bmsy) <- "SSB_msy"
  Cur_B0 <- round(x$Cur_B0, 3)
  names(Cur_B0) <- "Current SSB over unfished"
  Cur_Bmsy <- round(x$Cur_Bmsy, 3)
  names(Cur_Bmsy) <- paste0("Current SSB over Bmsy")
  MSY <- round(x$MSY, 0)
  names(MSY) <- "MSY"
  ry <- round(x$aveRY_last5, 0)
  names(ry) <- paste0("recent 5-yr average replacement yield")
  ry_cur <- round(x$aveRY_last5 * x$Cur_Bmsy, 3)
  names(ry_cur) <- "Recent RY x current SSB /Bmsy"
  v <- c(Ksp, Kexp, steepness, Cur_B, Bmsy, Cur_B0, Cur_Bmsy, MSY, ry, ry_cur)
  dftmp <- cbind(dftmp, v)
}
dftmp <- data.frame(rownames(dftmp), dftmp, row.names = NULL)
names(dftmp) <- c("Statistic", mod_label[mod_scen])
tabcap <- "Selected management measures from alternative models. "
flextable(dftmp) |>
  set_caption(caption = tabcap) |>
  colformat_double() |>
  autofit()

```

```
# align=paste0('l',strrep('r',length(mod_scen+1)))) kable(tab,
# caption.placement = 'top', include.rownames = FALSE, sanitize.text.function =
# function(x){x}) print(tab)
```

Table 3: Namibian hake stock estimates by model alternative.

Statistic	2025 Update	2024 base case	Model 1	Model 2
Unfished spawning biomass	2,846.000	2,856.000	2,844.000	2,934.000
Unfished expl. biomass	2,479.000	2,488.000	2,477.000	2,563.000
SRR steepness	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700
2024 SSB	490.867	551.008	778.941	1,695.941
SSB_msy	941.000	943.000	937.000	959.000
Current SSB over unfished	0.172	0.193	0.274	0.512
Current SSB over Bmsy	0.521	0.584	0.832	1.700
MSY	264.000	263.000	260.000	263.000
recent 5-yr average replacement yield	151.000	157.000	166.000	158.000
Recent RY x current SSB /Bmsy	78.483	91.533	137.715	279.800

A comparison among the models for stock status and

## Control rule application

### Modeling Namibian hake survey data by species

Fisheries stock assessments require data that are reliably collected and compiled. Secondly, assessment models should be configured to match the assumptions associated with the observed data. To account for survey trends between the two species of hake we applied the estimated observation errors to a simple state-space random walk model. This approach has a number of options for how process-errors can be specified and estimated. The observation model applies the observation-error variances ( $\sigma_{j,t}^2$ ) for the  $j^{th}$  species in year  $t(x_{j,t})$ . The indices are fit to latent state variables, e.g., the underlying population trend  $ln(\hat{Z}_{j,t})$  as follows:

$$ln(Z_{j,t}) = ln(\hat{Z}_{j,t}) + \epsilon_{j,t} \text{ where } \epsilon_{j,t} \sim N(0, \sigma_{j,t}^2)$$

and the state equation and associated process error variance  $\sigma_{PE}^2$  is defined as

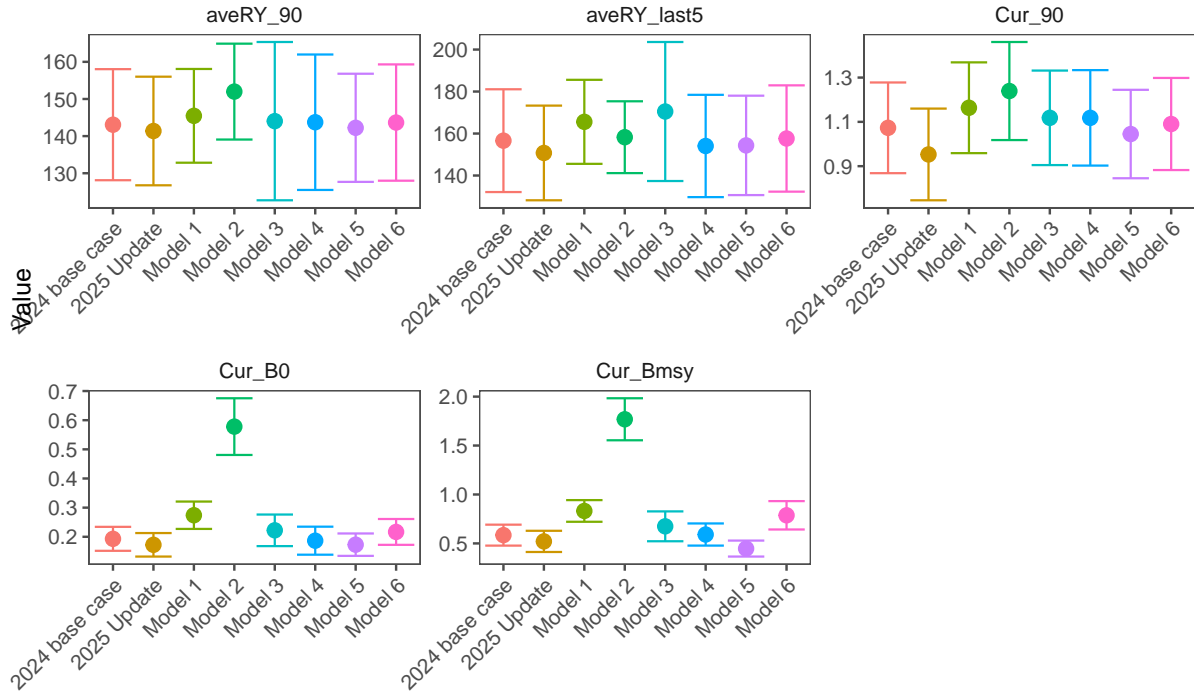


Figure 18: Some reference point comparisons among model runs. aveRY\_90 is the average replacement yeild since 1990, aveRY is the average replacement yield over the most recent 5 years before the current year, Cur\_90 is the current (terminal year) SSB over the estimate from 1990, Cur\_B0 is over the unfished estimate, and Cur\_Bmsy is the ratio of current SSB over the Bmsy estimate.



$\ln(\hat{Z}_{j,t+1}) = \ln(\hat{Z}_{j,t}) + \eta_{j,t}$ , where  $\eta_{j,t} \sim N(0, \tau_j^2)$ .

The process error variances  $\tau_j^2$  (which may or may not vary across indices) are fixed effect parameters and the unobserved species combined population  $\ln(Z_{j,t})$  is estimated as a series of random effects. The model is fit using maximum likelihood estimation in TMB using the R package “rema” (Sullivan 2022). The survey data for each species was used with CVs applied for observation error specifications. The values for  $\tau_j^2$  were tested for each species and found to be similar so they were set to the same values.

The above analysis provides a summary of the model runs and the design of a control rule that accounts for the signals in the data on the different species.

## Application to the Namibian hake stocks

The control rule was first applied to the Namibian hake stocks using the survey data and the relative proportions of the two species. However, we wish to have a more robust control rule that accounts for the signals in the data on *M. paradoxus* biomass and have that be independent of *M. capensis* (e.g., Figure 19). For that case, we applied the survey smoothing model to *paradoxus* alone. The next step was to compute mean biomass over the period 1990–2024, and evaluate the adjustment for different levels of  $\gamma$ . The historical adjustments based on this aspect of the MP is shown in Figure 20.

```

Rows: 34 Columns: 4
-- Column specification -----
Delimiter: ","
chr (1): strata
dbl (3): year, biomass, cv

i Use `spec()` to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
i Specify the column types or set `show_col_types = FALSE` to quiet this message.
Joining with `by = join_by(year, strata)`
Model runtime: 0 seconds
stats::nlminb thinks the model has converged: mod$opt$convergence == 0
Maximum gradient component: 8.64e-10
Max gradient parameter: log_PE
TMB:sdreport() was performed successfully for this model
Joining with `by = join_by(strata, year)`
Joining with `by = join_by(year)`
Warning: Removed 2 rows containing missing values or values outside the scale range
(`geom_point()`).
Removed 2 rows containing missing values or values outside the scale range
(`geom_point()`).
```

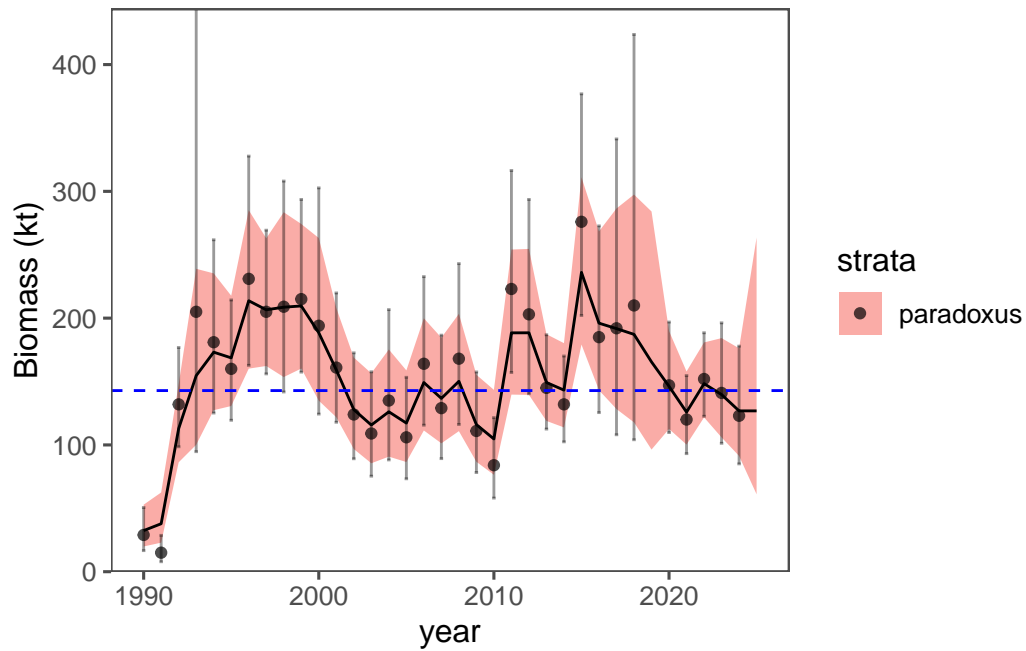


Figure 19: Historical biomass estimates for *M. paradoxus* and the mean biomass over the period 1990-2024.

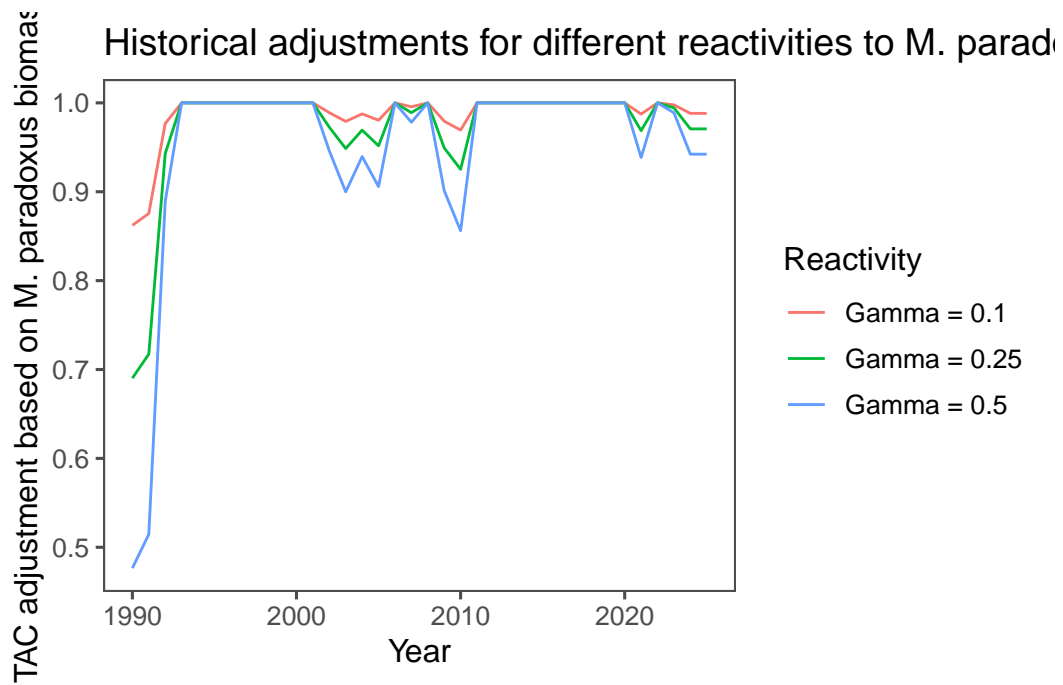


Figure 20: Historical adjustments for different reactivities to *M. paradoxus* biomass.

## Control rule developments

The situation for developing a two-species control rule where catches between species and the trend in overall biomass for both species is combined is challenging. For management purposes, the goal is to avoid incidental takes in the proportion of one species that exceeds the historical levels of depletion for either stock. Fortunately, survey data are available that can be used to distinguish trends in the relative biomass for both stocks. The design of the triggered control rule therefore must consider patterns in the relative biomass from the survey data, the absolute biomass of the combined catch and biomass as modeled from the combined-stocks assessment. This provides a pragmatic approach using available data.

The steps in the control rule would be first to run a simple model that projected the survey biomass and relative proportion of *M. paradoxus*. Then, given the mean proportion over the period, compute the adjustment needed to the overarching control rule for the management procedure. For example, the historical range based on the survey has been between about one third of the mean value (in the earliest part of the period) to about 70% above the mean proportion. This range (especially the lower value) was used as a semi-empirical way to develop a minimum stock size threshold as part of the control rule. That is, when the stock of *M. paradoxus* drops below 30% of the mean proportion of the combined stocks estimate, the TAC recommendation for the combined stock would be zero. So if proportion of *M. paradoxus* ( $p_y$ ) is greater than 30% of the long-term mean proportion, then

$$TAC_y = (\delta \sum_y^{y-4} \frac{RY_y}{5}) \min(1.0, B_y/B_{MSY})^\lambda 0.5^{-\lambda} \min(1, \dot{p}_y/\dot{\bar{p}})^\gamma$$

where the rebuilding factor ( $\delta$ ) is set to 0.8 when the spawning biomass is below  $B_{MSY}$  and 1.0 when above. In words, the TAC in year  $y$  is equal to the catch under the current control rule times the ratio of the spawning biomass relative to  $B_{MSY}$  (or proxy) and the externally estimated proportion of *M. paradoxus* from survey data. The second term relates  $B_{MSY}$  and is intended to take fast action (for  $\lambda > 1.0$ ) when the biomass falls below 0.5 of that value (a standard in many places to define “overfished”). The third term on the right hand side reflects the impact the *M. paradoxus* biomass projected from a survey smoother (described below) and adjusts the TAC advice downwards when the projected  $\dot{p}_y$  drops below the mean value. The values of  $\gamma, \lambda$  were evaluated and are shown in Table 4. We note that the specification of a survey linkage by the individual species provides an appropriate adjustment that reduces the exploitation rate and prevents potential for “the point of recruitment impairment” (PRI).

For the control rule as specified, the reactivity of the TAC advice to changes in either  $B/B_{msy}$  or the biomass of *M. paradoxus* biomass can be adjusted. These are shown in Figure 21. For the purposes of this analysis, we set  $\gamma = .25$ . For  $\lambda$ , most models evaluated were above 0.5 of  $B_{MSY}$  so there was no added adjustment beyond the  $R = 0.8$ . So, following the TAC as specified, the base-case model was below  $B_{MSY}$  so  $\delta = 0.8$  with the average replacement yield over the last 5 years is recommended, with the adjustment based on the relative biomass of *M. paradoxus* and the long-term mean biomass of the species.

The TAC advice for the combined stocks is then given in Table 4.

```

# |
dftmp <- NULL
mod_scen <- c(2:8)
ii <- 2
names(cur_mp) <- "Ratio of paradoxus to mean "
for (iii in mod_scen) {
  x <- modlst[[iii]]
  Cur_Bmsy <- round(x$Cur_Bmsy, 3)
  names(Cur_Bmsy) <- paste0("Current B over Bmsy")
  ry <- round(x$aveRY_last5, 0)
  names(ry) <- paste0("recent 5-yr avg repl. yield")

  ry_cur <- round(x$aveRY_last5 * min(1, x$Cur_Bmsy), 3)
  # names(ry_cur) <- ('Recent RY x current B/Bmsy')

  lambda <- 1.5
  gamma <- 0.25
  if (Cur_Bmsy > 0.5)
    adj <- 1 else adj <- Cur_Bmsy^lambda/0.5^lambda
  tac1 <- round(0.8 * ry * adj * min(1, cur_mp)^gamma, 2)
  names(tac1) <- paste0("opt 1, lambda=", lambda, " gamma=", gamma)

  lambda <- 2
  gamma <- 0.25
  if (Cur_Bmsy > 0.5)
    adj <- 1 else adj <- Cur_Bmsy^lambda/0.5^lambda
  tac2 <- round(0.8 * ry * adj * min(1, cur_mp)^gamma, 2)
  names(tac2) <- paste0("opt 2, lambda=", lambda, " gamma=", gamma)

  lambda <- 2
  gamma <- 0.1
  if (Cur_Bmsy > 0.5)
    adj <- 1 else adj <- Cur_Bmsy^lambda/0.5^lambda
  adj
  Cur_Bmsy
  tac3 <- round(0.8 * ry * adj * min(1, cur_mp)^gamma, 2)
  names(tac3) <- paste0("opt 3, lambda=", lambda, " gamma=", gamma)

  lambda <- 2
  gamma <- 1
  if (Cur_Bmsy > 0.5)
    adj <- 1 else adj <- Cur_Bmsy^lambda/0.5^lambda

```

```

adj
Cur_Bmsy
tac4 <- round(0.8 * ry * adj * min(1, cur_mp)^gamma, 2)
names(tac4) <- paste0("opt 4, lambda=", lambda, " gamma=", gamma)

filler <- ""
names(filler) <- "TAC"

v <- c(ry, Cur_Bmsy, cur_mp, filler, tac1, tac2, tac3, tac4)
dftmp <- cbind(dftmp, v)
}
dftmp <- data.frame(rownames(dftmp), dftmp, row.names = NULL)
names(dftmp) <- c("Statistic", mod_label[mod_scen])
tabcap <- "Selected management measures from alternative models. "
flextable(dftmp) |>
  set_caption(caption = tabcap) |>
  colformat_double() |>
  hline(i = 3) |>
  autofit()

```

Table 4: Namibian hake specification of different options for TAC consideration

Statistic	2025 Update	2024 base case	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
recent 5-yr avg repl. yield	151	157	166	158	170
Current B over Bmsy	0.521	0.584	0.832	1.769	0.675
Ratio of paradoxus to mean	0.971	0.971	0.971	0.971	0.971
TAC					
opt 1, lambda=1.5 gamma=0.25	119.91	124.68	131.83	125.47	135
opt 2, lambda=2 gamma=0.25	119.91	124.68	131.83	125.47	135
opt 3, lambda=2 gamma=0.1	120.45	125.23	132.41	126.03	135.6
opt 4, lambda=2 gamma=1	117.3	121.96	128.95	122.73	132.0

```

#--- Plot the adjustment factors for different reactivities to M. paradoxus biomass---
df01 <- tibble(relbiom = 1:20/20, `Gamma = 0.1` = (1:20/20)^0.1, `Gamma = 0.5` = (1:20/20)^0.5,
  `Gamma = 0.25` = (1:20/20)^0.25, ) |>
  pivot_longer(cols = -relbiom, names_to = "Reactivity", values_to = "adjustment")
df01 |>

```

```
ggplot(aes(y = adjustment, x = relbiom, color = Reactivity)) + geom_line() +
  xlab("Relative M. paradoxus biomass") + ylab("TAC adjustment") + ggthemes::theme_few() +
  ggsave(here("mods", "figs", "gamma.png"), width = 6, height = 5)
```

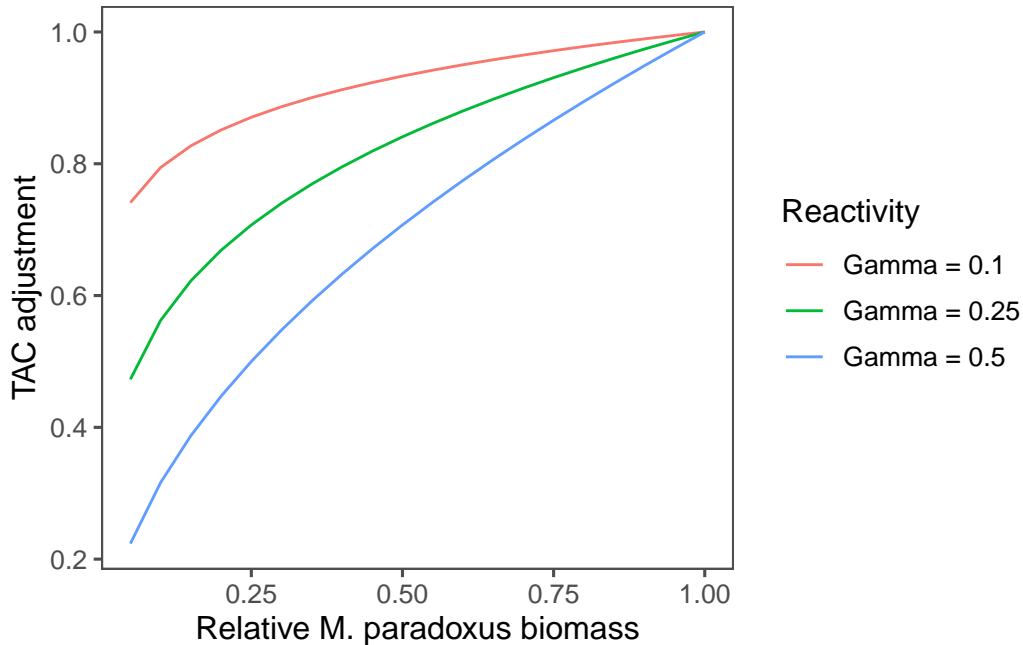


Figure 21: TAC adjustments for different levels of current biomass of M. paradoxus biomass.

```
#---Plot the adjustment factors for different reactivities to M. paradoxus biomass---
df01 <- tibble()
df01 <- rbind(df01, tibble(relbiom = 1:100/100, lambda = rep(0.5, 100)), tibble(relbiom = 1:100/100,
  lambda = rep(1, 100)), tibble(relbiom = 1:100/100, lambda = rep(1.5, 100)), tibble(relbiom = 1:100/100,
  lambda = rep(2, 100))) |>
  mutate(adjustment = if_else(relbiom < 0.5, relbiom^lambda/0.5^lambda, 1), lambda = as.factor(lambda))
df01 |>
  ggplot(aes(y = adjustment, x = relbiom, color = lambda)) + geom_line() + xlab("Spawning biomass") +
  ylab("TAC adjustment") + ggthemes::theme_few() #+ ylab('TAC adjustment based on M. paradoxus biomass')
  ggsave(here("mods", "figs", "lambda.png"), width = 6, height = 5)
```

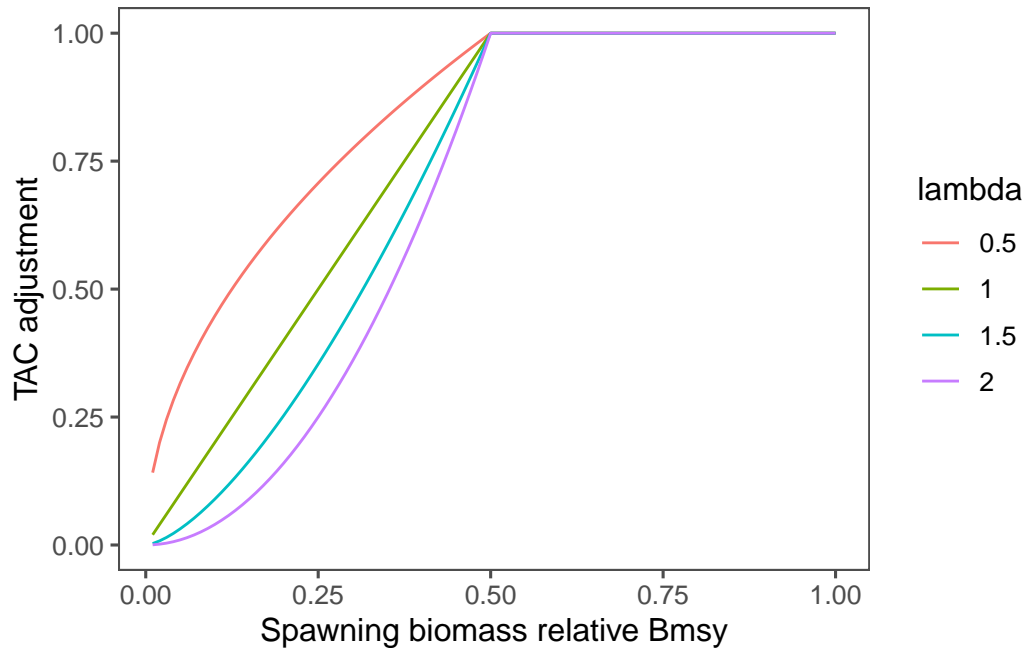


Figure 22: TAC adjustments for different levels of current biomass relative to Bmsy

## Projections

A set of simple projections were established from the base case model. These were based on the 2024 catch estimates (lower and higher values) for contrast relative to depletion Figure 23.

```

Rows: 6560 Columns: 4
-- Column specification -----
Delimiter: ","
chr (1): X3
dbl (3): X1, X2, X4

i Use `spec()` to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
i Specify the column types or set `show_col_types = FALSE` to quiet this message.
file:///private/var/folders/6j/nx969f1d63l5dhq2nc2z9hsc0000gn/T/Rtmp05wcBQ/file153d53d42

```

## Notes

Throughout the weeks, we scrutinized data inputs and found a couple of inconsistencies. For example, data were provided for surveys in 2019 yet there were no observations in that year.

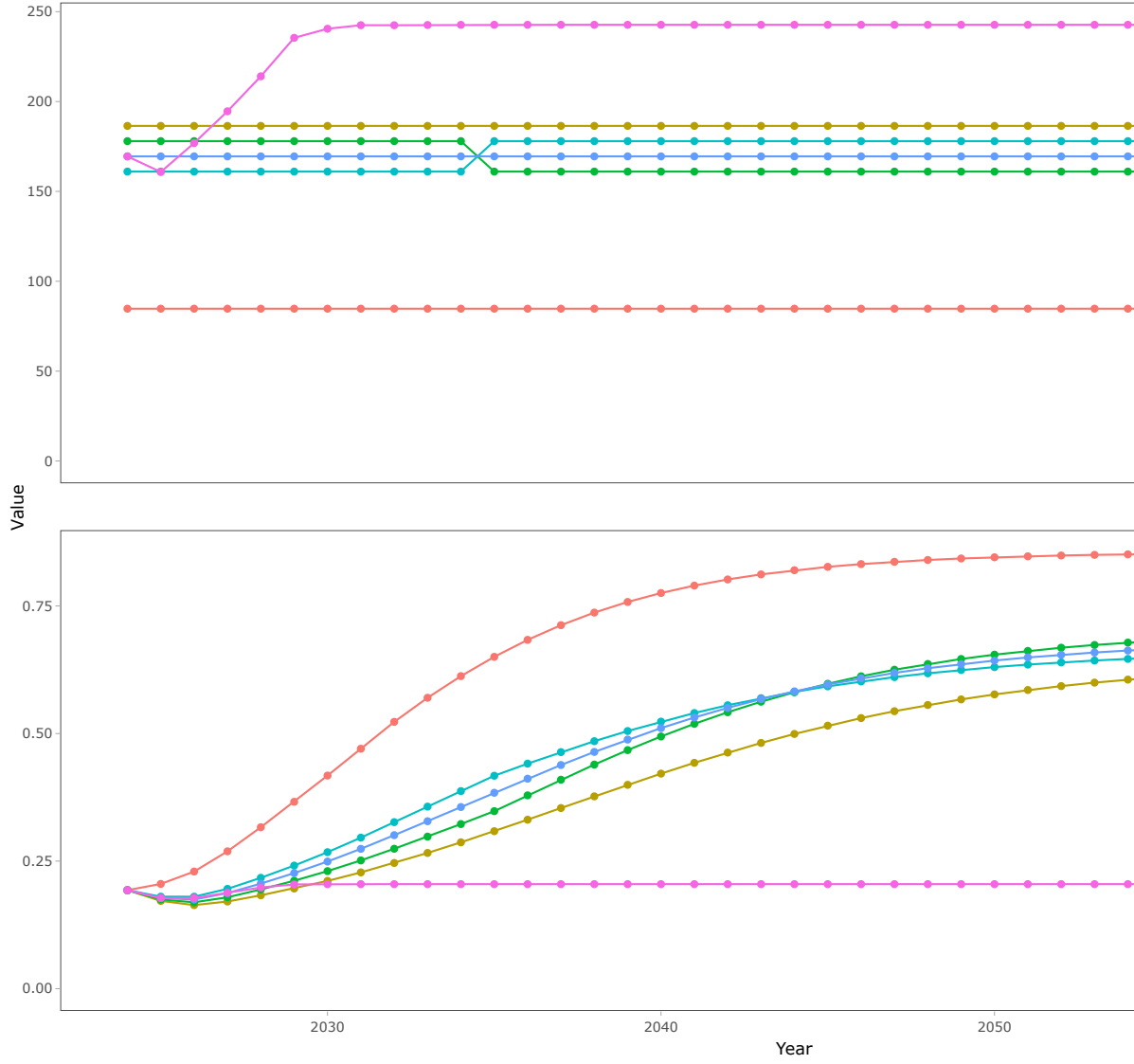


Figure 23: 40-year projections at different levels of catch related to the catch in 2024 (e.g.,  $0.5 \cdot C_{24}$  is constant catch at 50% of the catch estimated for 2024). The scenario labeled 'Replacement yld' is just the catch set to the replacement yield. The cases with '10yr' represent catch scenarios where the catch is increased (and decreased) by 10% of the 2024 catch and thereafter set equal to the 2024 catch.



Similarly, the abundance-at-length data from the surveys failed to identify strong periods of persistence by cohorts.

Should a run be done where we ignore 7-vessel CPUE data set?

```
```{r run_nh}
#| echo: true

#---Run all the models-----
for (i in 1:length(mod_dir))
  run_nh(model = mod_dir[i])
get_results()

```
```