

International review of some aspects of the Island Closure Experiment

Terms of Reference and Organisation Details

Format:

Virtual review meeting via Skype 3-4 December & 7-9 December 2020.

International review panel members: Ana Parma, Andre Punt, Malcolm Haddon, Michael Wilberg.

Chair: Janet Coetzee

Process:

Two, alternating “closed sessions” with the review panel members for Richard Sherley and Doug Butterworth/Mike Bergh. The first round of closed sessions will allow for presentation of the main methods/results/comments to the review panel. Members and observers of the SWG-PEL will be invited to join these sessions as a “silent audience”. This will be followed by a second closed session with focussed discussion of those methods/results/comments that will enable the review panel to address the key questions. These are “private sessions”. A 5th plenary session will be held with the entire SWG-PEL (including observers) where the panel will deliver its report containing answers to the key questions (see Table 1 for proposed meeting schedule and Table 2 for session detail).

Expected outcome:

Written report with clear, unambiguous YES/NO answers to the key questions. This may include optional remarks suggesting further work or rationale for answers, preferably restricted to a few sentences. Given the limited time available for this review and the need to focus on KEY QUESTIONS only, no other issues are to be considered. Note the list of questions below is in **PRIORITY ORDER**.

Key Questions:

Q1: It has been asserted (see FISHERIES/2020/SEP/SWG-PEL/96rev) that the estimates of island closure effects provided in FISHERIES/2020/JUL/SWG-PEL/53REV, which are based on individual data-based analyses, are (for reasons given in FISHERIES/2020/AUG/SWG-PEL/82) unreliable and consequently unacceptable for consideration in developing management recommendations regarding possible future island closures. Do the reasons given justify this assertion?

Q2: It has been asserted (see FISHERIES/2020/SEP/SWG-PEL/96rev) that the marked (and apparently relatively precisely estimated) change in the estimated survival rate at Robben (but not Dassen) island from the Kaplan-Meier estimates of chick survival rates after some 50 days exposure needs to be better understood before the associated results could be used with confidence as inputs to estimators of island closure effects – see the reasons given in FISHERIES/2020/AUG/SWG-PEL/82 (bottom of page 32) and FISHERIES/2020/AUG/SWG-PEL/84 (last paragraph on page 2). Is this assertion justified?

Q3: It is acknowledged that the limited degrees of freedom available with the aggregated data approach hampers efforts to obtain precise closure (fishing effect) estimates from the island closure experiment. In 2016, a power analysis approach was finalised to advise on the period needed for the closure experiment to have to continue before being able to provide biologically meaningful results; this was based on an aggregated data approach. In 2019, the Panel recommended that “given the nature of the experiment, use of individual data is to be preferred” (first bullet, page 10, MARAM/IWS/DEC19/General/5). Does it therefore follow that the aggregated approach should not be used to provide results on which management advice for island closures is to be based?

Table 1. Dates and times.

| | Thur 3 Dec | Fri 4 Dec | Mon 7 Dec | Tue 8 Dec | Wed 9 Dec |
|---|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| SAST (UTC+2) | 15:15 – 16:45 | 15:15 – 16:45 | 15:15 – 16:45 | 15:15 – 16:45 | 15:15 – 16:45 |
| Ana Parma (ART) UTC-3 hours 10:15 | Not available | | | | |
| Andre Punt (PST) UTC-8 hours 05:15 | | | | | |
| Malcolm Haddon (AEDT) UTC+11 00:15 AM (Fri 4 th , Sat 5 th) | | | Not available | Not available | Not available |
| Michael Willberg (EST) UTC-5 hours 08:15 | | | Available up to 16:00 | | |
| Richard Sherley UTC 13:15 | | | | | |
| Mike Bergh SAST 15:15 | | | | | |
| Doug Butterworth SAST 15:15 | | | | | |
| Kim Prochazka/Janet Coetzee SAST 15:15 | | | | | |

Grey = attendance required

Table 2. Session detail

| Date | Time (SAST) | |
|----------------------|---------------|---|
| Thursday 3 December | 15:15 – 16:15 | Richard Sherley presentation to the Panel ; Members and observers of the SWG-PEL attend as “silent audience” |
| | 16:15 – 16:45 | Panel zoom meeting |
| Friday 4 December | 15:15 – 16:15 | Doug Butterworth/Mike Bergh presentation to the Panel Members and observers of the SWG-PEL attend as “silent audience” |
| | 16:15 – 16:45 | Panel zoom meeting |
| Monday 7 December | 15:15 – 16:15 | Panel discussion with Richard Sherley |
| | 16:15 – 16:45 | Panel zoom meeting |
| Tuesday 8 December | 15:15 – 16:15 | Panel discussion with Doug Butterworth/Mike Bergh |
| | 16:15 – 16:45 | Panel zoom meeting |
| Wednesday 9 December | 15:15 – 15:45 | Panel zoom meeting |
| | 15:45 – 16:45 | Panel report to the SWG-PEL |

Panel Zoom meeting to be set up independently by Andre Punt for panel members only.