

Executive Summary

TFL 38 Management Plan #8

Timber Supply Analysis

A series of timber supply analyses have been completed for TFL 38. These analyses will form the basis for a recommended Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) for the period 1998-2002.

A number of analyses will be presented in the final timber supply analysis report. These cover a range of scenarios, including sensitivity analyses of various factors which are expected to impact on future timber supplies. In this summary only two scenarios are presented.

Scenario 1 forms the basis for the AAC recommendation. It includes the following:

- a long-term harvestable landbase of 35 541 hectares, which excludes:
 - non productive types
 - areas designated as protected
 - inoperable stands
 - ESA netdowns and riparian management areas
 - present and future roads
- low emphasis biodiversity requirements
- forest cover controls to meet wildlife and visual quality objectives
- existing yield estimates based on inventory sample cruise plot data
- future stand yield estimates based on current silviculture strategies, and employing conservative old growth site index adjustments.
- an allowance of 3700 cubic metres/year for unharvested losses.

Scenario 2 incorporates a 17% increase to existing mature stand yield expectations, reflecting uncertainty associated with these yield expectations.

Based on the results depicted in Figure 1, an AAC of 235 000 cubic metres will be proposed to the Chief Forester. This harvest is maintainable for a period of 10 years, after which it is systematically reduced by 10% per decade, to a long-term level of 167 000 cubic metres. Harvest volumes for the first 7 decades originate from existing mature and thrifty stands. Beyond this point, the harvest relies mainly on volume availability from regenerating managed stands. Timber availability is most constrained in decade 13, and further increases in supply are limited by this availability. Opportunities exist to increase medium-term harvest levels if more volume can be made available from managed stands through intensive silviculture.

Existing mature stand yield forecasts are based on average volume lines (AVLs) developed from inventory plot data. These estimates are approximately 17% lower than those which are based on the provincial VDYP stand yield estimator. While the plot-based approach is employed in the licensee proposal, Figure 2 indicates the changes in timber availability if the higher yields can be proven to be more realistic. In this case, the AAC of 235 000 cubic metres could be maintained for a total of 4 decades, before reducing to the long-term level. Therefore, a strengthening of the inventory database for TFL 38 could result in an improved timber supply outlook.

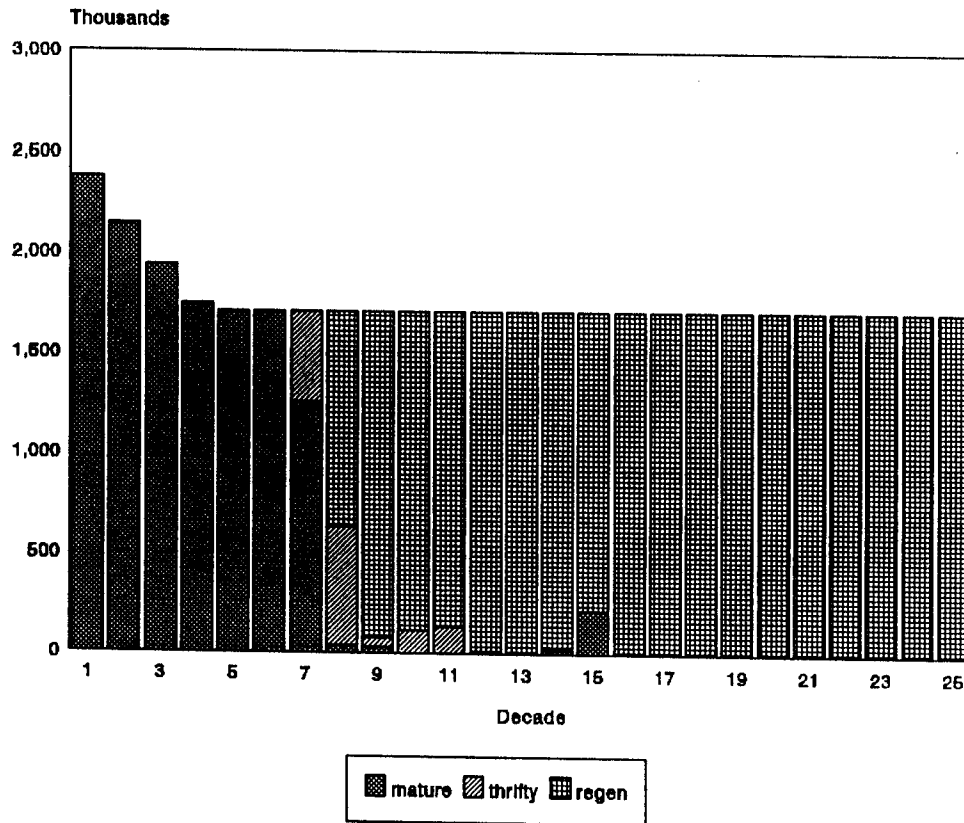


Figure 1. Gross harvest by maturity - licensee scenario

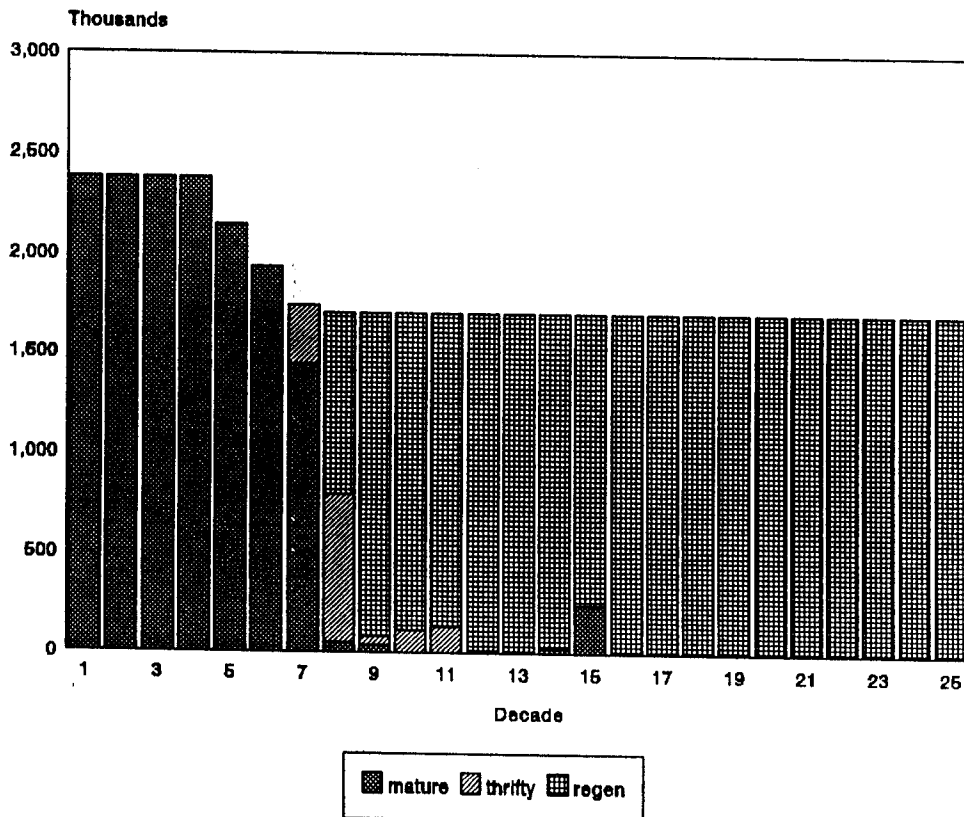


Figure 2. Gross harvest by maturity - mature yields increased by 17%