**South Pacific hake**

**SPECIES NAME(S)**
Merluccius gayi peruanus

**COMMON NAMES**
Merluza peruana (Spanish)

**STOCK IDENTIFICATION**
Peruvian hake (Merluccius gayi peruanus) latitudinal distribution extends from northern Ecuador (01°N) to central Peru (14°S). A stock is considered to occur between the northern limit of Peru (03°S) and Huarmey (10°S) (Guevara-Carrasco and Lleonart, 2008).

**ASSESSMENT**

**Strengths**
- Cooperation between the Fisheries Management entity and the Fisheries Research body is strong.
- Surveys are regular, well-organized and conducted in cooperation with the fishing industry.

**Weaknesses**
- The stock condition is considered to have been improving since 2012, but it is not clear to what extent as estimates of spawning biomass against reference points are not available.
- Latest available estimates (2007) of fishing mortality indicated that it was well above potential targets, fishing mortality rates since 2008 are unknown.
- Panels of external experts are regularly consulted but recommendations in 2009 seem not to have been taken into account by the Fisheries Research body.

**SCORES**

**Management Quality:**
- Management Strategy:
  - < 6
  - 6
- Managers Compliance:
  - > 6
- Fishers Compliance:
  - ≥ 6

**Stock Health:**
- Current Health:
  - > 6
- Future Health:
  - < 6

**FIPS**
- Peruvian hake - industrial bottom trawls:
  - Stage 5, Progress Rating A, Type: Fip, Evaluation Start Date: 1 Aug 2013

**MSC**
- No related MSC fisheries

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN**
- Press IMARPE to implement an appropriate, biologically-based target reference point in line with scientific advice.
- Ask IMARPE to follow the recommendations from the 2014 FAO peer review*, especially with respect to timely publication and peer review of stock assessments.
- Work with PRODUCE to develop and implement a strategy to reduce or eliminate IUU fishing.
- Work with scientists to conduct research to increase knowledge on the environmental impacts of the fishery.

*http://www.imarpe.pe/imarpe/archivos/informes/imarpe_inf_final_auditoria_fao_a_imarpe_(may_14).pdf