**European hake**

**NE Atlantic southern stock**

**Fishery:** NE Atlantic southern stock • EU Br, Sa, Tusc, Spain • Set gillnets (anchored)

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**ASSESSMENT**

**Strengths**
- Spawning stock biomass (SSB) and recruitment have increased in recent years, although recruitment in 2008 is lower than in previous years and estimated to be poor.
- SSB has been slowly increasing since 2004 and close to B_\text{lim}\_ in 2009.

**Weaknesses**
- The implementation of the recovery plan has not been effective. Fishing mortality has been increasing and the TAC has been overshot every year of the plan. Landings in 2008 including Cadiz were estimated to be 88,471 t, more than 2 times above the TAC for Southern Stock.
- Furthermore discard rates are high.
- A 10% annual reduction in fishing mortality had been achieved since 2006 according to the recovery plan, the fishing mortality in 2010 would be at target F of 0.27.
- The recovery plan has not been evaluated by ICES (2009a).