**Southern hake Patagonian**

**Fishery:** Chile XI-XIII Industrial

**MSC Certified**

**SCIENTIFIC NAME**
Merluccius australis

**SPECIES NAME(S)**
Southern hake

**COMMON NAMES**
Merluza austral (Spanish), Merluza del sur

**STOCK IDENTIFICATION**
Within the Patagonian distribution of the species, a distinct stock is described from the Chilean coast down to the southern tip of the continent, corresponding to regions of Los Lagos, Aysén and Magallanes (IFOP 2018). As only a small portion of its distribution lies within the Argentinian EEZ, the stock is managed and assessed by Chile.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**
- Engage with authorities in prompt implementation of the approved management plan for the fishery.
- Ensure adequate reporting of catches (landing and discards) and bycatch, especially from the artisanal fleet operating in the fishery.
- Improve the regulatory compliance of the fishery to eliminate all IUU fishing, especially unreported landings by the artisanal fleet.

**ASSESSMENT**

**Strengths**
- This is a discrete population with clear boundaries that mostly don’t go outside of the Chilean jurisdiction, which facilitates the management of this fishery.
- There is a management plan in place since 2016 with clear management objectives.
- There is a plan for the reduction of discards and bycatch in place since 2017, and good information on bycatch levels especially in the industrial fisheries.
- There is a seasonal fishing ban in August every year.

**Weaknesses**
- The resource is officially recognized as overexploited.
- The advisory board CCT-RDZSA (Scientific and Technical Committee for the Demersal Resources Zone South and Austral) recognized in the last advice (2017) that F should be reduced below F_MS\_target given the current status of the stock, but this proposal could not be adopted because the conditions of the Management Plan are binding. And the plan doesn’t forecast a reduction of F at current levels of SSB (31% of SSB0).
- Illegal and unreported fishing is officially recognized as a real problem for the stock by Subpesca (Subsecretary of Fisheries), the Management Authority.
- Fishing mortality rates have been above the recommended F_MS\_Y.
- There is no detailed information on the impact of the fishing gears used to harvest southern hake on bottom habitats, although it is supposed to be low.

**SCORES**

**Management Quality:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 6</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>&lt; 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Stock Health:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FIPs**

No related FIPs

**MSC**

- Chile Austral hake (Merluccius australis) industrial trawl and longline: MSC Certified