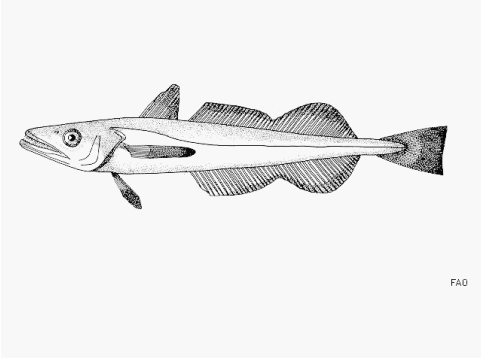


Southern hake Patagonian

 Fishery:  Argentina  Argentina  Longlines

IDENTIFICATION



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 (*IFOP 2018*). As only a small portion of its distribution lies within the Argentinian EEZ, the stock is managed and assessed by Chile.



RELATED LINKS:

- [Consejo Federal Pesquero \(CFP\)](#)
- [Fisheries Development Institute \(Chile\) \(IFOP\)](#)

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_{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 SSB_0)
- 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_{MSY} .
- 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:

| Management Strategy | Managers Compliance | Fishers Compliance |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| ≥ 6 | 6.1 | < 6 |

Stock Health:

| Current Health | Future Health |
|----------------|---------------|
| 7 | 6.5 |

FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

No related MSC fisheries

RECOMMENDATIONS

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN

- 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.