



FACTSHEET

2015

# HAKES

## SOUTH AMERICA



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### Smart Fishing Initiative

#### QUICK FACTS




<b>Commercial names</b>	Argentine hake, Chilean hake, Southern hake , South Pacific hake, Merluza común, Merluza del sur, Merluza argentina
<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Merluccius hubbsi</i> (Argentina, Uruguay), <i>Merluccius gayi</i> (Chile/ Peru), <i>Merluccius australis</i> (Chile/Argentina)
<b>Physical facts</b>	Maximum size: 80cm (Peruvian/ Chilean hake); 95 cm (Argentine hake); 126 cm (Southern hake) Maximum weight: 5 kg Maximum age: 15 years; 18 years (Argentine hake)
<b>Diet</b>	feed on crustaceans (krill and shrimps), squids, pelagic fish (anchovy, sardines , bacaladillo, icefish, lantern fish, Southern blue whiting), cannibalism of juveniles
<b>WWF sustainability rating</b>	<p>● Argentine, Peruvian, Chilean bottom trawl fishery (Chilean hake fisheries withdrawn from MSC assessment 2013).            ● Artisanal gillnet and bottom-set longline fisheries from Chile and Peru are not. Currently the feasibility of a Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) is being assessed for the artisanal gillnet fishery of Southern hake (<i>M. australis</i> in Chile).            ● The San Matías Gulf stock of Argentinean hake entered into MSC pre-assessment but withdrawn due to management issues. Now, it is being evaluated for a FIP by Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina.            ● Uruguayan fisheries are not rated.</p> <p><u>WWF rating</u>            ● avoid/ ● second choice / ● good choice/ ● not rated ● MSC-certified</p>
<b>MSC share 2015</b>	0 tonnes
<b>Commercial use</b>	Sold as whole, headed & gutted, fillets, steaks, portions, minced, chilled, coated, frozen block, marinated, pickled, surimi, ready meal and smoked. Non-edible by-products utilized as fishmeal.

#### CATCH METHODS

Bottom and midwater trawls are used in industrial fisheries that account for 99.6% in Argentina, 51% of hake catches in Chile and 95% in Uruguay. Small-scale artisanal fisheries employ bottom longlines and gillnets, and land 49% of hakes in Chile, 5% in Uruguay and 0.4% in Argentina. In Peru, hake is mainly fished by the industrial fleet. Peru's landings of the artisanal fleet, using longline as the main fishing gear were approximately 5% in 2007.

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<b>BOTTOM TRAWL</b>	<b>BOTTOM LONGLINE</b>	<b>MIDWATER TRAWL</b>	<b>GILLNET</b>

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

		Argentina Uruguay*	Chile	Peru
<b>Stock status</b>	Overexploited. Total captures usually exceed official quota.	yes	yes	yes
 <b>Bycatch &amp; discard</b>	Significant bycatch and consequent discard of non-commercial species: seabird in longline gear; shrimps, skates, deep-sea sharks and mollusks in trawls. Some regulative measures to limit bycatch and to retain discard are in place, rarely enforced.	yes	yes	yes
 <b>Habitat impact</b>	Limited scientific data about impacts on the bottom habitats. Bottom trawls operate on sandy and muddy bottoms. Some bottom trawls are equipped with bobbins and rock hoppers that are constantly improved.	uncertain**	uncertain**	uncertain**
 <b>Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species</b>	Bycatch of the Yellownose skate and several ray species listed as vulnerable or data deficient by the IUCN.	yes	yes	yes
	Bycatch of Humpback smoothhound ( <i>Mustelus whitneyi</i> ) (listed as vulnerable by the IUCN).	no	no	yes
	Bycatch of ETP seabirds rated by the IUCN: Black-browed albatross (endangered); white chinned petrel (vulnerable); Magellanic penguin (near threatened).	yes	yes	uncertain
	Black porpoises and bottlenose dolphins, ETP species rely on hake as a food source.	yes	no	yes
<b>Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing</b>	Existing monitoring and surveillance systems and fishery observers on board fishing vessels are not sufficiently enforced.	yes	yes***	uncertain
<b>Ecosystem effects</b>	Climate factors such as <i>El Niño</i> negatively effect the reproduction of hakes (e.g. due to sea surface temperature anomalies)	uncertain	yes	yes

\*The Uruguayan stock is jointly managed with Argentina.  
 \*\* currently no sufficient information available  
 \*\*\*No observers on small artisanal vessels < 12 m. Observer coverage on-board industrial trawlers is sub-optimal.

## GEOGRAPHY



Four main commercial hake stocks are managed under national jurisdiction within the respective exclusive economic zones. From the Pacific to the Atlantic these are: Peruvian hake (*Merluccius gayi peruanus*), Chilean hake (*Merluccius gayi gayi*), Southern hake (*Merluccius australis*) and Argentine/Uruguayan hake (*Merluccius hubbsi*).

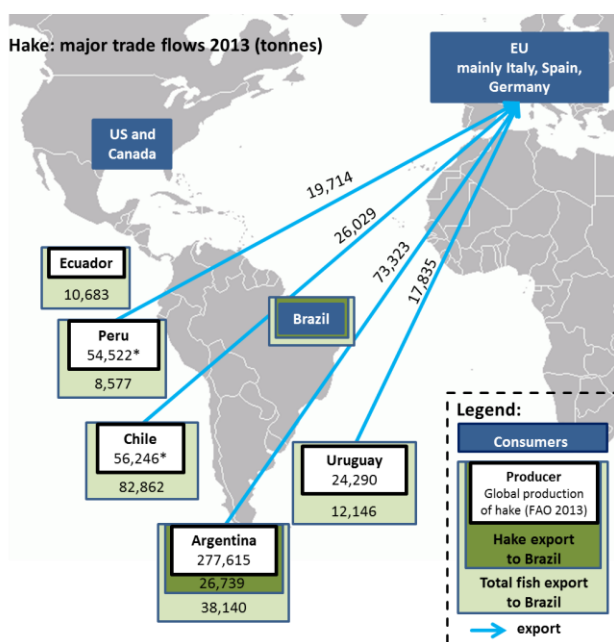
## FISHERY MANAGEMENT

Management measures	Argentina	Uruguay	Chile	Peru
A comprehensive science-based fisheries management plan is in place, including a) well-defined harvest control rules and b) a system for the allocation of fishing rights	no	no	a) yes b) partially	partially
Annual quota in 2015	370 000 *	50,000**	39,200***	47,129
Fisheries comply with the management plan	no	no	yes	yes
Closed areas, such as non-trawling zones	yes	yes	yes	yes
Unsustainable fishing gear is restricted	no	no	yes	yes
Measures to minimize bycatch of non-target species	no	no	yes	no
Fishery observers and vessel monitoring system to control IUU fishing and overfishing	yes	no	partially ****	uncertain
MSC certification	no	no	Industrial fishery is in pre-assessment	no

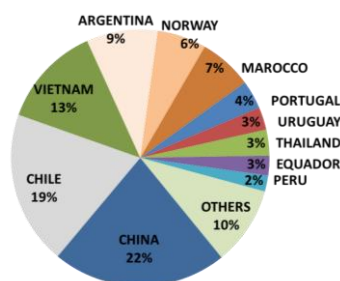
\*Annual quota 290,000 tonnes of Argentine hake stock South 41°S, combined with annual quota 30,000 tonnes Argentine hake stock North 41°S.  
\*\*Argentine-Uruguayan Common Fishing Zone (Argentine hake)  
\*\*\*Annual quota of South Pacific hake 23,000 tonnes and Southern hake 16,200 tonnes  
\*\*\*\*No observers on small artisanal vessels < 12 m. Observer coverage on-board industrial trawlers is sub-optimal.

## ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF SOUTH AMERICAN HAKES (as of 2015) Argentine hake, Southern hake, South Pacific hake

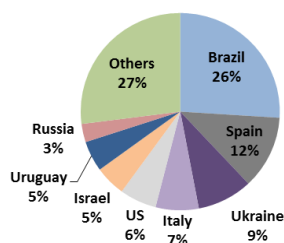
- hake catches of Peru and Chile have substantially declined due to stock decline, induced by overfishing
- 4.4% (412,673 tonnes) of global whitefish catch comprises of South American Hakes caught by Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Peru (2013)
- 32% (136,901 t) of the total third country hake import into the EU originates from Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Peru. Main markets are Italy, Spain and Germany (2013)
- Top 5 exporters represent 40% value (\$) of the total Argentinian hake export (*M. hubbsi*)
- Approx. 44,500 persons are employed in the Argentine, Peruvian and Chilean processing and catch sectors (2011)
- Brazil mainly imports seafood from China, Chile and Vietnam



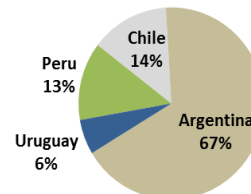
Origin of Seafood imported by Brazil



Export destinations Argentine hake (\$US)



Hake Capture Production in South America in 2013 (FAO)



## WWF ACTIONS TO PROTECT HAKES

### Argentina and Uruguay:

Cooperate with hake fisheries to reduce bycatch and discard of juvenile fish. Participate as an active stakeholder in the MSC certification process. Work with national fishery authorities to implement science-based measures towards sustainable management of hake fisheries.

### Chile and Peru:

Work with fisheries to develop a comprehensive hake fishery recovery plan. Cooperate with selected retailers worldwide to increase the demand for sustainable Chilean hake products in the these markets.

## WHAT CAN RETAILERS DO?

- Partner with WWF and ask for the introduction of necessary fishery improvement measures in Argentina, Chile, Peru and Uruguay.
- Encourage hake fisheries from Argentina, Chile, Peru and Uruguay to undergo Fishery Improvement Projects and in the long run to achieve sustainability standards to enter the MSC certification process. Hereby, industrial bottom-trawl fisheries shall be encouraged to reduce their ecological footprint, such as reducing the impact on the seabed. If the fisheries do not introduce necessary improvements by 2016, stop sourcing South American hakes.

## WHAT CAN GOVERNMENTS DO?

- **Argentina and Uruguay:** Implement a recovery plan for hake stocks. Introduce solid science-based measures for hake fishery that include climate change adaptation. Improve fishery monitoring systems and set quotas strictly based on scientific recommendations.
- **Chile:** Implement (for each hake species) a management plan with recovery goals and strategies, including a timeframe for the recovery/rebuilding of the stocks. In industrial hake fishery, ensure adequate observer coverage of fishing vessels and minimize negative impacts on habitat. In artisanal fleet, strengthen control of fishing operations.
- **Peru:** Implement a hake fishery recovery plan with focus on allocating a science-based quota, on improving transparency of fishing operations and on minimizing IUU fishing.

### Our Smart Fishing Vision and Goals:

**Vision:** The world's oceans are healthy, well-managed and full of life, providing valuable resources for the welfare of humanity.

**2020 Goals:** The responsible management and trade of global priority fisheries results in recovering and resilient marine ecosystems, improved livelihoods for coastal communities and strengthened food security for the Planet.



#### Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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### For more information

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