



FACTSHEET

2013

# HAKES

South America



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## Smart Fishing Initiative

### QUICK FACTS




<b>Commercial names</b>	Argentine hake, Chilean hake, South Pacific hake, Merluza común, Merluza del sur, Southern hake
<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Merluccius hubbsi</i> (Argentina, Uruguay), <i>Merluccius gayi</i> (Chile/ Peru), <i>Merluccius australis</i> (Chile/Argentina, New Zealand)
<b>Physical facts</b>	Maximum size: 50 – 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, lanternfish, Southern blue whittings), cannibalism of juveniles
<b>WWF sustainability rating</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Argentina, Peruvian, Chilean bottom trawl fishery</li> <li>● Chilean hake fisheries are in MSC assessment, Uruguayan fisheries are not rated</li> </ul> <p><u>WWF rating</u></p> <p>● avoid/ ● second choice / ● good choice/ ● not rated ● MSC-certified</p>
<b>MSC share 2010</b>	0
<b>Commercial use</b>	Sold as whole, headed & gutted, fillets, steaks, portions, minced, chilled, coated, frozen block, marinated, loins, pickled, ready meal and smoked. Utilised as fishmeal.

### CATCH METHODS

Bottom and midwater trawls are used in industrial fisheries that account for 99.6% in Argentina, 60% of hake catches in Chile and 95% in Uruguay. Small-scale artisanal fisheries employ bottom longlines and gillnets, and land 40% of hakes in Chile, 5% in Uruguay and 0.4% in Argentina.

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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, areas of low biological diversity.	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	uncertain
	Bycatch of Humpback smoothhound (listed as vulnerable by the IUCN).	no	no	yes
	Bycatch of ETP seabirds 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> effect negatively the reproduction of hakes due to oscillation.	uncertain	yes	yes
<p>*The Uruguayan stock is jointly management with Argentina.</p> <p>** Insufficient information currently available</p>				

## GEOGRAPHY



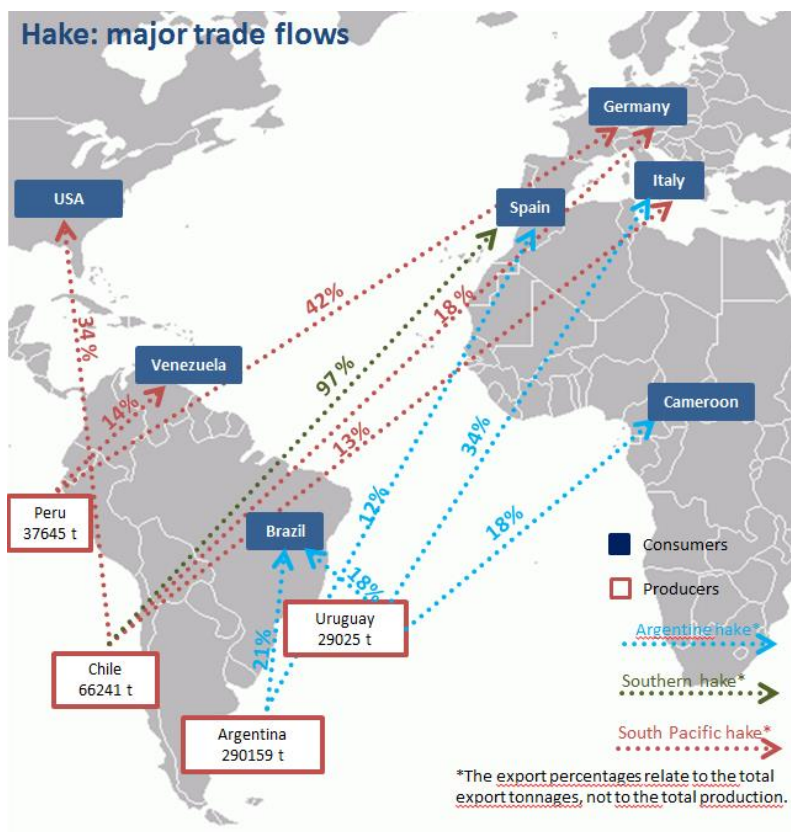
Four main commercial hake stocks are managed under national jurisdiction within the respective exclusive economic zones. From the Pacific to the Atlantic these are: Peruvian hake / (*Merluccius gayi peruanos*), Chilean (*Merluccius gayi gayi*), Southern hake (*Merluccius australis*) and Argentine/Uruguayan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

## FISHERY MANAGEMENT

Management measures	Argentina	Uruguay	Chile	Peru
A comprehensive science-based fisheries management plan is in place, including well-defined harvest control rules and a system for the allocation of fishing rights	no	no	in progress	no
Annual quota in 2013	277,000	35,000	61,000	13,750
Fisheries comply with the management plan	no	no	no	yes
Closed areas, such as non-trawling zones	yes	yes	yes	yes
Unsustainable fishing gear is restricted	no	no	yes	no
Measures to minimize bycatch of non-target species	no	no	yes	no
Fishery observers and vessel monitoring system to fully control IUU fishing and overfishing	yes	no	yes	no
MSC certification	no	no	The industrial fishery in assessment	no

## ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF SOUTH AMERICAN HAKES (as of 2011)

- 5% of global whitefish catch (430,762 tonnes) in 2011.
- 47% (183,825 tonnes) is exported to the EU.
- 21% - Brazil's share in the export of Argentine hakes in 2011; - 18% in the export of Uruguayan hake in 2009.
- 52% - hakes' share in total Argentine marine catch and 43% - in Uruguayan marine catch.
- Approx. 44,500 persons are employed in the Argentine, Peruvian and Chilean processing and catch sectors.



## 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 US retailers to increase the demand for sustainable Chilean hake products in the US market.

## WHAT CAN RETAILERS DO?

- Encourage hake suppliers from Argentina, Chile, Peru and Uruguay to obtain MSC certification. If the fisheries do not introduce necessary improvements by January 2015, stop sourcing South American hakes.
- Partner with WWF to introduce necessary fishery improvement measures in Argentina, Chile, Peru and Uruguay.

## 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 based on scientific recommendations.
- **Chile:** Set annual catch quotas based on scientific advice. Implement a management plan with recovery goals and strategies. In large-scale hake fishery, ensure fishery observers on board of fishing vessels and avoid negative impacts on habitat. In small-scale 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.

For more information, please read the detailed background paper.

[http://wwf.panda.org/what\\_we\\_do/footprint/smart\\_fishing/solutions/important\\_species\\_/whitefish/](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/smart_fishing/solutions/important_species_/whitefish/)

### 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 four key fishery populations 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.

[panda.org](http://panda.org)

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### For more information

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