

ARGENTINA HAKE – BOTTOM TRAWL (CHILLING FLEET) FIP ACTION PLAN

updated by CeDePesca on 9 January 2024

Introduction

The Argentina Hake – Bottom Trawl (chilling fleet) FIP has been formally launched by Cámara Argentina de Armadores de Buques Pesqueros de Altura (CAABPA), and CeDePesca, in September 2023. This document includes an update of the original FIP Action Plan and extends the horizon of the FIP up to August 2028.

Action Plan Overview

Action plan Version and Date	Version 1.2 – 9 January 2024
Start date (actual)	End date (anticipated month/year)
1 September 2023	31 August 2028
FIP Lead (organization/individual responsible for Action Plan)	Improvements recommended by (meeting/group that supported the development)
CeDePesca	CeDePesca
FIP Coordinator (organization/individual responsible for reporting on FisheryProgress)	Action plan developed by (consultant or person)
CeDePesca	CeDePesca

Acronyms

CAABPA	Cámara Argentina de Armadores de Buques Pesqueros de Altura / Argentine Chamber of Owners of Offshore Fishing Vessels
Cancillería	Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internaciona y Culto / Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship
CFP	Consejo Federal Pesquero / Fisheries Federal Council
INIDEP	Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero / National Institute of Fisheries Research and Development
SSPyA	Sub-Secretaría de Pesca y Acuicultura / Undersecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture

FIP Unit

Target species	Argentine hake (<i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>)
Other common names	Merluza, merluza común, merluza hubbsi, merluza común argentina, hake, whiting
Stock distribution	FAO Fishing Zone 41. Exclusive Economic Zone of the Argentine Republic. South 41°S, between 50 and 400 m deep.
Fishing method or gear type	Bottom-trawl
Fishing fleet	Vessels of the chilling fleet owned by members of the Cámara

FIP Objectives

The ultimate objective of this FIP is to achieve the fishery's certifiable status against the MSC standard by the end of August 2028. To this purpose, the FIP has set the following specific objectives:

1. Drive the adoption of an explicit catch control rule and the adoption of a limit reference point for the stock.
2. Compile information that allows the understanding of the impacts of the fishery on other components of the ecosystem.
3. Ensure that the fishery obtains explicit management objectives both in relation to the target species and other components of the ecosystem.
4. Promote a cooperation scheme for the management of the fishery that is being carried out in the waters adjacent to the Argentine EEZ.

ACTION PLAN

The three FIP Actions are currently active. All Actions are described in detail in the FIP profile at FisheryProgress.org:

Action Number and Name	Action 1. Promote improvements in the fishery management system
Action Goal	Ensure the effectiveness of the fishery management system and enhance the assessment of its performance in relation to its purpose.
Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	When the pre-assessment was completed in July 2023, the results indicated that the current management system needs to improve to be consistent with Principles 1 and 3 of the MSC. Therefore, the FIP seeks to (a) improve effective cooperation between Argentina and the main foreign fleet that catches hake outside the Argentine EEZ, (b) achieve the definition of explicit short and long-term objectives for the fishery, (c) the establishment of explicit catch control rules that ensure that fishing effort is reduced when the point for recruitment impairment is approached, (d) demonstrate that sanctions are applied and are dissuasive, and (e) ensure that the management system is periodically reviewed internally and externally.
Expected Completion Date	November 2027
Priority (as gauged in September 2023)	High
Responsible Parties	CeDePesca, FIP partners
Other stakeholders	CFP, INIDEP, SSPyA, Cancillería.
MSC PI(s) V3.0 Addressed by the Action	1.2.1, 1.2.2, 3.1.1, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3., 3.2.4
MSC PI(s) V2.01 Addressed by the Action	1.2.1, 1.2.2, 3.1.1, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3., 3.2.4

Action	Tasks/ Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / results
Action 1. Promote improvements in the fishery management system	Task 1.1. Promote, through the Monitoring Commission, the definition of a Management Plan for the common hake fishery with explicit objectives related to the sustainability of the fishery.	CeDePesca	CFP, FIP Partners	September 2023	August 2026	
	Task 1.2. Promote, through the Monitoring Commission, the establishment of an explicit catch control rule that responds to reference points and/or make explicit the effectiveness of the current catch control rule.	CeDePesca	INIDEP, CFP FIP Partners	September 2023	August 2026	
	Task 1.3. Promote the improvement of the consultation processes and the periodic evaluation of the fishery management system.	CeDePesca	CFP, FIP Partners	September 2023	August 2028	
	Task 1.4. Promote the effective implementation of the cooperation agreement between Argentina and Spain, or other alternatives for the management of the fishery in waters adjacent to the Argentine EEZ.	CeDePesca	SSPyA, Cancillería FIP Partners	September 2023	August 2026	
	Task 1.5. Ensure the publication of a document explaining the sanctions imposed for violations of current regulations.	CeDePesca	SSPyA, FIP Partners,	September 2023	November 2027	

Action Number and Name	Action 2. Promote improvements in the fishery research system.
Action Goal	Ensure the adoption of a Biological Limit Reference Point and ensure regular peer review of the assessment methodology.
Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	When the pre-assessment was completed in July 2023, the reproductive biomass was considered to be above its Target Reference Point. However, there is no biological limit reference point (LRP) for the stock. The objective of the FIP is to promote the definition of a LRP by INIDEP and the periodic peer review of the stock assessment and its methodology.
Expected Completion Date	August 2028
Priority (as gauged in September 2023)	High
Responsible Parties	CeDePesca, FIP Partners
Other stakeholders	INIDEP
MSC PI(s) V.3.0 Addressed by the Action	1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.4
MSC PI(s) V2.01 Addressed by the Action	1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.4

Action	Tasks/ Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / results
Action 2. Promote improvements in the fishery research system.	Task 2.1. Achieve the definition of a limit reference point for the stock.	CeDePesca	INIDEP	September 2023	August 2026	
	Task 2.2. Achieve the periodic peer review of the stock assessment.	CeDePesca	INIDEP, FIP partners	September 2026	August 2028	

Action Number and Name	Action 3. Promote improvements in fishing practices.
Action Goal	Promote the design of fishing gear and selectivity devices that reduce the incidental catch of juvenile hake, birds, chondrichthyans and marine mammals.
Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	Involve all actors to improve fishing practices, with the aim of reducing the bycatch of the fishery and guaranteeing the sustainability and protection of the marine ecosystem. To this end, the FIP will collaborate with the INIDEP Fishing Gear Program to design and/or test devices that reduce unwanted catches.
Expected Completion Date	August 2027
Priority (as gauged in September 2023)	Medium
Responsible Parties	CeDePesca, FIP Partners
Other stakeholders	INIDEP
MSC PI(s) V.3.0 Addressed by the Action	1.2.1, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2
MSC PI(s) V2.01 Addressed by the Action	1.2.1, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.3.1, 2.3.2

Action	Tasks/ Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / results
Action 3. Promote improvements in fishing practices.	Task 3.1. Conduct participatory workshops with captains and crew to identify improvements in fishing practices, fishing gear and selectivity devices that could reduce unwanted catches of the target species and the interaction with ETP/OOS species.	FIP Partners	CeDePesca	September 2023	August 2027	
	Task 3.2. Establish a code of good fishing practices in a participatory manner with companies, captains and crew members.	CeDePesca FIP Partners		Abril 2025	August 2027	
	Task 3.3. Collaborate with the INIDEP Fishing Gear Program in activities related to alternative measures to reduce bycatch in the fishery.	CeDePesca FIP Partners	INIDEP	Abril 2025	August 2027	

Action Number and Name	Action 4. Risk assessment and mitigation of impacts for other components of the ecosystem
Action Goal	Evaluate the risks and mitigation of impacts that the fishery could exert on other components of the ecosystem.
Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	Exhaustively identify the impact of the chilling fishing fleet on all components of the ecosystem, and conduct the analyzes necessary to understand the risks posed by the fishery. In light of the results, the FIP will promote the implementation of additional mitigation measures and seek effective collaboration between all interested parties.
Expected Completion Date	August 2028
Priority (as gauged in September 2023)	Low
Responsible Parties	CeDePesca
Other stakeholders	INIDEP
MSC PI(s) V.3.0 Addressed by the Action	2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1, 2.4.2
MSC PI(s) V2.01 Addressed by the Action	2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.5.1, 2.5.2



Action	Tasks/ Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / results
Action 4. Risk assessment and mitigation of impacts for other components of the ecosystem	Task 4.1. Identify and assess ecosystem components/elements that can be assessed using the MSC risk-based framework (ERAEF).	CeDePesca	INIDEP	March 2025	August 2028	
	Task 4.2. Promote the adoption of mitigation measures in light of the ERAEF results, if necessary.	CeDePesca		September 2026	August 2028	
	Task 4.3. Seek the collaboration of other entities interested in marine fauna.	CeDePesca		September 2025	August 2027	
	Task 4.4. Follow up on the management measures implemented by the Federal Fisheries Council on the prohibition of shark finning and ghost fishing.	CeDePesca	INIDEP	March 2025	August 2028	

Action Number and Name	Action 5. Implement a Private Onboard Observer Program to understand bycatch and discards by the chilling fleet.
Action Goal	Implement a Private Onboard Observer Program in the chilling fleet targeting Argentina hake, in order to obtain relevant data to understand impacts on other ecosystem components as required by the standard.
Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	Through the implementation of the Private On-Board Observer Program, the FIP aims at closing information gaps identified during the MSC pre-assessment conducted in July 2023. An effort will be made to exchange data with INIDEP, in order to complement the information already being collected by the INIDEP onboard observers program.
Expected Completion Date	August 2028
Priority (as gauged in September 2023)	High
Responsible Parties	CeDePesca
Other stakeholders	FIP Partners, INIDEP
MSC PI(s) V.3.0 Addressed by the Action	2.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.2.1, 2.2.3, 2.3.1, 2.3.3, 2.4.1, 2.4.3
MSC PI(s) V2.01 Addressed by the Action	2.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.2.1, 2.2.3, 2.3.1, 2.3.3, 2.4.1, 2.4.3, 2.5.1, 2.5.3



Action	Tasks/ Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / results
Action 5. Implement a Private Onboard Observer Program to understand bycatch and discards by the chilling fleet.	Task 5.1. Organize and implement a Private Onboard Observer Program.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners	September 2023	August 2028	
	Task 5.2. Communicate the progress and results of the Private Onboard Observer Program among partners.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners	February 2024	August 2028	
	Task 5.3. Share data from the Private Onboard Observer Program with INIDEP.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners, INIDEP	February 2025	August 2028	
	Task 5.4. Publish and disseminate technical reports with the systematization of the data collected by the Private Onboard Observer Program and make this information available to researchers.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners	February 2025	August 2028	