



Argentine hake (*Merluccius hubbsi*) bottom trawl fishery FIP Three-Year Evaluation Report

Version 1.3, November 2022

Purpose

The three-year evaluation report template was developed by FishChoice. The objectives of the three-year evaluation report are:

1. To assess the fishery's MSC performance indicator scores
2. To verify the results of the FIP's environmental workplan progress as reported on [FisheryProgress](#)
3. Optional: To provide recommendations to the FIP on environmental workplan actions that should be modified, including recommendations for additional actions/tasks that should be taken or suggested changes to timelines, to help the FIP achieve their stated objectives.

Completing and Submitting the Evaluation

FisheryProgress requires the use of this three-year evaluation report template and the information must be submitted in English. FIPs should update the template below with evaluation results. *Note that text in italics provides additional guidance about information that should be included in each section and should be removed from the final version of this document, and highlighted text should be replaced to reflect the information for your fishery.* Save this document as a PDF upon completion and submit to FisheryProgress. Once the evaluation is complete, FIPs should update all relevant data fields on FisheryProgress based on the evaluation report.

FIP Information

Fill in the following table. The management authority is the regulatory authority with fishing management responsibilities; there may be multiple authorities where joint jurisdictional responsibilities occur.

Target species scientific name(s) and common name(s) [state target stock(s), if relevant]	Argentine common hake (<i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>) south stock
Fishery location	Territorial waters, south of parallel 41°S of the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Argentina in the south-western Atlantic
Gear type(s)	Bottom trawls
Estimated FIP Landings (weight in tons)	82,285 metric tons 2022

Vessel type(s) and size(s)	Freezer vessels fleet with port of registry in Mar del Plata and Puerto Madryn
Number of vessels	14 –fleet has 17 vessels- A new member will join the FIP with 1 or 2 additional vessels
Management authority	Federal Fisheries Council and the Subsecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Argentina
Assessor name(s)	Albert Arthur
Assessor Organization/Affiliation	Sea Strategies LLC
Date of report completion	16 th June 2025

FIP Background (Optional)

The Argentine hake (*Merluccius hubbsi*) bottom trawl fishery, targeting the southern stock between 41°S and 48°S, is one of the most important fisheries in the Argentine Sea. The industrial fishery consists of two main fleets: the freezing fleet and the chilling fleet, both of which operate with bottom trawl gear. This Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) focuses on the freezing fleet and is being implemented by Pedro Moscuza e Hijos S.A., Estrella Patagónica S.A., Grupo Iberconsa de Argentina S.A., Giorno S.A., Pescasol S.A., Costa Marina S.A., and Pesquera Comercial S.A., with technical support from CeDePesca.

The FIP's main objective is to bring the fishery to a certifiable status against the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) standard by March 2027, within the shortest timeframe possible. The fishery is managed by the Fisheries Federal Council and the National Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. At the same time, scientific research and stock assessments are led by the National Institute of Fisheries Research and Development (INIDEP).

Stakeholder Consultation & Meetings

In-person and virtual interviews with stakeholders are meant to inform the assessor with regards to the fishery's performance and to elicit information regarding the contributions that the FIP's participants have provided in making environmental progress towards the FIP's objectives. Stakeholders represent the most critical source of information regarding a fishery independent of the FIP lead and FIP participants. Stakeholders can shed light on the diversity of perspectives on the fishery and can highlight any areas of controversy. The stakeholder consultation process allows an assessor to hear a range of perspectives and make an objective and balanced evaluation of the fishery against the MSC Fisheries Standard and the environmental workplan results.

A successful stakeholder consultation process will instill confidence in stakeholders that the assessment of a given fishery was well informed by a balanced, accessible, and equitable process to which they were able to contribute meaningfully. It should not be a forum to debate issues, but to identify the full range of relevant information and issues and bring them to the attention of the assessor. It should also help the assessor identify the improvements that have occurred in the fishery as a direct result of the FIP's activities and provide a foundation upon which the assessor can provide recommendations for potential adjustments that need to be considered for the FIP to fulfill the environmental objectives that they have set out to achieve. For additional guidance on conducting stakeholder consultation, see Section G4.2 of the [MSC Fisheries Certification Process Version 3.0](#)

Fill in the following table and include a high-level summary of the subjects that were discussed. Additional rows may need to be added or modified depending on number of participants and meetings completed. Stakeholders may include: official participants in the fishery improvement project, as well as government representatives, industry

(fishers, processors, exporters, mid supply chain and end buyers, etc.), environmental and social NGOs, and the scientific community, or those who are impacted by the project or have a role in making changes to address environmental challenges in the fishery.

Name	Affiliation	Date and Subjects Discussed
Dr. Wohler Otto, Director de Investigación Lic. Gabriela Irusta, Jefa de Programa Lic. Betina Santos, Investigadora Lic. Lía Chavarría, Investigadora Lic. Analía Giussi, Investigadora Victoria Leuci, Responsable del Grupo de Certificación de Pesquerías Lic. Tomás Tapia, Investigador Programa Cefalópodos Dra. Marcela Ivanovic, Jefe Programa Cefalópodos.	INIDEP	Catch Composition, Kingclip (Genypterus blacodes, also known as pink cusk-eel) Kingclip is occasionally caught alongside Argentine hake during the same fishing trips. While it may be taken incidentally, directed fishing for kingclip is explicitly prohibited under CFP Resolution No. 25/2012, and CFP Resolution No. 9/2018 establishes bycatch limits of no more than 3% of the total catch or 10 tonnes per trip, whichever is lower. Squid Fishery Management: The squid fishery is managed, although not based on conventional reference points. Instead, it operates under a highly controlled system where weekly escapement targets are established. Once these targets are met, the fishery is closed accordingly. ETP Species Reports – Seabirds and Marine Mammals Reports on seabird interactions are available for the periods 2011–2015 and 2017–2021 under the ETP (Endangered, Threatened, and Protected) species framework. Reports on marine mammals are also available separately. Although bird-scaring lines (tori lines) are mentioned, it is unclear whether their use is currently being implemented across the fleet. INIDEP does not work directly on seabird or marine mammal research; these topics are generally addressed through collaborations with universities that specialise in these areas. Habitat- 2023 INIDEP published report: Benthic samples are taken annually and compared to the previous year. Hake and Shrimp Surveys collect data on benthic. However, there is no information on the impact of the fleet on the habitats. There is some information, but it is not enough. Onboard observers don't collect this information as they focus on other types of data. The type of habitats is still not clear. Gear Selectivity and Management Measures. Selectivity tests have been conducted in collaboration with INIDEP. However, a key challenge is that juvenile and mature hake

		are often mixed within the same fishing grounds, making it challenging to apply selective gear modifications without significantly impacting the overall catch. Additionally, there is a designated closed area where targeting hake is prohibited, which serves as a spatial management measure to reduce pressure on the stock. The closed area is quite large, which has allowed for recovery. We are seeing fewer fish of bigger sizes. This is a concern; therefore, selectivity tests are recommended. Discards are increasing, and this is a long-term problem. This is an area for improvement. Governance and Fishing Activity Beyond 200 Nautical Miles. There is growing concern about fishing activities occurring beyond 200 nautical miles, an area outside the jurisdiction of the Argentine government. It is estimated that up to 15% of regional hake catch occurs beyond Argentina's EEZ, primarily by foreign fleets. Argentine-flagged FIP vessels do not operate in these waters. of the total hake catch takes place beyond Argentina's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), where governance is limited. To address this issue, Argentina and Spain have signed an agreement to share information on catches in these areas. However, effective management remains a challenge due to the lack of binding regulatory mechanisms beyond national jurisdiction.
Angel Diaz	Cedepesca	CeDePesca has operated an independent Private On-Board Observer Program (POAB) since 2022, collecting data on fishing effort, species composition, discards, and interactions with endangered, threatened, and protected (ETP) species. A comprehensive technical report covering four years of observer data (2022–2025) is expected to be released in July 2025. Kingclip is managed under strict bycatch limits established in CFP Resolution No. 09/2018, which sets a maximum of 3% of the total catch or 10 tonnes per trip, whichever is lower. Directed fishing is prohibited under CFP Resolution No. 25/2012. A new draft management plan for kingclip was submitted to the Federal Fisheries Council in April 2025, but biological reference points (BRPs) for the species have not yet been officially adopted. Stock status: The southern stock shows signs of recovery, with recent estimates placing

		the spawning biomass (SB) at approximately 708,000 t, 19% of which are large spawners, and the total biomass (TB) at 1,145,000 t, both above the biological target reference points. However, uncertainty remains over the proxy used for the virgin biomass (VB), incorporated in the previous assessment (Santos and Villarino, 2023) and clarified further in Santos (2023), indicating the need for ongoing research to refine the estimate of the target reference points (Santos et al., 2024). Fleet: The FIP currently includes 14 active vessels, with additional vessels expected to join. As of mid-2025, 19 captains have received training on ETP species identification, bycatch mitigation, and accurate catch declaration procedures. A formal good fishing practices protocol is under development with active engagement and uptake from captains during CeDePesca-led workshops. Habitat Information: Habitat data are being collected but have not yet been fully analyzed. A recent INIDEP report may supplement PROMES reporting. International Cooperation Challenge: CeDePesca faces difficulties accessing sustainability reports from Spanish fleets fishing in the same area. Despite EU transparency rules, the data is not public. Requests were sent to DG MARE in June 2025
Daniel Valenzuela, Moscuzza Pablo Rodriguez, Estrella Patagonica Otto Wohler, Solimen SA	Industry	The observer program for freezer vessels is working well, providing consistent data to INIDEP. The main challenge is reducing the incidental catch of juvenile hake; experiments with selective gear are ongoing, but face operational difficulties: 100% observer coverage on freezer vessels provides high-quality data to INIDEP Bird-scaring lines are used to reduce interactions with seabirds Selectivity devices (e.g., ARSEL) have been developed to allow juvenile hake to escape Indicators of bycatch reduction are positive, though not ideal Operational challenges with the selective gear under certain weather conditions Illegal fishing on the 201-mile line (just outside the EEZ) by foreign fleets is a primary concern, impacting sustainability and the economy.

Summary of Findings and Recommendations

Over the past three years, the Argentine hake (*Merluccius hubbsi*) freezer trawl fleet FIP has demonstrated measurable progress against several MSC performance indicators, particularly in areas related to scientific monitoring, defining target reference points, and management responsiveness. Gaps remain in relation to the absence of fully defined and implemented harvest control rules, incomplete strategies for reducing impacts on non-target species and habitats, and insufficient ecosystem outcome evidence. Additionally, emerging challenges such as limited international governance beyond the Argentine Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and signs of declining stock size structure may also represent long-term sustainability risks.

Principle 1 – Sustainable Fish Stocks

Significant effort has been made to strengthen the scientific basis of stock management. A key milestone was the formal adoption of a Target Reference Point (TRP) by INIDEP in late 2023, consistent with international best practices. Work is ongoing to define the Limit Reference Point (LRP), which is crucial for implementing a precautionary harvest control strategy. Although no formal harvest control rule (HCR) has been adopted, the FIP continues to collaborate with INIDEP to develop the necessary reference points. Scientific surveys conducted in 2022 and 2024 have contributed to an improved understanding of biomass and age structure, although the execution of these surveys has been irregular.

Recommendation:

The FIP must prioritise the formal definition and implementation of both the LRP and an operational HCR that includes pre-agreed management responses tied to stock status. These mechanisms must be transparently documented and integrated into regulatory instruments to ensure predictable and precautionary action. The FIP should continue working to improve the cooperation between Argentina and the main foreign fleet that catches hake outside the Argentine EEZ.

Principle 2 – Minimising Environmental Impact

The FIP has expanded its Private On-Board Observer Program (POAB), covering 10 trips and 764 hauls to date. Data confirm consistently low Kingclip bycatch rates, well below regulatory thresholds, with a high proportion retained for commercial use. CeDePesca and INIDEP have collaborated to enhance data formats and observer protocols, particularly regarding endangered, threatened, and protected (ETP) species. In 2023, a benthic impact sampling protocol was developed and published, and a risk-based ecosystem assessment is underway using POAB data to assess habitat vulnerability and risks to non-target species. Gear selectivity research and a draft protocol for good fishing practices are under review following workshops with fleet captains and managers.

Several key reports are expected in July 2025, including updated POAB analysis, ETP and habitat data, and the Consequence Spatial Analysis (CSA). These outputs are likely to strengthen scoring justifications and should be incorporated into the next evaluation.

Despite these advances, the fishery continues to underperform against several outcome and strategy indicators:

- **Primary species:** Kingclip remains critically depleted, with spawning biomass estimated at 11–12% of virgin levels in 2020–2021, below the biological limit reference point. A slight increase in abundance and recruitment was observed between 2014 and 2021, possibly linked to reduced hake fishing effort. However, recovery remains limited and uncertain. The UoA contributes minimally to mortality, but the lack of a recovery plan undermines management credibility.
- **Secondary and ETP species:** Information remains partial. There is no catch composition analysis, and there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that UoA activities are not hindering recovery or protection of secondary and ETP species.

- **Habitats and ecosystem:** A benthic protocol has been adopted, but VME classification, and there is no information of the impact of the UoA on habitats.

Recommendations:

- Formalise a Kingclip recovery strategy.
- Quantify ETP species interaction rates, assess unobserved mortality, and determine whether UoA activities hinder species recovery.
- Complete the Consequence Spatial Analysis (CSA) and integrate results into spatial planning and mitigation strategies.
- Complete the RBF for the ecosystem component

Principle 3 – Effective Management

Governance within the fishery has shown measurable progress through the development of a consolidated Fishery Management Plan (FMP). This plan was formally submitted by FIP participants to the Hake Fishery Monitoring Commission in April 2025 and subsequently discussed during the Federal Fisheries Council session, as recorded in Acta CFP N°13/2025. During this session, the Council acknowledged receipt of the proposal and instructed its legal advisor to initiate a working group to analyse potential regulatory amendments and systematise the current administrative framework. This marks a significant institutional step toward the formal adoption and operationalisation of the FMP.

Enforcement capacity has also improved, as evidenced by documented sanctions, greater transparency, and external audits. Public access to technical documents and collaboration with INIDEP have further enhanced confidence in the management process. Additionally, a formal cooperation agreement signed in May 2024 established joint research initiatives on bycatch composition, squid fisheries, and benthic habitat impacts.

Despite these advances, several limitations persist:

- The consolidated FMP has not yet been formally adopted or implemented, and remains under review by relevant authorities.
- While elements of adaptive management are evident, such as periodic reviews by the Federal Fisheries Council and technical advice from INIDEP that have led to regulatory adjustments (e.g., seasonal closures and observer coverage), these processes remain largely ad hoc. A structured, documented evaluation framework is not yet in place.
- Monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) measures, although established, remain inconsistent for data-limited components such as endangered, threatened, and protected (ETP) species and habitat impacts.

Recommendations:

- Ensure the formal adoption and implementation of the consolidated Fishery Management Plan, including clear objectives and strategies for managing non-target species and minimizing habitat impacts.
- Institutionalise a robust performance evaluation system with periodic, independent reviews that directly inform adaptive management and regulatory reform.

Summary of MSC Performance Indicator Scores

Fill in the “previous score” scoring category (<60, 60-79, ≥80) for each performance indicator (PI) according to the most recent set of scores available on FisheryProgress (see the Improvement Progress tab of the FIP’s profile — The most recent scores will be on the right-most column.)

Fill in the “current score” scoring category (<60, 60-79, ≥80) for each performance indicator (PI) by referring to the [MSC Fisheries Standard v2.01](#) or [MSC Fisheries Standard v3.0](#). **Provide a rationale that explicitly addresses each of the performance indicator’s scoring issues (and references when applicable).**

Fisheries that contain combinations of multiple target species, gear types, and/or governing jurisdictions (UoAs) have the option to complete the [Multi-species/Gear/Jurisdiction Indicator Score spreadsheet](#) but **please note that the table below must provide the lowest score for each performance indicator. For Multi-species/Gear/Jurisdiction FIPs, the assessor may choose to address only the scoring issues for the lowest scoring UoA(s) for that performance indicator in the rationale.**

Principle	Component	Performance Indicator		Previous Score 2024	Current Score 2025	Rationale or Key Points
1	Outcome	1.1.1	Stock status	>80	>80	The 2024 stock assessment (Santos et al., 2024), based on the ECE and APV-XSA models, estimated the spawning biomass (SB) at 783,893 t (ECE) and 758,776 t (XSA), both exceeding the Target Reference Point (600,000 t + ≥14% of large spawners) adopted by INIDEP. Recruitment levels remain stable, with no recent recruitment failures reported. These results confirm that the southern stock is above the level where recruitment would be impaired and is likely fluctuating around the maximum sustainable yield (MSY), indicating a high level of productivity and a continued positive trend.
		1.1.2	Stock rebuilding	>80	N/A	N/A
	Management	1.2.1	Harvest Strategy	>80	>80	The Argentine common hake (<i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>) southern stock is managed through a comprehensive and responsive harvest strategy, primarily based on Total Allowable Catch (TAC) limits, spatial closures, minimum size limits, and annual stock assessments. The harvest strategy is designed and implemented by the Federal Fisheries Council in coordination with the National Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and the National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development (INIDEP).

						Key elements of the harvest strategy include: • Total Allowable Catch (TAC): Defined annually based on scientific advice from INIDEP. The TAC is distributed among fleet segments and companies according to quota allocations. • Spatial and Temporal Closures: A significant long-term spatial closure, the Permanent Juvenile Hake Closure Area (AVJM), is enforced to protect juvenile aggregations. Seasonal closures and effort controls are also used to manage fishing intensity. • Minimum Legal Size: A minimum capture size of 35 cm total length is enforced to protect immature individuals (Resolution 447/96). • Scientific Monitoring and Stock Assessment: INIDEP conducts annual stock assessments using both catch-at-age statistical models (ECE) and Virtual Population Analysis (APV-XSA). These assessments inform management decisions and TAC adjustments. • The 2024 stock assessment uses two proxy Target Reference Points (TRPs): (a) a spawning biomass (SB) of $\geq 600,000$ t with $\geq 18\%$ of large spawners (GR), and (b) a spawning biomass of $\geq 30\%$ of the estimated virgin spawning biomass (SB_0), set at 810,000 t (Santos et al., 2024). The latter is a proxy derived from prior modelling work and not a formally adopted biological reference point. While these reference points align broadly with international best practices, INIDEP has not yet adopted a Limit Reference Point (LRP) or a formal harvest control rule (HCR), and further research is needed to reduce uncertainty around the estimated SB_0 proxy. • Evidence of Responsiveness: TACs and closures have been adjusted in response to stock status. Stock biomass has remained at or above
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						the TFP. since at least 2021, with no recent signs of recruitment impairment. This indicates the current harvest strategy is effectively maintaining the resource at sustainable levels. Supporting Measures: The FIP has also supported implementation of a Private On-Board Observer Program (POAB) and promoted development of a consolidated fishery management plan, which remains in draft form as of early 2025. The harvest strategy in place for the Argentine hake southern stock is well-defined, evidence-based, and responsive to the state of the stock. It includes the key components required to achieve stock management objectives and has been effective in maintaining the spawning biomass above reference points. A score of 80 is justified
		1.2.2	Harvest control rules and tools	60-79	60-79	The Argentine hake (<i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>) southern stock is managed through a system based on annual scientific assessments conducted by INIDEP, which provide the basis for setting Total Allowable Catch (TAC) limits and other management measures (INIDEP, 2023a). In November 2023, INIDEP formally adopted a Target Reference Point set at 30% of the estimated virgin spawning biomass, incorporating a requirement that large spawners constitute at least 14% of the population (INIDEP, 2023b). These benchmarks are consistent with international best practices for demersal fisheries and align with the MSC Fisheries Standard. Despite this progress, a Limit Reference Point has not yet been defined, and no formal harvest control rule (HCR) has been adopted. As of January 2025, the HCR remains under development through technical dialogue between CeDePesca and INIDEP (personal communication, CeDePesca & INIDEP, 2025).

						While the system meets with SG60 through a defined TRP and responsive TAC setting, there is insufficient evidence of a fully operational HCR, and SG80 is not met.
		1.2.3	Information and monitoring	>80	>80	The Argentine hake southern stock fishery is supported by a strong and long-standing information and monitoring system. INIDEP conducts annual stock assessments using two validated models (ECE and APV-XSA), informed by biological data from fishery-independent surveys and commercial sampling. In 2022 and 2024, surveys provided key data on biomass, age structure, and distribution, although the 2023 campaign was missed. The fishery is also supported by CeDePesca's Private On-Board Observer Program (POAB), which has yielded detailed catch and bycatch data across 764 hauls since 2022, with improved protocols implemented in 2024. Spatial and temporal controls are supported by accurate information on fishing locations, effort, and landings, including vessel tracking systems and mandatory reporting. This supports effective implementation of management measures such as the Permanent Juvenile Hake Closure Area and seasonal restrictions. This combination of reliable, consistent, and science-based data fully supports the harvest strategy and enables accurate stock status estimates.
		1.2.4	Assessment of stock status	>80	>80	INIDEP assesses the Argentine hake (<i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>) southern stock using two validated models (ECE and XSA), benchmarked against two proxy Target Reference Points (PBROs): (a) a spawning biomass (SB) of at least 600,000 t with a proportion of large spawners (GR/R) no less than 18%, and (b) a spawning biomass of at least 30% of the estimated virgin spawning biomass (SB₀), set at 810,000 t. Although a Limit Reference Point (PBRL) is still under development, the models apply precautionary assumptions and produce consistent estimates to support management decisions. The

						approach explicitly incorporates uncertainty and is supported by internal and external technical reviews (INIDEP, 2024; FAO, 2012). A 2024 cooperation agreement between INIDEP and CeDePesca has further enhanced transparency and stakeholder engagement.
2	Primary species	2.1.1	Outcome	60-79	60-79	The two main primary species identified are: • Kingclip (<i>Genypterus blacodes</i>, also known as pink cusk-eel), which is sometimes caught alongside Argentine hake during the same fishing trip. Although kingclip may be incidentally caught, directed fishing is explicitly prohibited under Resolution CFP N° 09/2018 or 25/2012. Kinglic is considered depleted, below the reference points.. • Argentine squid (<i>Illex argentinus</i>), healthy and well-monitored. Kingclip: Directed fishing for kingclip is explicitly prohibited under Resolution CFP N° 25/2012. However, Resolution CFP N° 09/2018 establishes bycatch limits of 10 tonnes or 3% of the total catch per trip, which apply across all fleets. The UoA remains within these thresholds. However, according to INIDEP Research Report No. 064/2024, 18% of the annual catch in 2023 was classified as directed fishing, of which 16% resulted from scientific surveys and the remainder was attributed to vessels operating in breach of current regulations. The most recent INIDEP assessment (Technical Report No. 035/2022) indicates a stabilisation in stock abundance, with a slight increase between 2014 and 2021. In 2020 and 2021, the spawning biomass (SB) was estimated at 40,214 t and 43,867 t respectively, approximately 11% and 12% of virgin spawning biomass (SB₀), and still below the biological limit reference point (BLRP). The observed increase may be linked to reduced hake fishing effort by the trawl fleet during this

						period. Recruitment has also shown moderate improvement, though biomass estimates remain highly uncertain. Under Resolution CFP N° 09/2018, kingclip is subject to strict trip limits (10 t or 3% of catch per trip, whichever is lower), and all directed fishing is banned. Monitoring data (INIDEP Advisory Report No. 102/2022) confirm average bycatch levels of 6.4 t per trip and 0.35 t per day between 2019 and 2022, within regulatory limits. The UoA's contribution to total kingclip mortality is low, with Private On-Board Observer Program (POAB) data showing <0.6% of total landings, nearly all of which is retained for commercial use. Illex: There are escapement reference points for Illex in Argentine waters, and it is highly regulated. Once the escapement targets are met, the fishery is closed. The fishery is inherently complex due to the shared stock with the Falklands and the high seas, and its migratory nature precludes traditional biomass-based reference point management. The stock is considered healthy (INIDEP)
		2.1.2	Management strategy	<60	60-79	There is no formal recovery strategy specifically designed for kingclip (<i>Genypterus blacodes</i>) within the UoA. However, a partial strategy is in place, comprising the following measures: • Prohibition of directed fishing, as established by Resolution CFP N° 25/2012; • Trip-level bycatch limits of 10 tonnes or 3% of total catch, whichever is lower, for all fleets (Resolution CFP N° 09/2018); • Monitoring through both national and Private On-Board Observer Programmes (POAB);

						• Voluntary mitigation measures discussed through FIP-led workshops, including: ○ Temporary avoidance of aggregations through spatial mobility between fishing grounds; ○ Adjustments to trawl duration to reduce kingclip bycatch. Although <i>kingclip</i> remains critically depleted, the UoA's contribution to total mortality is low. Observer data from 2019 to 2022 indicate that kingclip represents between 0.25% and 0.57% of catch. Nearly all bycatch is retained for commercial use and remains within regulatory limits. CeDePesca is currently preparing a catch composition report to assess compliance with management thresholds, and additional documentation is expected in the July 2025 technical report. While observer programmes have been critical in tracking catch trends, data gaps persist. Given the lack of a formal recovery plan and limited evidence of strategy effectiveness, the fishery meets SG60 but does not meet SG80 for this indicator. For <i>Illlex argentinus</i> and other likely secondary species (e.g., skates, rays, benthic fishes), the following partial measures are in place: • Spatial and temporal closures in the hake fishery, such as the Permanent Juvenile Hake Closure Area and seasonal closures south of 41°S, may help reduce bycatch of <i>Illlex</i> and other species during peak aggregation periods; • National regulations on trawl mesh size and configuration contribute to reducing catches of
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						juvenile individuals; • Effort controls and total allowable catches (TACs) for hake limit total fishing days, thereby indirectly reducing exposure of non-target species. While these measures were not designed specifically for secondary species, they collectively contribute to reducing overall fishing pressure and meet the MSC definition of a partial strategy.
		2.1.3	Information	>80	>80	INIDEP maintains ongoing, quantitative stock assessments for <i>Genypterus blacodes</i>, with biomass estimates, reference points, and formal technical advice provided through public reports. The most recent full stock assessment (INIDEP Technical Report No. 035/2022) includes estimates of spawning biomass, historical catches, and spatial distribution. The precautionary reference point (PRI) is defined at 13% of virgin biomass (SB₀). As of 2021, the stock's spawning biomass was estimated at 12% of SB₀, indicating the stock remains below the biological limit. Catch data are routinely collected by the authorities and supplemented by high-resolution, trip-level records from the Private On-Board Observer Program (POAB) and the national observer program. The POAB dataset for 2022–2024 includes data from 764 hauls, providing detailed information on species interactions, retention rates, and haul-specific effort. These data confirm that kingclip bycatch rates in the freezer trawl fleet remain consistently low, averaging approximately 0.25% to 0.57% of total catch. Monitoring is ongoing and considered sufficient to evaluate both stock status and the effectiveness of current management measures, in line with MSC's requirements for

						SG >80.
	Secondary species	2.2.1	Outcome	<60	<60	Quantitative data on discards is lacking. Chondrichthyans (sharks, rays, chimaeras) are often poorly documented in landings and must be further evaluated as either secondary or ETP species depending on their conservation status. No evidence that the main secondary species are above PRI or that the UoA is hindering their recovery.
		2.2.2	Management strategy	<60	60-79	The partial measures (closures, mesh sizes) are legally implemented and enforced through the national system. Observer data from the POAB confirms that these rules are being followed on board the UoA vessels. However, effectiveness in reducing the bycatch of specific secondary species has not been evaluated.
		2.2.3	Information	<60	<60	Since 2022, the Private On-Board Observer Program (POAB) has collected data across 764 hauls, with protocols updated in 2024 to improve the recording of secondary and ETP species. While this provides some qualitative and limited quantitative data, particularly on chondrichthyans (e.g., sharks, rays, and chimaeras), observer coverage is not yet comprehensive, and discard information remains incomplete. A technical report compiling four years of POAB data, including secondary species observations, is expected in July 2025 and may improve future evaluations. However, as of early 2025, available information does not meet MSC requirements to broadly understand the fishery's impact on the main secondary species. Therefore, SG60 is not met.
	ETP species	2.3.1	Outcome	<60	<60	The Unit of Assessment (UoA) operates with bottom trawl gear, which presents a recognised risk of interaction with

						Endangered, Threatened, and Protected (ETP) species. Some of the ETP species relevant to this fishery include: • Seabirds, notably the black-browed albatross (<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>), which is classified as Near Threatened by the IUCN and is known to frequently interact with trawl gear; • Marine mammals, such as the South American sea lion (<i>Otaria flavescens</i>); • Chondrichthyans, including skates and rays, several of which are listed as Vulnerable or Endangered under IUCN criteria. Although observer protocols under the Private On-Board Observer Program (POAB) were improved in 2024 to document better ETP interactions, the fishery still lacks quantitative data on interaction frequency, mortality rates, or species-specific outcomes. No formal assessment has been conducted to demonstrate that the UoA is highly likely not to hinder the recovery or protection of ETP populations.
		2.3.2	Management strategy	60-79	60-79	Although there is no comprehensive ETP strategy specific to the freezer trawl fleet, several partial strategies are in place that can reasonably be expected to reduce ETP interactions: • Observer coverage: The POAB and national programs collect data on ETP species interactions. In 2024, observer protocols were updated to better capture interaction events during trawling, haulback, and processing. • Voluntary mitigation practices: Some vessels have trialed bird-scaring devices (tori lines), though improvements in design and consistency are needed. • National Action Plans (PANs): Argentina has ratified international agreements (e.g., ACAP) and has in place a National Plan of Action (NPOA) for seabirds and chondrichthyans.

						These apply broadly to the industrial fleet, including the UoA, but implementation is general and lacks fishery-specific tailoring. The FIP facilitated workshops with captains and fleet managers from 2023–2024, where ETP mitigation and reporting were discussed. These measures collectively constitute a partial strategy that may help to reduce mortality and improve data collection for ETP species. Mitigation trials remain informal, and no evidence has yet been presented demonstrating reduced ETP mortality. As such, the fishery meets SG60 but not SG80.
		2.3.3	Information	60-79	60-79	The UoA has access to qualitative and partial quantitative information on ETP species interactions. Observer protocols under the Private On-Board Observer Program (POAB) were improved in 2024 to better document interaction events during key phases of fishing operations (e.g., trawling, haulback, processing). However, significant data gaps remain, particularly regarding population-level impacts. Key limitations include: • No comprehensive list of ETP species encountered in the UoA; • No quantitative estimates of interaction rates or observed/unobserved mortality; • No analysis to determine whether observed interactions are affecting population viability. POAB has been collecting data since 2022 across more than 764 hauls. A technical report covering four years of observations, including detailed ETP interaction data, is expected in July 2025. This report may help address current deficiencies and support future scoring improvements. For now, the available evidence meets SG60 but not SG80, due to the lack of comprehensive, validated population impact assessments.

	Habitats	2.4.1	Outcome	<60	<60	The UoA operates with bottom trawl gear in soft-bottom habitats, a gear type known to present a moderate to high risk of disturbance to benthic ecosystems. While INIDEP published a benthic sampling protocol in 2023 and observer protocols have been updated to record substrate and benthic fauna data, there is currently no evidence demonstrating that the UoA's activities are highly unlikely to cause serious or irreversible harm to habitats. There is no Consequence Spatial Analysis (CSA) or other quantitative assessment of trawl footprint and habitat overlap, no habitat classification system, and no sensitivity mapping. Although data collection is ongoing, including through POAB, and a technical report is expected in July 2025, the absence of current, spatially explicit impact data prevents the fishery from meeting the SG60 guidepost.
		2.4.2	Management strategy	60-79	60-79	A partial strategy is in place that may help mitigate the UoA's impact on benthic habitats, although it was not specifically designed for habitat protection. The Permanent Juvenile Hake Closure Area (AVJM) prohibits bottom trawling in a large ecologically important zone, indirectly reducing seabed contact. Additional national measures, such as gear specifications, seasonal closures, and effort limits, also contribute to limiting spatial fishing intensity. In 2023, INIDEP released a benthic sampling protocol and an invertebrate identification guide, and observer protocols were updated to record seafloor substrate and benthic fauna. A Consequence Spatial Analysis (CSA) is underway, but has not yet informed decision-making. The effectiveness of existing measures in preventing serious or irreversible habitat harm has not been evaluated. Therefore, the UoA meets SG60 for having a partial strategy in place, but does not meet SG80.

		2.4.3	Information	60-79	60-79	The UoA has access to basic habitat classification, and recent data collection efforts have improved the understanding of benthic environments within the fishing grounds. In 2023, INIDEP published Advisory and Transfer Report No. 59/2023, which includes a benthic invertebrate identification guide and a benthic sampling protocol applicable to the Argentine hake fishery. Observer protocols under the POAB have been updated to record substrate type and benthic fauna at the haul level, and over 764 hauls have been sampled since 2022. These initiatives provide sufficient qualitative information to identify the main habitat types encountered by the UoA, fulfilling the SG60 requirement. However, the fishery does not yet meet SG80, due to the absence of: - Quantitative spatial data on trawl effort overlap with habitat types; - Habitat sensitivity classification, impact thresholds, or prioritisation of vulnerable habitats; - Completed Consequence Spatial Analysis (CSA) or habitat impact modelling to assess the spatial extent or severity of impacts. A technical report compiling four years of habitat and ETP data is expected in July 2025, which may address these current gaps. As of early 2025, the information system supports basic characterisation but does not yet provide a comprehensive understanding of the nature, distribution, and vulnerability of habitats potentially affected by the UoA.
	Ecosystem	2.5.1	Outcome	<60	<60	A risk-based ecosystem assessment has been initiated; however, no results or quantitative ecosystem modeling have been published as of early 2025. There is no formal evidence that the UoA is highly unlikely to cause serious or irreversible harm to the ecosystem. The impacts of hake removals and bycatch on ecosystem structure and function remain unassessed. A risk-based assessment is underway. Therefore, SG60 is not met.
		2.5.2	Management	<60	60-79	No formal strategy is in place to manage the fishery's impact

			strategy			on the ecosystem. However, a partial strategy is in place that may help mitigate the UoA's impact on the ecosystem, although it was not explicitly designed for ecosystem protection. The UoA benefits from species controls and spatial effort limitations; it lacks any formal or partial strategy aimed at managing ecosystem-level impacts.
		2.5.3	Information	60-79	60-79	The UoA has access to general information about species composition, habitat characteristics, and functional relationships in the ecosystem, and new observer and scientific data are being collected. This satisfies the MSC requirement for SG60. However, the lack of ecosystem-level modelling, indirect impact analysis, or structured risk assessments prevents the fishery from meeting SG80.
3	Governance and Policy	3.1.1	Legal and customary framework	60-79	60-79	Argentina has a well-established legal framework for fisheries management, primarily through Ley Federal de Pesca 24.922, which defines access rights, quota allocations, enforcement mechanisms, and establishes the Federal Fisheries Council (CFP) and the Subsecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SSPyA). Environmental governance is further supported by Ley General del Ambiente 25.675, which, along with fisheries law, explicitly incorporates the precautionary approach. Since 2023, INIDEP has adopted a Target Reference Point (TRP) and acknowledged the need for a Limit Reference Point (LRP) and a formal Harvest Control Rule (HCR). These developments reflect progress toward aligning the legal framework with the expectations of MSC Principle 1. However, while the system is coherent and functional within Argentina's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), critical elements, such as operational HCRs and integration of ecosystem-based principles, are not yet fully implemented. Moreover, the inability to manage fishing effort by foreign fleets beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) highlights a jurisdictional gap in governance that could undermine long-term sustainability

						objectives.
						As key components of precautionary and ecosystem-based management remain under development, and no mechanisms exist to extend governance beyond national waters, the fishery meets SG60 but does not achieve SG80.
		3.1.2	Consultation, roles, and responsibilities	>80	>80	Roles of CFP, INIDEP, SSPyA, and others are clearly defined. The Common Hake Fishery Follow-Up Commission ensures formal, regular consultation with stakeholders (scientists, industry). The FIP enhances stakeholder input and has led to the development of updated observer protocols and bycatch measures. The system integrates feedback into management decisions.
		3.1.3	Long-term objectives	>80	>80	Federal Law 24.922 and CFP Resolution 26/2009 clearly define long-term sustainability as a guiding principle. INIDEP's 2023 adoption of a Target Reference Point (PBRO) supports long-term biomass objectives. Management actions (TACs, closures, monitoring) reflect these objectives and align with MSC Principles 1 and 2.
	Fishery-specific management system	3.2.1	Fishery-specific objectives	60-79	60-79	Fishery-specific objectives for the Argentine hake (<i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>) freezer trawl fleet are articulated through multiple institutional mechanisms. The Common Hake Fishery Follow-Up Commission functions as a collaborative platform where regulators, scientists, and industry representatives exchange information and propose management improvements. The Federal Fisheries Council (CFP) has issued resolutions supporting objectives such as maintaining spawning biomass above the Target Reference Point, reducing juvenile catch (e.g., via the AVJM closure area), and controlling overall fishing effort through TACs and seasonal closures. These objectives are operationalised through management tools such as annual TAC setting, spatial closures, gear regulations, and periodic scientific advice. They demonstrate alignment with MSC Principle 1 regarding stock status. However, broader ecological goals, such as limiting impacts

						on secondary species and habitats, remain insufficiently defined within a unified management framework. A draft consolidated Fishery Management Plan (FMP) has been under development since 2022. In April 2025, the plan was formally submitted to the Common Hake Fishery Follow-Up Commission by industry representatives and discussed by the CFP, as recorded in Acta CFP N°13/2025. The Council acknowledged receipt of the plan and initiated a legal review of potential regulatory adjustments needed for its formal adoption. While this represents an important step toward consolidating fishery objectives, the plan has not yet been approved or implemented. As a result, while fishery-specific objectives exist and are partially implemented, they are not yet comprehensive, measurable, or time-bound in a way that fully meets SG80. The current framework, therefore, supports a score within the 60–79 range. .
		3.2.2	Decision-making processes	60-79	60-79	The Federal Fisheries Council (CFP) and INIDEP regularly incorporate scientific advice and stakeholder input into decision-making, particularly for actions such as Total Allowable Catch (TAC) adjustments and spatial closures (e.g., the AVJM area). The management system demonstrates a precautionary intent, evidenced by the adoption of target reference points, biological stops, and bycatch caps for sensitive species, such as Kingclip. The FIP, through CeDePesca and its associated stakeholders, has made meaningful contributions to improvements in observer protocols and benthic monitoring initiatives. These actions reflect the growing inclusion of stakeholder perspectives.

						However, decision-making remains discretionary and reactive, with no formal Harvest Control Rule (HCR) in place to ensure automatic responses to changes in stock status. Additionally, there is limited transparency regarding how stakeholder input is systematically integrated and how decisions are evaluated and communicated publicly. As such, the fishery meets the SG60 guidepost, but lacks the institutionalised responsiveness and transparency required for SG80.
		3.2.3	Compliance and enforcement	>80	>80	The fishery has strong monitoring and enforcement systems, including VMS, port inspections, and on-board observers (notably POAB since 2022). The legal framework includes sanctions for non-compliance, and enforcement actions are recorded and applied. Compliance monitoring is improving, but gaps remain: • Observer coverage is limited (especially on the government side). • Underreporting risks (e.g., for kingclip) persists.
		3.2.4	Management performance evaluation	60-79	60-79	Argentina's Federal Fisheries Council (CFP) updates management measures, such as Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and spatial closures, based on INIDEP's scientific advice. Stakeholders, including CeDePesca, have influenced policy discussions through the FIP. In 2023, the National General Audit Office (AGN) conducted a positive governance audit of the hake fishery. Despite technical recommendations often leading to changes, there is no comprehensive or recurring review of governance effectiveness, stakeholder engagement, or socio-environmental outcomes. The system lacks an independent, validated performance evaluation process, and there's no evidence of adaptive reform based on governance

						performance. Transparency is further hindered by the absence of bilateral or multilateral management frameworks and the unavailability of foreign fleet catch and effort data.
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Environmental Workplan Results

Fill in the following table by reviewing the latest FIP's environmental workplan (see the FIP's Documents section on the Details tab of the FIP's FisheryProgress profile) and summarizing the results that have been achieved over the past three years (or since the last evaluation report was completed) by the FIP. A result is defined as:

- A regulatory policy change or regulatory action to improve the fishery (e.g., a new bycatch provision), or fishing practice change (e.g., a change in fishing gear developed voluntarily and implemented by the FIP) to improve the fishery
- A publicly verifiable positive change in the water (e.g., an increase in biomass of target stock, an increase in population of impacted protected species, a decrease in habitat or ecosystem impacted)
- An activity that led to an MSC performance indicator score change in the fishery

It is advised that assessors determine results through stakeholder consultation, however the FIP's Action Progress tab on FisheryProgress may also be a helpful resource. For results to be valid, FIP participants must have directly worked on or contributed to the improvement through one or more actions/tasks in the FIP's environmental workplan. For each result:

1. Summarize the result in a short sentence
2. Identify the most closely related action(s), as they are listed on the FIP's Action Progress tab on the FisheryProgress profile
3. Identify the most closely related MSC performance indicator(s) impacted by the result
4. Provide an explanation of the steps that the FIP participants took, or how the FIP's work played a role in supporting and achieving the result

Result	Related Action on FisheryProgress	Related MSC Performance Indicator	Explanation
Target reference point defined/ Limit reference points still to be defined.	Action 1. Promote improvements in the fishery management system.	1.2.2	Over the past three years, significant progress has been made in strengthening the scientific basis for Argentine hake (<i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>) management. In 2022 and early 2023, INIDEP committed to developing both a Target Reference Point (TRP) and a Limit Reference Point (LRP), in line with sustainable exploitation frameworks and international best practices.

			A key milestone was reached in November 2023, when INIDEP formally adopted a proxy TRP set at 30% of the estimated virgin spawning biomass (BR = 30% of BRV). This proxy is now being applied in INIDEP's technical advice and is consistent with reference points used in other demersal fisheries. Its adoption represents a step toward formalising a precautionary harvest strategy. However, a Limit Reference Point has not yet been defined. As of January 2025, INIDEP has confirmed that technical work on estimating the LRP is ongoing, though no concrete outputs have been released. CeDePesca and FIP participants continue to advocate for prioritising this element, recognising that a clearly defined LRP is essential to establishing a robust, adaptive, and precautionary Harvest Control Rule (HCR). As of the current reporting period, no formal HCR has been adopted. Nonetheless, this remains a priority area of work for the FIP, and collaborative efforts with INIDEP are continuing to support the development of reference points and associated management responses.
Fisheries Management Plan	Action 1. Promote improvements in the fishery management system.	1.2.2,	In 2022, FIP participants and CeDePesca agreed to consolidate existing regulatory and voluntary measures into a formal Fishery Management Plan (FMP), incorporating long-term sustainability objectives and ecosystem considerations. The draft plan was developed between 2023 and early 2024 and underwent technical review with stakeholders. In April 2025, the plan was formally submitted to the Common Hake Fishery Follow-Up Commission and subsequently discussed by the Federal Fisheries Council, as recorded in Acta CFP N°13/2025. The CFP acknowledged the relevance of consolidating the management framework under a single regulation and instructed its legal advisor to begin coordinating discussions and reviewing regulatory implications. This represents a critical step toward formal adoption and implementation. As of July 2025, the plan remains under review, and while it has not yet been legally adopted or operationalised, it reflects clear intent and a pathway toward a more structured and precautionary harvest strategy. .
Monitoring and compliance	Action 1. Promote improvements in the fishery management system.	1.2.2, 3.2.3	In 2023, CeDePesca received the first official response from the Directorate of Fisheries Control regarding sanctions against the freezer fleet: eight sanctions were registered between 2019 and 2022, confirming both the existence and application of enforcement

			mechanisms. A new information request was submitted in December 2024; a response is pending. No recorded violations related to kingclip management were found.
Audit of the Fisheries Authority	Action 1. Promote improvements in the fishery management system.	1.2.2	In November 2023, Argentina’s General Audit Office published a review of INIDEP, the Undersecretariat of Fisheries, and the Coast Guard’s role in hake sustainability for the period from 2018 to 2022.
Private On-Board Observer Program	Action 2. Promote improvements in the primary species management system.	2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3	In 2023, CeDePesca implemented the Private On-Board Observer Program, covering four trips and 284 hauls. Kingclip bycatch averaged 0.35%, well below the 3% regulatory limit (Resolution 09/2018). In 2024, the program expanded to 6 trips and 480 hauls, totaling 10 trips and 764 hauls to date. Bycatch levels remained low, averaging 0.25% (range: 0.07%–0.57%), with over 89% of the catch retained for commercial use. In July 2024, CeDePesca submitted the full POAB dataset (Sept 2022–Apr 2024) to INIDEP, including catch data, ETP species interactions, and habitat observations.
Improved Data Collection Protocols Introduced	Action 7. Implement a Private On-Board Observer Program for the Argentine hake fishery.	2.2.3, 2.3.3	In July 2024, CeDePesca enhanced the observer protocol by identifying critical phases of fishing operations where interactions with ETP species are most likely. These include trawling, haul-back, and processing. Updated formats allow for more detailed recording of interactions, supporting proactive mitigation strategies.
Scientific Surveys	Action 3. Promote the continuity of scientific research to support decision-making in the management system.	1.2.3	A scientific survey was conducted in 2022, and two further campaigns were carried out in January and August 2024 aboard the research vessel Victor Angelescu. These covered key spawning and recruitment areas in Northern Patagonia and the southern stock distribution between 42°S and 48°S. These efforts have contributed valuable biomass and age structure data for ongoing assessments. However, the 2023 campaign was cancelled due to research vessel repairs, and no additional survey was scheduled for late 2024. This intermittent execution of research activities underscores a structural limitation in ensuring consistent data collection. While the 2024 campaigns partially filled the 2023 gap, the absence of regular survey planning and contingency protocols may compromise future trend analysis and adaptive management capacity.
Selectivity Research and Collaboration with INIDEP	Action 4. Promote improvements in fishing practices	2.1.2, 2.2.2, 1.1.1	Initial selectivity testing of square-mesh and T90-mesh codends, and a stingray exclusion device, was conducted by INIDEP in 2021 under the GEF-FAO project (GCP/ARG/025/GFF).

			In 2023, INIDEP and CeDePesca held technical discussions on continuing these trials. Modifications to gear were prepared based on the 2021 results; however, no new testing has occurred due to limited vessel availability. In late 2023, INIDEP indicated potential to conduct trials aboard one of the FIP-associated vessels, with a focus on collaborative research rather than commercial operation. CeDePesca agreed to present this option to partners.
Development of Good Fishing Practices Protocol and Participatory Engagement	Action 4. Promote improvements in fishing practices		From 2023 to 2025, CeDePesca facilitated ongoing participatory meetings with FIP-associated captains and fleet managers, involving companies such as Iberconsa, Estrella Patagónica, Moscuza, and Solimeno. Captains shared practices already adopted, including: • Voluntary mobility between areas to avoid high concentrations of juveniles. • Accurate reporting of catches and discards. • Implementation of trawl duration limits to reduce discards. • Trial use of bird-scaring devices, although design improvements are needed. • Captains also expressed interest in selectivity device trials and agreed to contribute to a collaboratively developed protocol for good fishing practices.
Benthic Impact Protocol Developed and Published	Action 5. Ensure that scientific evidence on the Argentine hake fishery is available and accessible to all stakeholders.	2.4.3	In 2023, INIDEP finalized and published Advisory and Transfer Report No. 59/2023, which includes a benthic sampling protocol and a benthic invertebrate identification guide specific to the trawling grounds of the Argentine hake fishery. This protocol enables future research and impact comparisons within and outside the Permanent Juvenile Hake Closure Zone. The publication of the benthic protocol and sharing of workplans and technical proposals between CeDePesca and INIDEP throughout 2022–2024 demonstrate a commitment to scientific transparency. CeDePesca continues to advocate for the timely dissemination of final research outputs to inform fisheries governance and stakeholder engagement.
Scientific Agreement Signed and Research Activities Launched Technical Reports Prepared and Under Review	Action 5. Ensure that scientific evidence on the Argentine hake fishery is available and accessible to all stakeholders.	2.1.3, 2.2.3	On May 27, 2024, CeDePesca and INIDEP signed a formal cooperation agreement to implement scientific and technical activities. These include: (1) analysis of squid catches from the freezer fleet; (2) a 10-year descriptive report on bycatch based on observer data; and (3) comparative analysis of benthic impacts between high and low trawling pressure areas. By October 2024, INIDEP completed draft technical reports on squid catch and historical bycatch based on onboard observer data. Following CeDePesca's request, additional data is being incorporated to ensure full alignment with MSC standard requirements.
Risk-Based Assessment Underway	Action 6. Conduct risk analysis for those components of the	2.4.3, 2.5.3	By January 2025, CeDePesca began reviewing the ecosystem analyses developed using data from the POAB. The analysis aims to identify vulnerable habitats, non-target species of concern, and potential ecosystem risks associated with the freezer trawl fleet. The findings

	ecosystem that cannot be quantitatively assessed.		and recommendations are scheduled for release in the next update.
International Cooperation Challenge			CeDePesca and FIP-associated companies submitted formal requests to DG MARE in June 2025 for access to sustainability reports on Spanish fleets operating beyond Argentina’s EEZ. This action seeks to overcome transparency challenges and address information gaps resulting from the absence of a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO). Cooperation has been complicated by limited institutional dialogue, though new bilateral efforts are anticipated.

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