



# ARGENTINA HAKE – BOTTOM TRAWL (CHILLING FLEET) FIP

## ACTION PLAN

31<sup>st</sup> January 2025

Prepared by CeDePesca

### 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 2021	Version 1.3 – January 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2025
<b>Start date (actual)</b>	<b>End date (anticipated month/year)</b>
1 September 2023	31 August 2028
<b>FIP Lead (organization/individual responsible for Action Plan)</b>	<b>Improvements recommended by (meeting/group that supported the development)</b>
CeDePesca	CeDePesca
<b>FIP Coordinator (organization/individual responsible for reporting on FisheryProgress)</b>	<b>Action plan developed by (consultant or person)</b>
CeDePesca	Angel Díaz Lugo and Ernesto Godelman, 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 / Federal Fisheries 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 (Merluccius hubbsi)
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 Argentina de Armadores de Buques Pesqueros de Altura (CAABPA).

## 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](http://FisheryProgress.org):



<b>Action Number and Name</b>	<b>Action 1. Promote improvements in the fishery management system</b>
<b>Action Goal</b>	Ensure the effectiveness of the fishery management system and enhance the assessment of its performance in relation to its purpose.
<b>Action Description</b> (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
<b>Expected Completion Date</b>	August 2028
<b>Priority (as gauged in April 2022)</b>	High
<b>Responsible Parties</b>	CeDePesca/Partners
<b>Other stakeholders</b>	CFP, INIDEP, SSPyA, Cancillería.
<b>MSC PI(s) V3.0 Addressed by the Action</b>	1.2.1, 1.2.2, 3.1.1, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3., 3.2. 4
<b>MSC PI(s) V2.01 Addressed by the Action</b>	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
<b>Action 1. Promote improvements in the fishery management system</b>	<b>Task 1.1.</b> 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	
	<b>Task 1.2.</b> 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	
	<b>Task 1.3. [MODIFIED]</b> Promote the improvement of the consultation processes and the periodic evaluation of the fishery management system	CeDePesca	CFP, FIP Partners	<b>New Starting date September 2026</b>	<b>New Expected Completion Date August 2028</b>	
	<b>Task 1.4. [MODIFIED]</b> 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	<b>New Starting date September 2026</b>	<b>New Expected Completion Date August 2028</b>	
	<b>Task 1.5.</b> Ensure the publication of a document explaining the sanctions imposed for violations of current regulations	CeDePesca	SSPyA, FIP Partners	September 2023	November 2027	



<b>Action Number and Name</b>	<b>Action 2. Promote improvements in the fishery research system.</b>
<b>Action Goal</b>	Ensure the adoption of a Biological Limit Reference Point and ensure regular peer review of the assessment methodology.
<b>Action Description</b> (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.
<b>Expected Completion Date</b>	August 2028
<b>Priority (as gauged in April 2022)</b>	High
<b>Responsible Parties</b>	CeDePesca/FIP Partners
<b>Other stakeholders</b>	INIDEP
<b>MSC PI(s) V.3.0 Addressed by the Action</b>	1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.4
<b>MSC PI(s) V2.01 Addressed by the Action</b>	1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.4

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



<b>Action Number and Name</b>	<b>Action 3. Promote improvements in fishing practices.</b>
<b>Action Goal</b>	Promote the design of fishing gear and selectivity devices that reduce the incidental catch of juvenile hake, birds, chondrichthyans and marine mammals.
<b>Action Description</b> (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.
<b>Expected Completion Date</b>	August 2027
<b>Priority (as gauged in April 2022)</b>	Medium
<b>Responsible Parties</b>	CeDePesca/FIP Partners
<b>Other stakeholders</b>	INIDEP
<b>MSC PI(s) V.3.0 Addressed by the Action</b>	1.2.1, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2
<b>MSC PI(s) V2.01 Addressed by the Action</b>	1.2.1, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.3.1, 2.3.2

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Action	Tasks/ Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Expected Completion Date	Evidence of completion / results
<b>Action 3. Promote improvements in fishing practices.</b>	<b>Task 3.1.</b> 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	
	<b>Task 3.2. [MODIFIED]</b> Establish a code of good fishing practices in a participatory manner with companies, captains and crew members.	CeDePesca/ FIP Partners		<b>New Starting date April 2026</b>	August 2027	
	<b>Task 3.3. [MODIFIED]</b> Collaborate with the INIDEP Fishing Gear Program in activities related to alternative measures to reduce bycatch in the fishery.	CeDePesca/ FIP Partners	INIDEP	<b>New Starting date April 2026</b>	August 2027	

<b>Action Number and Name</b>	<b>Action 4. Risk assessment and mitigation of impacts for other components of the ecosystem</b>
<b>Action Goal</b>	Evaluate the risks and mitigation of impacts that the fishery could exert on other components of the ecosystem
<b>Action Description</b> (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.
<b>Expected Completion Date</b>	August 2028
<b>Priority (as gauged in April 2021)</b>	Low
<b>Responsible Parties</b>	CeDePesca
<b>Other stakeholders</b>	INIDEP
<b>MSC PI(s) V.3.0 Addressed by the Action</b>	1.2.1, 1.2.3, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 3.2.3
<b>MSC PI(s) V2.01 Addressed by the Action</b>	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

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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	<b>Task 4.1. [MODIFIED]</b> Identify and assess ecosystem components/elements that can be assessed using the MSC risk-based framework (ERAEF).	CeDePesca	INIDEP	<b>New Starting date September 2026</b>	August 2028	
	<b>Task 4.2.</b> Promote the adoption of mitigation measures in light of the ERAEF results, if necessary.	CeDePesca	INIDEP	September 2026	August 2028	
	<b>Task 4.3. [MODIFIED]</b> Seek the collaboration of other entities interested in marine fauna	CeDePesca		<b>New Starting date September 2026</b>	August 2027	
	Task 4.4. <b>[MODIFIED]</b> Follow up on the management measures implemented by the Federal Fisheries Council on the prohibition of shark finning and ghost fishing.	CeDePesca	INIDEP	<b>New Starting date September 2026</b>	August 2028	



<b>Action Number and Name</b>	Action 5. Implement a Private Onboard Observer Program to understand bycatch and discards by the chilling fleet.
<b>Action Goal</b>	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.
<b>Action Description</b> (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
<b>Expected Completion Date</b>	August 2028
<b>Priority (as gauged in April 2022)</b>	High
<b>Responsible Parties</b>	CeDePesca
<b>Other stakeholders</b>	FIP Partners, INIDEP
<b>MSC PI(s) V.3.0 Addressed by the Action</b>	1.2.1, 1.2.4, 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.4.1, 2.4.3, 2.5.1, 2.5.3
<b>MSC PI(s) V2.01 Addressed by the Action</b>	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

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Action	Tasks/ Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Expected Completion Date	Evidence of completion / results
<b>Action 5.</b> Implement a Private Onboard Observer Program to understand bycatch and discards by the chilling fleet.	<b>Task 5.1.</b> Organize and implement a Private Onboard Observer Program.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners	September 2023	August 2028	
	<b>Task 5.2.</b> Communicate the progress and results of the Private Onboard Observer Program among partners.	CeDePesca	IFIP Partner	February 2024	August 2028	
	<b>Task 5.3. [MODIFIED]</b> Share data from the Private Onboard Observer Program with INIDEP	CeDePesca	FIP Partners, INIDEP	<b>New Starting date January 2026</b>	August 2028	
	<b>Task 5.4. [MODIFIED]</b> 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	<b>New Starting date January 2026</b>	August 2028	