



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

NW Fisheries
Science Center

Pacific Hake Assessment and Review Process

Dr. Michelle McClure
Director, FRAM Division

Disclaimer: This information is distributed solely for the purpose of pre-dissemination peer review under applicable information quality guidelines. It has not been formally disseminated by NOAA Fisheries. It does not represent and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy.

U.S. - Canada Agreement on Pacific Hake/Whiting

- 2004: President signs agreement
- 2006: Language included in MSFCM Act Amendments (Title VI)
- 2009: Full implementing legislation adopted
- 2011: Partial implementation
- 2011-12: First complete cycle fully under the Agreement process

The Agreement is often referred to as the Treaty

Pacific Hake Agreement

- Percentage of TAC for each country
 - US: 73.88% Canada: 26.12%
- Default harvest policy
 - $F_{40\%}$ with 40:10 control rule
- Committees formed
 - Joint Technical Committee (JTC)
 - Scientific Review Group (SRG)
 - Advisory Panel (AP)
 - Joint Management Committee (JMC)

Joint Technical Committee

- Members
 - Two U.S. members (NOAA)
 - Two Canadian members (DFO)
 - One independent member, from AP nominated list
- Responsible for an annual assessment
 - Two public development meetings every year
 - Work with surveys and fisheries to assemble data
 - Data exchange between the countries
 - Additional analyses related to Pacific hake

Assessment Process

Pacific Hake Agreement

PFMC

JTC meetings

- 1-2 day data meeting in early December
- 1-2 day modeling meeting in January
- Extensive communication between offices

Pre-assessment meeting

- 1-2 day meeting
- Covers several species
- Most assessments have co-located Stock Assessment Teams



Scientific Review Group

- Members
 - Two U.S. members
 - Two Canadian members
 - Two independent members from AP nominations
 - Two public advisors nominated by the AP
- Provide independent peer review of the work done by the JTC
- Provide catch advice to the JMC
 - Default harvest and any special considerations

Review Process

Pacific Hake Agreement

PFMC

SRG meeting

- 4-day meeting to review:
 - hake data and survey
 - assessment
 - research (MSE)
- Reviewers remain for multiple years
- Provide harvest and research advice to JMC

STAR panel meeting

- 5-day meeting to review:
 - data
 - assessments for 2 species
- New reviewers for every cycle
 - One constant within cycle
- Research recommendations to STAT
- Endorse BASI to Council/SSC



Advisory Panel

- Members
 - Appointed by each country
 - Knowledge of Pacific Hake
 - No employees of either government
- Review the advice of the JTC and SRG
- Nominate independent members for JTC & SRG, and advisors to the SRG
- Provide catch recommendations to the JMC

Industry Advisory Process

Pacific Hake Agreement

PFMC

AP meeting

- Annual meeting to address any specific issues
- Meet concurrently with the JMC

GAP meetings

- Meet at every Council meeting
- Advisory comment to Council on assessments and harvest levels
- One non-voting member on each STAR Panel



Joint Management Committee

- Members
 - Four U.S. members
 - Four Canadian members
- Provide guidance to the JTC & SRG
- Recommend Overall/National TACs



Decision-making Process

Pacific Hake Agreement

PFMC

JMC meeting

- 2-3 day international meeting focused on hake
- JMC receives advice from AP and SRG
- TAC decision at same meeting
- Additional meetings in the year guide research

Council meeting

- Multi-day meeting focused on many species and topics
- Assessment reviewed by SSC
- Advice from SSC, GMT, GAP
- Council accepts assessment at a different meeting than catch decisions



Summary

- Hake assessment and review process is similar to the PFMC process
- Major differences are
 - More direct communication between stakeholders and assessors at many different times
 - Reviewers are more consistent
 - TAC decision is made sooner and annually



Strengths of the hake process

- Stakeholders are directly involved in many aspects of decision making
- Consistent reviewers increases efficiency
- Focus on one species
 - Allows for groups of similar minded people
 - Address specific questions and research

Challenges of the hake process

- Logistics and planning
 - Communication has been less than optimal
 - A new hire at WCR has been very helpful
- Funding
 - No specific funding source
- Staffing
 - Many people have other responsibilities, including the PFMC process