

Issued: 29th January 2003

**South African Hake Trawl Fishery
MSC Certification**

Certification Body: Moody Marine Ltd

EXTENSION OF CONSULTATION

**Stakeholder Consultation
Second Consultation Period – 10 January to 21 March 2003**

Further to our recent communication, and due to constraints on the availability of some key stakeholders, we have had to reschedule the assessment team visit to Cape Town. This will now take place over the week **17 to 21 March 2003** inclusive. The purpose of this visit is to collect information on the fishery and in particular to speak to fishery and fishery management representatives. We will also be available over this period to meet with stakeholders. If you would like to arrange a meeting, please advise us of:

- a) your name and contact details
- b) your association with the fishery
- c) the issues you would like to discuss (in order for us to arrange appropriate representation)
- d) where and when you would like to meet

We will then be in touch closer to the time.

Accordingly, anyone wishing to comment on the appropriateness of the Scoring Indicators and/or Guideposts in relation to this fishery is now able to submit comments up until **14 March 2003**. We would, of course, be available to discuss these during any meetings arranged. These are available for viewing on the MSC website (see below).

Should you wish to obtain further information on the Marine Stewardship Council, this is available on their web site at <http://www.msc.org>. As a certification body, Moody Marine Ltd has dispute resolution procedures available should these prove necessary.

Yours

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Stakeholder Consultation - Fishery Details

The fishery proposed for certification is defined as follows:

- **Species:** Two species are targeted, deep-water hake *Merluccius paradoxus* and the shallower (warmer) water species *M. capensis*. Both species may be taken by the same fishers and a single TAC is established. At this stage, certification is considered for both species.
- **Geographical area of target stock:** Of the two species, *M. capensis* is mostly targeted on the south coast. For *M. paradoxus* there is some overlap between South African and Namibian populations. However, both South African and Namibian stocks respond separately to management interventions and so, although mixing will inevitably occur, from a fishery management perspective the South African hake populations may be considered as a discrete stock. Certification would therefore consider the South African stock alone within the South African exclusive economic zone (EEZ) as managed under the jurisdiction of MCM.
- **Method of Capture:** Trawl fishery only (with different mesh sizes in inshore and deep-water trawls).
- **Management System:** The management system is applied by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism: Marine and Coastal Management (MCM).

The Fishery

The South African Hake fishery is the largest sector (65%) of the demersal trawl fishery operating in South Africa. The fishery is divided between the deep-water trawl fishery and an inshore trawl fishery. The deep-water fishery targets *M. paradoxus*. It has the highest quota allocation at 92% of the hake TAC. The inshore fishery targeting both species but mainly *M. capensis* has a much lower quota of 6.5% of the hake TAC. There is also a hake longline and handline fishery that has developed as a result of market pressure for large, whole premium fish. Biology

Merluccius capensis – Shallow water Cape hake

The shallow water Cape hake is found in depths ranging from 50-1000 m. It is distributed in the Southeast Atlantic from Baie Farte, Angola around the Cape to Natal in South Africa. It is also found on the Valdivia Bank.

Merluccius paradoxus – Deep water Cape hake

The deep water Cape hake is found in depths ranging from 200-1000 m. It is distributed in the Southeast Atlantic from Cape Frio in Namibia to the Agulhas Bank and eastwards to East London in South Africa. It is also found in the Western Indian Ocean on the Madagascar Ridge.