

ARGENTINE HOKI (*Macrurus magellanicus*) BOTTOM AND MID-WATER TRAWL FISHERY IN ARGENTINE SEA

ACCEPTANCE STATEMENT OF CLIENT'S CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Organización Internacional Agropecuaria (OIA) announces that the certificate holders of Fishery Certificate (F-OIA-P-0300 – MSC-F-31359) related to Argentine hoki (*Macrurus magellanicus*), bottom and mid-water trawl fishery in Argentine Sea was provided the client's corrective action plan within 90 days from the date of the Notice of Suspension published in the MSC website (23 May 2019) to address the cause of suspension.

OIA reviewed the action plan that includes corrective actions and a binding timeframe (see below); and, determined that it is approved for its implementation. The client group shall inform to OIA its completion, providing evidences in the timeframe established.

When OIA has verified that the fishery certificate holders have addressed the reason for suspension, OIA will reinstate the certificate, producing a report documenting evidences that describe how the cause of suspension has been satisfactorily addressed and a statement confirming the reinstatement of the certificate.

Submitted by:

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RE-CERTIFICATION OF SUSTAINABLE FISHING OF ARGENTINE HOKI FISHERY

Corrective Action Plan - 2019

Main responsables: Estremar S.A., San Arawa S.A. and Empresa Pesquera de la Patagonia y Antártida S.A. (PESANTAR)

In consultation with: Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero (INIDEP)

As a result of the first audit performed for the Re-Certification of Sustainable Fishing of Argentine Hoki Fishery, carried out in March 2019, up to a 14% of the unwanted catch of target species by the vessels fleet was identified (that is, that portion of the catch that a vessel does not intend to fish), which is discarded since it cannot be processed onboard, either as a final product or reduced to a sub-product such as fish meal or fish oil. MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) proposes in PI 1.2.1 (f) that upon the existence of unwanted catch of the target species, alternative measures be reviewed in order to minimize incidental mortality rate to the lowest possible level by means of fishing techniques and practices.

Likewise, the fisheries management authority (Consejo Federal Pesquero, CFP) states in Section 8 of Resolution No. 22/2012 on the measures for Hoki management that: *"When the proportion of juvenile fish captured per haul exceeds the FIFTY PER CENT (50%) of it, the vessel shall move to another operation area located, at least, FIVE (5) miles away from the original position"*. However, OIA's (Organización Internacional Agropecuaria) assessment team identified that this measure has not proved to minimize the incidental mortality rate of the species to the lowest possible level given the fact that there is no evidence of it, it ranked it as insufficient to comply with level 60 of the PI 1.2.1, and having caused fishery to fail, it was suspended.

This plan has the aim to review alternative measures which allow to reduce unwanted catch by the fleet and to propose to the management authority alternatives which can be implemented as management measures to benefit fishery and its sustainability.

General Objective:

Reduce unwanted catch of hoki.

Specific Objectives:

1.- Review the "move-on" practice stated in Section 8 of Resolution No. 22/2012 of the Federal Fishery Council, analyzing the composition of unwanted catch regarding areas and seasons of more frequent occurrence.

2.- Evaluate the effectiveness of other alternative measures such as:

a.- Improve the codends selectivity and the trawl nets performance currently used.

b.- Identify fishing practices which allow to maximize exploitation of the catch and the processing of products manufactured onboard the commercial vessels.

3.- Propose effective actions to the management authority.

Tasks to develop:

Specific objective No. 1: Review the “*move-on*” practice stated in Section 8 of Resolution No. 22/2012 of the Federal Fishery Council, analyzing the composition of unwanted catch regarding areas and seasons of more frequent occurrence.

Tasks:

- Analyze unwanted catch regarding areas – seasons.
Responsible for the task: Anabela Zavatteri.
- Analyze length structures of discards.
Responsible for the task: Natalia Ruocco.
- Compare the length structures for fishing hauls which have complied with SECTION 8 of Resolution No. 22/2012.
Responsible for the task: Natalia Ruocco.
- Preparation of research report.
Responsible for the task: Anabela Zavatteri.

Specific objective No. 2: Evaluate the effectiveness of other alternative measures such as:

a.- Improve the codends selectivity and the trawl nets performance currently used.

Tasks:

- Create a Cooperation Agreement among INIDEP Artes de Pesca group, the representative of the corporation Estremar S.A. Mr. Alan Mackern and the captain of the Vessel San Arawa II, Mr. Luis Pérez Àguila in order to carry out the study and improvement of codends selectivity of fishing practices.
Responsible for the task: Ricardo Roth.
- Review the codends designs of the fishing practices used in the vessels of the fleet.
Responsible for the task: Ricardo Roth.
- Carry out the study of the sizes of the codend or trawl net bag to be used.
Responsible for the task: Ricardo Roth
- Propose the modification of codend regarding size and number of mesh
Responsible for the task: Ricardo Roth.
- Construction of the components of the trawl net needed to perform selectivity work.
Responsible for the task: Client Group through Estremar S.A.
- Field work.

Responsible for the task: Ricardo Roth.

- Preparation of transfer report.
Responsible for the task: Ricardo Roth.

b.- Identify fishing practices which allow to maximize exploitation of the catch and the processing of products manufactured onboard the commercial vessels.

- Gather information about the exploitation of the catch through the participation of two scientific observers onboard in the trips made between May and December 2019.
Responsible for the task: Noemi Mari.
- Analyze conversion factors for the catch of the different manufactured products.
Responsible for the task: Gonzalo Troccoli.
- Participation of the client Group in the Work Commission workshop in order to strengthen the measures for reducing bycatch in fisheries Federal Fishery Council Meeting Minutes No. 8/2019, held in Mar del Plata on June 14th, 2019.
Responsible for the task: Luis Perez Águila.
- Give informative talks with the participation of the vessels crew prior to their departure.
Responsible for the task: Members of the Southern Demersal Fish Fisheries Program (INIDEP).
- Preparation of transfer report.
Responsible for the task: Gonzalo Troccoli.

Specific objective No. 3: Propose effective actions to the management authority.

Tasks:

- With the results obtained from the specific objectives 1 and 2, the management authority will be sent proposals which either modify or preserve the management measures stated for hoki fishery.
Responsible for the task: Analía Giussi.

Work schedule:

		Aug'19	Sept'19	Oct'19	Nov'19	Dec'19	Jan'20	Feb'20
<u>Specific objective No. 1:</u> Review the “move-on” practice stated in Section 8 of Resolution No. 22/2012 of the Federal Fishery Council, analyzing the composition of unwanted catch regarding areas and seasons of more frequent occurrence.	Analyze unwanted catch regarding areas and seasons							
	Analyze length structures of discards							
	Compare length structures (Sect.No. 8, Resol. FFC No. 22/12)							
	Preparation of Research report							
<u>Specific objective No. 2:</u> Evaluate the effectiveness of other alternative measures such as: a.- Improve the codend selectivity and the trawl nets performance currently used.	Preparation and execution of Cooperation Agreement							
	Review of codends designs							
	Sizes study							
	Proposal for codend modification							
	Construction							
	Informative talks about selectivity							
	Field work							
	Preparation of transfer report							
<u>Specific objective No. 2:</u> Evaluate the effectiveness of other alternative measures such as: b.- Identify fishing practices which allow to maximize exploitation of the catch and the processing of products manufactured onboard the commercial vessels.	Gather information about the exploitation of catch							
	Analyze conversion factors							
	By-catch Commission workshop							
	Informative talks about exploitation of catch							
	Preparation of transfer report							
<u>Specific objective No. 3:</u> Propose effective actions to the management authority.	Preparation of technical report							



Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca
Instituto Nacional de Investigación
y Desarrollo Pesquero

Mar del Plata, 16 de agosto de 2019

ORGANIZACIÓN INTERNACIONAL AGROPECUARIA

Atte. Ing. Pedro A. Landa

S / D

Estimado Sr. Director Técnico:

Por medio de la presente, me dirijo a Ud. con el fin de que tome conocimiento acerca del compromiso del Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero (INIDEP) de participar en el Plan de Acción Correctivo de la Recertificación de la Pesquería de Merluza de Cola Argentina.

De esta forma, el INIDEP avala expresamente que colaborará, dentro de sus posibilidades, con el cumplimiento de la condición propuesta, según se detalla en el plan de acción presentado.

Sin otro particular, saluda a Ud. muy atte.

Sr. Héctor Marcelo Lobbosco
Interventor

Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero