

**Peruvian Hake  
Fishery Improvement Project  
Archive Date: March 2014**

The Peruvian Hake FIP was transitioned from SFP to CeDePesca in March 2014. The following FIP report reflects the status of the FIP at the time of transition. The current FIP public report can be found on CeDePesca's website, [here](#).

Species: Peruvian hake (*Merluccius gayi peruanus*)

FIP Scope/Scale: Fishery level

Fishery Location: Peru, for map see [Peruvian hake](#)

FIP Participants:

- [Peruvian Hake Subcommittee at National Society of Industries](#) (PSC-NSI, SNI in Spanish), now including the following companies:
- [Santa Monica SA](#)
- [ARCOPA](#)
- [AGROPESCA SA](#)
- [Pesquera Hayduk SA](#)
- Pesquera Terranova SA
- [Seafrost SAC](#)
- Compania Pesquera Pepa SAC
- [Consorcio CORPESCA DEXIM SRL](#)
- Tassara Ortiz Horacio Eduardo
- Marpesca SAC
- [Pacific Freezing Company SAC](#)
- Chu Wong Shwu Miin
- [CeDePesca](#)

FIP Stakeholders:

- [PRODUCE](#)
- [IMARPE](#)

Sustainability Information:

See Summary and Sustainability Info tabs at this link [Peruvian hake](#)

Date Publicly Announced: 2009

FIP Stage: 5, FIP is delivering improvement in the water

Current Improvement Recommendations:

- Improve transparency on stock assessment and advised total allowable catch (TAC)
- Coordinate science and management efforts with Ecuador

- Maintain the recovery plan to improve stock level until the target reference point
- Minimize illegal fishing

#### Background:

Within the extremely variable conditions of the Southeastern Pacific, this bottom-trawling fishery has reached peaks of 300,000 tonnes in 1978 and 230,000 tonnes in 1996, and a valley of 6,000 tonnes in 1983. After a new peak period in 2001, when landings were 130,000 tonnes, the fishery showed signs of depletion and it was closed in 2003. Since 2004 landings have been stabilized around 35,000 tonnes. The stock was depleted until 2008, and, following IMARPE reports, barely recovered in 2009 to a level over critical limits, although an experts' panel held in 2009 maintained that the stock was still depleted and recommended landings under 13,000 tonnes.

The fishery takes place in the north of Peru and part of the stock lives in an area crossing the Ecuador-Peru border. Ecuador initiated a trawling fishery for hake in 2013. The port city of Paita accounts for almost all Peruvian landings, giving this fishery considerable socio-economic importance for that community. There is also a small artisanal (row boats and gillnets) hake fishery accounting for less than 5 percent of landings.

SFP efforts in this fishery are focused on working with major buyers and supplier partners to support the local improvement efforts lead by CeDePesca, a South American NGO whose mission is to work for socially, economically, and ecologically sustainable fisheries. CeDePesca has been involved with the Peruvian hake fishery for over 3 years.

Given that their products are exported mainly to Northern European markets, the stakeholders in this fishery expressed interest in MSC certification. Nevertheless, the improvement process experienced several delays until 2011, when Findus, an industry leader in frozen seafood, strongly encouraged Peruvian producers to work together with CeDePesca and SFP to get a certifiable status. Unfortunately, because of continuous changes on Peruvian policies and a weaker leverage from the supply chain, the local industry had been postponing active participation in the FIP.

The new authorities in Peru had decided to give more validity to the experts' panel and the TAC for 2012 had been established at 8,600 tonnes, which was biologically advantageous, but this created severe socio-economic complications in Paita. Consequently, the TAC was modified to 14,732 tonnes, the upper limit of IMARPE's advice for 2012.

In June 2013, after the improvement of the stock earned the fishery a significantly increased TAC, and under renewed pressure of some markets, the industry expressed to CeDePesca its intent to re-launch the FIP.

#### Key issues in this fishery:

- Despite some recent advances (MSC pre-assessment completed, improvement plan agreed) the main issue to be resolved before entering MSC full assessment is

transparency as it pertains to the public availability of stock assessments. This will be the only way to effectively demonstrate the stock is already over the limit reference point and moving towards a safer status.

- Although management and research are strong in general, no clear harvest strategy is in place and a better understanding of the impacts on the seabed and benthic community is needed.
- A small fleet outside of the certification process has been engaging in illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, which makes clear the need for better enforcement. Legal landings were 36,000 tonnes until 2011, and illegal landings were roughly estimated to be 9,000 tonnes, which is above the 2011 quota. This unaccounted illegal landing could cause a distorted result when calculating the outputs from the stock model.
- Age structure is still in a fragile state, being predominantly (95%) aged between 1 and 3 years. According to IMARPE reports, the limit reference point would be a parental biomass ( $SSB_0$ ) at 100,000 tonnes. A target reference point has not been established. Until 2011, IMARPE estimated the stock as being around the limit reference point. The assessment for the “biological year” July 2012–June 2013 revealed an improved status, with an  $SSB$  at around 98,000 tonnes, close to the limit reference point, and an improved size structure.
- Although IMARPE’s communication to PRODUCE to establish the 2013–2014 TAC has not been delivered to the public, the Ministerial Resolution refers to an IMARPE report showing some information about the improved status of the stock. An IMARPE document sent to PRODUCE confirms that assessment for “biological year” July 2013–June 2014 TAC showed a further improvement in both aspects ( $SSB_0$  and size structure), though the actual stock assessment report has not been made public.

#### FIP Objectives:

- Consolidate a recovery plan to improve stock level until the target reference point, including some level of coordination with Ecuador
- Improve transparency on stock assessment and advised total allowable catch (TAC)
- Encourage regular external peer review of stock assessment methodology
- Minimize illegal fishing
- Implement a harvest strategy
- Implement an ecosystem approach and related supportive measures

#### Progress Update:

2009

In February 2009, the profile of this fishery was available publicly on FishSource.com.

2010

In June 2010, the Peruvian Hake Subcommittee of the National Society of Industries (PSC-NSI) signed a FIP agreement.

In August 2010, an MSC pre-assessment was completed.

In December 2010, an improvement plan was prepared and agreed between the Peruvian hake industry, CeDePesca, and SFP. The main issues addressed in the improvement plan are better understanding of ecosystem impacts and transparency.

2011

In March 2011, CeDePesca, together with PSC-NSI, received funding from the Sustainable Fisheries Fund (SFF, a program of the Resources Legacy Fund (RLF)) that focused on providing a grant to implement the improvement plan. CeDePesca had secured support from IMARPE and from researchers at the University of Piura, who would have conducted several analyses to fill the information gaps highlighted by the pre-assessment.

Discussions with new government authorities were promising in regard to making the stock assessment public by the end of 2011. What happened finally were the creation of a link to the 2009 experts' panel report on IMARPE's website (previously censored) and an update of the model, which has not been made public.

In August 2011, CeDePesca and IMARPE senior staff held a meeting with very positive results in regard to the necessary scientific reports about the status of the stock and the impacts of the hake fishery on the environment. Nevertheless, the staff were changed in October 2011 by the new Peruvian authorities and the agreement was not implemented.

In September 2011, CeDePesca and PSC-NSI met in Paita to discuss the implementation of the agreed improvement plan, and the industry was informed about the meeting between CeDePesca and IMARPE. The industry reiterated its support of the plan, including the RLF financial support.

2012

*January – March*

The financial contribution still had not been made in January 2012 and, after the establishment of the 2012 TAC (8,600 tonnes), representatives of the industry communicated to CeDePesca that the implementation of the improvement plan is not a priority for them now because of financial troubles created by the new quota.

Consequently, it was not possible to meet the deadline to utilize the financial support from the RLF Sustainable Fisheries Fund and the grant was returned.

However, in January 2012, CeDePesca was accepted as part of the Cross-Sectoral Working Group for the Recovery of Hake constituted by PRODUCE and comprising

PRODUCE, IMARPE, the industry, and fishermen unions to establish a management and recovery strategy for hake, taking account of biological, social, and economic issues. The cross-sectoral working group met once a week in the cities of Lima and Paita until March 21.

#### *April – June*

In April 2012, CeDePesca sent a letter to the Vice-Minister of Fisheries encouraging transparency of science.

During May 2012, PRODUCE and IMARPE once again went through a change in leadership. CeDePesca had conversations with the PSC-NSI to restart the implementation of the improvement plan.

Between April and June 2012, the TAC was increased twice as a result of a strong protest by fishermen and fishery workers in Paita leaving two dead protesters and many more injured. At first, the option for PRODUCE was the upper limit of the IMARPE recommendation, 14,723 tonnes. In June, after considering the results and recommendations of new research conducted by IMARPE, PRODUCE raised the fishing quota to 25,800 tonnes – a 25-percent decrease from the 2011 level.

#### *July – December*

In August 2012, PSC-NSI carried out an international workshop on Situation, Evaluation and Sustainability of Peruvian Hake with the participation of CeDePesca and government officials. The workshop concluded that the hake stock has shown some increase in biomass. However, this could be associated with favorable environmental conditions for hake, and, therefore, more evaluation effort is needed, perhaps in the form of a joint scientific survey between Peru and Ecuador.

In September 2012, CeDePesca developed and sent a paper to the PSC-NSI listing the current actions to take to relaunch the fishery improvement program of the hake fishery. Formal and informal conversations continued with the PSC-NSI, PRODUCE, and IMARPE officials to restart the implementation of the improvement plan.

In December 2012, PRODUCE established the TAC for January–June 2013 at 13,748 tonnes, indicating that IMARPE will conduct an assessment survey in May 2013. The survey will measure the total biomass, and therefore allow establishment of a new TAC for the period July 2013 – June 2014 (the “biological year”), taking account of the life cycle of hake.

2013

#### *January – March*

Since May 2012, the Cross-Sectoral Working Group for the Recovery of Hake

constituted by PRODUCE had no meetings because PRODUCE, who chairs the group, decided not to call for them. CeDePesca has on several occasions requested the reactivation of the working group.

On March 26, PRODUCE suspended the hake fishery for the spawning season.

#### *April – June*

In May 2013, an IMARPE cruiser reported an improvement in hake biomass, with an increased abundance from 195,000 to 276,000 tonnes and a better size structure – as referenced in PRODUCE Ministerial Resolution 220/2013 – though this report has not yet been made public. CeDePesca has requested a copy under the rules of the transparency law.

In June 2013, PRODUCE established a TAC of 38,957 tonnes for the “biological year” July 2013 – June 2014, keeping all complementary measures relating to spatial, seasonal, and size restrictions.

By the end of June 2013, PSC-NSI contacted CeDePesca in order to reinitiate the FIP. CeDePesca sent a new Improvement Plan, which was approved, and a FIP meeting will be held in Paita in August 2013 to agree further steps.

#### *July – September*

In August 2013, all Peruvian hake producers and CeDePesca held a meeting in Paita to relaunch the FIP. It was established that main activities will be oriented toward ensuring collaboration with the new hake fishery in Ecuador and achieving transparency from IMARPE and PRODUCE regarding stock assessments and management decisions.

In August 2013, CeDePesca staff met with IMARPE and PRODUCE officials to discuss transparency. The CeDePesca delegation was told that IMARPE is working to establish protocols for publication of scientific information. Nevertheless, a request to IMARPE for information on transparency regulations yielded unsatisfactory results.

In September 2013, a delegation from the industry (PSC-NSI) participated in a bi-national (Peru and Ecuador) fishing sector meeting, where the need for further collaboration between the industry and governments of both countries was included at the final statement. A new high-level meeting, to which CeDePesca has been invited, will take place in the last quarter of 2013.

Also in September 2013, PRODUCE issued Ministerial Resolution N° 283-2013-PRODUCE declaring the spawning season closure of the fishery as of September 16 and until further notice. The artisanal activity with bottom longlines is permitted on an intermittent basis to provide for monitoring the spawning season.

#### *October – December*

In October, CeDePesca received IMARPE's latest stock assessment after repeatedly asking for it through the transparency mechanisms provided by PRODUCE and IMARPE since August 2013.

PRODUCE authorized an exploratory cruise to be conducted October 28–30 by IMARPE with participation of the industry (Ministerial Resolution N° 313-2013-PRODUCE).

Through Ministerial Resolution N° 336-2013-PRODUCE, the closure that began in September with Ministerial Resolution N° 283-2013-PRODUCE ended as of November 18 in the area between the northern limit with Ecuador and parallel 4°S. The area between parallels 4°S and 6°S remained closed until December 13 because of the presence of juvenile specimens.

*2014*

*January – March*

In January, during the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization meeting that took place in Manta (Ecuador), CeDePesca took the opportunity to talk to Ecuador's Vice-Minister of Fisheries regarding the need for closer coordination in management and science between Ecuador and Peru. Unfortunately, similar talks did not take place with Peru's Vice-Minister of Fisheries, who also attended this meeting.

In February, PCS-NSI decided to conduct an exploratory operation following protocols used by IMARPE during its own exploratory cruises, which are usually conducted with industry participation. PCS-NSI is partnering with the University of Piura in this endeavor. The goal is to collect data to carry out an independent stock assessment. Two exploratory missions were conducted in February and early March.

In March, CeDePesca prepared a proposal to the Resources Legacy Fund to try to ensure additional funds to continue advancing this project. In particular, to support the analysis of the data collected during the exploratory missions and to continue promoting some level of coordination in management and science between Ecuador and Peru regarding Peruvian hake, especially considering Ecuador's 2013 longline fishery launch.

Also in March, CeDePesca took part in a binational congress organized by artisanal fishermen in Lobitos. During this event, stakeholders in the artisanal sector were contacted in order to explore collaboration opportunities.

In March, this FIP fully transitioned from SFP to CeDePesca leadership, including hosting of the FIP public report at [cedepesca.net](http://cedepesca.net).

### **Peruvian Hake FIP Detailed Information**

This is a formal FIP driven by an agreement between CeDePesca and the Hake Subcommittee of the National Society of Industries (PSC-NSI).

Fishery Problem:

*Summary of fishery status*

a. SFP own estimate, based on data from FishSource

Current status	Status at beginning of FIP
Depleted – in recovery	Depleted – in recovery

b. Other ranking systems:

This fishery has not been rated by other ranking systems

FIP Progress Update:

Results/ FIP Stage	Indicator of Success	Level	Specific Details	Date Achieve d	List of Suppliers/ Organizati ons	Source
FIP is launched (Stage 1)	Sustainabi lity evaluation is publicly available	Fishe ry	FishSource profile	1 February 2009	SFP	<a href="#">Peruvian hake</a>
FIP is formed (Stage 2)	Suppliers are organized	Fishe ry	Producers are organized in two associations: Paita Corporation and the Hake Subcommitte e of the National Society of Industries (PSC-NSI) Meeting held with both associations	Since 2009	PSC-NSI	
		Fishe ry	PSC-NSI signed an agreement with CeDePesca that sets terms of	June 2010	PSC-NSI CeDePesc a	<a href="#">Convenio Especifico 1 Entre SNI y CeDePesca</a>

			collaboration to implement a fishery improvement project, including a budgetary contribution to pay for research activities.			
		Fishery	PSC-NSI and CeDePesca met in Paita to approve relaunching the FIP	August 2013	PSC-NSI CeDePesca	<a href="#">New workplan approved</a>
	Suppliers are evaluating this fishery	Fishery	MSC pre-assessment completed	August 2010	PSC-NSI	Confidential
FIP is encouraging improvements (Stage 3)	Annual improvement workplan and milestones are publicly available	Fishery	Improvement plan agreed between PSC-NSI, CeDePesca, and SFP	December 2010	PSC-NSI CeDePesca	<a href="#">Anexo Convenio Especifico 1 Entre SNI y CeDePesca</a>
		Fishery	PSC-NSI and CeDePesca secured support from IMARPE and from researchers at the University of Piura to conduct several analyses to fill information gaps highlighted by the PA.	March 2011; on hold since December 2011	PSC-NSI CeDePesca	

			The work related to these analyses is about to start as CeDePesca was granted funds by the Resource Legacy Fund to implement the plan.			
		Fishe ry	CeDePesca is in conversations with PSC-NSI to restart implementation of improvement plan	May 2012	PSC-NSI CeDePesc a	
		Fishe ry	PSC-NSI and CeDePesca met in Paita to approve relaunching the FIP	August 2013	PSC-NSI CeDePesc a	<a href="#">New workplan approved</a>
	Stakehold ers are engaging regulators	Fishe ry	Meetings are being held regularly with regulators to encourage improvements	August 2011– May 2012	CeDePesc a	
		Fishe ry	Cross- sectoral workgroup is meeting regularly	January, February, March 2012; currently in stand-by because of staff changes	PRODUC E	Confidentia l meeting minutes

				in PRODU CE		
		Fishe ry	CeDePesca sent a letter to the Vice- Minister of Fisheries encouraging transparency of science	April 2012	CeDePesc a	CeDePesca letter to PRODUCE
		Fishe ry	CeDePesca met with officials at PRODUCE and IMARPE to discuss transparency on stock assessments and management decisions	August 2013	CeDePesc a	Minutes of the meetings
		Fishe ry	CeDePesca contacts Ecuador's Vice-Minister of Fisheries to talk about the need for closer coordination between Ecuador and Peru regarding shared fish stocks, including Peruvian hake.	January 2014	CeDePesc a	
	Workplan with annual improvement	Fishe ry	Detailed workplan is available  Workplan	October 2012  June 2013	PSC-NSI CeDePesc a	<a href="#">Detailed Workplan</a>  New

	milestones publicly available		updated			detailed workplan
FIP is delivering improvement in policies or practices (Stage 4)	Fishery is achieving agreed annual improvement milestones	Fishery	Transparency levels have increased a little about delivering some background for TAC decision.	July 2009	PRODUCE	<a href="#">Panel Internacional de Expertos de Evaluación de la Merluza Peruana</a>  <a href="#">Propuestas de manejo merluza</a>
			TAC for 2012 has been reduced to 8,600 tonnes to allow a real recovery of the stock.	December 2011	PRODUCE	<a href="#">Resolución Ministerial No. 415-2011-PRODUCE</a>
			TAC for 2012 has increased to 14,723 tonnes, in line with IMARPE recommendation.	April 2012	PRODUCE	<a href="#">Resolución Ministerial N° 198-2012-PRODUCE</a>
			TAC for 2012 was raised to 25,800 tonnes, according with IMARPE recommendation - still 25% lower	June 2012	PRODUCE	<a href="#">Resolución Ministerial N° 321-2012-PRODUCE</a>

			than 2011 TAC.			
			PSC-NSI carried out an international workshop on Situation, Evaluation and Sustainability of Peruvian Hake with the participation of CeDePesca and government officials	August 2012	PSC-NSI	<a href="#">Taller Internacional sobre Sustentabilidad de Merluza Peruana</a>
			TAC for 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2013 established at 13,748 tonnes	December 2012	PRODUCE	<a href="#">Resolution Ministerial N° 549-2012-PRODUCE</a>
			PRODUCE has established temporary suspensions of fishing to protect juvenile specimens	January–February 2013	PRODUCE	<a href="#">Ministerial Resolutions N° 047-2013-PRODUCE, and 058-2013-PRODUCE</a>
			PRODUCE suspended hake fishery for the spawning season	March 2013	PRODUCE	<a href="#">Resolución Ministerial N° 119-2013-PRODUCE</a>
			TAC for “biological year” (July 2013-June 2014)	June 2013	PRODUCE	<a href="#">Resolucion Ministerial N° 220-2013-PRODUCE</a>

			established at 38,957 tonnes			
			PRODUCE suspended fishing activities to protect spawning season and juvenile specimens	September– December 2013	PRODUCE	<a href="#">RM 283-2013-PRODUCE</a> <a href="#">RM 336-2013-PRODUCE</a> <a href="#">RM 351-2013-PRODUCE</a>
			PSC-NSI carries out exploratory trips to collect data to conduct independent stock assessment with collaboration from the University of Piura	January 2014– present	PSC-NSI University of Piura	<a href="#">Media coverage</a>
FIP is delivering improvements in the water (Stage 5)	Fish stock biomass has increased	Fishery	IMARPE memo to PRODUCE informs increase of total biomass to 276,000 tonnes and provide management recommendations	June 2013	IMARPE	<a href="#">IMARPE Oficio PCD 100-346-2013</a>