

JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Agreement Between The Government Of The United States Of America And The Government Of Canada On Pacific Hake/Whiting

March 2, 2017

Ms. Rebecca Reid
Regional Director General- Pacific Region
Fisheries and Oceans Canada Suite
200- 401 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6C 2S4

Barry A. Thom
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way, NE, Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115

Dear Ms. Reid and Mr. Thom:

The Joint Management Committee (JMC) established under *the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada on Pacific Hake/Whiting* (the Agreement) held its fifth annual meeting in Lynnwood, Washington from February 28 – March 2, 2017.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to develop recommendations to the Parties on:

- 1) The coastwide hake/whiting total allowable catch (TAC) for 2017;
- 2) Each Party's national hake/whiting TAC, including any adjustments (uncaught TAC from the 2016 year to be carried forward to the 2017 year) allowed by the Agreement; and
- 3) Potential operational and research measures for the proper care and management of the hake/whiting resource.

In reference to the Coastwide Hake/Whiting TAC and each Party's National TAC, being consistent with Article II 3 (e) of the Agreement, and following a review of the advice of the Joint Technical Committee (JTC), the Scientific Review Group (SRG), and the Advisory Panel (AP), the JMC recommends a coastwide TAC of 531,501 metric tons (mt.) for the 2017 season.

Based on Article III 2 of the Agreement, the Canadian share of the coastwide TAC is 26.12 percent, or 138,828 mt., and the U.S. share is 73.88 percent, or 392,673 mt. and consistent with Article II 5. (b) of the agreement, an adjustment (carryover from 2016) of 17,239 mt. is added to the Canadian share, for an adjusted Canadian TAC of 156,067 mt. In the same manner, an adjustment of 48,760 mt. is added to the United States share, for an adjusted United States TAC of 441,433 mt. This results in a coastwide adjusted TAC of 597,500 mt. for 2017.

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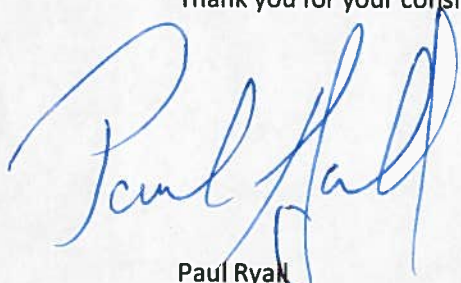
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The JMC had extensive discussion about how to advance development of the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE). While it was acknowledged that previous efforts had made progress on the advancing the MSE it was also affirmed that it was critical to initiate work on development of a spatially explicit model early in 2017 so as to allow the parties to commence analyses by January 2018. The reason for this urgency is based upon previous work undertaken by the MSE working group determined that the current default harvest policy led to the highest interannual variability in yield, as well as the highest probability that biomass would be below biological reference points such as B40% and B10%.

The MSE would allow the parties to explore options to improve management of the hake resource that provide the best long-term benefits to the Parties. In order to meet this timeline additional resources will be required from the parties. By late April we will have developed a working paper outlining the main objectives and questions to be addressed and what resources would be required to complete the task. By the end of July we hope to have an initial spatial model framework which will guide model development.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations.



Paul Ryan
Canadian Co-Chair
Joint Management Committee



Frank Lockhart
United States of America Co-Chair
Joint Management Committee