

JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

March 19, 2015

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

William W. Stelle, Jr.
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way, NE, Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115

Dear Ms. Farlinger and Mr. Stelle:

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 fourth annual meeting in Lynnwood, Washington from March 18-19, 2015.

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

- 1) the coastwide hake/whiting total allowable catch (TAC) for 2015;
- 2) each Party's national hake/whiting TAC, including any adjustments (uncaught TAC from the 2014 year to be carried forward to the 2015 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 383,365 metric tons (mt.) for the 2015 season.

Based on Article III 2 of the Agreement, the Canadian share of the coastwide TAC is 26.12 percent, or 100,135 mt., and the U.S. share is 73.88 percent, or 283,230 mt. and consistent with Article II 5. (b) of the agreement, an adjustment (carryover from 2014) of 14,793 mt. is added to the Canadian share, for an adjusted Canadian TAC of 114,928 mt. In the same manner, an adjustment of 41,842 mt. is added to the United States share, for an adjusted United States TAC of 325,072 mt. This results in a coastwide adjusted TAC of 440,000 mt. for 2015.

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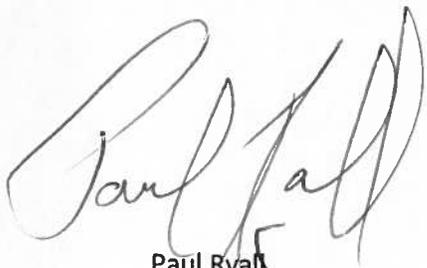
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- 2 -

The hydro-acoustic survey is the key assessment tool for determining the hake biomass. In recent years, there have been adjustments to the survey that the JMC is concerned may impact the effectiveness of the survey to provide useful hake biomass and other biological data that are used to meet the Agreement obligations. At the May 6-7, 2015 JMC planning meeting we will be assessing the implications of these changes.

The JMC recommends the continuation of the work of its MSE Steering Subcommittee. This subcommittee, which includes hake scientists, fishery managers, and industry stakeholders, has been tasked with developing an MSE process that will inform and assist the JMC when formulating management advice for the consideration of the parties on management of the Pacific Whiting/Hake resource.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations.



Paul Ryan
Canada Co-Chair
Joint Management Committee



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