

JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

March 18, 2016

Ms. Rebecca Reid
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. Reid 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 fifth annual meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia from March 17-18, 2016.

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

- 1) the coastwide hake/whiting total allowable catch (TAC) for 2016;
- 2) each Party's national hake/whiting TAC, including any adjustments (uncaught TAC from the 2015 year to be carried forward to the 2016 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 439,995 metric tons (mt.) for the 2016 season.

Based on Article III 2 of the Agreement, the Canadian share of the coastwide TAC is 26.12 percent, or 114,927 mt., and the U.S. share is 73.88 percent, or 325,068 mt. and consistent with Article II 5. (b) of the agreement, an adjustment (carryover from 2015) of 15,020 mt. is added to the Canadian share, for an adjusted Canadian TAC of 129,947 mt. In the same manner, an adjustment of 42,485 mt. is added to the United States share, for an adjusted United States TAC of 367,553 mt. This results in a coastwide adjusted TAC of 497,500 mt. for 2016.

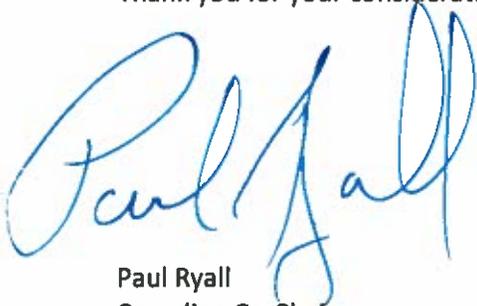
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The JMC acknowledges the hard work of the Joint Technical Committee in making progress on the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE). We will meet in May 2016 to develop a work plan for continued progress; this work plan will specifically address the development of a spatially explicit model for the next phase of the MSE. JMC discussions have increasingly centred around the spatio-temporal distribution of hake in relation to both stock size and oceanographic conditions. Development of a spatially-explicit model will substantially aid us in future treaty negotiations. It is important that both countries at least maintain and preferably expand their efforts to develop an MSE to support the US - Canada Pacific Whiting Treaty process.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations.



Paul Ryall
Canadian Co-Chair
Joint Management Committee



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