

## **JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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

March 5, 2019

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 eighth annual meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia from March 4 - 5, 2019.

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

- 1) The coastwide hake/whiting total allowable catch (TAC) for 2019;
- 2) Each Party's national hake/whiting TAC, including any adjustments (uncaught TAC from the 2018 year to be carried forward to the 2019 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 519,834 metric tons (mt.) for the 2019 season.

Based on Article III 2 of the Agreement, the Canadian share of the coastwide TAC is 26.12 percent, or 135,781 mt., and the U.S. share is 73.88 percent, or 384,053 mt. and consistent with Article II 5. (b) of the agreement, an adjustment (carryover from 2018) of 20,286 mt. is added to the Canadian share, for an adjusted Canadian TAC of 156,067 mt. In the same manner, an adjustment of 57,380 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 2019.

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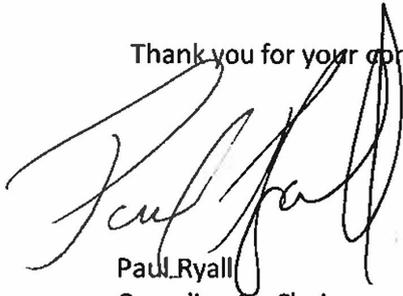
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The JMC had extensive discussion about how to advance development of the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE). The JMC recognizes that significant progress was made in the development of an analytical tool to assess the performance of the hake fishery. The MSE process offers the opportunity for the Parties to define what they want from the performance of the fishery through the development of objectives (e.g. conservation of the stock above specified levels, stability of fishing opportunities from one year to the next). This will allow for clear analysis of trade-offs between management options and help to inform JMC decisions.

The JMC notes that the the biennial acoustic survey has been crucial to successful management of the highly variable Pacific hake resource. The JMC urges the parties to continue their support for this crucial source of information at current or even higher levels. In addition, the JMC believes it is important for the Parties to continue their collaboration with industry in developing the design of the biennial surveys. The Parties will be undertaking a workshop in 2019 to review current survey methodologies and potentially develop new tools for utilization in future survey protocols.

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