



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pacific Region
200 – 401 Burrard Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6C 3S4

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Région du Pacifique
Pièce 200 – 401 rue Burrard
Vancouver (C.-B.)
V6C 3S4

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence
4920-01

June 22, 2015

Dear GTAC members,

Thank you for submitting your recommendations for responding to the challenging market conditions for the Pacific hake fishery this year. This letter is intended to provide you an update on the status of our responses to each of your recommendations. DFO recognises the challenges facing the hake fishery this year and is supportive of a sustainable and economically viable fishery that is well positioned to respond to resource fluctuations and evolving markets. As such, the Department is carefully considering each of the recommendations, and the perspectives we have heard from all parties about these recommendations, to determine how it can support the fishery this year while it adapts to market changes.

As mentioned on the June 16th conference call, the Department has approved the participation of Russian vessels in the Joint Venture (JV) fishery for 2015. Should the industry be successful in negotiating a contract with a vessel for the JV fishery (Russian or otherwise), the vessel(s) would be subject to the standard review procedure prior to licence issuance to confirm it is in good standing with Canadian authorities and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (e.g., no reports of illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing) and to pass all inspections upon its arrival in Canadian waters.

DFO will also permit the delivery of Offshore hake in a frozen round and HGT product form as part of the JV fishery for 2015. Consistent with the existing provisions for delivery of fresh product, all such deliveries must fall under the auspices of the contractual arrangements established between the Hake Consortium of BC and any foreign JV partner(s) for this year's fishery and will be constrained by the portion of the total Offshore hake quota that has been established for the JV fishery. Deliveries of frozen round and HGT will be subject to a number of modified requirements for both the Canadian fishing vessels and foreign vessels approved for participation in the JV fishery. Modifications will include adjusted observer requirements, sub-sampling procedures, and weight determination procedures, all to ensure effective monitoring and validation of frozen round or HGT being transhipped. Harvesters will be responsible for understanding and ensuring compliance with any other federal or provincial regulations and restrictions associated with the transhipment and sale of Offshore hake in the frozen round or HGT form to the foreign vessel(s).

GTAC's recommendation to permit the use of hake in the production of fish meal would require an exemption to section 31 of the *Fisheries Act*, which prohibits fishing for the purposes of converting fish into fish meal, except under authority of the Minister. Ministerial authorisation requires an Exemption Order to be published in Canada Gazette I. A review of this recommendation is underway. In the event that the recommendation is approved, an exemption order and publication in Canada Gazette I may take one to several months to implement.

DFO does not play a direct role in food aid programs. Canada provides money rather than food products to its food aid partners. The majority of Canada's food aid is provided to the World Food Programme. Canada's food aid partners decide on the products they will procure with the money provided. The bulk of the products are procured from developing nations. For example, recent data on the World Food Programme's procurement indicates they bought comparatively little food from Canada, and no fish. Industry can find out more about how to register with the World Food Programme as a vendor online: <http://www.wfp.org/procurement>.

GTAC's recommendation to initiate an at-sea processing pilot project for hake is also under review. Given the various policies and historical practices relating to at-sea processing on the west and east coasts, the review of this recommendation may take additional time to ensure consistency with national direction. GMU will keep GTAC informed of progress on the Department's response to this recommendation.

Sincerely,



Neil Davis
Regional Manager, Groundfish
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Tel: (604) 666-9033
Neil.Davis@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Sum of Total Mortality in BC Trawl Fleet by Fishing Season				
Species	2015	2014	2013	2012
BATH SPONGES	3.63	43.91	18.99	60.26
GLASS SPONGES	9.96	60.66	39.85	41.22
GORGONIAN CORALS	7.26	14.94	7.70	12.19
SEA PEN	21.31	76.20	75.11	123.31
SEA WHIP	16.73	3.61	0.00	0.00
SOFT CORALS	2.72	4.05	2.27	4.99
SPONGES	23.06	71.47	118.20	221.24
STONY CORALS	0.00	11.33	4.53	4.97
SEA PENS	0.00	22.10	14.87	22.97
CALCAREOUS SPONGES	0.00	5.44	1.36	0.45
ANEMONES AND TRUE CORALS	21.77	11.78	7.70	16.78
RED TREE CORAL	0.00	0.00	9.98	0.00
Grand Total	106.44	325.49	300.56	508.38

- all weight are in kilograms

- 2015 catches to June 22_15