

2018-2020 Specification Package Alternatives and Analysis of Impacts

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Whiting PDT Chair

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2018-2020 Specifications document

Specifications and alternatives

- OFL/ABC specifications approved
- Two alternatives
 - No Action – 2016-2017 specifications
 - Alternative 1 – 2018-2020 specifications

Stock	OFL (mt)	P*	ABC (mt)	ACL (mt)	Change from 2017	Discard rate	TAL (mt)	Change from 2017.	TAL trigger (mt)
Northern silver hake	58,350	0.25	31,030	29,475	27%	9%	26,604	33%	23,944
Northern red hake	840	0.40	721	685	45%	60%	274	128%	104
Southern whiting	31,180	0.25	19,395	18,425	-35%	18%	14,465	-59%	13,018
Southern red hake	1,150	0.40	1,060	1,007	-38%	70%	305	-98%	274

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- Impacts analysis
 - Consistent with OPTIMUM YIELD
 - Increases in landings and revenue in the northern management area
 - In-season AMs prevent overfishing in the southern management area
 - Overfished status of southern red hake to be addressed in an amendment to be developed

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- Impacts on the VECs are summarized to the right and discussed in more detail in Section 5.0.
- ACL specifications are intended to prevent overfishing and hence have positive, but insignificant effects compared to baseline environmental conditions.

VEC impacts	Updated specifications Section 4.1.1	No Action Section 4.1.2
Target species		
Red hake stocks Section 6.1.1	North: Low negative South: High positive	North: Low positive South: High negative
Silver and offshore hake stocks Section 6.1.2	North: Low negative South: Low positive	North: Neutral South: Low negative to neutral
Non-target species and bycatch Section 6.2.1	Low negative	Neutral
Physical environment and essential fish habitat Section 6.3.1	Low negative	Neutral
Protected resources Section 6.4.1	Neutral	Neutral
Fishery-related businesses and communities Section 6.5.1	Low positive	Short term: Low positive Long term: Low negative

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- Except for northern red hake, catch is generally constrained by restrictive regulations and market forces thereby avoiding unacceptable bycatch.
- Changes in the ACL specifications generally have positive effects.
- No Action has higher catch limits than the preferred alternative for southern stocks, it is expected to have a negative biological impact because the risk of overfishing would be higher.

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- When this action is considered in conjunction with all the other pressures placed on fisheries by past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, it is **not expected to result in any significant impacts, positive or negative.**
- There are **no significant cumulative effects associated with the preferred alternatives** in this document (Table 53).