

Council Decision Document for Draft Amendment 19 – February 2012

Alternative	Description/Analysis Section; page number	Rationale	Committee recommendation	PDT or AP recommendation	Specification or values analyzed	Included in Secretarial Amendment?
SMALL MESH MULTISPECIES SPECIFICATION FRAMEWORK WITH SPECIFICATIONS FOR 2012-2014 FISHING YEARS						
Allowable Biological Catch (ABC)	4.1; 4-31 Documents 1a to 2b in Appendix	Catch threshold for each stock based on an MSY-proxy and accounts for estimated scientific uncertainty using best available science from the SAW 51 benchmark assessment'	Preferred alternative	PDT recommends consideration as a preferred alternative	<u>Red hake:</u> 280.1 mt North 3259 mt South <u>Silver hake:</u> 13,177 mt North 33,995 mt South	Yes
Annual Catch Limits (ACL)	4.2; 4-34 Documents 1a to 2b in Appendix	Total catch threshold that accounts for management uncertainty; 95% of ABC'	Preferred alternative	PDT recommends consideration as a preferred alternative	<u>Red hake:</u> 266 mt North 3096 mt South <u>Silver hake:</u> 12,518 mt North 32,295 mt South	Yes
Overfishing definitions						
SAW51 recommended overfishing definitions (Preferred Alternative)	5.1.1; 5-36 NEFSC 2011a	Peer reviewed; revisions based on best available science developed during the benchmark assessment. Council would adopt overfishing definition as part of amendment; defining the proxy for MSY to be used in setting specifications and for status determination.	Preferred alternative			No
No action (pre-SAW51 overfishing definition)	5.1.2; 5-37 NEFSC 2011a	Existing overfishing definitions	Non-preferred alternative as No Action			No

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Mechanism for Specifying Annual Catch Limit (ACL)						
Specification package (Preferred Alternative)	5.2.1.1; 5-38	Defines the procedure the Council and NMFS will follow to adjust specifications	Preferred alternative			Yes, but may be more general
No Action (no specification process – all changes and specifications to be developed through amendments or framework actions, or through a more general process).	5.2.1.2; 5-40	Adjustments made through existing procedures via a framework adjustment or amendment	Non-preferred alternative as No Action			No
Annual Monitoring Alternatives						
Annual monitoring report to be prepared and presented to the Council by the Whiting PDT	5.2.2.1; 5-40	In depth analysis of trends and regulations to determine whether the Council should initiate action. Whiting PDT responsible for analyzing data.	Non-preferred alternative			Yes
Annual landings, discard estimates, and stratified mean survey biomass to be prepared and presented to the Council by NMFS	5.2.2.2; 5-41	Only standard report needed to determine whether post-season AMs have been triggered and keep the Council abreast of fishery and stock trends. NMFS responsible for analyzing data.	Non-preferred alternative	NMFS report preparation will be sufficient and more efficient.		No

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Annual landings, discard estimates, and stratified mean survey biomass to be prepared and presented to the Council by NMFS (Preferred Alternative)	5.2.2.3; 5-41	NMFS responsible analyzing data, with Whiting PDT review and oversight.	Preferred alternative			No
No Action	5.2.2.4; 5-41	No annual monitoring; No action	Non-preferred alternative			

Northern Stock Area Total Allowable Landings (TAL) Alternatives						
Stock-wide TAL (No Action; Preferred Alternative)	5.3.1; 5-42 8.1.1.1; 8-137	Reduces landings and potentially catch to reduce risk of exceeding ACL	Preferred alternative	Should be considered as preferred; potential benefits do not justify added monitoring costs	90.3 mt red hake 8973 mt silver hake	Yes
Small Mesh Exemption Area Landings Silver Hake Targets	5.3.2; 5-43	Reduces red hake landings and potentially catch in directed small mesh area exemption programs	Non-preferred alternative	See above	4567 mt Cultivator Shoals Area 3105 mt Inshore small mesh areas	No
Exemption Area Red Hake Landings Targets	5.3.3; 5-45 8.1.1.4.2.1; 8-142	Reduces silver hake landings and potentially catch in directed small mesh area exemption programs	Non-preferred alternative	See above	90.3 mt Cultivator Shoals Area 51.2 mt Inshore small mesh areas	No

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Cultivator Shoals Exemption Area Program Roll-Over Provision Alternatives						
Cultivator Shoals Exemption Area Program Landing Target Roll-Over	5.3.4.1; 5-46	Unused amounts may be landed from the inshore small mesh areas	Non-preferred alternative	See above		No
No Cultivator Shoals Exemption Area Target Roll-Over Provision	5.3.4.2; 5-47 8.1.1.4.3; 8-162	Makes more landings available for fisheries that target other species in the northern stock area	Non-preferred alternative	See above		No
Northern stock area in-season accountability measures						
Red hake incidental possession limits for the northern stock area	5.4.1; 5-47 8.1.1.4.2.2; 8-157	Once landings reach the 90% TAL trigger, reduces landings and potentially catch	400 lbs. as a preferred alternative	400 lbs. should be considered as preferred alternative; estimated to be effective while minimizing discards	200, 300, and 400 lbs. possession limit	400 lbs.
Silver hake incidental possession limits for the northern stock area	5.4.2; 5-49 8.1.1.4.1.1; 8-139	Once landings reach the 90% TAL trigger, reduces landings and potentially catch when landings for the stock area or small mesh exemption area	2000 lbs. as a preferred alternative	2000 lbs. should be considered as preferred alternative; estimated to be effective while minimizing discards	500, 1000, and 2000 lbs. possession limit	1000 lbs.
Red hake incidental possession limits for the Cultivator Shoals Area and other Small Mesh Area Programs						
Reduce red hake possession limit an incidental level for vessels fishing in Small Mesh Area Programs	5.4.3.1; 5-50 8.1.1.4.2.1; 8-142	Once landings reach the 90% TAL trigger, reduces landings and potentially catch	Non-preferred alternative		200, 300, and 400 lbs. possession limit	No
No small mesh management program accountability measures (No Action)	5.4.3.2; 5-51 8.1.1.4.2.1; 8-142	A red hake incidental possession limit could increase discarding by vessels targeting silver hake in the small mesh area programs	Non-preferred alternative			No

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No in-season accountability measures	5.4.4; 5-51	In-season AMs are unnecessary at this time because ACLs are well above recent catches	Non-preferred alternative			No
Southern Stock Area TAL Alternatives						
Stock-wide annual TAL (No Action)	5.5.1; 5-52 8.1.1.2; 8-137	Reduces landings and potentially catch to reduce risk of exceeding ACL	Non-preferred alternative	PDT recommendation that this alternative should be considered as preferred; potential benefits do not justify added monitoring costs	1,336 mt red hake 27,255 mt silver hake	Yes
Quarterly fishing year TAL allocations	5.5.2; 5-53	Ensures year around fishing if the 90% TAL triggers are reached	Non-preferred alternative		Q1: 445 mt RH & 7359 mt SH Q2: 338 mt RH & 5832 mt SH Q3: 237 mt RH & 6214 mt SH Q4: 317 mt RH & 7849 mt SH	No
Quarterly fishing year TAL allocations, triggered when prior landings exceed $\frac{2}{3}$ ^{rds} of the TAL (Preferred Alternative)	5.5.3; 5-54	Ensures year around fishing if the 90% TAL triggers are reached, but would only become effective when landings reach $\frac{2}{3}$ ^{rds} of the TAL	Preferred alternative	Recommended by advisors to, when needed, ensure year around fishing	Same as above	No

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TAL roll over provisions						
Quarterly TAL adjustments	5.5.4.1; 5-55	Adjustment mechanism to allow the fishery to land unused amounts in later quarters	Non-preferred alternative	Recommended method to adjust for unlanded amounts in each quarter and to account for quarterly overages		No
Roll up TALs and triggers (Preferred Alternative)	5.5.4.2; 5-55	Cumulative total landings determine whether in-season AMs should be triggered in any quarter when landings reach 90% of the cumulative quarterly TAL.	Preferred alternative	Recommended by NMFS and the PDT		No
No roll over provisions	5.5.4.3; 5-55	Unnecessary complication; overages would be accounted for in the 4 th quarter	Non-preferred alternative			No
Southern stock area in-season accountability measures						
Red hake incidental possession limits for the southern stock area	5.6.1; 5-56 8.1.1.4.2.3; 8-161	Once landings reach the 90% TAL trigger, reduces landings and potentially catch when landings for the stock area or small mesh exemption area	400 lbs. as a preferred alternative	400 lbs. should be considered as preferred alternative; estimated to be effective while minimizing discards	200, 300, and 400 lbs. possession limit	400 lbs.
Silver hake incidental possession limits for the southern stock area	5.6.2; 5-58 8.1.1.4.1.2; 8-157	Once landings reach the 90% TAL trigger, reduces landings and potentially catch when landings for the stock area or small mesh exemption area	2000 lbs. as a preferred alternative	2000 lbs. should be considered as preferred alternative; estimated to be effective while minimizing discards	500, 1000, and 2000 lbs. possession limit	1000 lbs.
No in-season accountability measures	5.6.3; 5-60 8.1.1.4.3; 8-162	In-season AMs are unnecessary at this time because ACLs are well above recent catches	Non-preferred alternative			No

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Year around red hake possession limits						
Northern stock possession limits	5.7.1; 5-60 8.1.1.5.1; 8-164	Reduce risk of derby style fishing and improves size selection, similar to silver hake; based on observed red/silver hake ratios during 2008-2010.	Non-preferred alternative	PDT thinks this measure would be precautionary, but has no information about its potential to affect size selection	1,000 to 3,000 lbs. for vessels using 2.5-5" mesh cod end 300 to 1,200 lbs. for all other gears and mesh	No
Southern stock possession limits	5.7.2; 5-61 8.1.1.5.1; 8-164	See above	Non-preferred alternative	See above	4,000 to 10,000 lbs. for vessels using 2.5-5" mesh cod end 2,000 to 6,000 lbs. for all other gears and mesh	No
No red hake possession limits (No Action/Status quo; Preferred Alternative)	5.7.3; 5-61 8.1.1.5.2; 8-170	Unnecessarily constrains landings and could cause discarding when large catches of red hake occur.	Preferred alternative			Yes
TAL monitoring, in addition to existing reporting requirements						
Weekly Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs) (Preferred Alternative)	5.8.1; 5-62	Allows for timely and more accurate monitoring of TAL triggers; improves assignment of catch to stock area for ACL monitoring	Preferred alternative	Supported by Advisory Panel		
Assigning landings to management program based on gear use	5.8.2; 5-62	Consistent with methods used by PDT to estimate the small mesh area program landings targets	Non-preferred alternative			

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No additional monitoring (No Action) – landings assigned to stock area on an annual basis using existing NEFSC area allocations procedures that use Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs).	5.8.3; 5-63	Appropriate if no real time monitoring is needed to implement in-season AMs	Non-preferred alternative			
Post season accountability measures (northern and southern stock areas individually)						
Pound-for-pound payback provision to apply in year 2, following a year when catches exceed the ACL (No Action)	5.9.1; 5-63 8.1.1.6.1; 8-171	Reduces risk of persistent overfishing; used as an accountability in other FMPs.	Non-preferred alternative	No PDT opinion; neither alternative addresses problem source if overage occurs due to discarding		Yes
Reduce the incidental possession limit trigger (described in Sections 5.3.1 and 5.5) in year 2, following a year when catches exceed the ACL (Preferred Alternative)	5.9.2; 5-63 8.1.1.6.2; 8-171	Reduces risk of persistent overfishing; used as an accountability in other FMPs. Most directly affects fisheries that target small mesh multispecies.	Preferred alternative	See above		No