

PERSPECTIVES OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE 2005 PACIFIC HAKE(WHITING) FISHERY

The Government of Canada presents its compliments to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) and would like to thank the PFMC for this opportunity to express its views on the 2005 Pacific hake (whiting) fishery.

The Government of Canada is pleased that Canada and the United States signed a new treaty for the joint management of this important shared resource in Seattle on November 21, 2003. As was the case last year, Canada hopes that both countries will be able to manage their 2005 fishery within the spirit of the treaty pending its entry-into-force.

Canada would like to thank the members of the STAT team, the STAR Panel and the STAR Panel Advisors for their work in preparing the *Stock Assessment of Pacific Hake (Whiting) in U.S. and Canadian Waters in 2004* and the *Report of the Joint Canadian and U.S. Pacific Hake/Whiting Stock Assessment Review Panel* on the stock assessment. Canada has used these documents as part of its internal procedures for developing its views on the 2005 fishery, and has the following comments to offer.

With respect to the harvest rate, Canada is of the view that the F-40 percent rate should continue to be used in 2005. This would be consistent with the treaty, which specifies F-40 with a 40/10 adjustment as the default harvest rate, and would be the most appropriate choice given the current status of the resource.

Canada is also of the view that the coast-wide total allowable catch (TAC) should be derived from the model using a value that falls between the range of the two values of Q (0.6 and 1.0) used in the assessment. At this point and based on the information available, Canada believes that: 1) a TAC value using the value of Q=1.0 would be too conservative; and 2) a TAC value using the value of Q=0.6 may be too bold. Canada therefore believes that the risk-neutral approach would be to adopt a 2005 coast-wide TAC consistent with a Q value of 0.8. Finally, Canada would also like to apply the harvest sharing provisions of the treaty to the 2005 fishery, with Canada taking of 26.12 percent of a commonly adopted coast-wide TAC.