

ECOSYSTEM WORKGROUP SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE 2025 PACIFIC WHITING FISHERY UNDER  
THE U.S./CANADA AGREEMENT AND 2025 FISHERY

After reviewing what was presented to the Scientific Review Group of the Pacific Whiting Treaty in February, the Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) requested that Drs. Mary Hunsicker and Kristin Marshall of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center meet to discuss the Pacific Hake risk table in this year's hake stock assessment. The EWG thanks the stock assessment and risk table authors for a comprehensive report and taking the time to meet with the EWG on short notice.

In this year's assessment, the Joint Technical Committee included a risk table in their stock assessment for the first time (Table H.3 in Agenda Item H.3.a, Supplemental Attachment 2), employing the methodology developed in the [Fisheries Ecosystem Plan Initiative 4](#). This risk table follows the examples the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) has seen for sablefish and petrale sole, and serves as another example of how risk tables will be developed in parallel with 2025 groundfish stock assessments. The EWG notes that the Scientific Review Group agreed that the risk tables provided important contextual information for decision-making to supplement the stock assessment. The EWG also appreciates the inclusion of the time series of indicators developed as part of the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Status Report as supporting information in the Pacific whiting risk tables.

Unusual warming conditions and patterns in the ecosystem made the risk table especially informative this year. Issues raised include the disconnect between the assessment of high stock biomass and the inability of fishermen to find the fish, unusual spring fishing conditions, lack of fishery-dependent data in 2024, and concern about the assessment model predicting strong incoming cohorts being matched by corroboration with ecosystem indicators of hake's early life history stages. These insights highlight opportunities for risk tables to be useful in the PFMC process in the future. We understand that the risk table may be presented to the Joint Management Committee and Advisory Panel and expect that it will be useful to their deliberations on the Total Allowable Catch decision.

PFMC  
03/07/25