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MRAG Americas, Inc.

Pacific Whiting (Hake) Mid-Water Trawl

CSI 4th Surveillance audit and Reassessment

Announcement

04 September 2026

MRAG Americas, Inc. is pleased to announce the beginning of an RFM assessment of the **Pacific whiting (hake) mid-water trawl**. The assessment will evaluate the fishery for compliance with the Certified Seafood International's Responsible Fisheries Management Fishery Standard.

Table 1.	Relevant CSI Program and scheme documents, including applicable versions and their usage		
Relevant CSI Program	Certified Seafood International (CSI) Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Certification Program		
Relevant CSI Program Documents	Document Title	Version	Usage
	CSI Procedure 2: Application to Certification Procedures for the Fishery Standard Version 2.2	V6.3	Process requirements
	Certified Seafood International Certification Program Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Fisheries Standard	2.2	Standard
	Guidance to Performance Evaluation for the Certification of Wild Capture and Enhanced Fisheries	V2.2	Guidance to Standard

Table 2 – Fishery Announcement		
1	Fishery name	
	Pacific whiting (hake) mid-water trawl.	
2	Certification cycle, assessment type and number	
	4 th surveillance audit and reassessment	
3	Statement that the fishery is within scope	
	MRAG Americas confirms that the fishery under assessment (as defined by the Units of Assessment described below) is within scope of the relevant CSI's RFM Fisheries Standard.	
4	Unit(s) of Assessment – UoA(s)	
	Geographical Area(s)	US Federal EEZ waters off Washington, Oregon and California; FAO area 67
	Management System	Management of the coastal Pacific hake fishery is shared among the joint management Committee (or JMC as established by the agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the USA on Pacific hake/whiting), who recommends the annual TAC, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in the US and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in Canada. NMFS is responsible for domestic management of US fisheries
	Fishing gear(s)/method(s)	Mid-water trawl
	Client Group	Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative
	Species (common name/scientific name)	North Pacific whiting hake, (<i>Merluccius productus</i>)
	Stock(s)	Offshore stock of Pacific coast whiting/hake
5	Proposed team leader	
	Ms. Erin Wilson joined MRAG Americas, Inc. in February 2015, where she currently works as a Senior Manager in the Fisheries Certification Division. She serves as the team leader on several MSC assessments, including North and South Pacific albacore tuna fishery, US West Coast Groundfish fishery, and all the Alaska Groundfish fisheries, and has served as a team member for several other fishery assessments, including both MSC and Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM). Prior to joining MRAG Americas, she worked at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) as a Natural Resource Specialist and Biological Technician for the Oregon Marine Reserves. She has conducted qualitative interviews with commercial fishermen and fishing communities along the west coast regarding catch share programs, limited entry, and proposed designations of marine reserves. She has collaborated on a multitude of projects that focus on marine science and conservation in both a biological and social science aspect. She has completed ISO 19011 Lead Auditor for Management Systems, SA8000, the SRA training for Fishery Progress, and all the MSC and RFM required trainings for team leader and assessment team member. She received a M.Sc. in Marine Resource Management from Oregon State University and a B.S. in Zoology from Colorado State University, along with a Spanish minor.	
6	Proposed team members	

	Dr. Giuseppe Scarcella is an experienced fishery scientist and population analyst and modeller, with wide knowledge and experience in the assessment of demersal stocks. He holds a first degree in Marine Biology and Oceanography (110/110) from the Università Politecnica delle Marche, and a Ph.D. in marine Ecology and Biology from the same university, based on a thesis "Age and growth of two rockfish in the Adriatic Sea". After his degree he was offered a job as project scientist in several research programs about the structure and composition of fish assemblage in artificial reefs, off-shore platform and other artificial habitats in the Italian Research Council – Institute of Marine Science of Ancona (CNR-ISMAR, now CNR-IRBIM). During the years of employment at CNR-ISMAR he has gained experience in benthic ecology, statistical analyses of fish assemblage evolution in artificial habitats, fisheries ecology and impacts of fishing activities, stock assessment, otolith analysis, population dynamic and fisheries management. During the same years he attended courses of uni- multivariate statistics and stock assessment. He is also actively participating in the scientific advice process of FAO GFCM in the Mediterranean Sea. At the moment he is member of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries for the European Commission (STECF). He is author and co-author of more than 50 scientific paper peer reviewed journals and more than 150 national and international technical reports, most of them focused on the evolution of fish assemblages in artificial habitats and stock assessment of demersal species. For some years now, Dr Scarcella has been working in fisheries certification applying the Marine Stewardship Council standard for sustainable fisheries, currently concentrating on Principle 1 of the Standard. Furthermore, Dr Scarcella holds the credential as Fishery team leader (MSC v2.0) and he completed the MSC procedure training 2.1. He also holds the credential as certifier of Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM). Ms. Michealene Corlett joined MRAG Americas, Inc. in March 2018, where she currently works as the Senior Fisheries Program Manager. She received a B.S. in Aquatic and Fishery Science with a minor in Quantitative Science from the University of Washington School of Aquatic and Fisheries Science. Prior to joining MRAG Americas Michealene worked at the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife cooperating with inner agency and Tribal managers to monitor Pacific salmon populations in the Lake Washington basin. She has an extensive background in project management, and regulatory compliance and implementation. Her prior work as a project manager fostered strong client relations and the ability to work with a variety of stakeholders on sometimes contentious issues. Since joining MRAG, Michealene has provided support and collaborated on several fishery projects including Marine Stewardship Council, Responsible Fisheries Management and FISH Standard for Crew assessments. She currently participates on MSC assessment teams as an assessor for Principles 2 and 3 and as Team Leader. As the quality systems manager she was responsible for the application and improvement of MRAG Americas' quality management system ensuring compliance with ISO certification requirements. A discussion between team members regarding conflict of interest and biases was held and none were identified.
7	Site Visit
	A site visit for the fishery will occur in Seattle, Washington, USA the week of 05 October 2026 and will occur in conjunction with the 4th surveillance audit. Stakeholders who would like to submit information or request a meeting with the assessment team are asked to do so by 17:00 UTC on 04 October 2026. To schedule a meeting please provide: • your name and contact details • your association with the fishery • the issues you would like to discuss • where and when you would like to meet Information on the CSI stakeholder process and how to become a registered stakeholder can be found here: https://csicertified.org/about/stakeholder-involvement/ Please send any documentation, requests for meetings, or inquiries to: MRAG Americas, Inc.

	certification@mragamericas.com Erin Wilson MRAG Americas, Inc. 8950 Martin Luther King Jr. St. N., Suite 202 St. Petersburg FL 33702 Ph: 1-727-563-9070 Fax: 1-727-563-0207
8	Stakeholder opportunities
	As part of this assessment, only registered stakeholders will be afforded an opportunity to provide input on a public draft of the assessment report which will be provided for comment when the defined 30-day period in which registered stakeholders may comment is reached. As this stakeholder input opportunity is limited to registered stakeholders only, interested stakeholders should ensure they register as outlined below: - Information on the CSI stakeholder process can be found here: https://csicertified.org/about/stakeholder-involvement/ - Contact MRAG Americas as outlined above requesting to be registered as a stakeholder for the fishery. - The above deadline for requesting to consult with the assessment team and the details stakeholders should provide when requesting to be registered as a stakeholder shall apply here.

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Submitted by: Shayna-Lyn Sagadraca

Date: 03 September 2026

Appendix 1: Summary of CVs of team leader and team members

The assessment team for this assessment consists of:

- Ms. Erin Wilson (lead assessor and primarily responsible for fisheries impact to the ecosystem)
- Dr. Guiseppe Scarcella (assessor and primarily responsible for stock assessment and fish biology)
- Ms. Michealene Corlett (assessor and primarily responsible for fisheries management)

Please see sections 5 and 6 in table 2 for team member bios.