

**ECOREGION**      **Widely distributed and migratory stocks**  
**SUBJECT**        **EC request on update of 2012 forecast of hake in Division IIIa, Subareas IV, VI, and VII, and Divisions VIIIa,b,d (Northern hake stock)**

#### **Advice summary**

The necessary data (i.e. 2011 landings) to perform the analysis required to respond to the request were not available. It is therefore not technically possible for ICES to respond to part b) of the request at this time.

#### **Request**

*ICES is requested to review*

- a) *the document "Fisheries Regulation at  $F_{msy}$  level: an example on the Northern hake stock for the adoption of an alternative adaptive approach" by E. de Cárdenas and E.C. Lopez-Veiga.*
- b) *any new information from surveys concerning the abundance of the stock of Northern hake, in particular surveys effected in autumn 2011.*

*On the basis of the conclusions of these reviews, ICES is requested to update its advice for fishing opportunities in 2012 if it considers it appropriate to do so.*

#### **Elaboration on the advice**

This advice only concerns the part b) of the request. Part a) of the request was addressed in section 9.3.3.5. The request asks for review of new survey information, but ICES considers that a review of advice given in 2011 in May 2012 must include information on developments in 2011. As key data on the fisheries in 2011 are not available such a review is therefore not possible. No further elaboration on the summary above is necessary.

#### Background

The request text states: *"The TAC 2012 for the stock of Northern hake was adopted with the proviso that the Commission would ensure the evaluation of additional information concerning the latest autumn surveys and concerning methodological issues raised by Spain."*

#### **Sources**

ICES. 2012. Report of the Working Group on the Assessment of Southern Shelf Stocks of Hake, Monk, and Megrin (WGHMM), 10-16 May 2012, ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen. ICES CM 2012/ACOM:11.