### Biology facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Southern Hake</th>
<th>Capen Hake</th>
<th>Argentine Hake</th>
<th>European Hake</th>
<th>Deep-water Cape Hake</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Depth Range</strong></td>
<td>benthopelagic, 25-1000 m</td>
<td>bathydemersal, 50-1000 m</td>
<td>benthopelagic, 50-800 m</td>
<td>demersal, 30-1075 m</td>
<td>bathydemersal, 200-1000 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Max Age</strong></td>
<td>30 years</td>
<td>20 years</td>
<td>16 years</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Maturity Age</strong></td>
<td>6-10 years</td>
<td>2-8 years</td>
<td>6 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Max Size</strong></td>
<td>1.25 m</td>
<td>1.20 m</td>
<td>0.95 m</td>
<td>1.40 m</td>
<td>1.15 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Max Weight</strong></td>
<td>15 kg</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prey</strong></td>
<td>Fish, Squid, Marcozooplankton, Crustaceans and bentic organism</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other**

Southern Hake is found in the southern hemisphere. There are two distinct groups, a New Zealand population and a Patagonian population.

Cape Hake is found in southern and southwestern Africa, from Baie Farte (12.5°S), over the Agulhas Bank in the south, to Natal (28°S). Also found on the Valdivia Bank (26°18'S, 6°20'E).

Argentine Hake is found in the Southwest Atlantic off southern Brazil to Argentina and the Falkland Islands up to 54°S.

European Hake is found in the East Atlantic: Norway to Iceland, southward to Mauritania, also in the Mediterranean Sea and along the southern coast of the Black Sea.

Deep-water Cape Hake is found in southern and southwestern Africa, from Cape Frio (18°S) south to the Agulhas Bank, and...
east to East London; also found on the Madagascar Ridge (33°S 44°E).

Fishery Facts

Latin Name
- *Merluccius australis* (Southern Hake)
- *Merluccius capensis* (Capen Hake)
- *Merluccius hubbis* (Argentine Hake)
- *Merluccius merluccius* (European Hake)
- *Merluccius paradoxus* (Deep-water Cape Hake)

Fishing Method
- All species are caught by bottom trawling; European Hake are also caught by bottom and pelagic trawlers but also with long lines, bottom-set gillnets lines and Danish seines. The Southner Hake in New Zealand waters are caught as by-catch in the hoki fishery and the Argentine Hake are caught by long-line.

Annual catch
- Max. 13 211 t (Southern Hake)
- 2 060 t (FAO 1999), 1 800 t (FAO 2006) (Cape Hake and Deep-water Cape Hake)
- 372 039 t (FAO 1999), 406 937 t (FAO 2006) (Argentine Hake)
- 68 569 t (FAO 1999), 86 343 t (FAO 2006) (European Hake)

Main fishing nations
- Angola 2 060 t (FAO 1999) (Cape Hake and Deep-water Cape Hake)
- Argentina 311 953 t and Uruguay 32 045 t (Argentine Hake)
- Spain 22 931 t and Italy 9 754 t (European Hake)

Certification
- The Bottom trawling fishery of the Cape Hake and the Deep-water Cape Hake in South Africa was MSC certified as sustainable in April 2004. The certification is for Deepsea trawlers ranging from 20 to 90 metres in length and inshore trawlers ranging from 15 to 35 metres in length.

Main Concerns
- All four species are caught using bottom trawling which damage seabed habitats and has a high unintentional catch (bycatch) of other species (FAO and Fishbase).
- Other fishing methods are also used to catch Hake. For example, European Hake are also caught with pair trawls which can have a bycatch of dolphins, and gill nets which have a high rate of capture of immature fish and kill dolphins and porpoises. Some scientific studies have demonstrated that the Hake gillnet fishery presents a proportion of discards which could vary from 2% to 80%, meaning this fishery is potentially one of the most wasteful in the world (Oceana 2006).
- Southern Hake in New Zealand waters are caught primarily in the fishery Hoki but this fishery has a bycatch of New Zealand fur seals, albatrosses and petrels (Forest and Bird).
- Argentine Hake are caught by bottom trawling and by long lining. There is some concern about the impact of the long-line fishery on sharks and rays in
the region. The Southern Sealion interacts with the fishery in some areas by trying to take fish on the hooks. The fishermen try to ward off the animals using firearms or carbide-based explosives (González et al. 2007).

- The European Hake has a northern and a southern stock. The northern stock is recovering from previously low levels and the southern stock (around Portugal and Spain) has been depleted for many years. Scientists have recommended closing this fishery since 2004 (Fish Online).

- Research on the Brazilian fishery for Argentine hake suggests over-exploitation (Vaz-dos-Santos and Lúcia 2007).

**Main Sources**


http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/2238

http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/2239

http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/3027

http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/3028


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