



Improving equity for artisanal fishers in Chile's southern hake fishery

September 2025



June 25, 2025, marks an important date for Chile's artisanal fishers. The approval of the Law on the Fishing Quotas, or Law 21.752, corrects the unequal distribution of fishery resources between the artisanal and industrial sectors that had been in place for more than a decade.

SFP has provided legal and technical advice to the Federación de Sindicatos de Pescadores Artesanales de Hualaihué, which represents around 1,300 southern hake (or austral hake) fishers, so they could participate in the debates on this law with the necessary legal arguments to support their demand for an increased fishing quota.

Historically, legal loopholes have enabled industrial fleets to capture the majority of Southern Hake landings, thereby diminishing market opportunities for Hualaihué's artisanal fishers. The approval of the new quota fractioning law brings hope to this group of fishers, who practice sustainable fishing with longlines and require governmental support to safeguard the resource, which, according to a report from the Undersecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture, is currently overexploited.



December 2023 —

A draft of a new fisheries law is presented by the Chilean executive branch to the Chamber of Deputies (Message No. 280-371). The draft includes, among other changes, an updated distribution of quotas by fishery between the industrial and artisanal sectors (Article 16).

Understanding the new law

— January 2024

SFP's legal team in Chile undertakes a [comprehensive analysis of the new fisheries law](#) and proposes changes related to the fisheries management regime and the institutional reorganization of fisheries authorities. The analysis is distributed to six fishers organizations to support their participation in debates over the law: Federación de Sindicatos de Pescadores Artesanales de Hualaihué, Confederación de Pescadores Artesanales de Chile (CONFEPACH), Coordinadora de Artesanales del Norte (CORANOR), Corporación Nacional de Mujeres de la Pesca Artesanal, Confederación de pescadores en defensa de la pesca artesanal (CONDEPP) and Alianza Nacional por la Defensa de la Pesca Artesanal.

Advocacy by artisanal fishers

September 2024 —

The Chilean government presents an independent draft Law on Fishing Quota by the Government (Message No. 189-372), in response to delays in the processing of the new fisheries law.

— May 2024

SFP supports the creation of the National Alliance for the Defense of Artisanal Fisheries, which brings together four artisanal fishing organizations to strengthen their participation and advocacy on the law and, more broadly, on any fisheries-related issues. SFP facilitated the founding discussions for the Alliance, drafted the agreement, and provided specific guidance for Alliance members to advocate for a special pension and tax regime that would benefit artisanal fisheries to be included in the new law.

— September - December 2024

Representatives of artisanal fishing organizations attend six hearings by the Fisheries Commission of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate Maritime Interests Committee. SFP's team monitors and analyzes the legislative process and the agreements reached, and distributes updates to artisanal fishing organizations.



Following complex discussions and negotiations, Law 21.752 on Fishing Quotas is approved and published. SFP's team publishes an [analysis of the new law](#) and disseminates its findings to artisanal fishers organizations.

The law allows for the following increases in southern hake fishing quotas, representing a significant benefit for the artisanal sector:

In the Los Lagos Region, the percentage of the fishing quota allocated to the artisanal sector increased by 10%, resulting in 70% for artisanal fishers and 30% for the industrial sector.

In the Aysén and Magallanes Regions, the percentage of the fishing quota allocated to the artisanal sector increased by 3%, resulting in 63% for artisanal fishers and 37% for the industrial sector.

Finalizing the law

May 2025

The Joint Committee, which is composed of both deputies and senators, debates the final text of the law, to resolve discrepancies that arose after the Senate Maritime Interests Committee amended the original bill.

June 2025



Looking ahead

The new quota fractioning law will take effect on January 1, 2026. Based on the quota percentages, the Subsecretaría de Pesca will estimate the available biomass and translate that percentage into the number of tons that southern hake fishers will be allowed to catch. This process is expected to occur in March 2026.

SFP will continue supporting the Federación de Sindicatos de Pescadores Artesanales de Hualaihué in its efforts to safeguard the marine ecosystem and the longline southern hake fishery. Additionally, SFP will closely monitor the debate on the new law and provide information to the artisanal fishers organizations to intervene and request any necessary modifications to ensure fair regulation.





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*If you'd like to learn more about SFP's work with artisanal
fishers of the southern hake fishery, please email
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