

Annex II Maturity stages of female hake

1 INACTIVE

Ovaries small, slender, transparent, with no visible signs of eggs.

2 ACTIVE

Ovaries large and filling with small, pink to orange, opaque visible eggs.

3 RIPE

Ovaries very large, in relation to the fish size. Distended and filled with clearly visible opaque eggs - some eggs already transparent. Color of ovaries right orange to deep pink.

4 RIPE-and-RUNNING

Translucent eggs, can be extruded through the cloaca with slight abdominal pressure.

5 SPENT

Ovaries visually completely empty but large, flabby, prominently veined and often bloodshot.

