

## **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.

