

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL COMMENTS ON
PACIFIC SARDINE

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) is concerned about the potential for bycatch in the northern sardine experimental fishery; both for adult and juvenile salmon, and for other species such as rockfish.

We are not opposed to this experimental fishery, and we recognize that catches in the year 2000 will be relatively small compared to what the allowable biological catch could be.

We are concerned that as we move forward that we have sufficient facts and bycatch information available to make wise management decisions. In order to secure that information we need both at-sea and dockside monitoring. At-sea monitoring requires on board observers.

We are living in an era of precautionary management. Numerous salmon stocks are at critically low abundance levels. Juvenile salmon and sardines are similar size and may feed on the same things; and, as a result, they may also intermingle. We are not dealing with tens of thousands of salmon, but with thousands, hundreds, and tens of salmon.

The SAS urges you to ultimately adopt a policy that includes observers, both in Washington and Oregon in order to generate the best possible science for future decision making.

PFMC
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