

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES (CPS)  
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT/REGULATORY IMPACT REVIEW FOR AMENDMENT 9

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has the following proposed changes to the draft EA/RIR for Amendment 9:

APPENDIX C - STATE APPROACHES FOR DETERMINING BYCATCH (p. 27)

**Washington Work Plan for the 2000 Sardine Fishery**

Replace the first paragraph with:

In Washington, sardines are managed under the Emerging Commercial Fishery provisions as a trial commercial fishery. An Emerging Commercial Fishery permit and a Trial Sardine Fishery permit are required and are non-transferable. The total sardine harvest taken in 2000 cannot exceed 4,000 metric tons (mt) in a fishery beginning May 15 and continuing through October 15, or until the quota is achieved, whichever occurs first. The fishery is open to purse seine gear only.

Before "Requirements," insert:

Goals and Objectives

The goal for this trial fishery is to provide fishing opportunity consistent with the Pacific Fishery Management Council's CPS fishery management plan and WDFW policy; collect information on sardines off Washington to improve the coastwide stock assessment; and document the extent of bycatch occurring in the fishery. Objectives include:

- Collect size, age, sex, and maturity data from the catch landed into Washington
- Document bycatch, in terms of species, amount, and condition. Recommend management measures to reduce bycatch, as necessary.
- Document harvest methods, distribution of harvest, and CPUE.

After "Agency Action," add:

Planned Work

Washington sardine fishing activities occur out of the ports of Ilwaco and Westport. WDFW has hired two additional full-time observers and is utilizing existing port sampling staff to augment our observer program and conduct dockside sampling. The observers work onboard commercial fishing trips to document bycatch, determine catch composition, and collect market samples. Port samplers monitor unloading at processing plants for incidental catch data, weigh sub-samples of the sardine catch, and collect logbooks to determine harvest distribution, CPUE, and unobserved bycatch information.

Additional staff time is spent extracting otoliths (to be sent to the California Department of Fish and Game for age analysis), determining sex and maturity of samples, and summarizing observer and logbook information.

WDFW will provide a summary of the 2000 trial sardine fishery to the Council following the conclusion of the fishery.