



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Region  
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200  
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

MAR 23 2001

F/SWR2:JJM

Mr. Jim Lone, Chair  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224  
Portland, Oregon 97201

Dear Jim,

I am pleased to inform you that I have approved Amendment 9 to the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Amendment 9 describes the extent of bycatch in the fishery and makes recommendations that will ensure that the monitoring in place in the various states continues. Most of these recommendations were in effect in California, Oregon, and Washington before Amendment 9 was prepared but were not described in the FMP. Since submission of Amendment 9, final reports on the Oregon and Washington sardine fisheries, which had observer coverage, show that bycatch in these purse seine fisheries for coastal pelagic species has not been significant.

Amendment 9 also includes a framework process for implementing Indian fishing rights should such action be necessary in the future. When the FMP was implemented, there were no significant fisheries in Oregon and Washington for coastal pelagic species, and no description of Indian fishing rights existed in the FMP. The sardine resource has now expanded its range to the Pacific northwest and Canada; therefore, the Council has adopted a process to address a potential future management issue.

I look forward to working with the Council to implement the provisions of the amendment.

Sincerely,

*Rebecca Lent*  
for Rebecca Lent, Ph.D.  
Regional Administrator

