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Supplemental ODFW Report
September, 2002

Preliminary Report of the 2002 Oregon Sardine Fishery

LANDINGS

Landings of sardines into Oregon continue to increase. Landings through approximately September 6, total 20,220 mt. Total landing for 2001 entire season was just under 13,000 mt. Oregon harvested more than 50% of the entire northern sub-area harvest guideline.

FISHERY DESCRIPTION

Total number of landings in 2002 is over 600 (over 450 in 2001). Average catch per landing is greater than in 2001: 76,000 in 2002, 60,000 in 2001.

Sardines are managed in Oregon under the Developmental Fisheries Program which limits the number of permits issued to 20. All 20 permits were issued in 2002 and 2001. Thirteen vessels have made landings into Oregon by September 6, 2002.

In 2002, six processors have bought sardines, there were five in 2001.

According to log processed to date, 94% of the harvest has come off Oregon and 6% off Washington. In 2001, the catch was 73% off Oregon and 27% off Washington

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Due to budget cuts, we did not have a full time observer for 2002. Existing staff has made 5-6 ride-along trips on sardine vessels to observe bycatch.

Logbook are filled out by vessel skipper; the logs contain bycatch information. Bycatch continues to be low. Salmon bycatch averages less than 0.5 fish per trip. Other bycatch and incidental catch species include mackerel, anchovies, herring, shad, and a handful of shark (mostly blue shark).

BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES

We continue to collect samples of sardine at the dock for biological data (includes weight, length, sex, maturity, and age structures). Samples analyzed to-date show a larger average size in 2002 than in 2001. Age structures taken from 2001 samples show an age composition of mostly ages 2-3.