

**Cabinet Agencies’ Performance Audit Action Item(s) & Status**

**Department of Fish and Wildlife Puget Sound Dungeness Crab Fishing**

(See also [cabinet agency response](#) for full context to Washington State Auditor’s Office (SAO) [report](#), January 2010)

Agencies included in the performance audit: Department of Fish and Wildlife

SAO Issues Summary:

1. Harvest estimation challenges make it difficult for the Department to assess how well it is managing the fishery and meeting Rafeedie Decision requirements.
2. The Department follows best practices and fulfills the intent of Commission policy for crab fishery management but conducts limited monitoring of other factors that can threaten the resource.

The table below shows the current status of action items the agency initiated to address issues identified in the performance audit report. Please see the [cabinet agency response](#) for additional context and any additional steps already taken.

For an explanation of the columns below, [see the legend](#).

Issue	Status	Action Steps	Lead Agency	Due Date	Current Resources?	Budget Impact?	Legislation Required?	Notes
1	Completed	Extend on-line reporting 15 day for a total reporting period of 30 days (previously 15 days) after both summer and winter recreational fisheries close. On-line reporting will be available September 1-30, 2010, for reporting catch from the summer fishery, and again from January 1-31, 2011, for reporting fall and winter catch. In-season reporting will continue to be available to any angler who wishes to send in their Catch Record Card (CRC) when they are finished fishing. The Department has concerns regarding the recommendation	DFW/ Fish Progra m	9/10	Yes	No	No	Date 7/2014 Each of the issues in this audit have been successfully addressed and resolved. A “completed” has been assigned to each issue along with the date of completion. No further action is deemed to be needed to resolve these issues.  On-line reporting system has been modified to allow 30 day reporting period beginning September 2010.

Issue	Status	Action Steps	Lead Agency	Due Date	Current Resources?	Budget Impact?	Legislation Required?	Notes
		to allow recreational fishers to report in-season before they are finished fishing. That action would invalidate the statistical method used to estimate recreational harvest which is based on confirmed completed catch record card information.						
1	Completed	Add a courtesy post card for the winter season that alerts fishers to report their crab information. That postcard will be sent the week of December 27, 2010. The Department will continue to send anglers a courtesy post card the week of August 23, 2010 reminding them to report summer crab information.	DFW/ Fish Program	12/10	Yes	No	No	Postcards have been sent. The Department will continue to send anglers a courtesy post cards as reminders to report all crab information.
1	Completed	Apply the ten dollar penalty for failure to return a crab CRC or report on-line to both summer and winter CRCs. Final modifications to the Washington Integrated Licensing Database to track anglers who fail to report crab information and issue subsequent penalties are scheduled to be completed in February 2010.	DFW/ Business Services Program	2/10	Yes	No	No	Final modifications to the Washington Integrated Licensing Database to track anglers who fail to report crab information and issue subsequent penalties are complete.
1	Completed	Reduced reliance on telephone survey data in the harvest estimation process. The phone survey will be eliminated when	DFW/ Fish Program	3/11	Yes	No	No	The phone survey will be eliminated when return rates of CRC's are adequate to ensure accurate harvest estimates. Phone survey elimination activities in progress.

Issue	Status	Action Steps	Lead Agency	Due Date	Current Resources?	Budget Impact?	Legislation Required?	Notes
		return rates of CRC's are adequate to ensure accurate harvest estimates. The department will need to identify an expansion factor for cards not returned and will need agreement from tribes to the revised catch accounting method. Timeline March 2011.						
1	Completed	Prioritize the processing and data entry of commercial crab fish tickets by December 2010.						<p>The SAO had recommended that the department should discontinue the daily commercial reporting requirement once it achieves an acceptable level of confidence in the accuracy of the harvest information.</p> <p><u>Status</u>            The Department has achieved a goal to improve in-season accuracy and timelines of processing commercial fish receiving tickets. Improvements to the reporting system have resulted in the elimination of one in-season reporting system that was deemed unnecessary. In addition, changes were made to commercial buyer requirements that allow for electronic email reports to be submitted as an alternative to a fax report. These changes have resulted in a more efficient and streamlined catch accounting system that requires less staff time and is more cost efficient overall. Furthermore, the Department is currently collaborating with the Northwest Indian Fishery Commission on the design and development of a</p>

Issue	Status	Action Steps	Lead Agency	Due Date	Current Resources?	Budget Impact?	Legislation Required?	Notes
								"mobile device" application for commercial harvest reporting. Pilot testing of one or more mobile applications for commercial catch reporting could be initiated in 2013.
1	Completed	Expand and promote the web-based reporting system that was initiated in 2009 for daily in-season commercial crab reporting by October 2010.	WDFW Fish Program	Oct. 2010	Yes	No	No	
2	Completed	Protect the resource using the current fishery management strategy that restricts fishing by season, sex and size (known as 3S strategy) and will continue to incorporate into annual state and tribal harvest management agreements. Timeline April 2010.	WDFW Fish Program	April 2010	Yes	No	No	
2	Completed	Review and evaluate additional monitoring methods that could improve our relative abundance assessment capabilities. Assessing population size is not a likely outcome of additional monitoring by December 2010.	WDFW Fish Program	Dec. 2010	Yes	No	No	