
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8015

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Schoesler, Sheldon, Becker, Rivers, Wilson, L., Van De Wege, Walsh, Salomon, Pedersen, Bailey, Ericksen, Warnick, Wagoner, Honeyford, Brown, Padden, O'Ban, Hunt, Fortunato, Short, Conway, King, Hobbs, and Lovelett

Read first time 04/23/19. Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks.

1 TO THE HONORABLE DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 THE HONORABLE WILBUR ROSS, UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, AND
3 THE HONORABLE DAVID BERNHARDT, ACTING UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF THE
4 INTERIOR:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,
7 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, Washington's waters are inhabited by a variety of salmon
9 and other fish species, some of which are listed as endangered or
10 threatened under federal law; and

11 WHEREAS, Washington has made major, long-term, public
12 investments, including operating an extensive fish hatchery system,
13 to achieve the goal of recovering and preserving healthy fisheries;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The federally listed southern resident killer whale
16 population depends on having a sufficient supply of fish in
17 Washington's waters; and

18 WHEREAS, Sea lions and other pinnipeds in Washington feed on
19 fish, including protected salmon, and thereby interfere with the
20 state's recovery goals for both fish and killer whales; and

21 WHEREAS, With the passage of the endangered salmon predation
22 prevention act (ESPPA) in 2018, Congress formally recognized that
23 "preventing predation by sea lions, recovery of listed salmonid

1 stocks, and preventing future listing of fish stocks in the Columbia
2 River under the Endangered Species Act of 1973" are vital priorities;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The ESPPA authorizes the intentional lethal taking of
5 sea lions on the waters of the Columbia River and its tributaries for
6 the purpose of preventing predation of protected fish; and

7 WHEREAS, Predation of salmon and other fish by pinnipeds is a
8 matter of great concern in other waters in Washington beyond the
9 Columbia River, including Puget Sound; and

10 WHEREAS, The state of Washington is responsible for preserving,
11 protecting, perpetuating, and managing fish and wildlife in all state
12 waters;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully ask that you take
14 all actions within your authority to ensure that permits authorized
15 under the ESPPA are approved and issued to the state of Washington as
16 soon as practicable, and that you authorize all appropriate federal
17 agencies and personnel to work cooperatively and efficiently with
18 appropriate state of Washington officials, and native American
19 tribes, under the marine mammal protection act to limit pinniped
20 predation of salmon and other fish in Puget Sound and all Washington
21 waters.

22 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
23 transmitted to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United
24 States, the Honorable Wilbur Ross, United States Secretary of
25 Commerce, and the Honorable David Bernhardt, Acting United States
26 Secretary of the Interior.

--- END ---