

House Joint Memorial 17

Sponsored by Representatives HUNT, KENNEMER

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges United States Secretary of Commerce to approve immediate removal of California sea lions from Columbia River as means of protecting salmon and steelhead that are threatened or endangered.

JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 To the United States Secretary of Commerce:

3 We, your memorialists, the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legis-
4 lative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

5 Whereas salmon and steelhead are listed as threatened or endangered species under the En-
6 dangered Species Act of 1973; and

7 Whereas California sea lions are having a significant negative impact on the recovery of salmon
8 and steelhead in the Pacific Northwest; and

9 Whereas California sea lions have been protected since 1972 by the federal Marine Mammal
10 Protection Act; and

11 Whereas Oregon populations of California sea lions have remained unchecked and have grown
12 from 10,000 animals in the 1950s to about 300,000 currently; and

13 Whereas substantial opportunities for human interaction exist and significant safety concerns
14 related to these interactions are escalating; and

15 Whereas sea lion foraging areas have expanded to Bonneville Dam and throughout the
16 Willamette River up to Willamette Falls; and

17 Whereas the sea lion forage base is primarily salmon, with approximately 300 animals eating
18 four fish a day over an approximate 50-day season of migration, resulting in a conservatively esti-
19 mated take of more than 60,000 salmon from March to May; and

20 Whereas the Oregon State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Washington Department of Fish
21 and Wildlife and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, in cooperation with the National Marine
22 Fisheries Service and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, have conducted extensive re-
23 search to document and track this growing problem as well as years of unsuccessful tests and pro-
24 grams to reduce the number of sea lions and their predation rates; and

25 Whereas all reasonable and known nonlethal means of removal have been tried; and

26 Whereas the Oregon State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Washington Department of Fish
27 and Wildlife and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game have concluded that another removal op-
28 tion is necessary to gain control of the sea lion situation and reduce the risk of increasing the
29 predation losses and reduce safety concerns related to human interaction; and

30 Whereas the Oregon State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Washington Department of Fish
31 and Wildlife and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game appealed to the National Marine Fisheries

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Service for authorization to remove California sea lions; and

2 Whereas the United States Department of Commerce, acting through the National Oceanic and
3 Atmospheric Administration and the National Marine Fisheries Service, granted authority to Idaho,
4 Oregon and Washington to lethally remove identified California sea lions as a means of protecting
5 salmon and steelhead that are threatened or endangered; now, therefore,

6 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

7 That we, the members of the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the United
8 States Secretary of Commerce to approve the immediate removal by any means necessary of sea
9 lions in freshwater during salmon runs; and be it further

10 Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the United States Secretary of Com-
11 merce and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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