

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Be Adopted as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bailey, Bentz, Boone, Krieger, Thompson, Witt, Cannon, Gilliam
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Liz Puskar, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/22, 4/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Urges Congress to undertake revisions to federal Marine Mammal Protection Act recommended in a National Marine Fisheries Service 1999 report by providing new management options and tools. Urges Congress to approve immediate removal by any means necessary of California sea lions in Oregon rivers, including Columbia River, during salmon runs.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Recent increase in sea lion populations
- Amount of fish consumed by sea lions in typical year
- Potential for sea lion contact with humans
- Non-lethal methods of reducing sea lion populations

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND: Sea lions, along with seals and walrus, are in the taxonomic suborder *Pinnipedia* in the order *Carnivora*. All pinnipeds must come ashore to breed, give birth and nurse their young. Some species are at sea for several months at a time, while others return to the shore every day. Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Fisheries Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has jurisdiction over seals and sea lions.

Since the spring of 2008, wildlife managers for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife have removed a total of 40 California sea lions below the Bonneville dam, located some 145 miles upstream from the Columbia River mouth. Since 2003, the Army Corps of Engineers has documented approximately 100 California sea lions annually consuming an average of 3,000 spring Chinook salmon and steelhead at the Bonneville dam. HJM 17 A urges Congress to revise the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act to provide new management tools for sea lions.