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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4004

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

**By** Representatives Chase, Nance, Dent, McClintock, Bernbaum, Engell, Schmick, Orcutt, Springer, Marshall, Volz, Reeves, Jacobsen, Parshley, Klicker, Eslick, and Schmidt

Read first time 02/03/25. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 TO THE HONORABLE DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
5 PROTECTION AGENCY, AND TO THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC  
6 ADMINISTRATION:

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

10 WHEREAS, Congress passed the Endangered Salmon Predation  
11 Prevention Act in 2018 to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act to  
12 allow lethal removal of sea lions on a portion of the Columbia River  
13 and these lethal removal efforts have begun to show signs of success;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The Washington State Academy of Sciences studied policy  
16 responses to increase salmon stocks and reported to the Washington  
17 State Legislature in 2022 that current populations of pinnipeds are a  
18 contributing factor in the decline and depression of salmon  
19 populations in Washington state waters; and

20 WHEREAS, The Washington State Academy of Sciences recommended  
21 that strategic and appropriately scaled adaptive management of  
22 pinniped populations, including lethal removals, is a key tool that  
23 could be expanded to improve salmon recovery; and

1       WHEREAS, State and tribal resource managers cannot use the  
2 recommended management tools for salmon recovery without Congress  
3 providing new flexibility under the Marine Mammal Protection Act that  
4 extends beyond the segment of the Columbia River currently  
5 authorized;

6       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress  
7 modify the Marine Mammal Protection Act to allow greater flexibility  
8 for states and tribes to use adaptive management tools, including the  
9 use of lethal removal, for pinniped predators of endangered salmon  
10 stocks across all marine shorelines and the Puget Sound.

11       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
12 transmitted to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United  
13 States, the Director of the United States Environmental Protection  
14 Agency, the Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
15 Administration, the President of the United States Senate, the  
16 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress  
17 from the State of Washington.

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