



WASHINGTON HATCHERY COALITION

United for Salmon • United for Future Generations

Support for the Northwest Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act of 2026

July 15, 2026

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for Northwest Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act of 2026

Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman:

On behalf of the Washington Hatchery Coalition, we respectfully submit this letter in strong support of the Northwest Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act of 2026.

The Washington Hatchery Coalition represents a unique and powerful alliance of Tribal governments and non-Tribal fishing organizations committed to one common purpose: restoring salmon for future generations. Our coalition began when the Lummi Nation, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, and Tulalip Tribes joined together with Puget Sound Anglers and the Ilwaco Charter Association to advance a shared vision for salmon recovery. Since then, our partnership has continued to grow with the participation of the Squaxin Island Tribe and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.

For decades, Tribal and non-Tribal interests have often found themselves on opposite sides of fisheries issues. Our coalition demonstrates something different. We have chosen collaboration over conflict because we recognize that the future of salmon transcends individual interests. Healthy salmon populations are essential to Tribal treaty-reserved fisheries, commercial and recreational fishing opportunities, Southern Resident orcas, our regional economy, and the ecological health of the Pacific Northwest.

Today, salmon face unprecedented challenges. Decades of habitat loss and degradation, rising water temperatures, declining summer stream flows driven by climate change, and increasingly severe flood events continue to destroy spawning habitat, displace juvenile fish, and reduce survival throughout the watershed. At the same time, significant investments have been made by Congress, Tribal governments, the State of Washington, and countless partners to restore habitat, modernize hatcheries, and improve fish passage. Those investments deserve every opportunity to succeed.

Our coalition has worked diligently to advance a comprehensive approach to salmon recovery. We have advocated for increased hatchery production, habitat restoration, fish passage improvements, adequate hatchery funding, science-based fisheries management, and policies that improve salmon survival throughout their life cycle. We recognize that no single action will restore salmon populations. Recovery requires a comprehensive solution addressing every significant source of mortality.

We do not view salmon recovery as choosing one solution over another. We believe recovery requires addressing every limiting factor within our ability to influence. Pinniped predation has become one of those significant factors. While we continue investing in habitat restoration, climate resilience, hatchery improvements, and watershed recovery, we must also address increasing pinniped predation if we are serious about rebuilding salmon populations for future generations.

The Northwest Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act provides another important, balanced, and science-based management tool that complements—not replaces—the broader work already underway. Together, these efforts represent the comprehensive approach that salmon recovery demands.

Congress has made significant investments in salmon recovery over the past several decades. Addressing pinniped predation is an immediate action that will help to ensure those federal investments produce the greatest possible conservation benefit for listed salmon and steelhead. Pinniped predation has become one of those significant challenges. This legislation provides another important, balanced, science-based management tool alongside habitat restoration, hatchery improvements, adaptive management, scientific oversight, humane implementation standards, annual reporting, development of non-lethal exclusion technologies, and protection of Tribal treaty rights.

Today, Tribal Nations and recreational fishing organizations stand together with one voice because the future of salmon demands it. We respectfully urge the House Committee on Natural Resources to advance the Northwest Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act of 2026.

Respectfully,

WASHINGTON HATCHERY COALITION