



MYTH VS. FACT

ENDANGERED SALMON AND FISHERIES PREDATION PREVENTION ACT

Myth 1:

- H.R. 2083 provides no oversight or measures to determine success.

Fact 1:

- H.R. 2083 places strict limits on the number of sea lions that can be culled for the protection of endangered salmon. The bill sets the level at just 10% of the level that NOAA estimates would have no impact on the sea lion population. Furthermore, permits authorized under this section expire after 5 years and if the Secretary of Commerce determines the authorities of this Act are no longer necessary, after important consultation with State and Tribal fishery managers, then the Secretary no longer will issue permits under the authorities of the legislation.

Myth 2:

- Humane Sea Lion Management, as authorized by H.R. 2083, will not lead to the recovery of salmon populations.

Fact 2:

- This myth claims that sea lions are having an insignificant role in the decline of salmon runs. According to the Confederated Tribes of the Yakama Nation, this statement is “shockingly inaccurate.” According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, sea lions will directly push winter steelhead runs to extinction if sea lions are not removed from the Willamette River tributary. NOAA has found that sea lions account for as high as 43% of chinook salmon mortality on the Columbia River and its tributaries. According to the Yakama Nation, “[this] head in the sand mentality and dilatory tactics results in the Lake Washington steelhead no longer being deemed a viable population.”

Myth 3:

- H.R. 2083 is bad for sea lions.

Fact 3:

- Committee Democrats want you to believe that sea lion populations are in trouble, citing slight population declines and starved sea lions washing up on shore. It is well documented that California sea lions have reached their carrying capacity. As any high school biology textbook will tell you, death and starvation are key signs of an overextended population. A species at carrying capacity will deplete its food source – in the case of sea lions in the Columbia River, that food source is already-endangered salmon.

Myth 4:

- H.R. 2083 is unwarranted.

Fact 4:

- Researchers have found that sea lion predation upstream is a new, learned behavior. Hazing has not worked. Humane, lethal removal is a necessary component to preserving the region’s endangered and threatened salmon runs. Democratic staff make the claim that “any sea lions found upstream of river mile 112 of the Columbia River and its tributaries could be killed”. Put differently, this bill puts the “sea” back in sea lion..