

Public Law 115–329  
115th Congress

An Act

To allow for the taking of sea lions on the Columbia River and its tributaries to protect endangered and threatened species of salmon and other nonlisted fish species.

Dec. 18, 2018  
[S. 3119]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act”.

Endangered  
Salmon  
Predation  
Prevention Act.  
16 USC 1361  
note.

**SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

It is the sense of the Congress that—

- (1) preventing predation by sea lions, recovery of listed salmonid stocks, and preventing future listings of fish stocks in the Columbia River under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) is a vital priority; and
- (2) the Federal Government should continue to fund lethal and nonlethal removal, and deterrence, measures for preventing such predation.

**SEC. 3. TAKING OF SEA LIONS ON THE COLUMBIA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES TO PROTECT ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES OF SALMON AND OTHER NONLISTED FISH SPECIES.**

Section 120(f) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1389(f)) is amended to read as follows:

“(f) TEMPORARY MARINE MAMMAL REMOVAL AUTHORITY ON THE WATERS OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER OR ITS TRIBUTARIES.—

“(1) REMOVAL AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary may issue a permit to an eligible entity to authorize the intentional lethal taking on the waters of the Columbia River and its tributaries of individually identifiable sea lions that are part of a population or stock that is not categorized under this Act as depleted or strategic for the purpose of protecting—

“(A) species of salmon, steelhead, or eulachon that are listed as endangered species or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

“(B) species of lamprey or sturgeon that are not so listed as endangered or threatened but are listed as a species of concern.

“(2) PERMIT PROCESS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity may apply to the Secretary for a permit under this subsection.

“(B) TIMELINES AND PROCEDURES OF APPLICATION.—The timelines and procedures described in subsection (c) shall apply to applications for permits under this subsection in the same manner such timelines apply to applications under subsection (b).

“(C) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to coordinate issuance of permits under this subsection, including application procedures and timelines, delegation and revocation of permits to and between eligible entities, monitoring, periodic review, and geographic, seasonal take, and species-specific considerations.

“(D) DURATION OF PERMIT.—A permit under this subsection shall be effective for a period of not more than 5 years, and may be renewed by the Secretary.

Determinations.

“(3) LIMITATIONS ON ANNUAL TAKINGS.—The Secretary shall apply the process for determining limitations on annual take of sea lions under subsection (c) to determinations on limitations under this subsection, and the cumulative number of sea lions authorized to be taken each year under all permits in effect under this subsection shall not exceed 10 percent of the annual potential biological removal level for sea lions.

“(4) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS.—Intentional lethal takings under this subsection shall—

“(A) be humane within the meaning of such term under section 3(4);

“(B) require that capture, husbandry, transportation, and euthanasia protocols are based on standards propagated by an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and that primary euthanasia be limited to humane chemical methods; and

“(C) be implemented by agencies or qualified individuals described in subsection (c)(4), or by individuals employed by the eligible entities described in paragraph (6).

Time period.  
Consultation.  
Determination.

“(5) SUSPENSION OF PERMITTING AUTHORITY.—If, 5 years after the date of the enactment of the Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act, the Secretary, after consulting with State and tribal fishery managers, determines that lethal removal authority is no longer necessary to protect salmonid and other fish species from sea lion predation, the Secretary shall suspend the issuance of permits under this subsection.

“(6) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—

Washington.  
Oregon.  
Idaho.  
Native  
Americans.

“(A) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(i) with respect to removal in the mainstem of the Columbia River, from river mile 112 to the McNary Dam and its tributaries in the State of Washington, and its tributaries in the State of Oregon above Bonneville Dam, the State of Washington, the State of Oregon, and the State of Idaho;

“(ii) with respect to removal in the mainstem Columbia River from river mile 112 to the McNary Dam and its tributaries within the State of Washington and in any of its tributaries above Bonneville Dam within the State of Oregon, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs

Reservation of Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation; and

“(iii) with respect to removal in the Willamette River and other tributaries of the Columbia River within the State of Oregon below Bonneville Dam, a committee recognized by the Secretary under subparagraph (D).

“(B) DELEGATION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may allow eligible entities described in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) to delegate their authority under a permit under this subsection to the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission for removal in the mainstem of the Columbia River above river mile 112 and below McNary Dam, in the Columbia River tributaries in the State of Washington, or in tributaries within the State of Oregon above Bonneville Dam and below McNary Dam.

“(C) ADDITIONAL DELEGATION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may allow an eligible entity described in subparagraph (A)(i) to delegate its authority under a permit under this subsection to any entity described in subclause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) with respect to removal in the mainstem of the Columbia River above river mile 112 and below McNary Dam, in the Columbia River tributaries in the State of Washington, or in tributaries in the State of Oregon above Bonneville Dam and below McNary Dam.

“(D) COMMITTEE REQUIREMENTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall recognize a committee established in accordance with this subparagraph as being eligible for a permit under this subsection, for purposes of subparagraph (A)(iii).

“(ii) MEMBERSHIP.—A committee established under this subparagraph shall consist of the State of Oregon and each of the following:

“(I) The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians or the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community, or both.

“(II) The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs or the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, or both.

“(iii) MAJORITY AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—A committee established under this subparagraph may take action with respect to a permit application and removal under this subsection only with majority agreement by the committee members.

“(iv) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACAA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to a committee established under this subparagraph.

“(7) INDIVIDUAL EXCEPTION.—For purposes of this subsection, any sea lion located upstream of river mile 112 and downstream of McNary Dam, or in any tributary to the Columbia River that includes spawning habitat of threatened or endangered salmon or steelhead is deemed to be individually identifiable.

“(8) SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE IMPACT EXCEPTION.—For purposes of this subsection, any sea lion located in the mainstem of the Columbia River upstream of river mile 112 and downstream of McNary Dam, or in any tributary to the Columbia

River that includes spawning habitat of threatened or endangered salmon or steelhead is deemed to be having a significant negative impact, within the meaning of subsection (b)(1).

“(9) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘Indian tribe’ has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).”.

16 USC 1389  
note.

**SEC. 4. TREATY RIGHTS OF FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES.**

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to enlarge, confirm, adjudicate, affect, or modify any treaty or other right of an Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

Study.

**SEC. 5. REPORT.**

Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall study and report to Congress on the effects of deterrence and the lethal taking of sea lions on the recovery of endangered and threatened salmon and steelhead stocks in the waters of the Columbia River and the tributaries of the Columbia River subject to section 120(f) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1389(f)), as amended by this Act.

Approved December 18, 2018.

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 3119 (H.R. 2083):**

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 115–289 (Comm. on Natural Resources) accompanying H.R. 2083.

SENATE REPORTS: No. 115–400 (Comm. on Commerce, Science, and Transportation).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 164 (2018):

Dec. 6, considered and passed Senate.

Dec. 11, considered and passed House.

