

Use Survey Table Display Piece

Did you know that seals and sea lions cause damage to the gear of commercial and recreational fisherman, and can create conflicts with humans at fishing grounds and in marinas?



The government is proposing that state and federal wildlife managers be allowed to kill sea lions that are causing repeated conflicts in marinas and at fishing grounds. The government is also proposing that Congress *consider* allowing fishermen to kill sea lions that are causing damage to fishing gear or caught fish. This would only be allowed when the seals or sea lions cannot be stopped by non-lethal means.

Use Survey Introduction

Surveyer Reads:

Seals and sea lions are currently protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, a federal law. However, there is a report before Congress that suggests changing the Marine Mammal Protection Act so that these protections are removed in certain situations. One of these situations is when seals and/or sea lions are doing damage to fishermen's gear or interfering with their catch. Fishermen lose money due to these types of interactions with seals and sea lions. The report before Congress recommends that seals and sea lions could be lethally removed (killed) by fisherman to prevent economic losses to the fishermen's gear or catch.

Although seals and sea lions create economic losses, they also have an economic value. Besides the value that they bring to tourism and recreational areas they have a value to individuals such as yourself and your family. This value is hard to measure because seals and sea lions are not "bought" and "sold" in a market like other similar items such as cameras, beachwear or tenting equipment.

You have been chosen randomly to give your opinion on these matters. If you are interested in participating you must be over 18 years of age. Are you over 18?

(If Yes)

Please read the following pages, which describe the issue in more detail.

You can be assured of complete confidentiality. This poll is for research purposes only, some demographical information will be asked during the survey (i.e. age, sex) but this and all survey answers will be kept anonymous, we will not even ask for your name. Participation in this survey is completely voluntary, if you feel uncomfortable about answering any of the survey questions, you can withdraw from the survey at anytime. Questions about the research can be addressed to Tracy Rouleau at (510) 243-0497. Complaints about the research may be presented to the Acting Environmental Studies Department Chair, Lynne Trulio, Ph.D. at (408) 924-5450. Questions about research, subject's rights, or research-related injury may be presented to Nabil Ibrahim, Ph.D. Acting Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies and Research at (408) 924-2480.

If you would like a copy of the results, please inform me when you are finished with the survey. At that time I would also be happy to answer any questions that you might have.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Use Survey

*This is a questionnaire on **your** feelings about these issues.*

Seals and sea lions have interacted closely with coastal human populations for many centuries. Historically, they were harvested for their pelts and meat, and today they are still harvested by certain peoples on a subsistence basis. Hunters had reduced their population to around 5,000 by 1950. The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972 ensured the recovery of many seal and sea lion species, causing an increase in their



populations in California waters. Currently, California sea lion populations are estimated at 165,000.

A steep decline in salmon populations has occurred. Twenty-four populations of pacific salmon are now listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Population declines have been caused by many factors including: habitat loss and degradation; inadequate river passage and flows due to dams, agriculture, logging and other developments; overfishing; and environmental fluctuations such as El Niño, drought and flooding. At the same time, there have been increasing commercial and recreational fishing and increasing seal and sea lion populations. This has created a conflict in the states of Washington, Oregon and California.

California sea lions are a very visible predator of salmon and often will fight with commercial and recreational fishermen



Sea lions hauled out on piers in marinas can create health and safety problems.

over a particular salmon. Sea lions have been observed feeding on young salmon smolts at rivermouths, and cause monetary damage to commercial salmon fishermen and commercial passenger fishing vessels. This damage is in the form of lost fish and damage to fishing nets and gear. In an attempt to provide a solution to the problem of declining salmon populations and alleviate the economic losses to fishermen, the National Marine Fisheries Service issued a report to Congress recommending that some seal and sea lion populations be controlled by lethal means. Killing troublesome sea lions could result in less predation on salmon, and a reduction of the economic losses currently suffered by commercial and recreational fishermen, although neither of these outcomes is guaranteed.

It is also important to note that the report issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service found insufficient data to connect seal or sea lion predation to declining salmon stocks. They "could not determine if either" seals or sea lions are "having a significant negative impact on any wild salmonid population", with the single exception of Ballard Locks, a river system where salmon passage is restricted by a human-made structure (boating locks). Also, many investigators agree that although seals and sea lions can have a significant effect on salmon populations in certain circumstances, overall marine mammal predation is a *minor* factor in salmon declines.



A male sea lion that has been caught in a gill net.

1. Suppose a fund was created which asked for a yearly donation of \$X to be paid along with your taxes. Rather than allowing the lethal removal of seals and sea lions that damage fishing gear and catch, the fund would compensate commercial and recreational fishermen for damage to their gear and loss of their catch due to damage done by seals and sea lions. Would you be willing to pay that amount each year?

YES (GO TO Question 2)

NO (SKIP TO Question 3)

NO ANSWER/Don't Know

(if you answer "NO ANSWER/Don't Know" please state your reason below)

Why? _____

2. What if the fund asked for a yearly donation of \$2X to be paid along with your taxes? The purpose of the fund again being for compensation to commercial and recreational fishermen for damage to their gear and loss of their catch due to damage by seals and sea lions instead of shooting them. Would you be willing to pay that amount each year?

YES (SKIP TO Question 4)

NO

NO ANSWER/Don't Know

(if you answer "NO ANSWER/Don't Know" please state your reason below)

Why? _____

3. Please explain briefly why you Would NOT be willing to pay: _____

(SKIP TO Question 5)

4. Please explain briefly WHY you offered the amount that you did: _____

5. Do you or any members of your immediate family receive income as a direct result of commercial or recreational fishing activities?

YES

NO

6. If the situation changed, and the amount that you pledged was going to be used to protect Gray Whale breeding habitat, would you:

a) Pledge the SAME amount of money

b) Pledge LESS Money

c) Pledge MORE money

d) Pledge NOTHING at all

7. Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statements using the codes listed below:

Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Don't Know/Not Applicable (DK), Disagree (D) Strongly Disagree (SD)

I understand that this survey will be used to determine how consumers value the sea lions that might be harmed due to the economic damage that they cause SA A DK D SD

I also understand that the total economic value will be determined by taking an average of all the amounts that the survey participants are willing to pay SA A DK D SD

I have considered my family budget and still feel that I am financially able to contribute the amount that I pledged to the fund in this survey SA A DK D SD

I have a good understanding of the conflicts between seals, sea lions and fishermen that are presented in this survey SA A DK D SD

If Federal Wildlife Managers determine that it is necessary to kill problem sea lions to stop them from causing economic damage, they should be allowed to do so SA A DK D SD

I have heard or read about this issue before SA A DK D SD

Fishermen should be compensated for damage done to their gear or catch by seals, sea lions, or other marine mammals SA A DK D SD

I belong to or support environmental or environmentally related organization(s) SA A DK D SD

8. For Demographic Statistics please fill in the following information:

Age: _____ Sex: _____

Are you presently (Choose One): Employed Unemployed Retired
 Full-time Homemaker Student

City and State: _____ Country (if NOT USA): _____

Family Income:

Less than \$20,000 \$20,000 - \$34,999 \$35,000 - \$50,000 More than \$50,00