
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4024

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Delvin, Chandler, Mastin, Blanton, Mielke, Schoesler, Honeyford, Hankins, Sheahan, Crouse, Clements, Grant, Foreman and Padden

Read first time 02/14/95. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BILL CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE
5 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, AND TO THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF
6 THE ARMY FOR CIVIL WORKS:

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

10 WHEREAS, The runs of anadromous fish in the Columbia River are
11 seriously depressed, with Snake River chinook and sockeye stocks in the
12 system becoming listed as endangered under the Federal Endangered
13 Species Act; and

14 WHEREAS, The production of wild type salmonids is desirable for
15 good recovery efforts in the Columbia River system, since wild smolts
16 survive the rigors of smolting and downstream passage through the
17 hydroelectric complexes of the Lower Snake and Columbia Rivers at a
18 higher rate than hatchery produced smolts; and

19 WHEREAS, While anadromous fish passage and fish hatchery
20 supplementation have been given major attention over the past three
21 decades, salmon runs have continued to decline; and

1 WHEREAS, Rebuilding Columbia River stocks by depending on existing
2 natural stocks and conditions is not realistic under the present
3 circumstances since the natural production of wild fish has not worked;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Developing a new approach to enhance both habitat and fish
6 stock requirements critical to natural salmon populations is necessary;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Critical problems related to anadromous fish survival
9 arise in the watersheds of Eastern Washington, Eastern Oregon, and
10 Idaho; and

11 WHEREAS, Stream flow augmentation is generally believed to provide
12 biological benefits to migrating salmon, but there is continued
13 uncertainty regarding the biological benefits to salmon of flow
14 augmentation achieved by drawing down reservoir levels below minimum
15 operating pool; and

16 WHEREAS, Drawdowns below minimum operating pool on the Snake River,
17 conducted in March 1992 for the limited purpose of evaluating impact to
18 physical structures and facilities, caused the loss of resident fish,
19 altered wildlife habitat, and increased risks of predation, disrupted
20 navigation, and caused physical property damage to public and private
21 facilities; and

22 WHEREAS, Restoration of anadromous fish runs must be based on good
23 science and engineering; and

24 WHEREAS, The major universities of the Pacific Northwest have the
25 expertise to provide good technical data; and

26 WHEREAS, The federal government has land, such as the Hanford
27 Reservation, and the state of Washington has land and water, such as
28 the Crab Creek Drainage Area, available for demonstration projects
29 related to new hatchery concepts, juvenile salmon out-migration
30 behavior, and dam bypass facilities; and

31 WHEREAS, Washington State University, the Washington State
32 Department of Natural Resources, and the University of Idaho are
33 initiating cooperative efforts with the proposed Salmon Habitat
34 Restoration Project at Crab Creek;

35 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
36 officials charged with implementing the fish and wildlife amendments
37 passed in December 1994 by the Northwest Power Planning Council refrain
38 from doing so until a better analysis of the potential costs, effects,
39 and implications of the amendments can be completed and further

1 research can be conducted, including the incorporation of the
2 demonstration projects by the major Pacific Northwest universities into
3 the planning and funding by federal agencies.

4 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
5 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United
6 States, the Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service, the
7 Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the President of the
8 United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
9 each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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