



NOAA
FISHERIES

West Coast
Region

Marine Mammal Protection Act §120 Pinniped - Fishery Interaction Task Force to Convene

**Virtual-only Meeting - March 5, 2024,
10:00-12:00, Pacific Time**

NOAA Fisheries announces that it is convening the Willamette Falls Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force (Task Force) to review the state's implementation of the pinniped removal authority authorized by NOAA Fisheries under section 120 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). On November 14, 2018, NOAA Fisheries authorized the state to lethally remove individually identifiable California sea lions that are having a significant negative impact on ESA-listed salmon and steelhead in the Willamette River.

On November 14, 2023, the state's MMPA section 120 authorization expired.

Section 120(c)(5) of the MMPA requires that: After implementation of an approved application, the Task Force shall evaluate the effectiveness of the permitted intentional lethal taking or alternative actions implemented. If implementation was ineffective in eliminating the problem interaction, the Task Force shall recommend additional actions. If the implementation was effective, the Task Force shall so advise the Secretary, and the Secretary shall disband the Task Force.

NOAA Fisheries will post the agenda with call-in number and web access information prior to the meeting at:

www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected_species/marine_mammals/authorized_states.html

Members of the public may attend the meeting.

For more information on the Marine Mammal Protection Act Section 120 Program, visit www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected_species/marine_mammals/authorized_states.html