

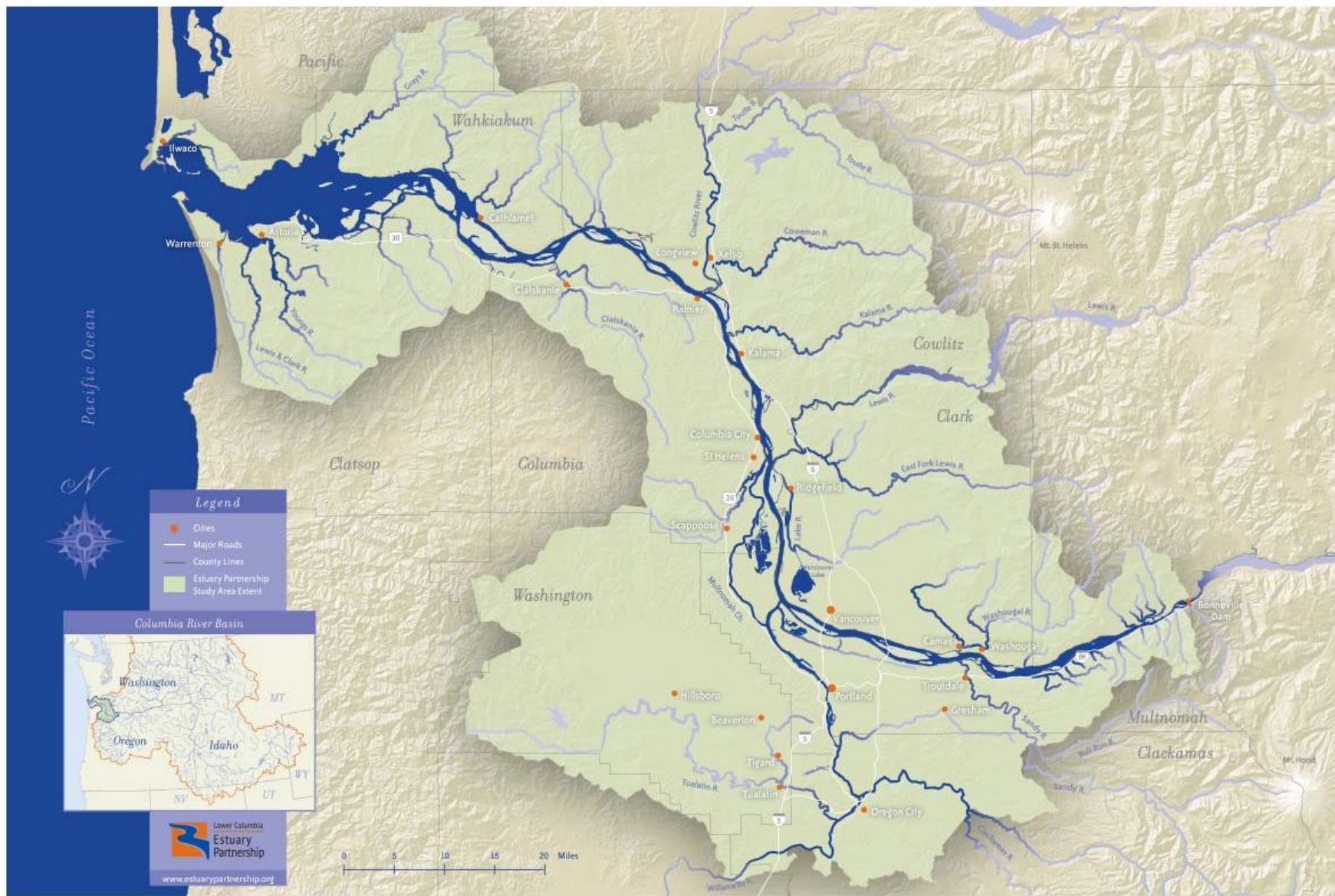
Pending Columbia River Legislation



Michael Gosliner
General Counsel
Marine Mammal Commission

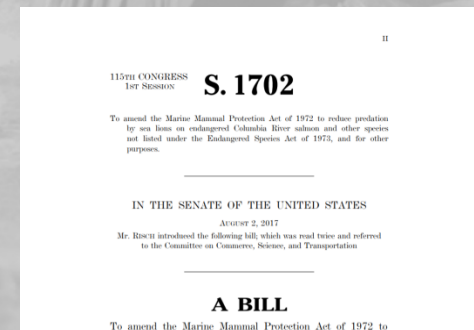
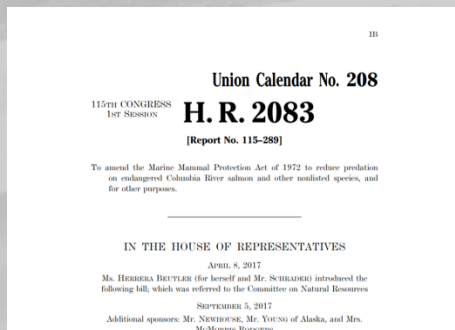
Lower Columbia River and Estuary

LOWER COLUMBIA ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP STUDY AREA



Current bills

- H.R. 2083 and S.1702
- Virtually identical
- Would amend MMPA section 120
- House Bill was reported out of Committee
- Both bills still in flux



Key provisions

Would allow NMFS to issue permits authorizing lethal removals of non-depleted sea lions to 3 States and 6 Tribes/Tribal entities.

Limit of 100 sea lion per permit with annual total not to exceed 10% of PBR

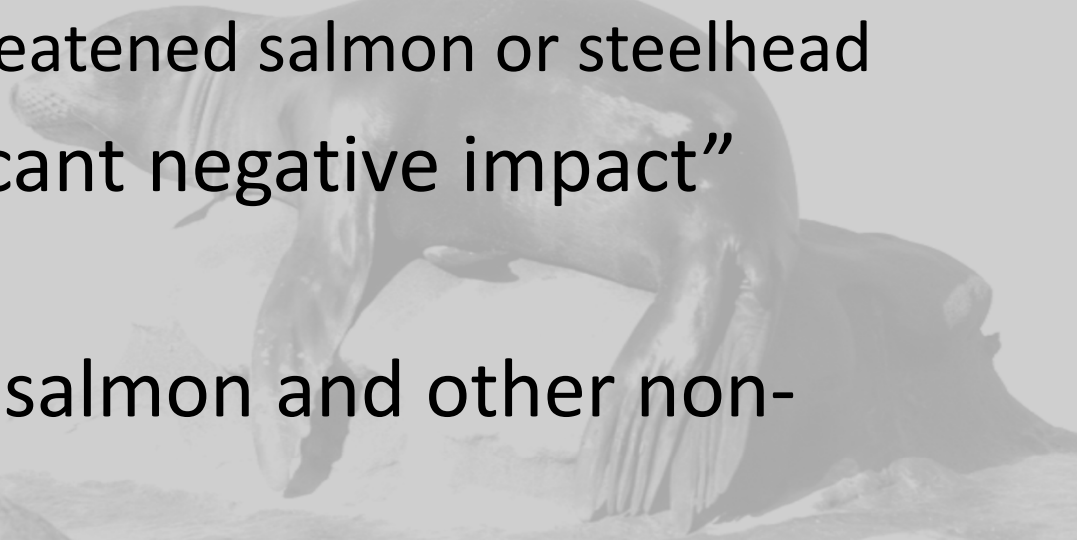
PBRs

California sea lions = 9,200

Eastern stock Steller sea lions = 2,498

Key Provisions cont.

- Revises “individually identifiable” criteria
 - Upstream of river mile 112
 - In any tributary that contains spawning habitat for Endangered or Threatened salmon or steelhead
- Eliminates “significant negative impact” criterion
- Protects ESA listed salmon and other non-listed fish species



Procedures

- 30 days to approve or deny a permit
- 5-year exemption from NEPA
- Permit authority could be delegated to other eligible entities



Questions

- How many pinnipeds occur in areas subject to removals?
- What evidence is there that all sea lions in these areas are significant predators?
- Why use river mile 112 as the cut-off?
- How would removals be accomplished?
- Are proposed removal entities appropriate?
- Why have multiple entities if permits can be consolidated?
- How will permit holders coordinate their activities?
- What non-listed fish species warrant removals of pinnipeds?