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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4000**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Representative Lekanoff

1 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
2 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
3 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE GOVERNOR OF  
4 WASHINGTON STATE, AND TO THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, AND TO  
5 THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OREGON, AND TO THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE  
6 OF CALIFORNIA, AND TO THE PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA, AND TO  
7 THE PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION, AND TO THE TREATY TRIBES OF  
8 WASHINGTON, ALASKA, OREGON, AND CALIFORNIA AND TO THE BRITISH  
9 COLUMBIA FIRST NATIONS:

10 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
11 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,  
12 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

13 WHEREAS, The International Year of the Salmon is a global  
14 initiative to spread information and stimulate outreach and research  
15 to establish the conditions necessary to promote the resilience of  
16 wild salmon and people throughout the northern hemisphere; and

17 WHEREAS, The International Year of the Salmon promotes  
18 understanding of wild salmon, including the present status of wild  
19 salmon and wild salmon environments; and

20 WHEREAS, The International Year of the Salmon promotes an  
21 understanding of the ways in which natural environmental variability,  
22 climate change, and human factors affect the distribution and  
23 abundance of wild salmon; and

1       WHEREAS, The International Year of the Salmon promotes using new  
2 methods, including new technologies, ideas, and approaches in wild  
3 salmon research and performing research in poorly studied regions of  
4 the "salmosphere"; and

5       WHEREAS, The International Year of the Salmon promotes sharing  
6 knowledge and collaborating in the development of new tools for and  
7 approaches to restoring, managing, and sustaining wild salmon by  
8 communities, indigenous peoples, youth, harvesters, scientists,  
9 resource managers, and policymakers across the northern hemisphere;  
10 and

11       WHEREAS, The International Year of the Salmon promotes making  
12 available historical and current data about wild salmon and wild  
13 salmon environments; and

14       WHEREAS, Wild salmon have historically been an important part of  
15 the diets, economies, and cultures of people on both the east and  
16 west coasts of North America; and

17       WHEREAS, Washington's seafood industry contributes more than  
18 60,000 jobs to our state's thriving economy, and salmon are a  
19 substantial component of this economic prosperity, providing nearly  
20 one-third of these jobs and providing more than \$500,000,000 in  
21 annual personal income; and

22       WHEREAS, Native Americans in Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and  
23 California have relied on the salmon populations to nourish their  
24 communities since time immemorial, and we must ensure that salmon  
25 continue to be an available resource for generations to come; and

26       WHEREAS, Washington State honors the treaties of the Washington  
27 tribes and is a comanager of salmon and shares the responsibility to  
28 ensure the resource has a healthy habitat, and cool and clean water  
29 for survival; and

30       WHEREAS, The wild salmon commercial and sport fishing industries  
31 in Southeast Alaska, Washington, and Oregon create over \$3,400,000 in  
32 revenue and over 26,000 jobs each year in the United States; and

33       WHEREAS, In British Columbia, Canada, the wild salmon commercial  
34 and sport fishing industries generate over \$1,400,000 in revenue and  
35 12,400 jobs each year; and

36       WHEREAS, In 2013 and 2014, commercial and recreational salmon  
37 fisheries in California had an average annual economic effect of  
38 \$276,000,000; and

1       WHEREAS, In 2017, nine of the 22 chinook stocks along the west  
2 coast of the United States and Canada failed to meet escapement goals  
3 agreed to by the Pacific Salmon Commission; and

4       WHEREAS, The federal government has spent over \$10,000,000,000  
5 for wild salmon recovery in the Pacific Northwest since the 1970s;  
6 and

7       WHEREAS, Twenty-eight populations of salmon and steelhead on the  
8 west coast of the United States are listed as threatened or  
9 endangered under the Endangered Species Act; and

10       WHEREAS, The health of the wild Atlantic salmon is an indicator  
11 of the general environmental health of its surroundings; and

12       WHEREAS, In the 1970s and 1980s, as many as 900,000 Atlantic  
13 salmon returned annually to the streams and rivers along the east  
14 coast of North America, but in 2017, it was estimated that only  
15 496,000 Atlantic salmon spawned, nearly all of which returned to  
16 Canadian watersheds; and

17       WHEREAS, In the United States, where wild Atlantic salmon are  
18 listed under the Endangered Species Act, only 1,041 Atlantic salmon  
19 returned to rivers in the United States in 2017; and

20       WHEREAS, The federal government has spent tens of millions of  
21 dollars for wild salmon recovery along the east coast of the United  
22 States, and the amount of funds that would be additionally required  
23 for Atlantic salmon to recover is unknown; and

24       WHEREAS, The International Year of the Salmon establishes a  
25 period to celebrate and educate about the contributions of wild  
26 salmon to the health and economy of the state, the United States,  
27 Canada, and other nations across the world and to find ways to  
28 rebuild salmon stocks that are failing to meet escapement goals; and

29       WHEREAS, The Senate and House of Representatives recognize 2019  
30 as the International Year of the Salmon and support the research  
31 efforts that extended through 2022 as part of the global initiative;  
32 and

33       WHEREAS, The Senate and House of Representatives encourage  
34 individuals and local, state, tribal, national, and international  
35 governments, corporations, and other relevant organizations to work  
36 together to uphold regulatory processes that apply best practices to  
37 the management of wild salmon fisheries, to support and invest in  
38 scientific research to better understand the wild salmon populations  
39 of the northern hemisphere, and to better manage wild salmon  
40 populations and the industries that wild salmon support; and

1       WHEREAS, The Senate and House of Representatives celebrate the  
2 sustainable wild salmon industry and the health and social benefits  
3 the industry provides to the United States;

4       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists affirm their support for  
5 recognizing 2019 as the International Year of the Salmon and  
6 continued investment in wild salmon recovery.

7       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
8 transmitted to Jay Inslee, The Governor of Washington State, Mike  
9 Dunleavy, the Governor of the State of Alaska, Tina Kotek, the  
10 Governor of the State of Oregon, Gavin Newsom, the Governor of the  
11 State of California, John Horgan, the Premier of British Columbia,  
12 Canada, the Pacific Salmon Commission, the appropriate  
13 representatives of the Treaty Tribes of Washington, Alaska, Oregon,  
14 and California and British Columbia First Nations, the President of  
15 the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
16 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
17 Washington.

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