

## **WDFW Help**

**Will the removal of specific California sea lions from the Columbia River impact the overall sea lion population?**

No. California sea lion numbers have grown rapidly since the 1970s and the species is now at "carrying capacity" – the highest level the environment can sustain – according to wildlife biologists. The U.S. population of California sea lions is currently estimated at some 300,000 animals, all on the Pacific coast. In the 1950s, the U.S. population of California sea lions estimated at 10,000 animals.

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/help/questions/266/>