

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## EHJM 4008

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**Brief Description:** Requesting Congress and the President to ban driftnets.

By Representatives R. King, Hochstatter, Cole, Orr, Haugen, Basich, Wilson, Spanel, Fuhrman, Padden, Winsley, D. Sommers, Bowman, Paris, May, Miller, Riley, Brough, Silver, Nealey, Forner, Wynne, Sheldon, Fraser, Phillips, Jones, Brumsickle, Nelson, Neher, Horn, Casada, H. Myers, Leonard, Moyer, Sprenkle, Brekke and Anderson.

House Committee on Fisheries & Wildlife  
Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources

**Background:** Driftnets are gillnet fishing gear which are allowed to drift with prevailing water currents. The use of driftnets in the high seas caught public attention in the mid-1980's. Issues of concern to the public included sensitivity of marine life to plastics, and the increased interception of Alaska salmon by foreign squid driftnet fleets in the North Pacific Ocean.

Although various international agreements and resolutions have resulted in reductions in driftnet use in the South Pacific Ocean, driftnet use in the North Pacific Ocean continues despite widespread concern.

**Summary:** The Legislature respectfully asks the president and Congress to seek through all legal efforts in all available international forums an international ban on driftnet fishing on the high seas.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

House	93	0
Senate	47	0