
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4008

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

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.

Read first time February 11, 1991. Referred to Committee on Fisheries & Wildlife.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, The continued use of driftnets by Japanese, Taiwanese, and
9 Korean fishing fleets in the North and South Pacific is killing vast
10 numbers of sea mammals and sea birds each year; and

11 WHEREAS, These thirty mile-long driftnets are intercepting salmon
12 species that originate in waters of the western United States and
13 Canada further decreasing the important salmon resource of both
14 countries; and

15 WHEREAS, Japanese, Taiwanese, and Korean squid fishing fleets of
16 roughly 1200 vessels operate about 30,000 miles of driftnet per fishing
17 day; and

1 WHEREAS, Squid driftnet fisheries are suspected of incidentally
2 taking large numbers of salmon, seabirds and living mammals as
3 evidenced by over 40,000 metric tons of illegally harvested salmon
4 recovered through various enforcement actions; and

5 WHEREAS, These fleets are having a significant impact on the living
6 marine resources of the North Pacific; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1987, the United States Congress passed the Driftnet
8 Monitoring and Control Act which required that agreements be reached
9 with nations operating high seas driftnet fleets to allow monitoring of
10 their operation and provide enforcement; and

11 WHEREAS, Under the 1987 Driftnet Monitoring and Control Act, trade
12 sanctions can be imposed against fish products imported from nations
13 failing to successfully reach an agreement with the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, Many of these same vessels fish for tuna in the South
15 Pacific where a significant conservation problem exists with albacore
16 tuna; and

17 WHEREAS, Sixteen South Pacific Island nations have issued the
18 Tarawa Declaration calling for an international ban on driftnet fishing
19 in the South Pacific; and

20 WHEREAS, Steps taken so far to minimize the impact of these
21 driftnet fisheries on living marine resources have somewhat improved
22 monitoring, enforcement and research; however, they are only early
23 steps and will not halt the imminent threat to the conservation and
24 protection of these resources; and

25 WHEREAS, The states of Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho,
26 California, and Hawaii, and the province of British Columbia have
27 signed a proclamation proposing some immediate steps that will work
28 toward the long-term goal of securing an international ban on driftnet
29 fishing on the high seas;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
2 States Congress and President George Bush seek through all legal
3 efforts in all available international forums an international ban on
4 driftnet fishing on the high seas.

5 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
6 transmitted to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United
7 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
8 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
9 Washington.