

ACT 345

H.B. NO. 20

A Bill for an Act Relating to Nets.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that fishermen are increasingly using drift gill nets to capture all kinds of marine life in international waters. Because these nets oftentimes measure miles in length and capture not only the desired species but virtually everything in their path, the use of drift gill nets is having a disastrous effect on our oceans. To compound matters, when these nets are lost, they can float on the currents for years, causing a tremendous hazard to navigation as well as to marine life. Each year, hundreds of miles of lost drift gill nets uselessly trap and kill countless marine life that become entangled in them.

Although local fishermen do not currently use drift gill nets, the legislature finds that its potential use could have a disastrous effect on the marine life in Hawaiian waters. Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to prevent any use of drift gill nets by prohibiting their use.

SECTION 2. Chapter 188, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“§188- Fishing with drift gill net; prohibited. It is unlawful for any person to possess or use any drift gill net in the waters of the State.”

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.¹

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 16, 1989.)

Note

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.