



## SUPPORT HB 4068 RECOVERING BYCATCH FOR FOOD BANKING



**B**ycatch is fish that is caught unintentionally while commercial fishing for another species. In Oregon, this is mostly salmon. Bycatch can be a great source of food for food banks, offering protein and nutritional value to hungry Oregonians. Oregon Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon State Police can give bycatch, turned over by commercial fishing operators, to food banks. The amount of bycatch can be in the thousands of pounds and thus feed many families.

### ***Fish Processing Cost Prohibitive***

In order for food banks to distribute fish bycatch to food pantries and ultimately to

hungry families, the fish needs to be processed into family-size portions. The expense to process fish can be cost prohibitive for a food bank to pay. If food banks cannot afford the processing cost, they will be forced to turn away the bycatch.

HB 4068 allows food banks to provide a reasonable portion of the bycatch to the fish processing business as payment. The legislation also exempts food banks from certain commercial labeling requirements of the bycatch and allows fish processing businesses to sell the portion of the bycatch it retains. HB 4068 will give commercial fish processors assurance that they can handle bycatch.



***...Because no one should be hungry***

The demand for emergency food services in Oregon has increased dramatically forcing many food banks to look for new sources of food. For example, Clatsop Community Action Regional Food Bank reached out to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon State Police to acquire game and fish donations through product seizure. Last year, they were able to accept 19,494 pounds of product, primarily fish and spawn runs.

Oregon leads the 50 states in food insecurity among children. It is innovative policies like HB 4068 that can help grow the food sources available to food banks across Oregon.

**HB 4068 Sponsors:**

Reps. Boone, Bentz,  
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**Hunger need in Oregon**

Oregonians turned to the Oregon Food Bank Network in record numbers in FY 2011.

- The Oregon Food Bank Network provided 81 million pounds of food and, for the first time ever, distributed more than 1 million food boxes to families in need, a 12 percent increase over the previous year and a 30 percent increase since the beginning of the Great Recession.
- A monthly average of 260,000 people ate from emergency food boxes from the Oregon Food Bank Network.
- An average of 85,800 children ate from emergency food boxes each month.

For More Information...

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