

# Cleaning up California's Dirtiest Fishery

Off the coast of California, fishermen use mile-long drift gillnets to catch swordfish. These nets are left out overnight and catch anything that crosses their paths including whales, dolphins and sea turtles. More than 50 percent of what's caught in this fishery are unwanted species thrown back to the sea as bycatch, making it one of the dirtiest fisheries in the nation.

In September 2018, California Governor Jerry Brown signed into law Senate Bill 1017 which phases out the use of these nets, establishes a transition program and incentivizes the use of cleaner fishing gear to reduce the incidental catch of marine wildlife.

The legislation also allocated \$1 million from the California Ocean Protection Council. Once an additional \$1 million in matching funds is raised from non-state sources, all state drift gillnet permits will be revoked in four years. Through the program, drift gillnet fishermen will surrender their state permits and nets for recycling into other durable, non-fishing products, and can choose to continue fishing swordfish using cleaner, more sustainable fishing methods.

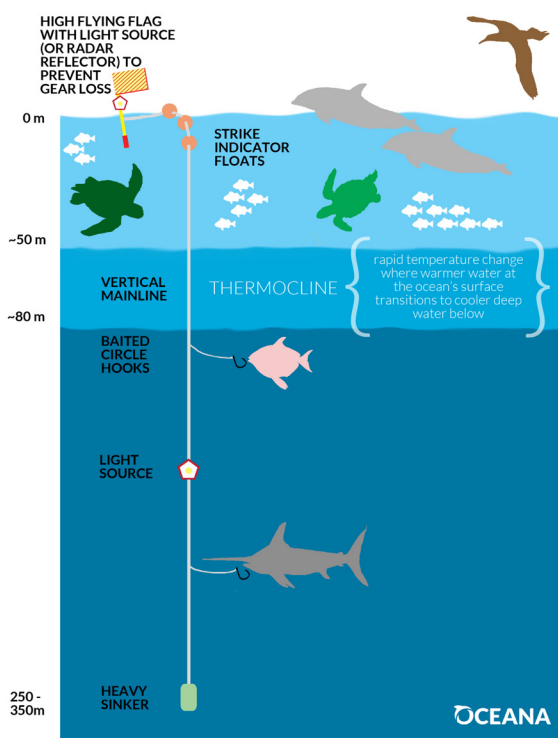
**\$1 million match  
by Dec. 31, 2020**

**\$1 million allocated  
by California**

You can donate today at [www.oceana.org/StopTheNetsDonate](http://www.oceana.org/StopTheNetsDonate)

## A Clean Transition

California designed the transition program to keep fishermen in business using more selective fishing methods. **Deep-set buoy gear** is an innovative technique that targets swordfish without causing deadly harm to marine mammals and sea turtles. The gear is actively tended, so swordfish are landed faster, making them higher quality and worth nearly double that of fish caught in drift gillnets. The compensation provided by the transition program helps fishermen acquire deep-set buoy gear, make necessary changes to their fishing vessels and allocates federal permits to fishermen who participate in the transition program.



Transitioning to deep-set buoy gear  
to catch swordfish

# WILL SAVE

an estimated



27 WHALES



548 DOLPHINS



333 SEALS &  
SEA LIONS

24 SEA TURTLES



and

70 SEABIRDS



over 10 years<sup>1</sup>

California law calls for phasing out drift gillnets on the condition that \$1 million of nonstate funds are raised to match the \$1 million allocated by the state legislature. We are working to help raise the \$1 million needed to put an end to this indiscriminate fishing practice.

**Your donation will help us get there!**

## Here's How It Works:

- State drift gillnets off California will phase out once \$1 million in non-state funds are raised.
- The California Ocean Protection Council has authorized \$1 million to the transition program.
- Funds will be used to provide fishermen with resources to switch to more selective gears to keep them fishing while protecting our oceans.
- Gillnets will be surrendered and may be recycled into non-fishing durable products.
- Donations to the transition fund can be made to Oceana and 100% of these donations will go directly to the state transition fund.

**This is a great opportunity to make a tangible difference by getting drift gillnets off the water permanently, while supporting local fishermen and ocean wildlife.**



Left: Sperm whale; Right: Elephant seal pup at Big Sur

## TAKE ACTION

Your donation will go entirely towards phasing out this destructive fishing practice, saving marine wildlife and helping fishermen transition to a clean and sustainable method to catch high quality seafood. Your contribution goes directly towards this transition and supports vibrant fishing communities and healthy oceans!

**To donate visit**

**[www.oceana.org/StopTheNetsDonate](http://www.oceana.org/StopTheNetsDonate)**

For more information contact [Pacific@oceana.org](mailto:Pacific@oceana.org)

Humpback whale



©Shutterstock/Tory Kallman

Long-beaked common dolphins in Monterey Bay



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**Swordfish caught with deep-set buoy gear are worth nearly**

**TWICE AS MUCH**

**as swordfish caught with drift gillnets**

Swordfish



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