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. Over 50 percent of what’s caught in this fishery is unintended catch, or 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 but requires that another $1 million in matching funds be raised from non-state entities before the transition program can proceed. Through the program, drift gillnet fishermen will surrender their gear and permits and shift to cleaner, more sustainable fishing methods. Once the matching funds are raised, there will be a four year phase-out of these deadly nets.

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

- $1 million of state funding dedicated to whale and sea turtle entanglement work will be allocated to this transition program.
- Drift gillnets off California will phase out once $1 million in matching funds are raised.
- 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.

This is a great opportunity to support marine conservation with a positive outcome for fish, fishermen, and ocean wildlife.

**Swordfish caught with deep-set buoy gear are worth nearly TWICE AS MUCH as swordfish caught with drift gillnets**