

# 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. 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.

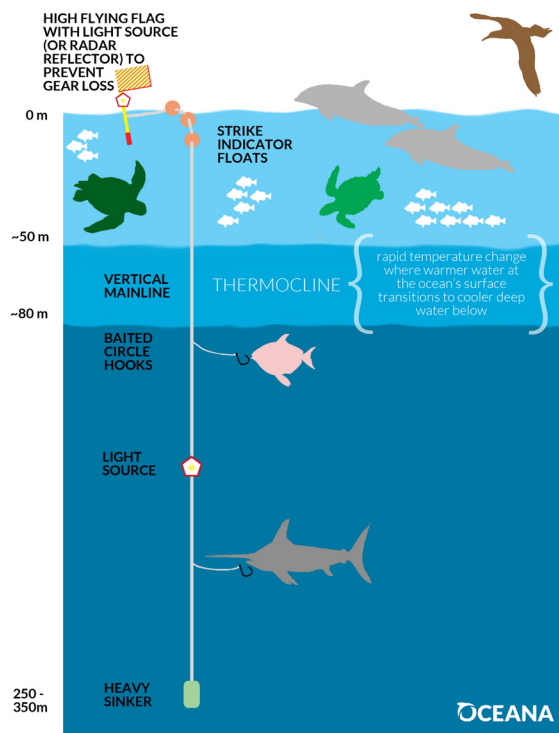
**\$1 million match  
by Dec. 31, 2019**

**\$1 million allocated  
by California**

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

## 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 efficiently targets swordfish with minimal catch of nontarget species. The gear is actively tended, so swordfish are landed more quickly, which means they are 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 and make necessary changes to their fishing vessels.



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:

- \$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.**



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/StopTheNets](http://www.oceana.org/StopTheNets)

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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