Transitioning to deep-set buoy gear to catch swordfish

**WILL SAVE**

an estimated

- **27 WHALES**
- **548 DOLPHINS**
- **333 SEALS & SEA LIONS**
- **24 SEA TURTLES**
- **70 SEABIRDS**

**Transitioning To Cleaner Fishing Gear**

Ending the use of large mesh drift gillnets will not mean the end of fishing for swordfish in California. It will simply require a transition to **deep-set buoy gear**. The gear is actively tended, so swordfish are landed faster, meaning the fish is higher quality and can be worth nearly double the fish caught in drift gillnets. Transitioning to deep-set buoy gear will save countless whales, sea turtles, seals, sea lions, seabirds and other animals, while continuing a sustainable West Coast swordfish fishery.

**Take Action Today at** [www.oceana.org/StopTheNetsForever](http://www.oceana.org/StopTheNetsForever)
With the state of California’s transition program underway, there’s just one more step to make sure we remove deadly drift gillnets for good. Federal legislation will ensure this fishery never again threatens whales, sea turtles, dolphins and other animals in our nation’s waters.

Where We Are Now:

- Fishermen are already participating in the State of California’s transition program for drift gillnets and receiving funds to surrender their permits and nets for recycling. The program is designed to compensate fishermen who turn in drift gillnets and permits, and aid with the transition to deep-set buoy gear.
- Oceana and the California Ocean Protection Council deposited a total of $2 million into the state transition fund.
- Passage of S.273, the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act, will mean a permanent end to this destructive fishing gear nationally.
- The Pacific Fishery Management Council approved a new deep-set buoy gear fishery, and the National Marine Fisheries Service will soon begin issuing federal permits to drift gillnet fishermen participating in the state transition program.

This is a chance to make a tangible difference by getting large-mesh drift gillnets off the water permanently, while supporting local fishermen and ocean wildlife.

The U.S. Senate passed legislation to end large mesh drift gillnets. The House of Representatives is expected to vote soon, and passage out of the House would send the action to the President’s desk to be signed into law. This would phase out federal permits for large-mesh drift gillnet fishing and make sure this destructive and outdated fishing practice never returns. Together with the state of California’s transition program, fishermen can provide swordfish to consumers without needlessly killing dolphins, whales, sea turtles and other marine life.

Write to your Congressmember today!

www.oceana.org/StopTheNetsForever