

End California's Deadliest Catch

*The Driftnet Fishery for Swordfish is
Deadly to Whales, Dolphins and Sea Turtles*



Protect Whales, Dolphins and Sea Turtles Support AB 2019 - End Driftnets

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Sponsored by Turtle Island Restoration Network and Oceana

It's time to stop hundreds of whales, dolphins, sea lions, sea turtles, and sharks and thousands of unwanted fish from needlessly drowning in driftnets along the California coast.

AB 2019 proposes to:

- Protect whales, dolphins, sea turtles and marine wildlife from needless death in wasteful driftnets.
- End use of driftnet fishing gear.
- Allow active CA swordfish fishermen to switch to lower bycatch fishing gears.
- Maintain prohibition on high bycatch pelagic longline gear along the California coast.

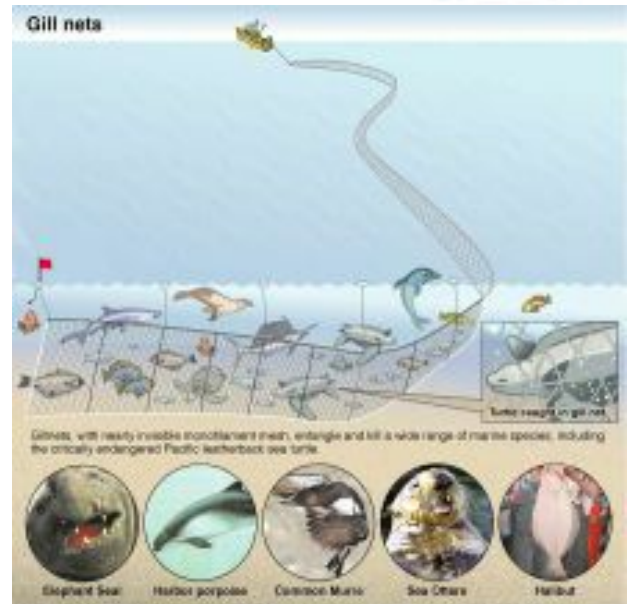
Driftnets are already banned in Oregon and Washington and the High Seas due to the deadly toll on endangered marine wildlife.

Driftnets are Curtains of Death for Marine Wildlife

Every fishing season mile-long driftnets set to soak overnight in California's coastal waters entangle an average of 130 protected whales, dolphins, seals and sea lions, as well as thousands of sharks, sunfish and other fish. Sea turtles are also at risk. The vast majority of marine wildlife is dumped back into the ocean, dead or injured. The swordfish and shark they keep is high in mercury -- and the U.S. FDA warns women and children never to eat it. **After four decades of federal and state restrictions and regulations, the CA driftnet fishery remains the most wasteful and deadly of any commercial fishery along the U.S. West Coast.**

The driftnet fishery is California's Deadliest Catch. Explore our expose on the fishery at www.seaturtles.org/cadeadliestcatch

Take Action at SeaTurtles.org: Support AB2019 with a letter Assemblyman Fong, co-authors and your state representatives.



Source: Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, U.S. Geological Survey, photo of porpoise fish, The Sierra Club Redbook



Photos top to bottom: Driftnet illustration, rare megamouth shark in CA driftnet, humpback whales also get caught.

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