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Action Alert

## Help Put an End to Drift Gill Nets

Dear BC,

[Act now: Call on the Pacific Fishery Management Council to move away from drift gill nets.](#)

In the Pacific Ocean, off the coast of California, mile-long drift gill nets are left hanging in the water for hours at a time in hope of catching swordfish. Not surprisingly, these nets also catch anything that swims in their path, including endangered whales and sea turtles. It's time to end this outdated and wasteful fishing method and find a better way to catch swordfish.

[Remind West Coast fishery managers of their commitment.](#)

In March, West Coast fishery managers agreed that it's time to shift the drift gill-net fleet to more environmentally sustainable types of fishing gear. Now, rather than encouraging a transition to less-wasteful alternatives, including harpoon and buoy gear, fishery managers say they are willing to allow the current drift gill-net fishery to continue indefinitely. Even with stricter limits in place, fishery managers expect that drift gill nets will continue to kill numerous species of marine life every year, including whales, dolphins, seals, sea lions, sea turtles, and several species of fish. That's unacceptable when better, more selective alternatives exist.

Please act now. It is pointless to make minor and incremental improvements to a method of fishing that is fundamentally indiscriminate. Members of the Pacific Fishery Management Council need to hear from you. Remind them of their commitment to shift away from drift gill nets to more selective fishing

gear.

Your voice can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Paul Shively  
The Pew Charitable Trusts

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