

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To improve the management of driftnet fishing.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. HARRIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To improve the management of driftnet fishing.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Driftnet Modernization
5 and Bycatch Reduction Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION.**

7 Section 3(25) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Con-
8 servation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802(25)) is
9 amended by inserting “, or with a mesh size of 14 inches
10 or greater,” after “more”.

1 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS AND POLICY.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Section 206(b) of the Magnuson-Ste-
3 vens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16
4 U.S.C. 1826(b)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” at the
6 end;

7 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period and
8 inserting “; and”; and

9 (3) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(8) within the exclusive economic zone, large-
11 scale driftnet fishing that deploys nets with large
12 mesh sizes causes significant entanglement and mor-
13 tality of living marine resources, including myriad
14 protected species, despite limitations on the lengths
15 of such nets.”.

16 (b) POLICY.—Section 206(c) of the Magnuson-Ste-
17 vens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16
18 U.S.C. 1826(c)) is amended—

19 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the
20 end;

21 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and
22 inserting “; and”; and

23 (3) by adding at the end the following—

24 “(4) prioritize the phase out of large-scale
25 driftnet fishing in the exclusive economic zone and
26 promote the development and adoption of alternative

1 fishing methods and gear types that reduce the inci-
2 dental catch of living marine resources to the max-
3 imum extent possible.”.

4 **SEC. 4. TRANSITION PROGRAM.**

5 Section 206 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Con-
6 servation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1826) is
7 amended by adding at the end the following—

8 “(i) FISHING GEAR TRANSITION PROGRAM.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall con-
10 duct a transition program to facilitate the phase-out
11 of large-scale driftnet fishing and adoption of alter-
12 native fishing practices that minimize the incidental
13 catch of living marine resources.

14 “(2) PERMISSIBLE USES.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is au-
16 thorized to provide funding to fishery partici-
17 pants for one or more of the following:

18 “(i) Any fee originally associated with
19 a permit authorizing participation in a
20 large-scale driftnet fishery, if such permit
21 is surrendered for permanent revocation,
22 and such permit holder relinquishes any
23 claim associated with the permit.

24 “(ii) A forfeiture of fishing gear asso-
25 ciated with a permit described in clause (i).

1 “(ii) is conducted prior to January 1,
2 2020.”.