

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To improve the management of driftnet fishing.

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**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.”.