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## Fwd: Protect marine life from drift gillnets

1 message

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**PFMC Comments - NOAA Service Account** <pfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

Mon, Nov 28, 2016 at 10:36 AM

To: Kit Dahl <kit.dahl@noaa.gov>

Cc: Mike Burner <mike.burner@noaa.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [leslie1@mediacombb.net](mailto:leslie1@mediacombb.net) <[leslie1@mediacombb.net](mailto:leslie1@mediacombb.net)>

Date: Sat, Nov 26, 2016 at 9:26 PM

Subject: Protect marine life from drift gillnets

To: [pfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmc.comments@noaa.gov)

Dear Chair Lowman and Council Members:

At your March meeting, the Council will make important decisions on how to manage the West Coast swordfish fishery. I encourage the council to move this fishery away from drift gillnets to more sustainable methods of fishing. In the meantime, the council should adopt enforceable limits on the catch of vulnerable and endangered species to protect the ocean ecosystem while fishermen make the transition to less-wasteful fishing methods. Vessels using drift gillnets are outlawed on the high seas and in the Mediterranean Sea and are no longer allowed to land their catch in Oregon and Washington.

Animals unintentionally caught in drift gillnets are an important part of the ocean ecosystem and are of great national significance. They provide aesthetic and recreational value and enhance the economies of coastal communities through whale watching tours, dive trips, and other tourism activities. It is simply not acceptable to indefinitely permit the killing of dolphins and other marine life by the drift gillnet fishery. The Council should protect these species by ensuring that fishing is conducted in the least harmful way.

At your upcoming meeting, I encourage you to set enforceable limits on the killing of nontarget marine life and increase monitoring of drift gillnets. However, I do not believe this is a long-term solution. Every year that is spent making incremental changes to the drift gillnet fishery will delay the necessary transition to cleaner and more sustainable fishing methods.

Thank you for your work to protect our marine ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Leslie Dee  
Savage MN  
United States

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