

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON
DRIFT GILL NET TRANSITION PROGRAM

California Senate Bill 1017 was passed by the California Legislature and signed into law by the Governor in 2018. Pursuant to the law, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has established a Drift Gill Net (DGN) Transition Program whereby current DGN permittees may voluntarily surrender their permit and relinquish their nets to receive a one-time payment from the state of California. The Department completed a regulatory process to amend Sections 106 and 107, and add Section 106.5 to Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR) implementing the Transition Program in September 2019 ([Agenda Item I.1.c Supplemental CDFW Report 1](#)).

Participants in the voluntary Transition Program were required to submit a notarized “Declaration of Intent to Participate in Drift Gill Net Transition Program” form on or before January 1, 2020. Pursuant to the law, to the extent funds are available, eligible participants who have documented landings of swordfish or thresher shark using large-mesh DGN or experimental deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) between April 1, 2012 and March 31, 2018 will receive a one-time payment of \$110,000 and eligible participants without landings during this time will receive a one-time payment of \$10,000 after they have relinquished their permit and net(s). The law requires that funding for the program will come from the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC, \$1 million) and non-state sources (at least \$1 million).

The Department has received 43 declarations from the 68 potential DGN permittees. Of those, 28 declarations are from the 31 active DGN or DSBG permittees who made landings as required during the eligibility window. As such, the total cost for the program if all voluntary participants who submitted the form are deemed eligible and complete the process, will be \$3,230,000. On February 26, 2020, OPC approved transmittal of \$1 million to the Transition Program. To date, no funding from non-state sources has been received. Notifications to eligible participants will begin, in the order they were received, as soon as the OPC or other funds are received.

Details on the Transition Program can be found on the Department’s web site at:
<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/marine/pelagic/DGN-Transition>