

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT ON
FEDERAL PERMITTING AND MONITORING OF THE DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY

NMFS recently completed renewals for the Federal Limited Entry Drift Gillnet (DGN) Permit. Of 58 federal permit holders in 2020, 42 renewed their permits for 2021. Of the 16 expired permits, 13 of those permit holders indicated that they were participating in California's transition program.

NMFS has been working with Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to make DGN observer summaries available as online Apex Reports. This format allows more in-depth analysis than the current season-by-season reports. For example, analysts would be able to aggregate catch data across fishing seasons. NMFS will update the Council when these Apex Reports are ready. Until then, summaries of observed catch for the DGN fishery are available online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/fisheries-observers/west-coast-region-observer-program#data-summaries-and-reports>.

These summaries provide a snapshot of DGN observer data by fishing season. Each report provides an estimate of observer coverage, and detailed information on composition and disposition of catch. For example, the 2019/2020 summary indicates that approximately 27 percent of the estimated fishing effort was observed during that season, that 74 percent of the observed catch was kept, and that 80 percent of the returned catch was released alive. Most of the species observed caught were marketable; 19 percent of the observed catch consisted of species that are not marketed. Of non-marketable species caught during the 2019/2020 season, 72 percent were released alive.