

# Toward a Clean and Profitable West Coast Swordfish Fishery

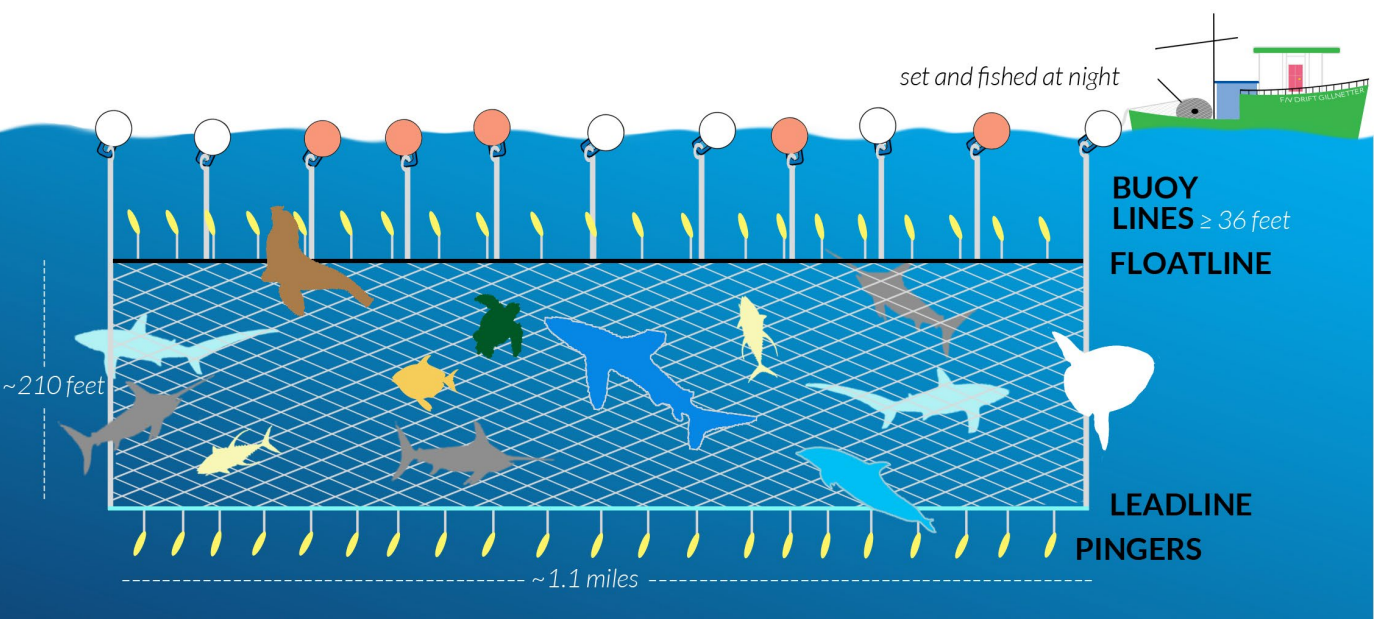
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2020 Deep-set Buoy Gear and 2020/21 Drift Gillnet  
Comparison

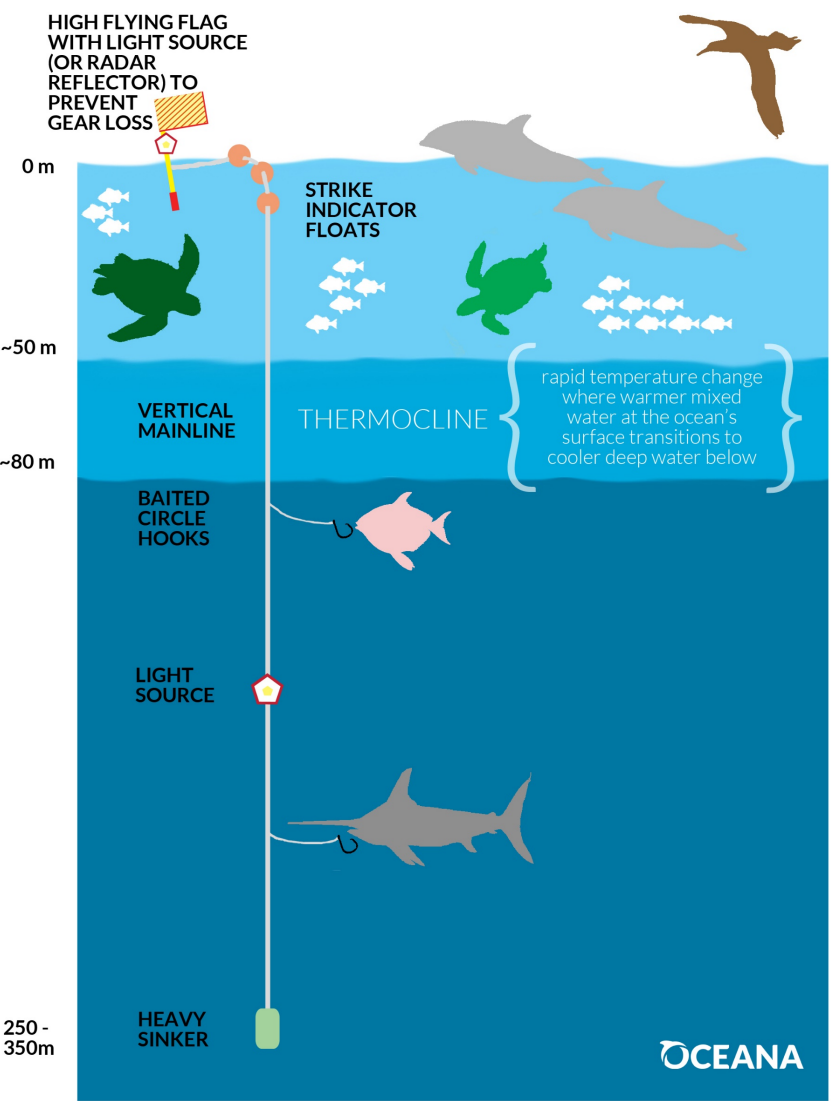
Ben Enticknap



# California Swordfish Drift Gillnets

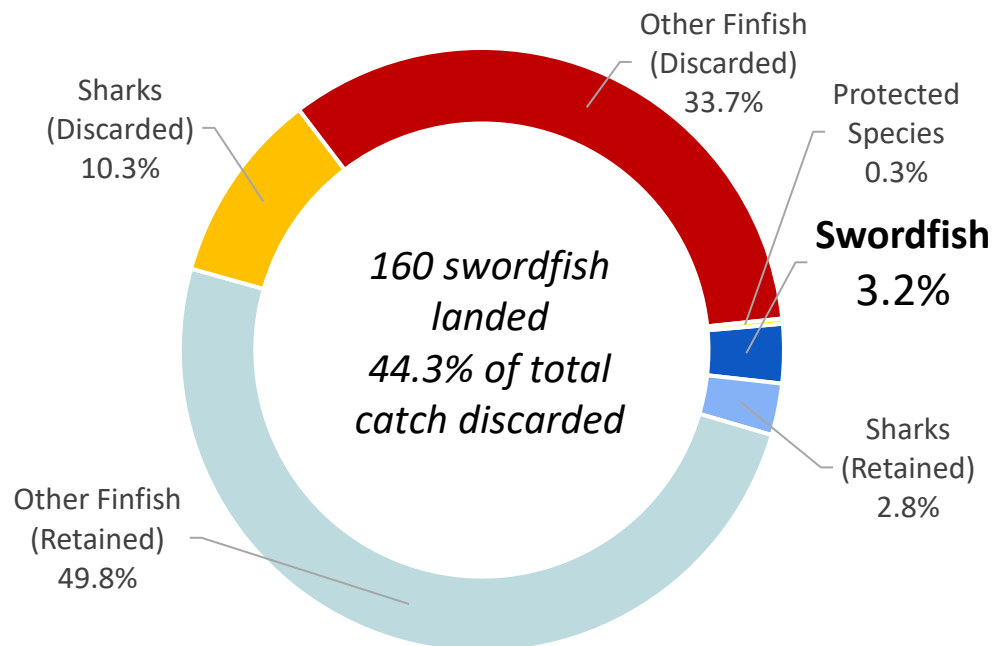


# Deep-set Buoy Gear



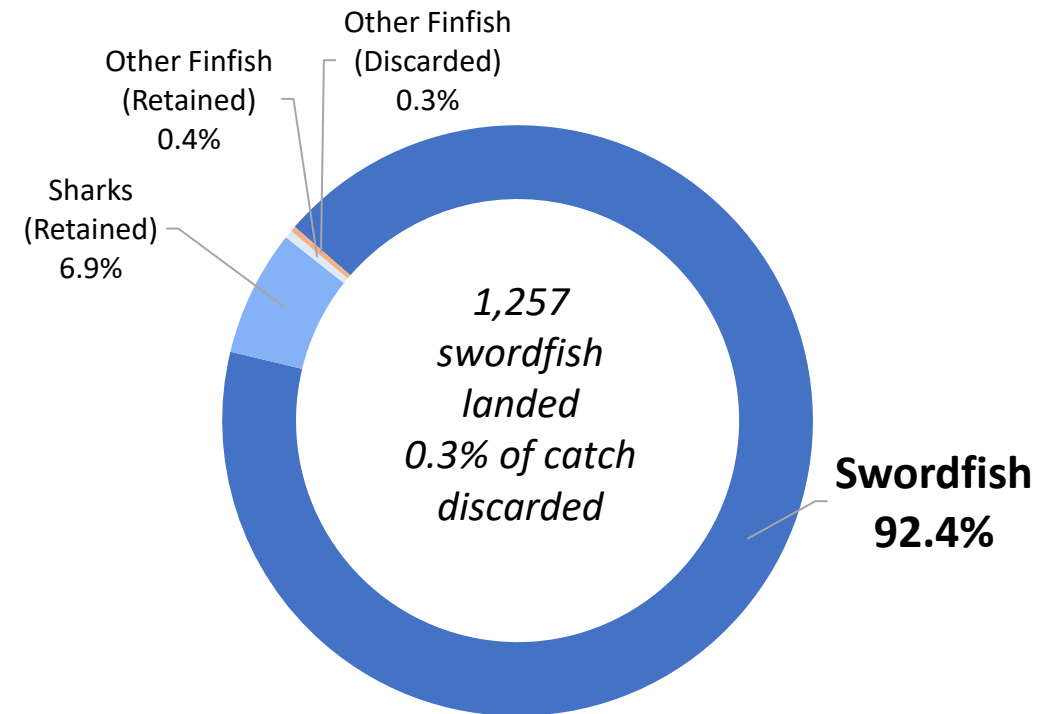
# Bycatch Comparative Analysis

2020/21 DGN Total Estimated Catch



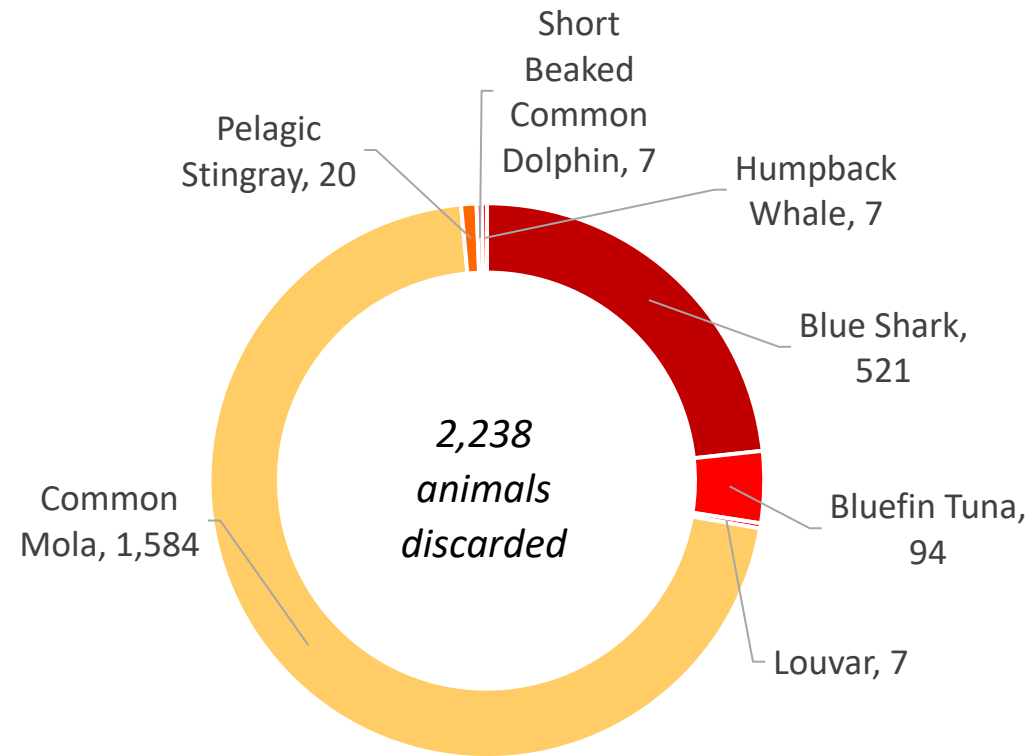
NMFS DGN observer data available: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/fisheries-observers/west-coast-region-observer-program>

2020 Standard Deep-Set Buoy Gear Total Catch



NMFS 2020 DSBG EFP Data Summary. Available: <https://www.pcouncil.org/documents/2021/06/f-3-a-nmfs-report-1.pdf/>

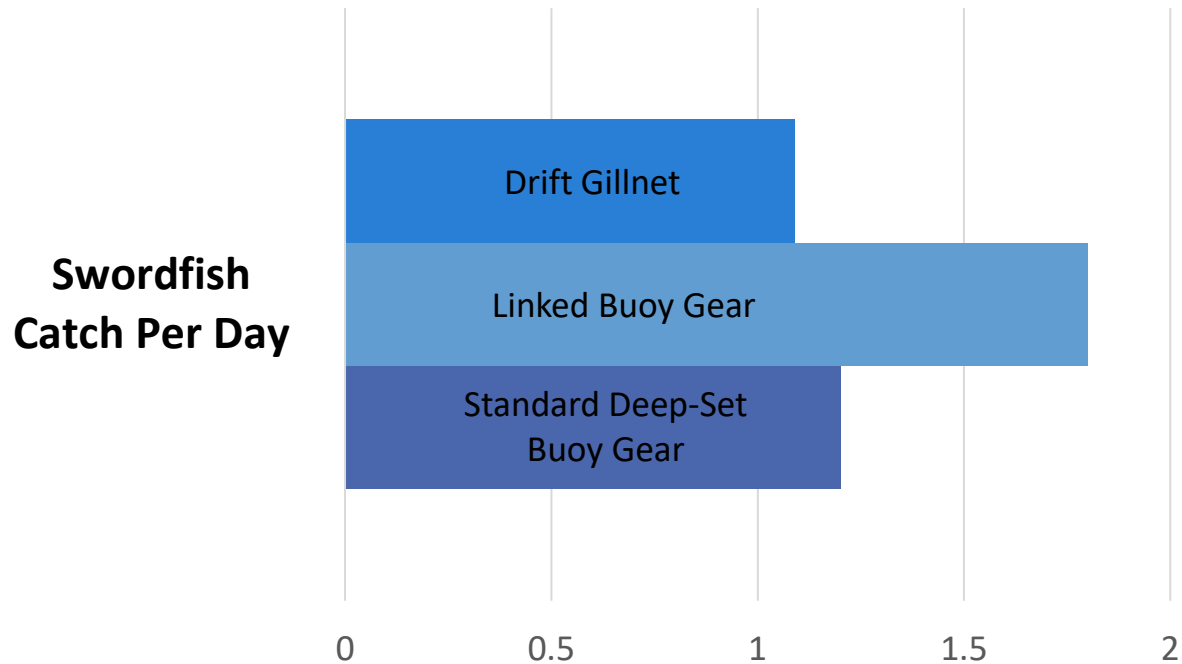
# Bycatch Analysis: 2020-21 Drift Gillnets



**Total Estimated Drift Gillnet Discards  
(2020-21)**



# Productivity and Profit



Swordfish catch per day in drift gillnets, linked buoy gear and standard deep-set buoy gear in the 2020/ 2020-2021 fishing season.

## Deep-set buoy gear:

“an estimation of the average daily net income from one day’s fishing activity was approximately **\$1,087**” <sup>1</sup>

## Drift gillnet:

Average profit per day at sea: mid-estimate for observable vessels, **\$1,079** <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sepulveda and Aalbers 2018. Page 23 at:  
<https://spo.nmfs.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf-content/mfr8022.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> –NMFS 2018. Table 6, at  
<https://www.pcouncil.org/documents/2018/06/agenda-item-g-7-attachment-3.pdf/>

# Recommendations

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1. **Deep-set buoy gear:** Fully authorize and issue permits for deep-set buoy gear, including standard and linked gear configurations, expanding over time
2. **100% monitoring for the DGN fleet:** NMFS has still not implemented 2015 council recommendations for 100% monitoring and removing the unobservable fishing vessel exemption. Only 15% of sets observed last year.
3. **Implement hard caps for DGN:** a humpback whale, likely ESA-listed, was observed caught in the 2020-21 DGN fishery without accountability.
4. **Prohibit drift gillnets:** Amend the HMS FMP to phase out all federal DGN permits by the California DGN permit sunset date (January 31, 2024).



Short-beaked common dolphin killed in a California drift gillnet during the 2020-21 season. Photo: NMFS