**PUBLIC NOTICE**

For Information Contact: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NOTICE OF SWORDFISH DRIFT GILLNET**

**DIRECTED FISHING CLOSURE**

This notice announces that, through rulemaking in the Federal Register*,* NMFS is closing the Pacific Loggerhead Conservation Area (see map below), prohibiting fishing with large-mesh drift gillnet (DGN) gear (>14 inches mesh) off the coast of southern California east of 120º west meridian through August 31, 2014. This prohibition is based on existing regulations at 50 CFR 660.713(c)(2) and the Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries’ determination that El Niño conditions are occurring off the coast of southern California. This action protects Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*), specifically the endangered North Pacific Ocean Distinct Population Segment. Large-mesh DGN fishing vessels must cease fishing east of 120º west effective on the date of publication in the Federal Register (on or near July 25, 2014) through August 31, 2014.

Pacific Loggerhead Conservation Area

[*Regulations*](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=92d46baf0f94d116f851f389deab7639&amp;node=50%3A13.0.1.1.1.11.1.13&amp;rgn=div8) *at 50 CFR 660.713(c)(2).*

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