

COUNTLESS CALIFORNIA MARINE MAMMALS DIE IN DRIFTNETS EVERY YEAR, BUT THIS IS ONLY PART OF THE STORY. GENTLE SEA TURTLES, MIGHTY SHARKS, AND THOUSANDS OF UNWANTED FISH ARE ALSO KILLED AND DISCARDED.

# The Secret Whale & Dolphin Massacre Off Our Coast

## And What You Can Do to Stop It



GABRIEL BARATHIEU



*“The baby dolphin is caught in the mesh and the frantic mother dolphin rips at the net to free her offspring without success. The mom returns to the surface to grab another breath of air and rushes back down to the baby who is crying for help, but there is nothing she can do but watch her infant drown.”*

**T**his is the fate of scores of dolphins, whales, sea lions, and other air-breathing marine mammals caught in the mile-long nets set by the California driftnet fishery every year. **In fact, these invisible curtains of death drown more whales and dolphins than all other observed commercial fisheries on the West Coast combined.**

Washington and Oregon no longer allow driftnets in their waters, and the United Nations has banned them on the High Seas. Yet, California allows this barbaric fishery to continue.

Right NOW, we have a chance to end this cruel fishery forever. A bill has been introduced in the California Senate to transition the fishery away from using this deadly technique and instead switch to more humane methods.

But the fishermen and their lobbyists, who profit from this ruthless fishing method, are working overtime to defeat the bill.

**That is why we need YOUR help today.**

**FIRST** Please send a message to the California legislature to end this barbaric fishery now. It's simple, just go to [SeaTurtles.Org/SaveDolphins](http://SeaTurtles.Org/SaveDolphins) and add your name. The vote is in a couple of days, so please act immediately!

**SECOND** Call the office of your State Senator, Ricardo Lara, at (562) 256-7921 and ask for his support and vote to end this inhumane practice in California.

**THIRD** Make a tax-deductible donation to support our efforts to end this deadly fishery and end the secret massacre off our coast. Visit [SeaTurtles.Org/DonateForDolphins](http://SeaTurtles.Org/DonateForDolphins) to make a secure donation and help make the oceans safe for dolphins, whales, sharks, and sea turtles!

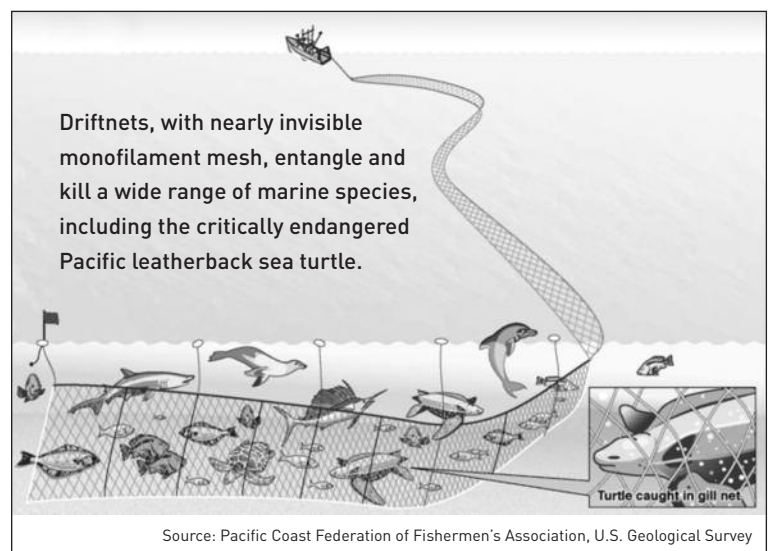
Speed is of the essence. The vote is scheduled to occur in the next few days and this is our best chance to save the lives of hundreds of dolphins, whales, sea turtles, and a myriad of marine species who die in these nets every day.

**To stop this crime against ocean wildlife . . . and against our own humanity . . . please act immediately!**



NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

This image of a dolphin fatally injured in a driftnet is one of scores of secret photos we recently obtained from the federal government through legal means using the "Freedom of Information Act."



Driftnets, with nearly invisible monofilament mesh, entangle and kill a wide range of marine species, including the critically endangered Pacific leatherback sea turtle.

Source: Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association, U.S. Geological Survey

### PLEASE TAKE ACTION NOW

**VISIT** [SeaTurtles.Org/SaveDolphins](http://SeaTurtles.Org/SaveDolphins) and send a message to the California Senate.

**CALL** your State Senator, Ricardo Lara, at (562) 256-7921 and ask him to vote to end the driftnet fishery.

**MAKE A DONATION** Secure, on-line and tax-deductible donations at [SeaTurtles.Org/DonateForDolphins](http://SeaTurtles.Org/DonateForDolphins) or you can send a check to:

Turtle Island Restoration Network  
PO Box 370, Forest Knolls, CA 94933

[SeaTurtles.Org](http://SeaTurtles.Org)

[Info@SeaTurtles.Org](mailto:Info@SeaTurtles.Org)