

HR 5638

Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Apr 26, 2018

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans. (May 8, 2018)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5638

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33]

Party: Democratic • State: CA • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-8]	R · PA		Jun 1, 2018
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Jun 20, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	May 8, 2018

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 2773	Identical bill	Dec 11, 2018: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 729.

Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act

This bill addresses certain driftnet fishing. (Driftnet fishing is a method of fishing in which a gillnet composed of a panel or panels of webbing, or a series of such gillnets, is placed in the water and allowed to drift with the currents and winds for the purpose of entangling fish in the webbing.)

Currently, the use of large-scale drift gillnets with a total length of 2.5 kilometers or more is prohibited in the United States. The bill expands the definition of large-scale driftnet fishing to prohibit the use of gillnets with a mesh size of 14 inches or greater. This expanded prohibition does not apply within the U.S. exclusive economic zone prior to January 1, 2020.

The Department of Commerce must conduct a transition program to facilitate the phase out of large-scale driftnet fishing and to promote the adoption of alternative fishing practices that minimize the incidental catch of living marine resources.

Commerce may award grants to program participants.

Actions Timeline

- **May 8, 2018:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans.
- **Apr 26, 2018:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 26, 2018:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.