

HR 1979

Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Mar 28, 2019

Current Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

Latest Action: Subcommittee Hearings Held. (May 8, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1979>

Sponsor

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

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (19 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]	R · PA		Mar 28, 2019
Rep. Cox, TJ [D-CA-21]	D · CA		Apr 29, 2019
Rep. Wittman, Robert J. [R-VA-1]	R · VA		May 14, 2019
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		May 15, 2019
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]	D · CA		May 20, 2019
Rep. Haaland, Debra A. [D-NM-1]	D · NM		Jun 6, 2019
Rep. Mast, Brian J. [R-FL-18]	R · FL		Jun 6, 2019
Rep. Case, Ed [D-HI-1]	D · HI		Jun 27, 2019
Rep. Palazzo, Steven M. [R-MS-4]	R · MS		Jun 27, 2019
Rep. Harder, Josh [D-CA-10]	D · CA		Oct 8, 2019
Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-28]	D · CA		Oct 8, 2019
Rep. Griffith, H. Morgan [R-VA-9]	R · VA		Nov 17, 2020
Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5]	D · CA		Dec 2, 2020
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Dec 7, 2020
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Dec 7, 2020
Rep. Larsen, Rick [D-WA-2]	D · WA		Dec 7, 2020
Rep. Rouda, Harley [D-CA-48]	D · CA		Dec 7, 2020
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Dec 8, 2020
Rep. Buchanan, Vern [R-FL-16]	R · FL		Dec 8, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Natural Resources Committee	House	Hearings By (subcommittee)	May 8, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 906	Identical bill	Jan 1, 2021: Vetoed by President.

Summary (as of Mar 28, 2019)

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 for five years.

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 must award grants to program participants.

Actions Timeline

- **May 8, 2019:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Apr 18, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife.
- **Mar 28, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 28, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.