

S 273

Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Feb 8, 2021

Current Status: Held at the desk.

Latest Action: Held at the desk. (Sep 17, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/273>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]

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

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Feb 8, 2021
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Apr 28, 2021
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		May 12, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Discharged From	Sep 14, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 404	Related bill	Nov 16, 2022: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 402.

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.

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council may recommend and Commerce may approve regulations that require charter operators to pay fees on vessels that harvest Pacific halibut in specific International Pacific Halibut Commission regulatory areas.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 17, 2021:** Received in the House.
- **Sep 17, 2021:** Held at the desk.
- **Sep 15, 2021:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Sep 14, 2021:** Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation discharged by Unanimous Consent.
- **Sep 14, 2021:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S6480-6481)
- **Sep 14, 2021:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with amendments by Voice Vote.(text: CR S6481)
- **Sep 14, 2021:** Passed Senate with amendments by Voice Vote. (text: CR S6481)
- **Feb 8, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 8, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S574-575)