



## International Game Fish Association

300 Gulf Stream Way, Dania Beach, Florida, 33004 U.S.A.

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July 23, 2018

The Honorable John Thune  
Chairman  
Committee on Commerce, Science and  
Transportation  
United States Senate  
512 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science and  
Transportation  
United States Senate  
716 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson,

The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) is a nonprofit organization representing recreational anglers throughout the world. IGFA was established in 1939, has active members in over 100 countries and provides rules for ethical angling practices. Our organization, along with other recreational fishing and environmental groups, is highly supportive of S. 2773, The Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act. As such, we respectfully request that you place S. 2773 on the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee calendar to be marked up and reported as soon as possible.

Drift gillnets are an unsustainable and outdated form of fishing gear that has been banned throughout the United States, with the exception of the California swordfish fishery. These nets incur intolerable levels of unintended bycatch and the fewer than 30 vessels participating in the fishery kill more dolphins, porpoises and whales than all other fisheries on the U.S. West Coast and Alaska combined. S. 2773 provides the California swordfish fishery a means to transition from this destructive gear to alternatives such as deep-set buoy gear that has proven to incur little bycatch and also results in higher quality swordfish and better market prices for commercial fishermen.

The International Game Fish Association thanks you for your consideration on this important issue. The Committee's support of S. 2773 will benefit both recreational and commercial fisherman, as well as California's marine resources.

Sincerely,

Jason Schratwieser  
IGFA Conservation Director

Cc: The Honorable Senator Diane Feinstein  
The Honorable Senator Shelly Moore Capito  
The Honorable Senator Kamala Harris

*The International Game Fish Association is a not-for-profit organization committed to the conservation of game fish and the promotion of responsible, ethical angling practices through science, education, rule making and record keeping.*

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