

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, California is the last state in the United States that allows fishermen to use harmful drift gillnets in the swordfish fishery, and this gear has been banned on the high seas and in many countries worldwide because of the unavoidable impacts on marine wildlife, including whales, dolphins, sharks, pinnipeds, and sea turtles; and

WHEREAS, According to the latest federal estimates, over the 2001-2015 period California swordfish drift gillnets were responsible for the death of an estimated six endangered Pacific leatherback sea turtles, four loggerhead sea turtles, and seven sperm whales; and

WHEREAS, During the same period the fishery caught over 1,300 marine mammals and threw overboard over 140,000 fish and sharks; and

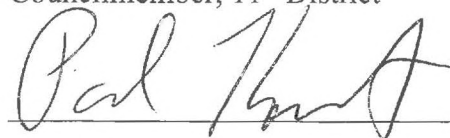
WHEREAS, Because of these impacts, the Pacific Fishery Management Council moved to implement hard caps to limit bycatch and to require 100 percent observer coverage for the fishery, but those protections were shelved last year by Commerce Secretary Ross; and

WHEREAS, SB 1017 (Allen) was introduced to require the Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop a program by March 31, 2020, to voluntarily transition the holders of drift gill net permits out of the fishery by January 31, 2023, the end of the 2023 fishing season; and

WHEREAS, SB 1017 will incentivize California's swordfish fishing industry to transition away from harmful drift gillnets to more sustainable gear types, such as deep-set buoy systems, by establishing a program to buy back state drift gillnet permits with public and private funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2017-2018 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 1017 to require the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to develop a program by March 31, 2020, to voluntarily transition the holders of drift gill net permits out of the fishery by January 31, 2023, the end of the 2023 fishing season.

Presented by: 
Mike Bonin
Councilmember, 11th District

Seconded by: 

ORIGINAL

JUL 31 2018

