115TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION	S.
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To improve the management of driftnet fishing.

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. Feinstein (for herself, Mrs. Capito, and Ms. Harris) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

## A BILL

To improve the management of driftnet fishing.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Driftnet Modernization
- 5 and Bycatch Reduction Act".
- 6 SEC. 2. DEFINITION.
- 7 Section 3(25) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Con-
- 8 servation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802(25)) is
- 9 amended by inserting ", or with a mesh size of 14 inches
- 10 or greater," after "more".

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I SE	$\mathbf{C}$ 3	FINDINGS	AND	POLICY

2	(a) Findings.—Section 206(b) of the Magnuson-Ste-
3	vens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16
4	U.S.C. 1826(b)) is amended—
5	(1) in paragraph (6), by striking "and" at the
6	end;
7	(2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period and
8	inserting "; and"; and
9	(3) by adding at the end the following:
10	"(8) within the exclusive economic zone, large-
11	scale driftnet fishing that deploys nets with large
12	mesh sizes causes significant entanglement and mor-
13	tality of living marine resources, including myriad
14	protected species, despite limitations on the lengths
15	of such nets.".
16	(b) Policy.—Section 206(c) of the Magnuson-Ste-
17	vens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16
18	U.S.C. 1826(c)) is amended—
19	(1) in paragraph (2), by striking "and" at the
20	end;
21	(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and
22	inserting "; and"; and
23	(3) by adding at the end the following—
24	"(4) prioritize the phase out of large-scale
25	driftnet fishing in the exclusive economic zone and
26	promote the development and adoption of alternative

1	fishing methods and gear types that reduce the inci-
2	dental catch of living marine resources to the max-
3	imum extent possible.".
4	SEC. 4. TRANSITION PROGRAM.
5	Section 206 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Con-
6	servation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1826) is
7	amended by adding at the end the following—
8	"(i) Fishing Gear Transition Program.—
9	"(1) In General.—The Secretary shall con-
10	duct a transition program to facilitate the phase-out
11	of large-scale driftnet fishing and adoption of alter-
12	native fishing practices that minimize the incidental
13	catch of living marine resources.
14	"(2) Permissible uses.—
15	"(A) In General.—The Secretary is au-
16	thorized to provide funding to fishery partici-
17	pants for one or more of the following:
18	"(i) Any fee originally associated with
19	a permit authorizing participation in a
20	large-scale driftnet fishery, if such permit
21	is surrendered for permanent revocation,
22	and such permit holder relinquishes any
23	claim associated with the permit.
24	"(ii) A forfeiture of fishing gear asso-
25	ciated with a permit described in clause (i).

1	"(111) The purchase of alternative gear
2	with minimal incidental catch of living ma-
3	rine resources, if the fishery participant is
4	authorized to continue fishing using such
5	alternative gears.
6	"(B) PAYMENT CONDITION.—The Sec-
7	retary may not make a payment to a fishery
8	participant under subparagraph (A) unless the
9	Secretary certifies that the permit authorizing
10	participation has been permanently revoked and
11	that no new permits will be issued to authorize
12	such fishing.
13	"(3) Authorization of appropriations.—
14	There is authorized to be appropriated for purposes
15	of carrying out this subsection, \$450,000 for each of
16	fiscal years 2018 through 2020.".
17	SEC. 5. EXCEPTION.
18	Section 307(1)(M) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
19	Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.
20	1857(1)(M)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon
21	the following: ", unless such large-scale driftnet fishing—
22	"(i) deploys, within the exclusive eco-
23	nomic zone, a net with a total length of
24	less than two and one-half kilometers and
25	a mesh size of 14 inches or greater; and

"(ii) is conducted prior to January 1, 1

2 2020.".