

Sea Turtles in Danger on the West Coast

Tell the Pacific Fisheries Management Council Not to Gut Protections for Sea Turtles

To send a letter to the council go to

<http://www.seaturtles.org/actionalertdetails.cfm?actionAlertID=99>

On Tuesday, September 20, the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, which is responsible for managing fisheries off the coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington, will be considering a proposal to grant exemptions to a small number of fishers to a measure that closes a large area of the California coast to destructive gillnet fishing that injures and kills large numbers of endangered sea turtles, sharks, billfish and marine mammals. Also known as "curtains of death," gillnets kill everything it catches including the ancient leatherback sea turtle which now teeters on the brink of extinction in the Pacific Ocean.

In response to lawsuits by the Sea Turtle Restoration Project and the Center for Biological Diversity, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency Fisheries agency restricted gillnets by introducing "time and area closures" where gillnets are not allowed in order to protect endangered sea turtles and other marine species such as sharks, billfish and marine mammals. Now the council is attempting to gut these protections back in favor of a small handful of fishers using deadly fishing gear.

If you live in the Pacific Northwest, please join the Sea Turtle Restoration Project at the council meeting to speak out and stop this rollback on Tuesday, September 20th at:

Embassy Suites Hotel Portland Airport
7900 NE 82nd Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97220
Phone: (503) 460-3000 or (800) 362-2779

For more information about the PFMC meeting go to:

<http://www.pcouncil.org/events/2005/pfmc0905.html>

To get involved or for more information contact:

Robert Ovetz

Save the Leatherback Campaign Coordinator

Sea Turtle Restoration Project

415-488-0370 x106

robert@seaturtles.org