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INTRODUCED BY Assembly Member ?????
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An act to amend Section 8836 of the Public Resources Code, relating to ocean resources.

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

- (a) California's oceans provide the people of California with a wealth of ecological resources, including seafood.
- (b) Within the commercial fishing sector there are a variety of existing methods and practices that can reduce the environmental impacts of seafood production.
- (c) California fisheries have been at the forefront of efforts to protect and restore fish stocks and engage in responsible and sustainable fishing practices.
- (d) The State of California is a major producer and consumer of seafood that is marketed in the United States and abroad.
- (e) Some California fisheries have adopted sustainable practices consistent with internationally accepted standards and should be promoted in the state, and others should be encouraged to do so.
- (f) It is the Legislature's intent in enacting this act to promote responsible and sustainable fishing practices, including bottom trawling, in such instances where the Commission has made findings that the gear used in such a fishery minimizes bycatch, is likely not damaging seafloor habitat, is not adversely affecting ecosystem health, and is not impeding reasonable restoration of kelp, coral, or other biogenic habitats.

SEC. 2. Section 8836 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:

8836. Central Coast Fish and Game Districts

- (a) In Districts 17, 18, and 118.5, trawl nets may be used in water not less than three miles from the nearest point of land on the mainland shore, including those portions of Monterey Bay, Estero Bay, and San Luis Obispo Bay which lie within those districts.
- (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of state law or Fish and Game Code, Sec. 8836 (a) shall apply to the waters of Monterey Bay therein described, except in state-designated marine protected areas that prohibit trawling.
- (c) In state waters of Monterey Bay greater than three miles from the nearest point of land and extending seaward to a depth of forty (40) fathoms, trawling for California halibut and other flatfish shall be permitted consistent with federal groundfish management plan quotas and regulations.
- (d) In the waters specified in 8836(c), only equipment specified in the California Code of Regulations Title 14 § 124(b), as approved by the Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Game Commission may be used.
- (e) In the waters specified in 8836(c), trawling for halibut is permitted only from May 1 to September 30 annually.