

Protected Species Placards

The following pages are the informational placards for protected species in the Pacific Islands Region. They are currently being revised by NMFS PIRO Sustainable Fisheries Division (SFD) staff. These information sheets are printed double-sided, laminated, and bound together with a metal ring. These placards are not required to be carried or posted on longline vessels; however, they are made available to longline vessel owners and operators at the required Protected Species Workshops.

Owners and the operators of vessels registered for use under any Federal longline permit in the western Pacific region must attend and be certified for completion of annual Protected Species Workshops. A valid workshop certificate (card) is necessary for owners to renew their permits. While conducting longline fishing operations at sea, vessel operators are required to possess a valid workshop card. Each year, over 200 fishermen and vessel owners are trained in Hawaii, and almost 100 are trained in American Samoa.

SFD staff conducts these workshops. This training includes protected species identification; handling and release techniques; and regulatory requirements. The protected species that are covered in the workshops include sea turtles, marine mammals, and seabirds. Classroom training uses various techniques and materials to convey critical knowledge to fishermen, including verbal presentations, hands-on demonstrations, videos, and printed reference materials.

An online training web site has been developed to facilitate learning and as a more flexible option to the classroom training sessions. Owners and operators who have never been certified must attend a classroom first before taking the online course. After the initial classroom session, owners may take the online course indefinitely. Operators (captains) may take the online course for two years in a row before being required to take a classroom course, as a review, to show they understand protected species handling techniques, at least every three years.

MARINE MAMMALS Handling/Release Guidelines PELAGIC LONGLINE GEAR

STAND BY WITH AN IDENTITY GUIDE, PAPER AND CAMERA.

Document as much information as possible to describe the marine mammal... particularly physical appearance, behavior, and potential injuries. Be sure to take several photographs from different angles.

DOCUMENT:

- Animals's length
- Animal's features to be used for species identification purposes.
- Any gear that could not be removed from the animal (type, placement, color, size, etc.).
- Any existing tags on the animal (description and number).

LARGE WHALES:

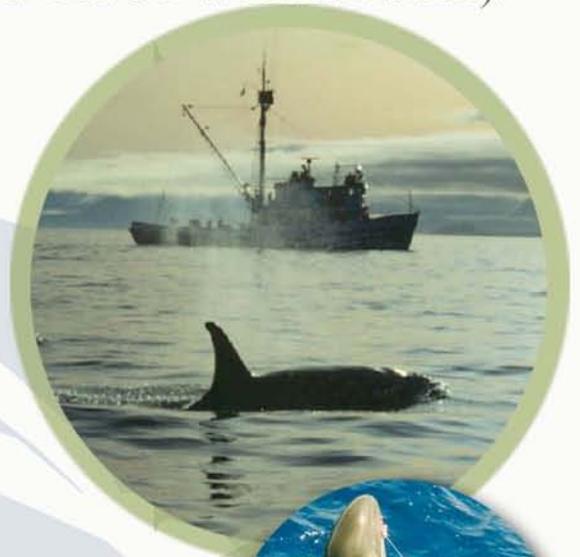
If a large whale is alive and on the line, immediately contact the Disentanglement Hotline at: (888) 256-9840 or US Coast Guard: VHF Ch.16 for instructions.



*The data show that if you have one marine mammal interaction, there is a high risk that you will have additional encounters if you remain fishing in the same area. Alert others via radio communication, and **MOVE** rather than risk further interactions.*

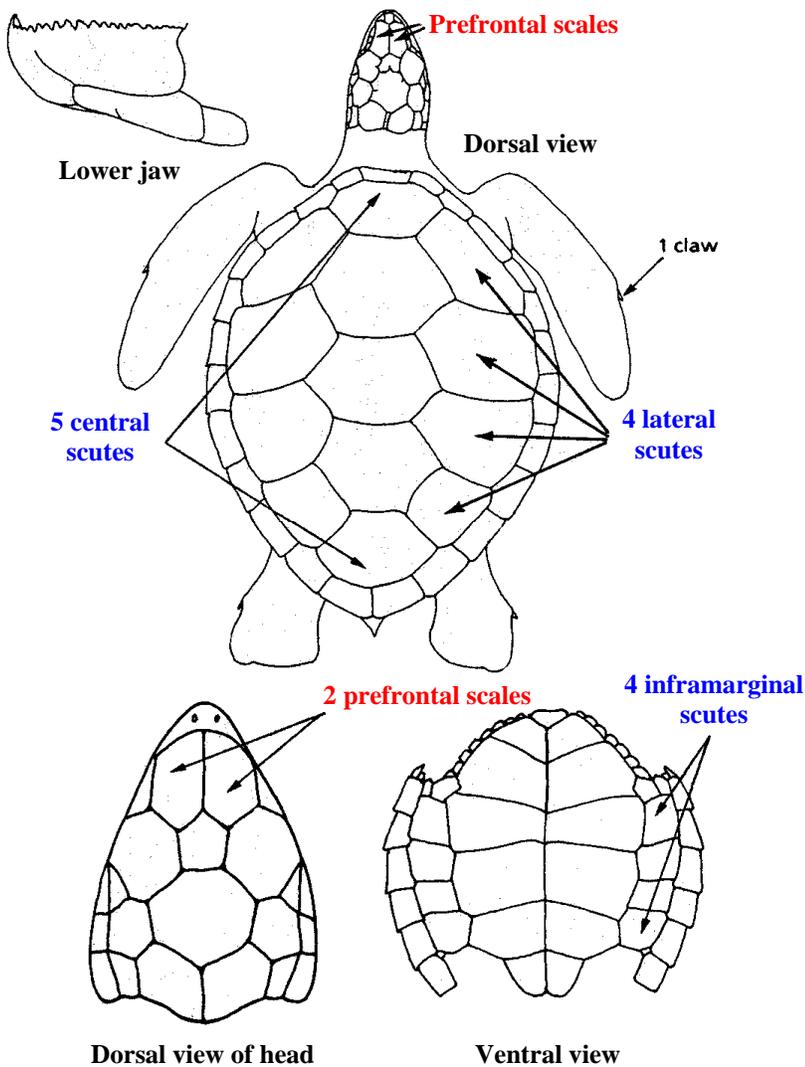
SMALL MARINE MAMMALS (DOLPHIN TO PILOT WHALE SIZE):

- Alert crew to standby the rail- their assistance will be needed. Two long gaffs should be used to recover the opposite side of the mainline as soon as it is available.
- Proceed cautiously and smoothly and STOP vessel within range of the marine mammal.
- Gently bring the animal alongside the vessel.
- If a tangle exists, gaff the other side of mainline and attach it to the vessel or float ball in order to isolate the vessel and the marine mammal from any tension on the remaining gear in the water.
- Work tangle off the marine mammal as smoothly and quickly as possible, avoiding abrupt actions that may panic the animal. When a hook is involved, if feasible cut off the barb of the hook with long handled bolt cutters, and then cut the line as close to the hook as possible.
- Remove all line from the marine mammal.
- After the animal has been released, secure the remainder of gear in the water, and then promptly record all pertinent information concerning this interaction on your **Marine Mammal Reporting Form**.



Green Sea Turtle

(*Chelonia mydas*)

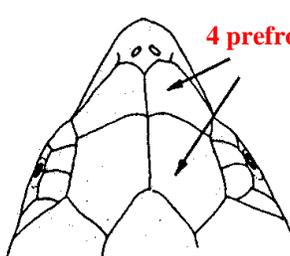
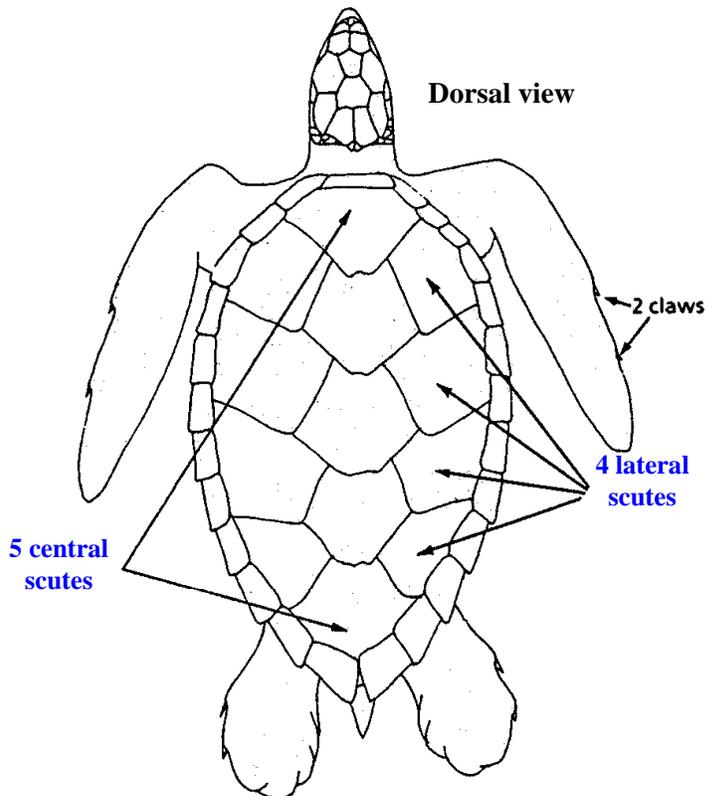


- **Smooth oval shell**
- **4 pairs of lateral scutes**
- **5 central scutes**
- **2 prefrontal scales**
- **Serrated lower jaw**



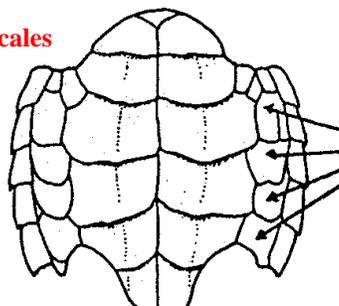
Hawksbill Sea Turtle

Eretmochelys imbricata



Dorsal view of head

4 prefrontal scales



Ventral view

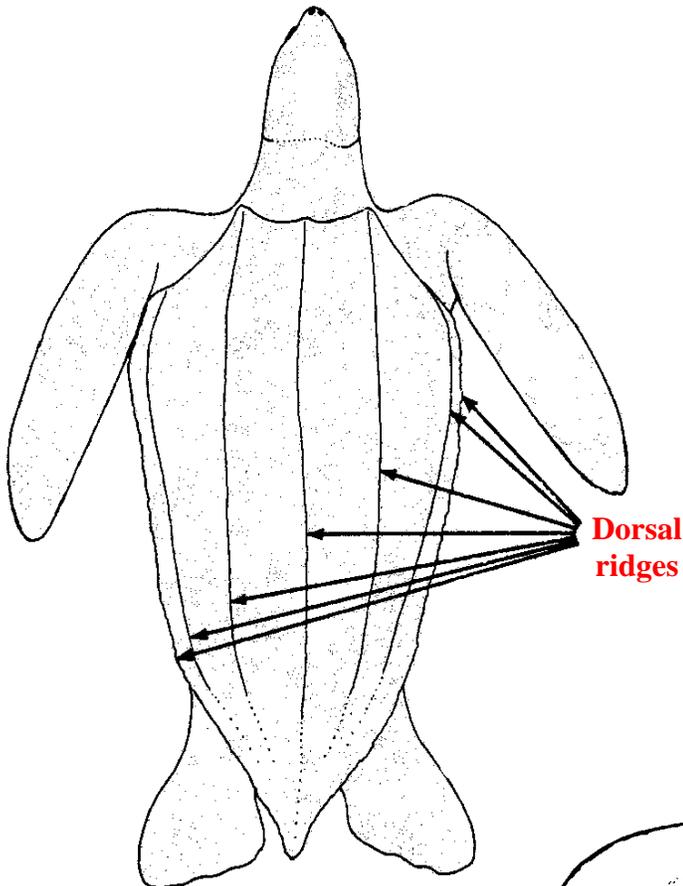
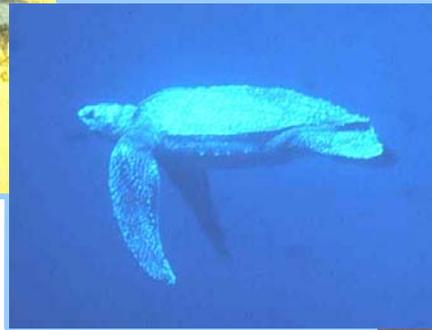
4 inframarginal scutes

- **Overlapping scutes**
- **Narrow shell**
- **Hawk-like beak**
- **4 pairs of lateral scutes**
- **5 central scutes**
- **4 prefrontal scales**



Leatherback Sea Turtle

(Dermochelys coriacea)



Dorsal View
(Top)

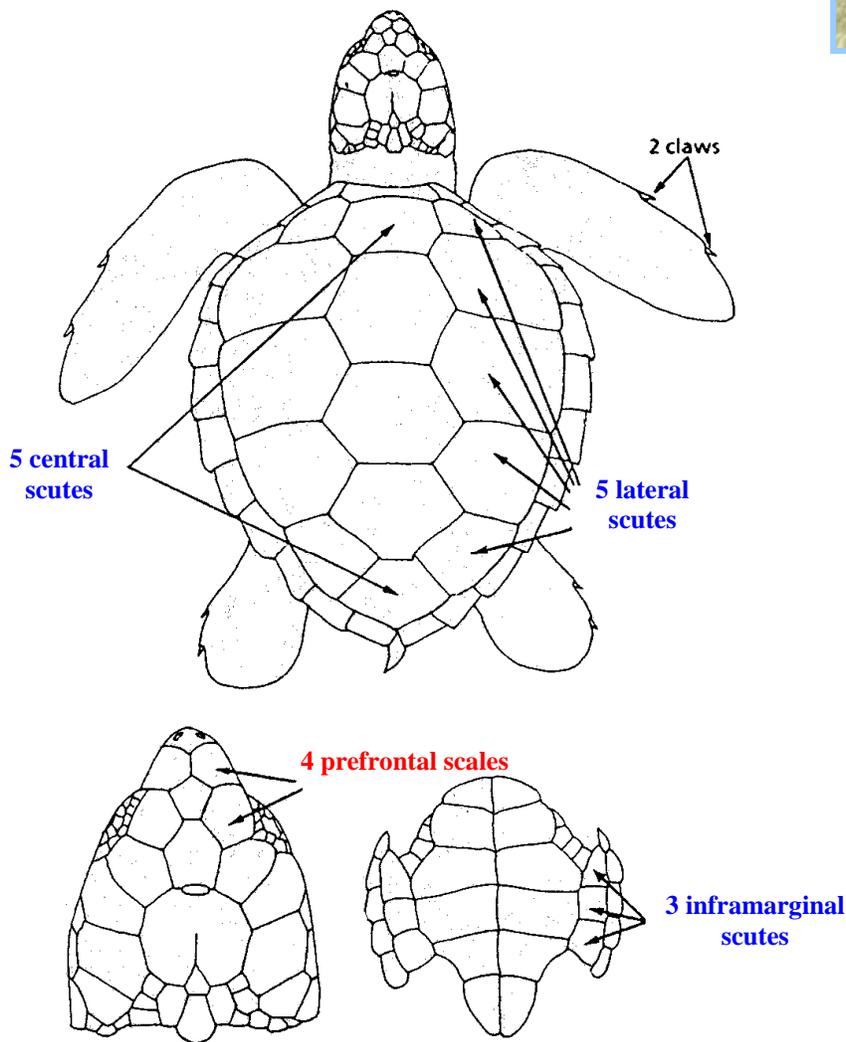


- Dark gray or black with white spotting
- 5-7 dorsal ridges from head to tail
- No hard shell
- No scutes or scales
- W-shaped upper jaw or beak
- Can grow very large



Loggerhead Sea Turtle

(*Caretta caretta*)



Dorsal view of head

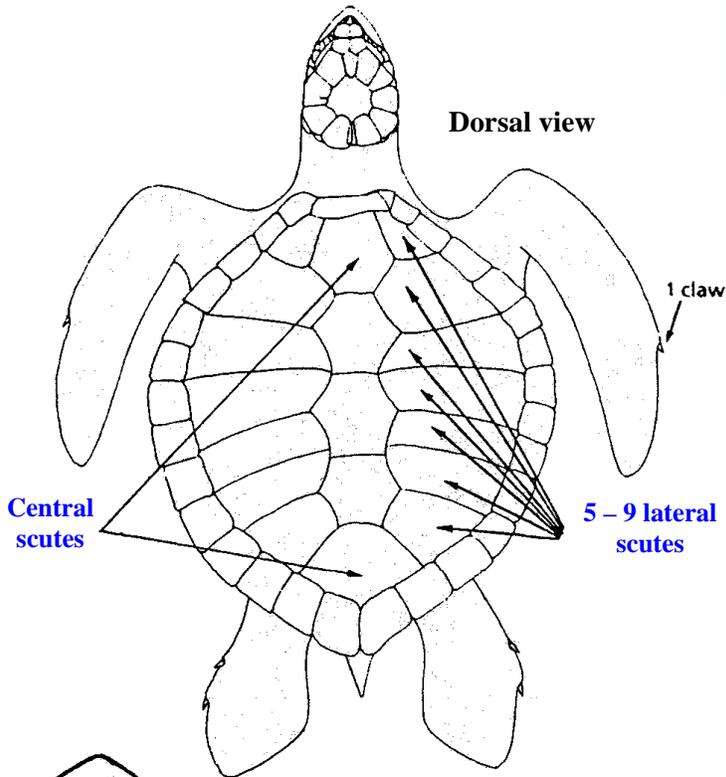
Ventral view

- Heart shaped shell
- Reddish/orange color
- 5 pairs of lateral scutes
- 5 central scutes
- 4 prefrontal scales
- 3 inframarginal scutes

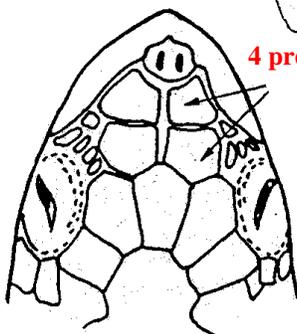


Olive Ridley Sea Turtle

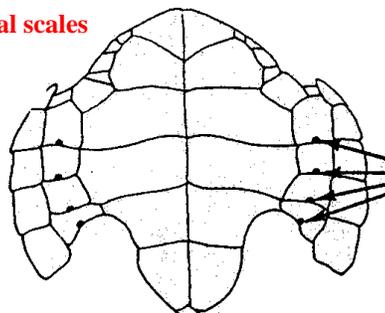
(Lepidochelys olivacea)



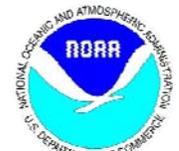
- Almost round-shaped shell
- Olive/grayish-green color
- Between 5-9 pairs of lateral scutes
- 4 prefrontal scales
- 4 pairs inframarginal scutes with pores



Dorsal view of head



Ventral view



Sea Turtle Identification

HARD SHELL?

No hard carapace
5-7 Longitudinal ridges on back
Mature individuals attain greater size

LEATHERBACK



HARD SHELL TURTLES

FOUR PAIRS
OF COASTAL SCUTES

One pair of prefrontal scales
Non-overlapping scutes
Serrated lower jaw

GREEN/BLACK

FIVE OR MORE PAIRS
OF COASTAL SCUTES

Usually five pairs of costal scutes
Three inframarginals without pores
Usually red-orange color

LOGGERHEAD



Two or more pairs of frontal scutes
Overlapping costal scutes

HAWKSBILL

Five to nine pairs of costal scutes
Four inframarginals with pores
Gray-green color

OLIVE RIDLEY



1. Determine if turtle is small enough to bring aboard

Turtle too big to bring aboard

Identify turtle species
Record interaction in the logbook
Assess location of the hook to choose the proper dehooking device



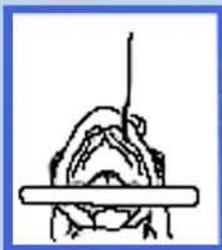
Turtle small enough to bring aboard

Use dip net to bring the turtle aboard
DO NOT use a gaff
DO NOT pull on leader line
DO NOT grasp the eye sockets to board animal
Assess location of the hook to choose the proper dehooking device



2. Determine if the turtle is lightly or deeply hooked and decide on the gear and method to use

If the turtle is lightly hooked in the mouth, beak, or flipper
Use a dehooker for external hooks (long handled for non boated, short handled for boated turtles)



See page 2



If the turtle is deeply hooked in the mouth or throat
Use a pigtail dehooker for ingested hooks (long handled for non boated turtle, short handled bite block version for boated turtles)



See page 3



3. Determine if turtle is unconscious or conscious

UNCONSCIOUS

Place the sea turtle on its belly and elevate its hindquarters at least 6 inches for at least 4 hours
Perform a reflex test every 3 hours, by gently touching the eye, or lightly pulling on tail
Keep the turtle secure and moist

If there is a response, begin to treat the turtle as conscious

If there is NO RESPONSE AFTER 24 HOURS return the turtle to the ocean

CONSCIOUS

Keep the turtle secure and moist with wet towels, occasionally spraying the turtle with a deck hose
Monitor the turtle on board for a minimum of 4 hours

RETURN TURTLE TO OCEAN

Make sure the vessel is stopped and out of gear

Gently slide the turtle HEAD FIRST back into the water

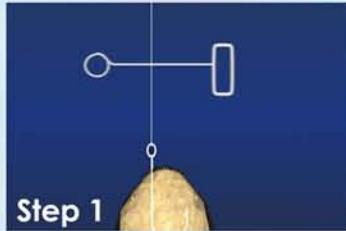
Ensure that the turtle is clear of the vessel before motoring away

Turtles hooked in the mouth

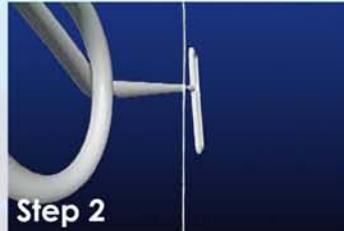


Pacific Islands Regional Office
Sustainable Fisheries Division

Hold the leader with your left hand, dehooking device in your right hand



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4

(1) Place the dehooker perpendicular to the leader, making sure the open end of the pigtail is facing up.

(2&3) Draw the dehooker back towards you like a bow and arrow until you engage the line.

(4) Rotate dehooker 1/4 turn clockwise. This puts the leader in the center of the curl.



Step 5



Step 6



Step 7

(5-7) Follow the leader down until it engages the shank of the hook.



Step 8



Step 9

(8) Make sure the leader is tight and parallel with the dehooking device. Give a slight thrust downward with the dehooking device until the hook disengages,

(9) Pull out the dehooker with the hook.

Once the hook is removed

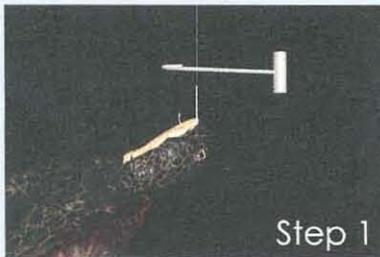
Set the turtle aside in a secure shaded location for 4-24 hours. Cover turtle's body with wet towels and occasionally spray the turtle with a deck hose. DO NOT cover turtle's nostrils with towel.
ASSESS CONDITION OF THE TURTLE

Lightly hooked turtles



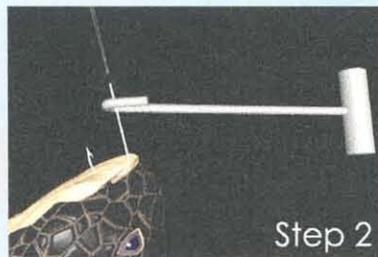
Pacific Islands Regional Office
Sustainable Fisheries Division

Hold the leader with your left hand, dehooking device in your right hand



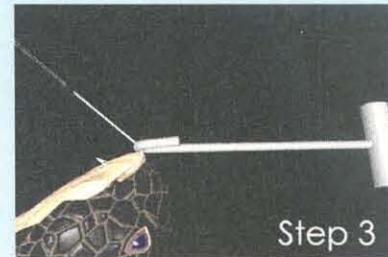
Step 1

(1) With the J Bend facing you, Place the dehooking device on the leader.



Step 2

(2) Follow the leader down.



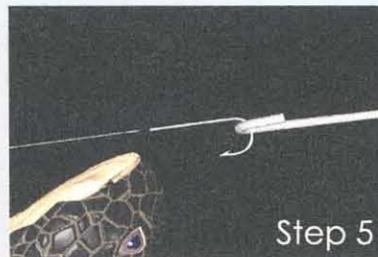
Step 3

(3) Engage the hook.



Step 4

(4) Pull the dehooking device and leader apart with constant pressure until device is at 2 o'clock position and leader is at 8 o'clock position.



Step 5

(5) With a slight twist and shake the hook will be disengaged.

Once the hook is removed

Set the turtle aside in a secure shaded location for 4-24 hours. Cover turtle's body with wet towels and occasionally spray the turtle with a deck hose. DO NOT cover turtle's nostrils with towel. ASSESS CONDITION OF THE TURTLE

Laysan Albatross

- Plumage ● White head, neck and stomach
● Dark upper wings and back
● Dark around the eyes

Legs/Feet ● Fleshy to gray
Color

Bill Color ● Fleshy with a
gray tip



Black-footed Albatross

- Plumage ● Dark head, body, and wings
● White ring around base of bill
● White patch behind the eyes

Juveniles - dark at base of tail
Adults - white at base of tail

Legs/Feet ● Black-brown
Color

Bill Color ● Black-brown



Short-tailed Albatross

- Plumage ● Juvenile - dark head, body and wings
● Sub adult - white neck, stomach and back
- dark cap and nape
- white patches on wings
● Adult - golden cap and nape

Legs/Feet ● Juvenile - dark
Color ● Sub adult and adult - Fleshy pink

Bill Color ● Juvenile - dark
● Sub adults and adults- bright pink with a thin
black line around the base of the bill



If the bird is a short-tailed albatross, follow the guidelines for the short-tailed albatross (see over)

Hooked Seabirds Handling Guidelines*

1. Gently lift the bird on board with a long handled dip net and cover it with a clean towel or blanket. Do not wrap the bird's body too tightly as this will prevent the bird from breathing. Do not obstruct the nasal openings because this will prevent the bird from breathing.
2. Working in teams of two, secure the bird's head and isolate the hooked or entangled area while another person removes the bird from the net. Fold the bird's wings to their natural resting position against the body. **Wear gloves, long sleeves and protective eyewear when handling seabirds. They have sharp beaks and painful bites.**
3. Cut all fishing line and remove it from the bird. If the bird is lightly hooked in the bill, leg or wing and the barbed end of the hook is visible, use **BOLT CUTTERS** to pare the hook barb and then thread the hook out backwards. If the bird has been deeply hooked, cut the line as close to the hook as possible and leave the hook in place. **Never attempt to remove a hook from anywhere on a bird by pulling on the leader line.**
4. Allow the bird to dry (between 30 min to 4 hrs). The bird should be able to stand on its feet, hold its head erect, respond to sound, breathe without noise and retract its wings into a normal folding position.
5. Record numbers from any leg bands. Send band numbers and information on type of seabird, date, location of capture, name of vessel and seabird mitigation methods to the National Marine Fisheries Service, Pacific Islands Regional Office, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814.
6. Before releasing the bird, stop the boat. Gently ease the bird onto the water. Do not throw it into the air. Do not motor away until the bird is clear of the vessel.

*Approved by the International Bird Rescue Research Center



Seabird NOT ready to be released



Seabird ready to be released

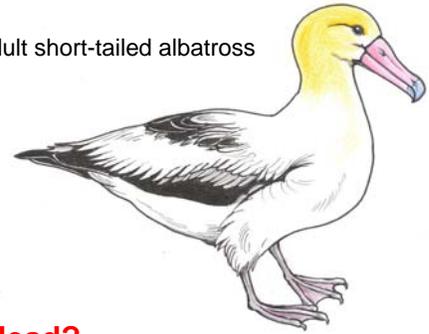


If the bird is a short-tailed albatross, call USCG to reach NMFS for handling instructions. —H.

Short-tailed Albatross Handling Guidelines

Pacific Islands Regional Office
Sustainable Fisheries Division

Adult short-tailed albatross



1. What should I do if I catch a short-tailed albatross that is alive?

IMMEDIATELY contact the NMFS, U.S. Coast Guard, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They will contact an expert to give you advice in the release and handling of the short-tailed albatross.

National Marine Fisheries Service:
Honolulu (808) 944-2200

Coast Guard: (808) 541-2500
Contact frequency:
Daytime ITU Channel
08240.0 KHz (ITU Channel 816)
12242.0 KHz (ITU Channel 1205)
Nighttime ITU Channel
04134.0KHz (ITU Channel 424)
06200.0 KHz (ITU Channel 601)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, French Frigate Shoals: Contact frequency: 10.0054
Call signs: KOJ638 Tern Island or KOJ639 Honolulu

If the bird is dead?

Notify NMFS if you catch a dead short-tail albatross. Dead birds should be labeled, placed in a plastic bag, and stored in the freezer. Dead birds should be given to NMFS once you return to port.

Monitor the health of the bird

Release Criteria

1. Can it hold its head erect?
2. Does it respond to stimulus and noise?
3. Does it breathe without noise?
4. Is it able to flap and retract its wings to a normal folded position?
5. Can it stand on both feet, with the toes pointed forward?

If you answer **NO** to any of these questions, the bird is **NOT** ready to be released. Please keep the bird on the boat.

2. Where is the hook? Is it lightly hooked, medium, or deeply hooked?

Lightly Hooked



If the hook is on beak, leg, wing or foot

or

Medium Hooked

If the hook is located in the mouth or throat and the barb of the hook is exposed



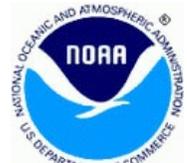
- Attempt to contact NMFS, USCG and USFWS for 48 hours.
- If unable to make contact, remove hook by cutting the barb and pulling hook through.
- Place bird in a box in a dry safe place for 4-24 hours.
- Do not release bird unless it meets the **Release Criteria**.

Deeply hooked

If the hook has been swallowed and is inside the body below the neck



- **Attempt to contact NMFS, USCG or USFWS immediately.**
- Place the bird in a box in a dry safe place until you receive instructions on the handling and dehooking of the bird.
- Do NOT release the bird.



Seabird Regulations

Effective Date: January 18, 2006

	SIDE SETTING		STERN SETTING	
	Shallow Set Anywhere	Deep Set >23° N	Shallow Set Anywhere	Deep Set >23° N
Deploy mainline from port or starboard side at least 1 m forward of stern corner	Yes	Yes		
If line shooter is used, mount it at least 1 m forward of stern corner	Yes	Yes		
Attach minimum 45 g weights within 1 m of hook of each hook	Yes	Yes		Yes
Deploy gear so that hooks do not resurface	Yes	Yes		
Use specified bird curtain	Yes	Yes		
Use thawed blue-dyed bait			Yes	Yes
Maintain two 1 pound containers of blue dye			Yes	Yes
Use line shooter				Yes
Retain fish parts and spent bait with hooks removed including swordfish heads and livers for strategic offal discard			Yes	Yes
Retain and prepare swordfish head and liver			Yes	Yes
Night set (begin set 1 hr after sunset and complete 1 hr before dawn)			Yes	
When using basket gear, deploy with slack in mainline			Yes	

Important Note: All longliners must follow seabird handling procedures everywhere

Revised May 16, 2007

