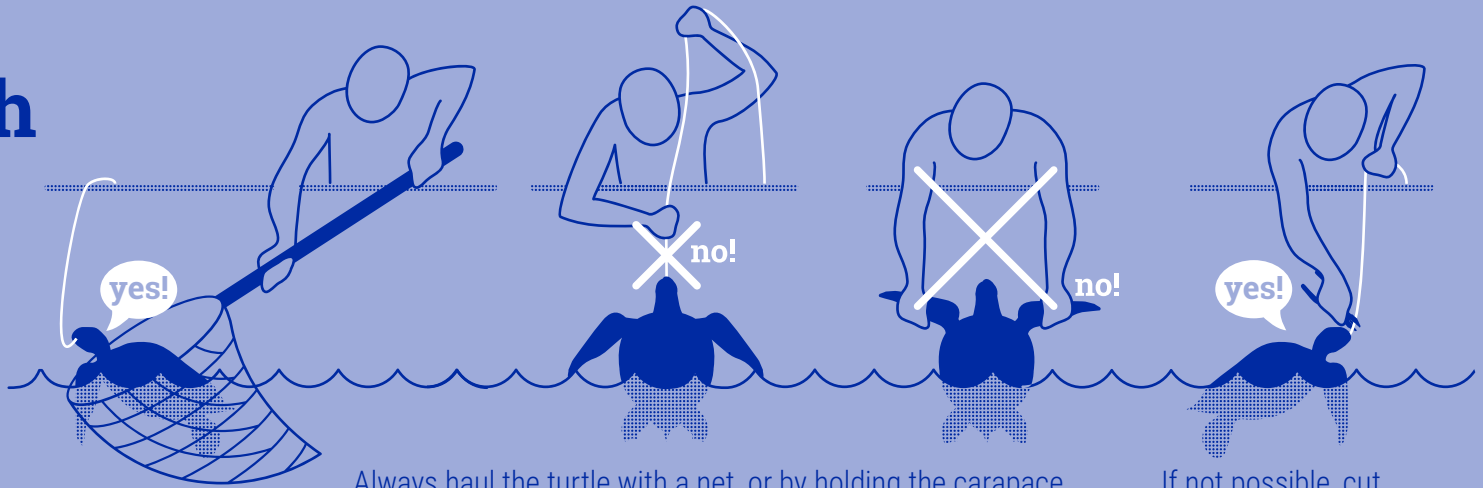


Saving sea turtles starts with you

Fishermen can do a lot to help turtles survive.

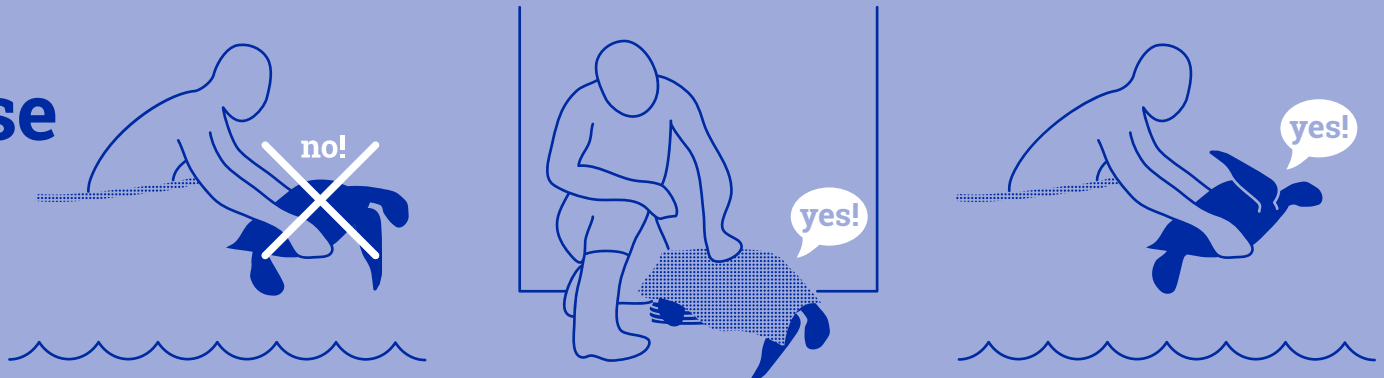
During Catch



Always haul the turtle with a net, or by holding the carapace.

If not possible, cut the line as close to the mouth as possible.

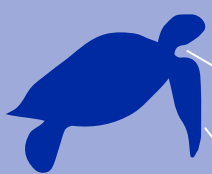
During Release



Do not release the turtle if comatose, wait for it to recover; otherwise it might drown.

Place the animal in the shade, with the back end higher than the head. Once the turtle starts moving, release it.

During Hook Removal



If the hook is in the mouth, always try to remove it.

If the hook is swallowed, do not attempt removal; it will only make injuries worse.

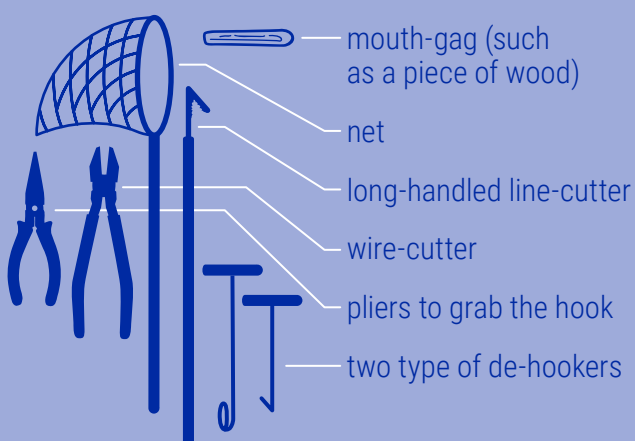
If the hook is external, remove it if easy; leave it if you do not succeed after 2 attempts.

To Open the Mouth

Place your thumb and index finger on both sides of the nostrils (not covering them). This immediately makes the animal open its mouth.



Essential Tools



mouth-gag (such as a piece of wood)

net

long-handled line-cutter

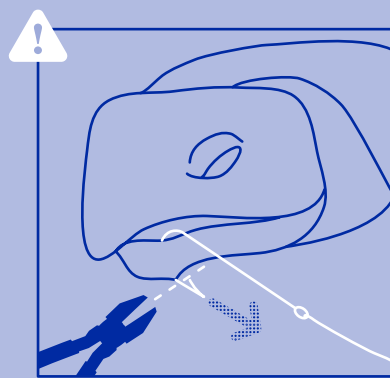
wire-cutter

pliers to grab the hook

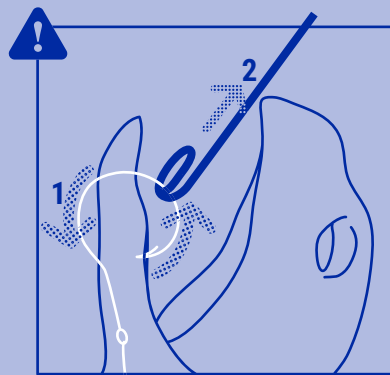
two type of de-hookers

99%

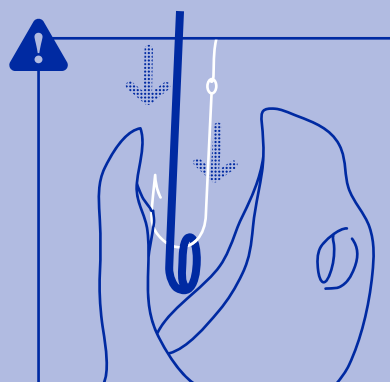
of marine turtles captured by surface longlines are found alive by fishermen*



To reduce injuries: When possible, cut the hook prior to removal.



To remove a Circle hook: Rotate the hook, then pull out with the angle of the skin.



To remove a J hook: Push or Pull downward.

To learn more about sea turtle handling and hook removal, watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diRa7wAxW0Y>



*Andraka, S., Mug, M., Hall, M., Pons, M., Pacheco, L., Parrales, M., Rendón, L., Parga, M.L., Mituhasi, T., Segura, A., Ortega, D., Villagrán, E., Pérez, S., de Paz, C., Siu, S., Gadea, V., Caicedo, J., Zapata, L.A., Martínez, J., Guerrero, P., Valqui, M., Voguel, N., 2013. Circle hooks: developing better fishing practices in the artisanal longline fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. Biol. Conserv. 160, 214–223