

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SIGHTING OF A SEA TURTLE IMBEDDED WITH A HOOK OR ENTANGLED WITH FISHING LINE



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Answers to the following questions will assist state and federal biologists in determining what actions may need to be taken to help the turtle:

Where was the turtle seen in terms of geographical location (Hawaiian place name and/or GPS reading) and distance from shore?

Date and time of sighting?

Where is the hook embedded in the turtle?

How deep does the hook appear to go into the turtle?

What is the estimated size of the hook (length in inches)?

Is monofilament fishing line attached to the hook? If so, about how long is the line?

If line is present on the turtle, is it entangled around the neck and/or flippers? Does it go into the mouth? Please briefly describe.

What is the water depth at this location (depth to the bottom)?

Where was the turtle seen in the water column? At the bottom, at the surface, at an in between depth?

What is the estimated size of the turtle (length of upper shell in inches)?

Does the turtle have free and full motion of its flippers? Does it swim and behave like a normal turtle?

If the turtle was approached by a diver, do you feel it would rapidly swim away?

Does the turtle have other injuries or abnormalities? If so, please describe.

Does the turtle have tumors? If so, please provide your estimate of the overall severity of tumor affliction (“light”, “medium”, or “heavily” afflicted).

Has the turtle been seen in this same area on previous occasions? If so, when and how often?

Do you believe that the turtle is in urgent need of veterinary attention? Is the turtle’s well-being and life in jeopardy?

In your best judgement, what actions do you think should be taken?

Have other hooked or entangled turtles been seen at this location or at other places known to you? Please describe.

Today’s date:

Your name:

Phone number: