



Love fishing? We do too!

#sharetheshore

Birds and other aquatic animals can be injured by accidental hooking and they may also become entangled in unattended lines, fishing gear or discarded tackle.

Tips for handling a hooked or line entangled bird:

Always assess the situation for your own safety. If in doubt, seek rescue advice from the contacts below.

Do not immediately cut the line (leaving the bird to trail long lengths of line may lead to further entanglement issues).

Try to lure the bird towards you or gently reel it in.

Put some safety or sunglasses on and keep birds well away from your face - seabirds have sharp beaks and may strike at your eyes.

If possible, ask someone to help you. Wear gloves if you have some handy. Throw a towel or jumper over the bird and gently restrain the head and bill and fold the wings in.

Phone for advice or take the bird to your nearest veterinarian or wildlife centre. If this is not possible, you can attempt to remove the hook or tangled line (if easy to do so and is not causing excessive distress to the bird).



For rescue advice or if you see injured wildlife contact:

Australian Seabird Rescue:

North coast: 0428862852

Central Coast: 0438862676

South Coast: 0431282238

ORCCA:

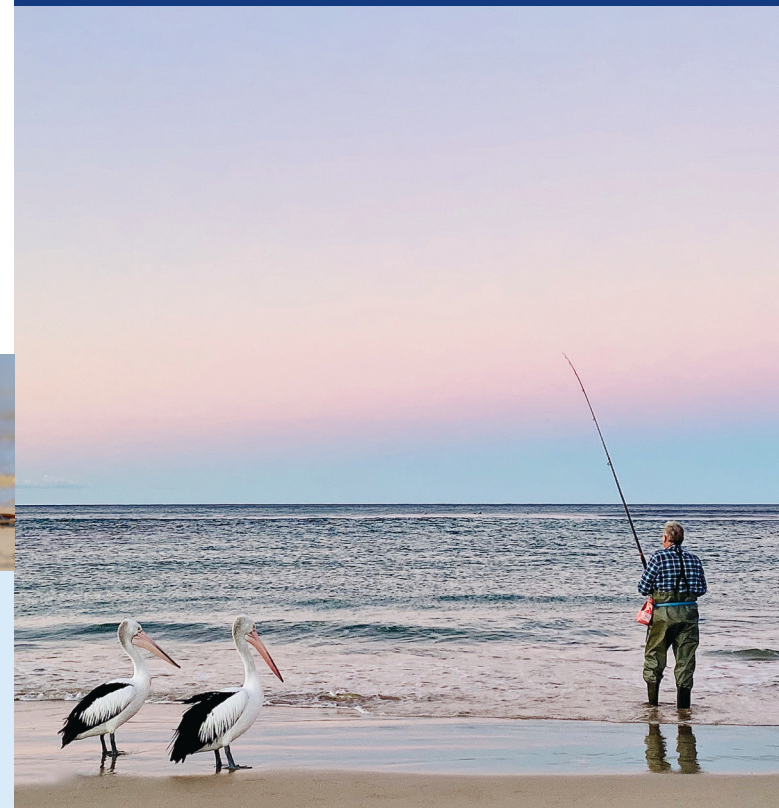
Injured or distressed marine mammals (whales, dolphins and seals): 02 9415 3333

More information:

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries

Department of Primary Industries
Department of Regional NSW

Responsible fishing to reduce wildlife injuries



www.dpi.nsw.gov.au



To reduce injuries and minimise interactions with birds:

Avoid fishing near bird feeding and nesting areas whenever possible.

Always attend your lines. Sinking your line and keeping your rod tip low reduces the chance of birds becoming entangled in your line. Weighting your line also helps get your bait quickly away from birds on the surface.



Be aware that birds are often attracted to berley. You can reduce interactions by not berleying when they are present. You can also use techniques such as introducing your berley upwind of your boat so that it disappears under the boat hull and has a chance to get out of range before being sighted. You can also use various other methods such as using “berley bombs” or “berley cages” to get your berley below the surface to reduce attention from birds.

Using lures rather than bait can be another successful strategy as these are often less attractive to the birds.

Making a quick feint or moving your rod in the wrong direction before you drop your line in can also help limit interactions with active birds.

If nothing else is working, sometimes the only thing left to do is stop fishing for a while, or move to a different area.

There are also a few simple steps you can take to help keep shore-nesting birds safe:

- Look out for bird nesting signs or roped-off nesting areas on the shore and follow the advice, especially when pumping for bait such as nippers or squirt worms.
- Drive only on designated beaches and keep below the high-tide mark.
- When you're near a nesting area, stick to the wet sand and give the birds plenty of space.

To reduce injuries and minimise interactions with turtles when crabbing:

Choose lift nets and round crab traps that have the lowest risk of wildlife bycatch.

If you use witches hats or rectangular traps, modify them to reduce the bycatch risk.

Witches hats can be modified to act like a lift net by removing the float from the mesh and reattaching the float lines with several lengths of lines directly to the ring. This reduces the bycatch risk represented by the suspended entanglement mesh.

The entrances of rectangular crab traps can be reduced in size to prevent turtles from entering. Use twine at the mid-point of the outer entrance and a cable tie at the mid-point of the inner entrance to reduce the size of the openings.



For more information, scan the QR code.

Minimise litter and gear debris

Don't carry packaging around with you (unwrap new fishing tackle before you go to reduce the chance of the packaging ending up in the environment).

Familiarise yourself with fishing techniques that minimise gear loss (eg. tie knots correctly and suspend your bait using a float if necessary to avoid the risk of snagging).



Leave no trace – ensure all litter and fish waste at your fishing spot is taken and disposed of appropriately after every fishing trip – even if it's not yours (if a public bin is overflowing, find another bin or take your rubbish home with you).

If you are disposing of fishing line at home, it is best to cut the line up into small pieces before putting it in the bin – this reduces the risk of it causing additional problems for birds at landfill sites.

Go the extra mile and check out ways in which you can help further - participate in any locally run 'Clean Up' events with organisations such as Clean Up Australia, OzFish, Tangaroa Blue and Take 3.

