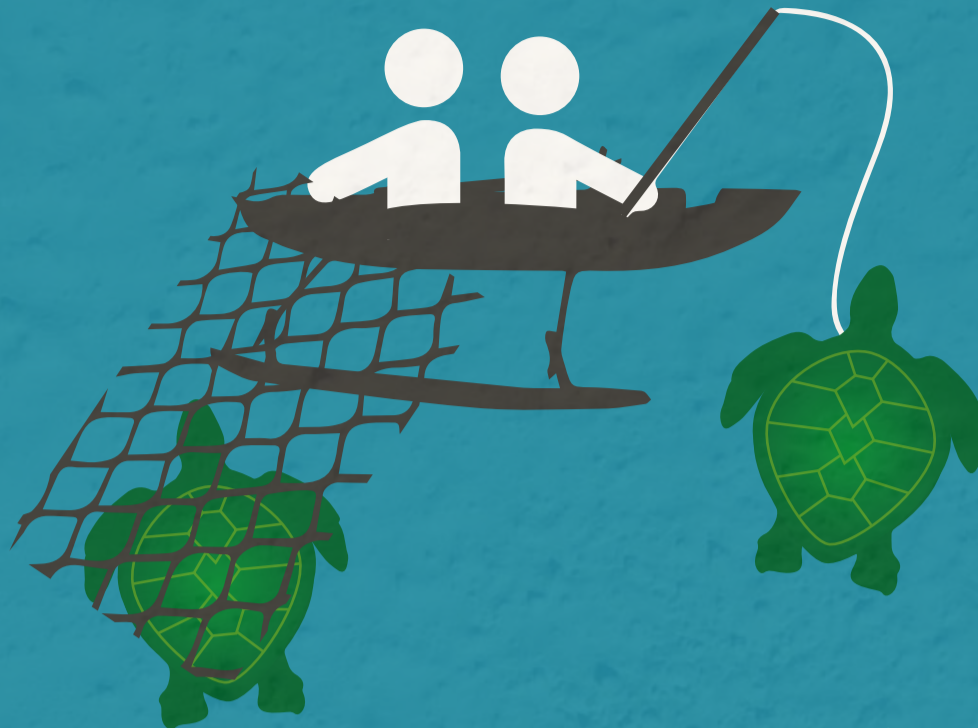


# Response to Marine Turtle Incidents

## CAUGHT IN FISHING GEAR

- Coordinate the release effort with the owner of the fishing gear involved.
- Approach the animal cautiously, making sure no additional injury nor stress is given.
- Make sure the animal can breathe on the surface.
- Bring the animal out of the water if necessary.
- Study how to untangle the animal from the net or enclosure before executing the release.
- It may be necessary to cut the net to release the animal.
- Tag and collect data before release.



## CAUGHT WITH A HOOK

- Check how the hook and line snagged the turtle.
- Bring the animal out of the water, but never pull out with the hook and line.
- Remove the hook by cutting off its barb, then pull out the shank.
- If hook has been swallowed, further clinical examination should be performed by trained personnel.
- Tag and collect data before release.

## REMINDERS

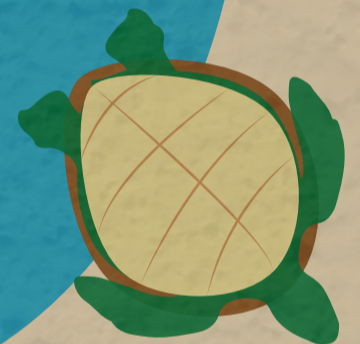
- Report any incident to the nearest DENR office before taking action.
- Collect as much information as possible from the marine turtle.
- Use standard data sheets.
- Submit an incident report to the DENR-BMB
- **DO NOT MEDICATE THE ANIMAL**
- **DO CONTROL THE CROWD**
- **ALL MARINE TURTLES ARE PROTECTED IN THE PHILIPPINES**
- **CAUTION: SOME DISEASES ARE TRANSMISSIBLE TO HUMANS**

## HATCHLINGS

- Allow newly emerged hatchlings to crawl on the beach unaided. Avoid handling them.
- If from a managed nest, hatchlings must be collected and released within an hour of emergence.
- Do not rear hatchlings in captivity for any period of time.
- Do not place hatchlings in a container with water prior to release.
- Release hatchlings at least 10m away from the waterline.

## STRANDED DEAD ANIMAL

- Retrieve the animal and bring to a secure place.
- Perform necropsy to determine the cause of death.
- Collect tissues and other samples for analysis.
- Bury the animal or dispose at sea.



## NESTING TURTLE

- Nesters need not be rescued but tagging and data collection is a must.
- Maintain a safe distance from the nester.
- Avoid any disturbances such as light, noise, and vibrations.
- Wait for the turtle to finish laying eggs before approaching it.
- Tag the turtle only if there are no tags attached or if only 1 tag is found.
- Measure the curved carapace length (CCL) and curved carapace width (CCW).
- Allow the turtle to crawl back to the water on its own without delay.

## NATURAL NEST

- Do not move a natural nest if its location is secure.
- Fence-off the nest with a plastic enclosure for easy monitoring.
- Monitor for 75 days for hatchling emergence.
- Release the hatchlings within an hour of emergence.
- Assess the nest through excavation after all hatchlings have emerged (2-5 days).



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## HATCHERY

- Move the nest only if the area is not secure: presence of poachers and predators or if the area will be affected by sand erosion or high tide.
- Move eggs to the hatchery within two hours of laying.
- Follow hatchery specifications: size of enclosure, depth of egg pit, type of materials, distance between the nests.
- Monitor for 75 days for hatchling emergence.
- Release the hatchlings within an hour of emergence.
- Assess the nest through excavation after all hatchlings have emerged (2-5 days).

