

## Guidelines for seabirds

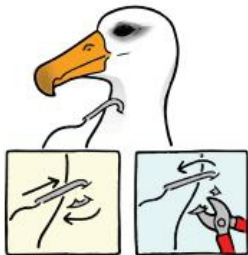
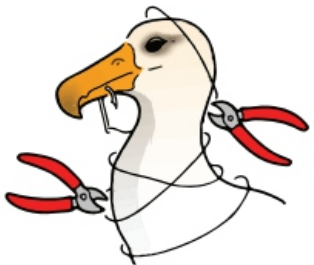
If a seabird is caught on a longline, stop the vessel and lift the seabird onboard using a dip net



Do not hold the seabird by its neck or wings. Hold the seabird by its bill, without covering the nostrils



Remove any entangled line using a line cutter. If hooked, cut and remove the hook using a bolt cutter



If the hook has been ingested, cut the line as close to the seabird's beak as possible, leaving the hook in the seabird's throat.



Keep the seabird in a safe and enclosed place after untangling / de-hooking. Seabirds can be released after the feathers are dry; once the bird is alert with its head erect; after the bird's breathing is normal; once the bird can flap its wings and or when the bird can stand on both feet.



### References

Byard, R.W., Machado, A., Walker, M. and Woolford, L. 2020. Lethal fishing hook penetration and line entanglement in an adult bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops aduncus*). *Forensic Science, Medicine and Pathology* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12024-020-00228-1>

Capricorn Marine environmental (Pty) LTD (CapMarine,). 2021. *Best Practice Handling of SSI*

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S Department of Commerce. 2017. *Seabird Handling Guidelines Hawaii Pelagic Longline Fisheries*

Hamer, D. and Minton, G. 2020. *Guidelines for the safe and humane handling and release of bycaught small cetaceans from fishing gear*. UNEP/CMS Secretariat. Bonn, Germany 50 pages. CMS Technical Series No. 43

FAO and ACCOBAMS. 2018. *Good practice guide for the handling of cetaceans caught incidentally in Mediterranean fisheries*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

## International best practices for safe handling and live release of marine mammals and seabirds



Marine mammals and seabirds are protected under the Fauna and Flora Protection (Amendment), No.22 of 2009 and the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No 2 of 1996. Marine mammals are protected under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Agreement.

These guidelines have been prepared for Sri Lankan fishermen by the Fishing Operations Division of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to promote international best practices for the safe handling and live release of marine mammals and seabirds and in accordance with Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Resolution 13/04, on the conservation of cetaceans and IOTC Resolution 12/06, on the reduction of the incidental bycatch of seabirds.

**The species and condition upon release of every marine mammal and seabird incidentally caught, must be recorded in the catch datasheet.**



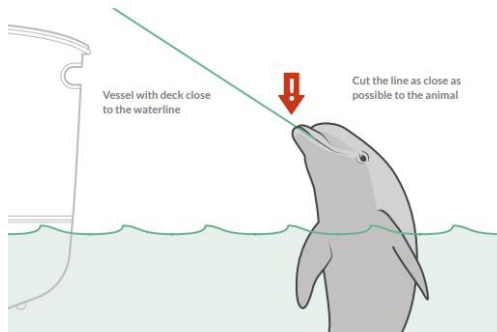
For further information or details please contact  
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# Marine Mammals

## Guidelines for longline fishing

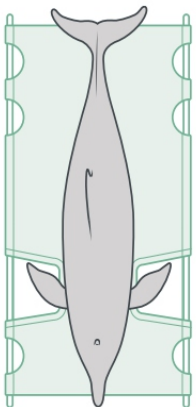
### If the marine mammal cannot be safely lifted onboard

Cut the line as close as possible to the animal, then untangle the line using long handled line cutter



### If the marine mammal can be safely lifted onboard

Lift the animal onboard using an animal stretcher



Once safely onboard, untangle the animal using a line cutter. If the point of insertion of the hook is clearly visible, cut the hook using a bolt cutter



### Safe handling and release of marine mammals

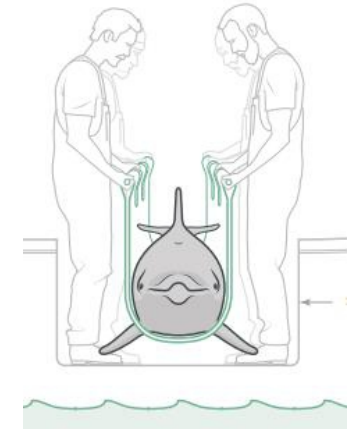
Always keep marine mammals wet by covering with a cloth and watering, when onboard.



But be careful not to cover the blowhole



Release the untangled / de-hooked animal back to the water using an animal stretcher.



## Guidelines for gillnet fishing

Lift the marine mammal just above the waterline with the net using two ropes: one in front and one behind the animal. Once the marine mammal is secure, cut the net gently using a long handled net cutter

