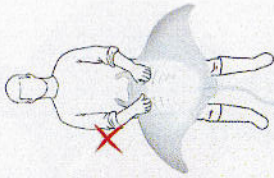
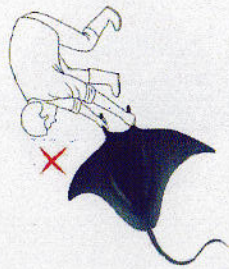


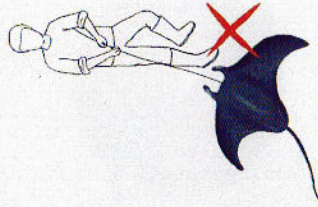
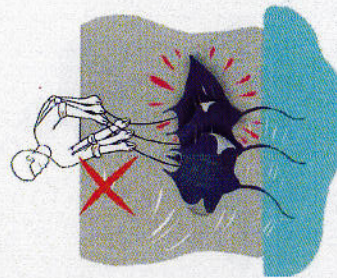
## Safe handling of rays onboard

Do not drag or lift a ray by the cephalic lobes or gill slits or spiracles



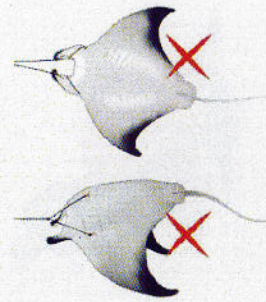
Source: IOTC, 2020

Do not hit rays on side of the vessel to remove them from line. Do not try to remove deeply hooked hooks by pulling the line or using a de-hooker



Source: IOTC, 2020

Do not puncture rays with wires or expose to sun



Source: IOTC, 2020

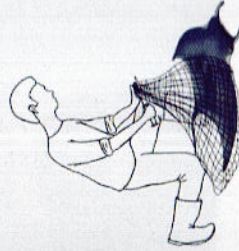
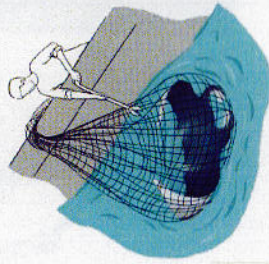
## Guidelines for gillnet fishing

If the shark is more than 2 m and entangled with the net, then loosen the net or cut the net carefully to allow the shark to swim away. If the shark is less than 2 m, carefully lift it onboard and disentangle the shark.



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If a ray is partially entangled then loosen the net or cut the net carefully to allow the ray to swim away. If the ray is fully entangled then lift the ray onboard slowly and cut the net away.



Source: IOTC, 2020

## References

- Capricorn Marine Environmental Pvt Ltd XXXX. Best Practice Handling of SSI
- FAO and ACCOBAMS, 2018. *Good practice guide for the handling of sharks and rays caught incidentally in Mediterranean pelagic longline fisheries*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2020. Handling and release guidelines for manta and devil rays (mobulids). Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and European Union
- National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Fisheries Science Center. 2008. Revised 2010. Careful release protocols for sea turtle release with minimal injury. NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-SEFSC-580, 130 pp.
- Razzaque SA (2020) Safe Handling & release for Gillnet Fisheries for Whale Shark, Manta & Devil Rays and Sea turtles. In: IOTC - 16th Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch. IOTC-2020-WPEB16-26\_Rev1. Online

## International best practices for the safe handling and live release of sharks and mobulid rays



Oceanic white-tip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*), common thresher sharks (*Alopias vulpinus*), bigeye thresher sharks (*Alopias superciliosus*) and pelagic thresher sharks (*Alopias pelagicus*) are protected under the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No 2 of 1996 (FARA), Shark Fisheries Management Regulation, 2015.

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 protected species of sharks and mobulid rays, in accordance with Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Resolution 19/03, on the conservation of mobulid rays caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence.

**The species and condition upon release of every protected shark and mobulid ray incidentally caught must be recorded in the Vessel Logbook**



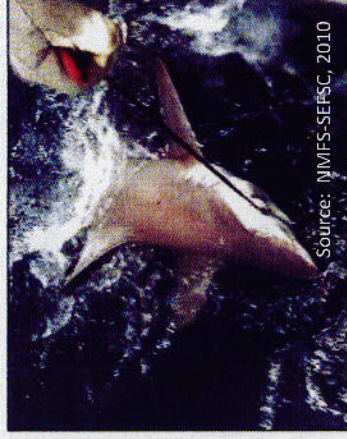
For further information or details please contact Director General, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (dg@fisheriesdept.gov.lk)



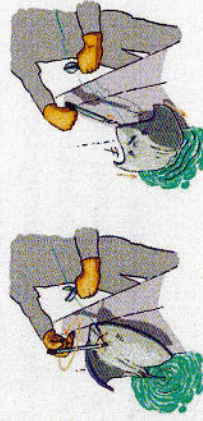
## Guidelines for longline fishing

### ***If the shark/ray is too big to lift onboard***

Remove the hook by using a long handled 'pig tail' de-hooker and remove any tangled line

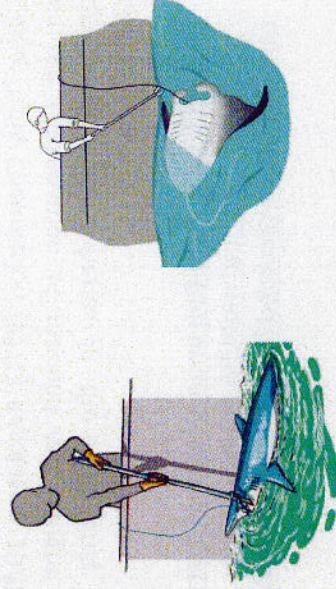


Source: NIMES-SEP5C, 2010



Source: FAO and ACCOBAMS, 2018

**If it is not possible to de-hook the shark or ray, cut the line as close to the shark or ray as possible using a long handled line cutter**

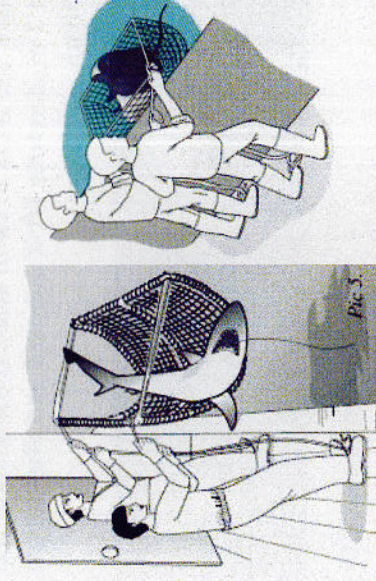


Source: FAO and ACCOBAMS, 2018

Source: IOTC, 2020

## Onboard handling of sharks and rays

Lift small sharks and rays onboard using an animal stretcher



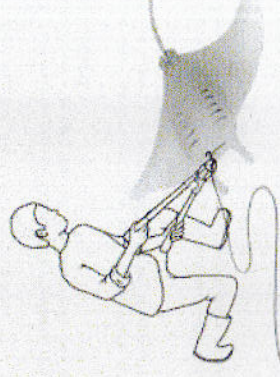
Source: IOTC, 2020

**Cut the barb of the hook using a bolt cutter**



Source: CapMarine, XXX.

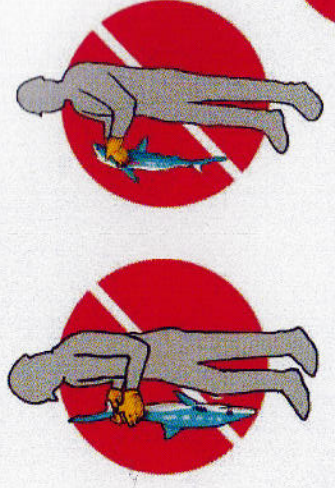
Source: FAO and ACCOBAMS, 2018



Source: IOTC, 2020

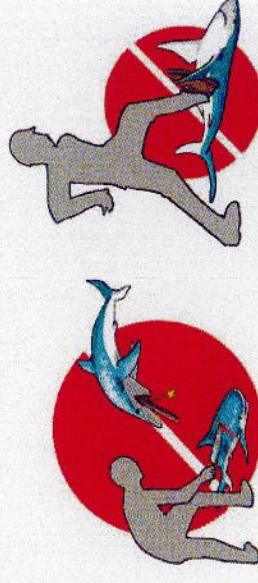
## Safe handling of sharks onboard

Do not lift a shark by the tail, the head or gill slits



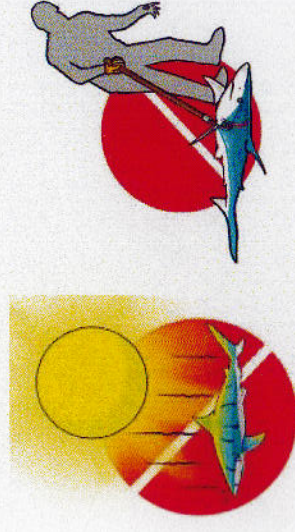
Source: FAO and ACCOBAMS, 2018

**Do not do any harm to a shark that might damage the internal organs of the shark**



Source: FAO and ACCOBAMS, 2018

**Do not expose sharks or rays to the sun. Do not carry sharks or rays by inserting sharp hooks into the body**



Source: FAO and ACCOBAMS, 2018