



## Fishing Among Turtles - ITS OK to HELP!

An accidental turtle interaction can occur when fishing. Fishermen are encouraged to help reduce further injury by following these best-practice guidelines:

### SAFETY FIRST

If safe to help...

1. **Reel-in** turtle
2. **Hold** by shell/flippers
3. **Cut** line close to hook
4. **ID-green** or hawksbill?
5. **Release** with no line attached

### REMEMBER TO:

- ✓ Check bait after every nibble
- ✓ Use barbless circle hooks to reduce injuries
- ✓ Clean your catch away from turtles

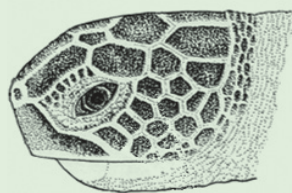


## Green or Hawksbill?

Both species occur in Hawaiian waters, yet hawksbill turtles are rare and poisonous if consumed. Learn to identify the difference and report any hawksbill sightings to [www.HIhawksbills.org](http://www.HIhawksbills.org).

### Green / Honu

*Chelonia mydas*



Rounded head



2 pre-frontal scales (between eyes)

### Hawksbill

*Eretmochelys imbricata*

*Eretmochelys imbricata*



Narrow head and pointed beak



4 pre-frontal scales (between eyes)

**Please Note:** Hawksbills eat sponges which can make their meat toxic and lethal to humans.

For injured or dead turtles call NOAA: 808-725-5730