

HOW TO SAVE AN ENTANGLED TURTLE Part 1



If you see a turtle on the surface, it may be basking. Approach it carefully to see if it is entangled in plastic or fishing gear. Sometimes basking turtles have buoyancy which is often the case, if it is not entangled leave it alone. On flat calm days, turtles in the open ocean come to the surface to bask. Keep a sharp look out to avoid colliding with them as they may not hear you.



★ If you see that a turtle is injured or entangled, the best way to hoist it onboard is using a utensil like a dip net, box, bag, tarp, old sail or large net.



★ **Do NOT** pull it by the flippers or from the entangled fishing line coming out of the animal. You may make things worse.



★ If you need to use your hands, place one hand over the shell behind the head/shoulder region and the other hand on the bottom of the shell at the back. Adult turtles will probably need two people to lift it. **BE VERY careful to avoid getting bitten. Turtles beaks are sharp!**



★ **Call 112** or the coast guard station or SASEMAR (not a MayDay or Pan Pan, just a normal VHF call) and they will contact the local Sea Turtle Recovery Centre.



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★ **Do not try and remove a fishing hook or any other foreign element.**

★ If the turtle is entangled tightly (like a tourniquet) **Do not cut the lines loose** as this could generate blood poisoning from the necrotic parts and can cause its death (only cut the tourniquet if it is around the turtle's head and choking the turtle).

★ Try to find a good place to keep the turtle out of the sun. To prevent dehydration cover its shell with a wet towel. You can also cover its eyes with the towel (but NOT its nostrils) to reduce stress. A soft surface like a tyre or a coiled up mooring line can work to steady it.

★ **Do not put the turtle on its back or tip it upside down** as this will cause death. If you need to fill it

★ Avoid talking or loud sounds close to the animal.

★ Record the **GPS position** of where you found the turtle. Take photos wherever you can. Add your data to the **Global Ghost Gear Initiative App** or send it to ghostfads@savethemed.org



**GHOST GEAR
REPORTER APP**

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WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND **DRIFTING** GHOST GEAR



If you find ghost fishing gear at sea, please retrieve it, as it is a certain death trap for turtles.

Your Safety is yOUR priority!

If attempting to release animals from nets ensure you know what the animal is first, many marine animals are either sharp or poisonous or or both. Entrapped animals may also be very aggressive. See our HOW TO SAVE AN ENTANGLED TURTLE document.

Global Ghost Gear Initiative has a data collection APP, **GHOST GEAR REPORTER**, that allows you to contribute your data in an easy and collaborative way.

Any good quality photograph of marine turtles, cetaceans, sharks, seabirds can be of interest for conservation science. Please send us the photograph together with a time, date and GPS position at ghostfads@savethemed.org

If this is a situation that you cannot handle yourself, such as a large driftnet, log or anchored gear, place a **SECURITÉ** call on VHF Radio to



**Record your GPS coordinates
time and date**

Take photos



**Check for
entangled wildlife**

**Call 112 if you see
entangled wildlife**



**If you can proceed
safely, remove the gear
following our
safety protocols**



**Input the information on
the Global Ghost
Gear Initiative
mobile app**



WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND **ANCHORED** GHOST GEAR



Your Safety is yOUR priority!

Removal of ghost fishing equipment that is either anchored or stuck to the bottom can be extremely dangerous for untrained or inexperienced divers, both recreational and professional.

If attempting to release animals from nets ensure you know what the animal is first, many marine animals are either sharp or poisonous or both. Entrapped animals may also be very aggressive. See our **HOW TO SAVE AN ENTANGLED TURTLE** document for what to do if you find a turtle.

Global Ghost Gear Initiative has a data collection APP, **GHOST GEAR REPORTER**, that allows you to contribute your data in an easy and collaborative way.

Steps for recreational divers who come across anchored ghost fishing equipment:

- ✦ Take photos and videos
- ✦ Take GPS coordinates
- ✦ Estimate size
- ✦ Record depth
- ✦ Record species entangled - Dead or Alive
- ✦ Send all information to **ghostfads@savethemed.org**
- ✦ Inform your local Government
- ✦ Contact your local commercial diving company to arrange removal of ghost nets



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