

Charter Boat and Head Boat Angler Interactions with Sea Turtles



Collection of these data is necessary to fulfill statutory requirements of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et. seq.*). Data will be used to inform NMFS protected species managers and will be used in agency documents, such as ESA Section 7 Biological Opinions and other regulatory documents.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to Jennifer Lee, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, St. Petersburg, FL.

This is a voluntary survey, and responses are kept confidential as required NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Confidentiality of Fisheries Statistics, and will not be released for public use except in aggregate statistical form without identification as to its source. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I haven't had any interactions with sea turtles during my fishing trips. Should I still respond to the survey?

A: Yes. It is important that everyone who receives this questionnaire complete it and return it. For this survey to be scientific, we need basic information from all individuals selected for the survey whether they have ever had any interactions with sea turtles or not.

Q: Who is sponsoring the survey, and how will the information be used?

A: This study is being sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA's mission is to conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our Nation's needs. The data will be used to better understand anglers' interactions with sea turtles to improve our ability to provide protection to sea turtles.

Q: How much time will this survey take?

A: On average, it should take less than 10 minutes to complete, including reviewing instructions and answering the questions.

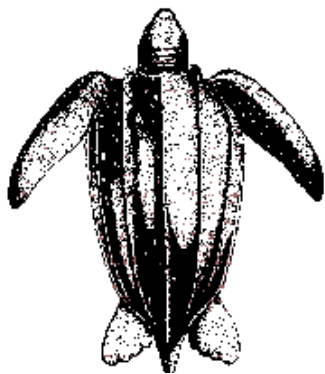
Q: I have other questions. Who can I talk to?

A: Questions about completing this questionnaire can be directed to Jennifer Lee at **1-800-XXXX** or by emailing Jennifer.Lee@noaa.gov.

Sea Turtle Identification Guide

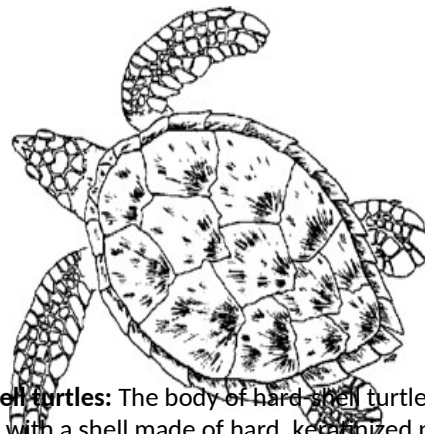
The survey questions ask you to differentiate between leatherback and hard-shelled sea turtles. Please use the diagrams and descriptive text below to help you answer those specific questions. If you didn't see the sea turtle clearly or you are not sure what type of sea turtle you saw, please reply "Not Sure," as specified for the question.

Leatherback



Leatherback turtles: Leatherback turtles are differentiated from other sea turtles by the lack of hard bony shell. Instead, their back is covered by black leathery skin with a series of 7 ridges that run

Hard-shell



Hard-shell turtles: The body of hard shell turtles is covered with a shell made of hard, keratinized plates called "scutes." The shell of a hard-shelled turtle may be covered in algae or barnacles, and may be

from head to tail. These are the largest of all sea turtles and their shells may be up to 5 or 6 feet long.

orange/red, brown, gray, or black. These sea turtles may have shells up to 2 or 3 feet long.



Survey Questions

This survey should be completed only by the person it is addressed to.

Please use a blue or black pen.

Please answer each question as completely as you can. If you are unsure of an answer please check "not sure."

Please see the turtle identification guide on the previous page for more information on sea turtle species.

Part I

Please answer questions 1-4g below about any charter or head boat fishing trips you have taken during the 2 month period between May and June 2013.

1. How many charter boat or head boat trips did you take in May and June 2013 including the trip when you were originally surveyed?

2.

2. Did you **hook** and/or **entangle** a sea turtle in your fishing gear on any trips in May or June 2013?

Yes → **Continue to Q3**

No → **Skip to Part II, Q5**

Hook: When the point of the fishing hook penetrates the body or mouth of the sea turtle, or when the hook is swallowed.

Entangle: When the fishing line becomes wrapped around the flippers, head or body of the sea turtle.

3. How many sea turtles did you hook or entangle?

1.

4. For each sea turtle **interaction**, please respond to the questions **4a -4g** in the table provided on the next page by selecting the correct answer. One column should be completed for each individual sea turtle. For example, if three sea turtle interactions occurred, three columns should be completed. If you have had more than 4 sea turtle interactions, please contact Jennifer Lee at **1-800 - XXXX** or by emailing Jennifer.Lee@noaa.gov and you will be provided with an additional table to fill out.

Interaction: when you hook and/or entangle a sea turtle with your fishing gear

Questions	Turtle #1	Turtle #2	Turtle #3	Turtle #4
4a. Was the sea turtle a leatherback or hard-shelled sea turtle?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/> Hard-shelled <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/> Hard-shelled <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/> Hard-shelled <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/> Hard-shelled <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
4b. Was the sea turtle hooked, entangled in line, or both hooked <u>and</u> entangled?	<input type="checkbox"/> Hooked <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Entangled <input type="checkbox"/> Hooked <input type="checkbox"/> <u>and</u> Entangled <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure	<input type="checkbox"/> Hooked <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Entangled <input type="checkbox"/> Hooked <input type="checkbox"/> <u>and</u> Entangled <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure	<input type="checkbox"/> Hooked <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Entangled <input type="checkbox"/> Hooked <input type="checkbox"/> <u>and</u> Entangled <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure	<input type="checkbox"/> Hooked <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Entangled <input type="checkbox"/> Hooked <input type="checkbox"/> <u>and</u> Entangled <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
4c. If hooked, or both hooked and entangled, where on the sea turtle was it hooked? <i>See below for definitions of the bolded words.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/> Inside <input type="checkbox"/> Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Swallowed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Not <input type="checkbox"/> Hooked	<input type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/> Inside <input type="checkbox"/> Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Swallowed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Not <input type="checkbox"/> Hooked	<input type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/> Inside <input type="checkbox"/> Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Swallowed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Not <input type="checkbox"/> Hooked	<input type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/> Inside <input type="checkbox"/> Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Swallowed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Not <input type="checkbox"/> Hooked
4d. If hooked, or hooked and entangled, was the hook removed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Not <input type="checkbox"/> Hooked	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Not <input type="checkbox"/> Hooked	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Not <input type="checkbox"/> Hooked	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Not <input type="checkbox"/> Hooked
4e. Was all the line removed from the sea turtle?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>If No: amount of line remainig (feet)_____</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>If No: amount of line remainig (feet)_____</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>If No: amount of line remainig (feet)_____</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>If No: amount of line remainig (feet)_____</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
4f. Was the sea turtle released alive or dead?	<input type="checkbox"/> Alive <input type="checkbox"/> Dead <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure	<input type="checkbox"/> Alive <input type="checkbox"/> Dead <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure	<input type="checkbox"/> Alive <input type="checkbox"/> Dead <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure	<input type="checkbox"/> Alive <input type="checkbox"/> Dead <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure



Questions

Turtle #1

Turtle #2

Turtle #3

Turtle #4

4g. Is there any additional information you would like to share about your interaction with the sea turtle(s)? If referencing a specific event, please indicate which # sea turtle you are referring to. For example, did you attempt to de-hook or disentangle the sea turtle, but were not able to?

External:

Hooked anywhere on the body, flippers, or head.

Inside Mouth:

Ingested with the hook still visible.

Swallowed:

Ingested deeply so that the hook is no longer visible in the mouth.

Part II

Questions 5-10 below ask for your experiences during any charter and head boat recreational fishing trips you have taken in the past **12 months**. Do not include any fishing trips discussed in questions 1-4g. Please answer only on your charter boat and head boat fishing experiences, not on other recreational fishing experiences (i.e. Not pier or private boat fishing).

5. Not including the fishing trip discussed in questions 1-4g, how many recreational charter or head boat fishing trips have you taken in the past **12 months**?

1.	
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6. Did you hook or entangle a sea turtle on any charter boat or head boat fishing trips in the past 12 months? Do not include any sea turtles reported in questions 1-4g.

7. Yes → **Continue to Q7**

No → **Skip to Q11**

7. How many sea turtles did you hook or entangle in the past **12 months**? Please indicate the specific number of each type of turtle in the boxes below. Do not include any sea turtles reported in in questions 1-4g. Please refer to the Sea Turtle Information Guide on page 2 to help identify the type of turtle you saw. Of the sea turtle interactions you reported above, how many were (if none write "0"):

Leatherback turtles

Hard-shelled turtles

Unknown (Not sure about type)

8. Do you recall what month(s) the interaction(s) occurred?

9. Please provide any details you can recall on each event (e.g., Where did the interaction occur? Was the sea turtle alive or dead? Was the sea turtle released free of gear?)



Part III

Questions 10-12 below ask about any recreational fishing experiences you have had **in your lifetime**, that are not already described in questions 1-9 (i.e., during any trips taken in your lifetime before July 2012)

10. Thinking about your history of recreational fishing, have you ever hooked or entangled a sea turtle?

1. Yes

No

11. What type of recreational fishing were you participating in when you interacted with the sea turtle(s)? Check all options that apply below.

1. Charter boat

1. Head boat

1. Pier

1. Private boat

1. Shore

2. Other, please specify: _____

Not Sure

12. Please provide any details you can recall on each event (e.g. Where and when did the interaction occur? Was the sea turtle alive or dead? Was the sea turtle released free of gear?)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE.

Please return this form in the postage paid envelope provided or mail to: [insert name and address]