

Sea Turtle Hook & Line Incidental Capture Intake Form Instructions

Introduction: All sea turtles in United States waters are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). When sea turtle distribution overlaps with commercial and recreational fishing effort, sea turtles may be accidentally captured in the fishing gear. For commercial fisheries, observers are often placed on vessels to better understand these interactions. These observations provide insight into how and why these interactions occur and the impact of the interactions on sea turtle populations. In contrast, recreational fishing often occurs from shore, piers, and private vessels making traditional observer coverage challenging. Therefore, alternative data collection methods must be considered. NOAA Fisheries will use this information to gain similar insights into recreational fishing interactions and impacts. Pier is used as a general term, and the form can be used for recreational fishing interactions on any fishing structure (e.g., jetty, pier, boat, shore).

Angler Interview: Questions 1 – 3 should be asked of the angler by the sea turtle stranding responder. If the angler is not available, please answer as many questions as possible.

- 1) **Where was angler fishing?** Circle location from choices given. Beach includes beaches, bulkheads and anything that is parallel to the shoreline and does NOT extend out over the water. Pier includes any structures that extend over the water such as piers, docks, etc.
- 2) **What was angler fishing for?** Select up to two target species. If angler names >2 species, choose: *Anything*. Species are region specific.
- 3) **Bait used:** Circle bait type used. If using whole or cut fish circle appropriate choice, record species if possible.

Gear Information: Questions 4 – 8 may be asked of the angler by the sea turtle stranding responder or recorded at the rehabilitation facility. If possible, try and collect the fishing gear. If the angler will not provide the gear, record the information on site. If the angler is not available, please answer as many questions as possible. Please use calipers to measure the hook.

- 4) **Hook type used:** Identify type of hook used based on examples and descriptions below.



Circle hook



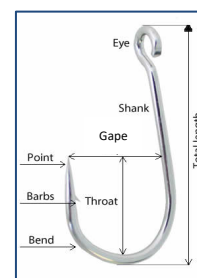
Treble hook



J-hook

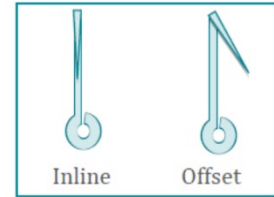


Kahle hook



- **Circle hook:** only hook with the tip curved back towards the shank at a 90° angle.
- **Treble hook:** consists of three hooks with a single eye, often used with artificial lures.
- **J-hook:** the shank is straight and resembles the letter “J” and the point and barb do not point toward the shank.
- **Kahle hook:** curved back in an oval shape with the hook point pointed toward the hook eye; distance between the point and the shank is much greater than on a circle hook.

- 5) **Record if the hook is Inline, Offset, Undetermined or Not Applicable (NA).** On an offset hook, the tip of the hook is not in line with the eye. The degree of offset can vary.
- 6) **Is the hook barbless?** Circle no or yes.
- 7) **What is the hook Total Length (mm):** measure the total length from the top of the eye to the bottom of the hook, as shown on page 1.
A metric vernier caliper is recommended for recording hook measurements.
- 8) **What is the Gape (mm)?** Measure the Gape from the tip of the point to the inside of the shank, as shown on page 1.



Interaction Information: Questions 9 – 14 may be recorded by the sea turtle stranding responder and/or the rehabilitation facility staff depending on the type of hooking and gear location. If possible, please take photos of the gear interaction before removing the gear.

- 9) **Interaction type:** select the appropriate type of interaction between the sea turtle and the fishing gear.
- 10) **Hook/Gear Location:** select the answer that describes the location of the gear. If the hook is NOT visible inside the mouth it is considered swallowed.
- 11) **If turtle was released by the angler, was the hook and all line removed?** Select answer.
- 12) **If no, amount of line remaining on turtle (inches) _____.** Ask angler to estimate how much line was still attached to the hook when the line was cut.
- 13) **Hook Removal:** select the answer(s) that describe how the hook was removed. If an instrument was used, write what type in the blank. If an angler used an instrument select BOTH A) and I). If the hook was not removed, was it monitored for passage or was the animal released with the hook still in place?
- 14) **Were any other hooks observed (either on radiograph or visually)?** If additional hooks are observed, please answer the questions describing hook type, size and location for each additional hook in the animal.

Additional Comments: Please include any additional comments regarding the interaction that were not already recorded.

Questions 15 – 26 are only answered if additional hooks are observed.

***If possible, please take photos of the gear interaction before removing the gear. Please collect the fishing gear and contact your State Coordinator for instructions on disposition of gear. Submit this form along with your STSSN form to your State Coordinator.**