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.Hlhawksbills.org](http://www.Hlhawksbills.org).

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**Green / Honu**
*Chelonia mydas*

- Rounded head
- **2 pre-frontal scales** (between eyes)

**Hawksbill**
*Ea / Honu‘ea*
*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