

2nd Meeting of the Scientific Committee

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

1-7 October 2014

SC-02-INF-06

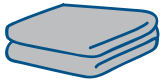
Hook Removal from Seabirds

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels.

HOOK REMOVAL FROM SEABIRDS

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Release Kit



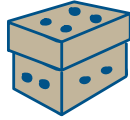
Towel /
Blanket



Knife



Net



Box / Bin



Pliers /
Bolt cutters

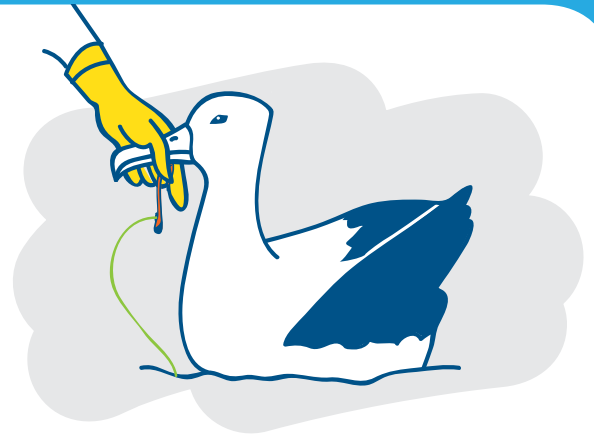


Gloves



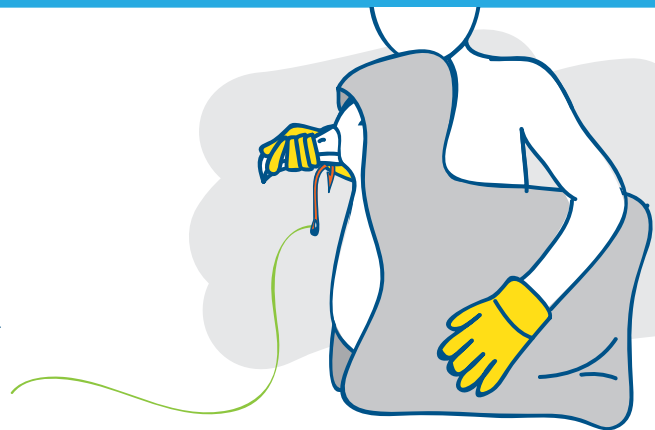
1 Bring bird aboard

If possible, slow or stop hauling and slow or stop vessel to release line tension. If practical, use a landing net to lift the bird on board, otherwise retrieve the bird on the line as safely and quickly as possible.



2 Restrain bird

Carefully fold the wings into the bird's body. Wrap the bird in a towel/blanket (not too tightly) and cover the eyes if possible. Make sure the bird doesn't come into contact with oil on deck.

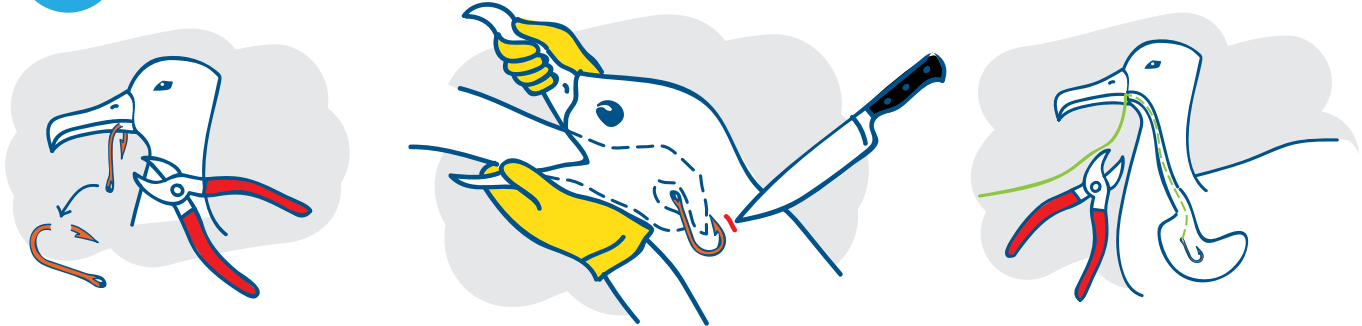


3 Hold the bird securely

Restrain the bird securely between your legs without squeezing. Hold the beak gently shut but do not cover the nostrils. If the bird vomits, loosen hold on bill so the bird does not suffocate.



4 Removing the hook



a. If the hook is visible

Use pliers (or bolt cutters for large hooks) to cut off the hook (or to flatten the barb). Pull the hook back out of the bird.

b. If the hook is swallowed and removal is possible

A second person can find the hook position externally by feeling along the neck or internally by following the line to the hook. Gently force the tip of the hook so that it bulges under the skin of the bird (for **large birds**, this may be easier if you reach down the bird's throat and hold the hook). Then, use a clean knife to make a small cut (<1cm) externally down the neck to allow the hook to pass through the skin and be removed. If no knife is available, and you can get a good grip on the hook, push the tip of the hook through the skin and remove.

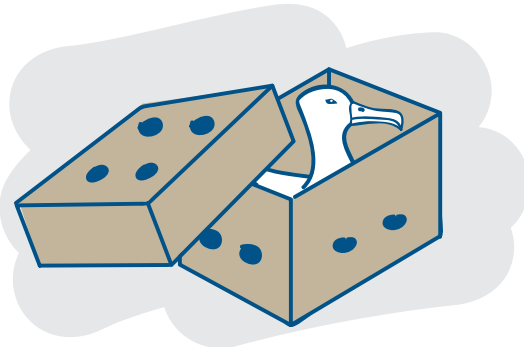
Never try to extract the hook backwards.

c. If hook removal is not possible

Either because removing the hook will cause further damage to the bird or the hook is too deeply ingested, cut the line as close to entry as possible and leave the hook in the bird.

5 If the bird is exhausted or waterlogged

If possible, place in a ventilated box or bin in a quiet, dry, shaded place to recover for an hour or two. Otherwise, contain bird in a quiet dry area, away from oil. The bird is ready for release when the feathers are dry, bird is alert and able to stand.



6 Release the bird

Small vessels: Slowly lower the bird onto the water. The bird may remain on the water for some time after release.



Large vessels (where birds cannot be lowered onto water): Lift and release the bird from the side of the vessel into the wind.

