









# Seabird Handling Guidelines Hawaii Pelagic Longline Fisheries

**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

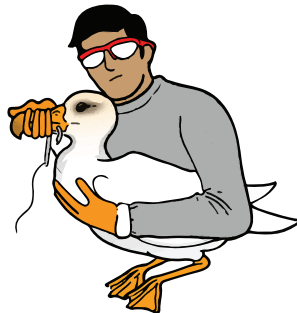
- YOU WILL NEED** →  towel  bolt/wire cutter or pliers  dip net  gloves  safety glasses  safe enclosure for bird

1.



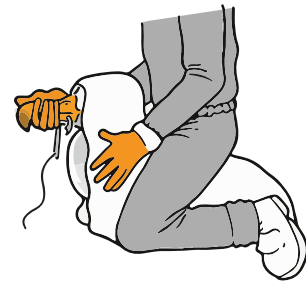
- Stop vessel to reduce tension on line.
- Wear gloves, safety glasses, and arm covers for protection.
- Use dip net to bring bird onto vessel.

2.



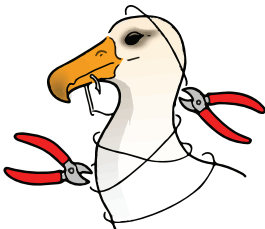
- Hold bird by bill without covering nostrils.
- Fold wings into bird's body.

3.



- Cover bird with towel to protect and calm it.
- Straddle bird if necessary.

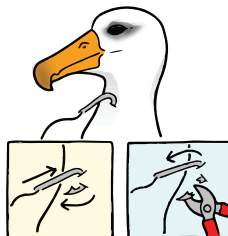
4.



**Remove any entangled lines.**

*NOTE: If the bird is an albatross with a bright pink bill, it may be a short-tailed albatross (STAL). See reverse side for the rest of the STAL handling requirements as per (50 CFR 665.815[b]).*

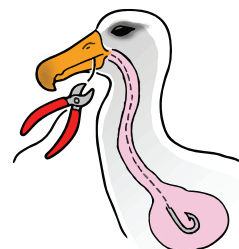
5.



**If you can handle hook but cannot see barb:**

- Push hook through skin to expose barb.
- Use pliers to flatten barb or bolt cutters to cut off barb.
- Back hook out.

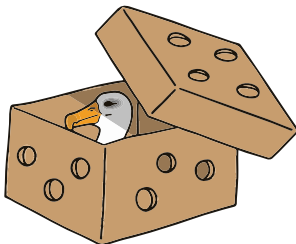
6.



**If you cannot handle hook (it's deeply ingested):**

- Cut as much line off as possible and leave hook in bird.

7.



- Leave bird to recover in safe enclosed space.
- Do not provide food or water to bird.

8.



**Bird can be released to sea surface when:**

- Feathers are dry. (approximately 1/2 to 4 hours)
- Bird is alert and head is erect.
- Breathes without noise.
- Wings can flap and retract onto back.
- Stands on both feet with toes forward.

9.

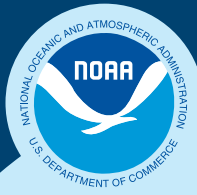


**If bird has not recovered after 4 hours, either**

Release bird to sea surface or call nearby bird rescue center for guidance (vessels 1-2 days from port):

- Honolulu (808-884-5000)
- Los Angeles (310-514-2573)
- San Francisco (707-207-0380)

**Please report all banded birds: 1-800-327-BAND (2263) or [www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl](http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl)**  
Questions? Call NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office, Sustainable Fisheries Division at (808) 725-5000



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# Short-tailed Albatross (STAL) Handling, Hook Removal, and Release



Juvenile



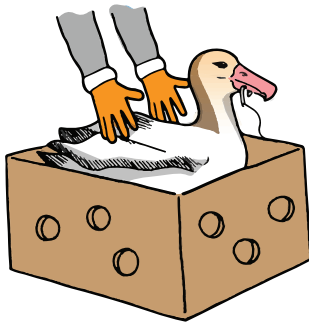
Sub-adult



Adult

[Follow Steps 1-4 on Reverse Side]

5.



- Place bird in safe enclosed place if bird is alive\*
- Do not provide food or water to bird.

6.



Immediately contact NMFS, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to request veterinary guidance.

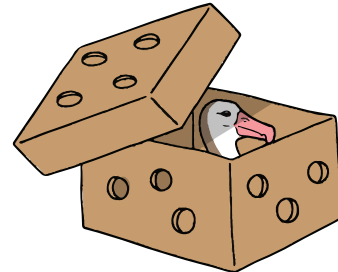
NMFS: 808-725-5000

USFWS: 808-792-9400

USCG: 808-535-3333

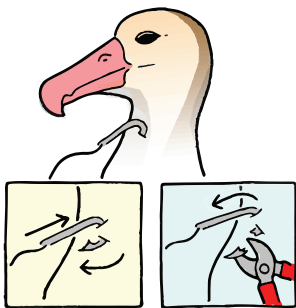
Email: JRCCHonolulu@uscg.mil  
VHF-FM Channel 16  
(in the main Hawaiian islands)

7.



- Keep bird in safe enclosed place and follow veterinary guidance for handling and release of bird.

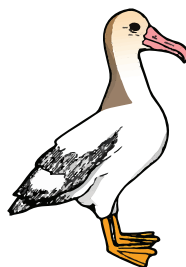
8.



If bird is externally hooked and no veterinary guidance is received within 24-48 hours:

- Push hook through skin to expose barb.
- Use bolt cutters to cut off barb.
- Back hook out.

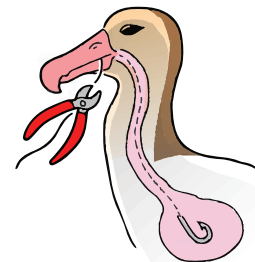
9.



Bird can be released to sea surface only when:

- Feathers are dry. (approximately 1/2 to 4 hours)
- Bird is alert and head is erect.
- Breathes without noise.
- Wings can flap and retract onto back.
- Stands on both feet with toes forward.
- Complete STAL recovery data form issued by NMFS.

10.



If you cannot handle hook (hook deeply ingested) and/or bird does not recover as described in box 9:

- Do not give bird food or water
- Cut the line as close as possible to ingested hook.
- Complete STAL recovery data form issued by NMFS.
- Submit bird to NMFS immediately upon vessel's return to port.

\*If bird is dead, fill out the top section of the STAL recovery data form. Freeze bird with identification tag attached that indicates species, location, and date of mortality, and band number if bird had leg band. Any leg bands present must remain on bird. Attach duplicate identification tag to bag or container holding bird. Contact NMFS, USFWS, or USCG at numbers listed above in Step 6. Inform them you have a dead STAL on board and submit bird to NMFS within 72 hours following completion of fishing trip.