

GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING HOOKED SEABIRDS

A pair of strong wire or bolt cutters that can cut through your hooks is an easy tool to carry aboard in the case you catch a seabird.

If a bird is hooked and entangled in your fishing gear, slow the vessel down or stop it. Slowly bring the bird towards the vessel. Do not pull on the leader; this could cause more damage to the bird. Lift the bird up out of the water with a dipnet if available. If a dipnet is not available make sure to support the bird's weight when you bring it aboard. Use caution when handling because birds are strong and have sharp beaks that can bite hard. Watch your eyes and control the beak to avoid injury to yourself. Be careful not to injure the wings. Fold them naturally and gently to the body to avoid injuring the bird's bones, muscles and tendons.

Assess the condition of the bird and the position of the hook. If it is lightly hooked in the beak, wing, or foot, remove the hook by paring the barb with a set of strong bolt cutters. Then pull the hook out backwards. (Figure 1)

While working on the bird be careful not to squeeze too tightly or keep its mouth shut too tightly or it could suffocate. (Figure 2)

If the hook is deep and lodged in the throat, do not make an attempt to remove it. Just cut and remove as much gear as possible using a cutting tool. (Figure 3)

Once the hook has been removed or the line cut, gently ease the bird back into the water. Make sure there is no fishing gear in the water and that the vessel is in neutral when you release the bird.

Prevent the bird's feathers from becoming soiled with oils or other products because this affects the bird's waterproofing, body temperature control, and ability to fly.

**Injured birds can be taken to Sea Life Park
(808) 259-2537**



Figure 1



Figure 2

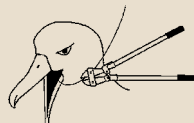
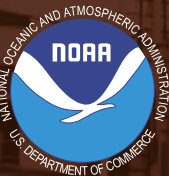
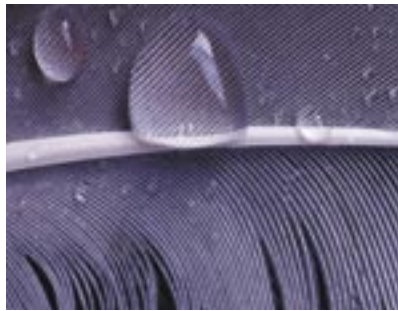


Figure 3

A FISHERMAN'S GUIDE TO *Hawaii's Seabirds*



PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIONAL OFFICE
Sustainable Fisheries Division

For as long as they have lived

by the sea, ancient Polynesians have

used the sight of seabirds as an

indication of where to find fish and for

navigation. Today, seabirds often

become incidentally hooked and

entangled in fishing gear when they

associate fishing vessels with food.

This guide provides assistance in

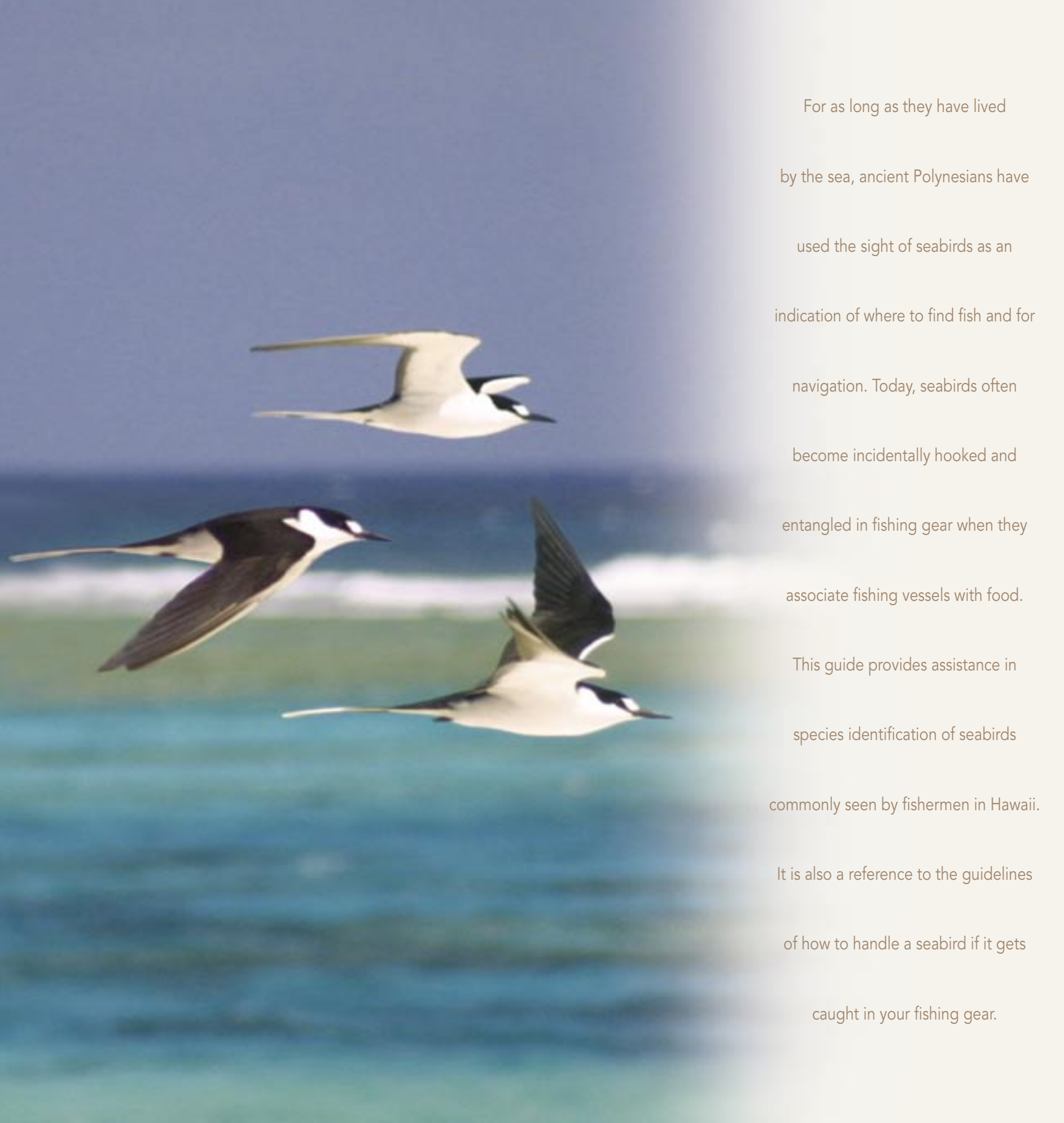
species identification of seabirds

commonly seen by fishermen in Hawaii.

It is also a reference to the guidelines

of how to handle a seabird if it gets

caught in your fishing gear.





Black-footed Albatross



Laysan Albatross



Short-Tailed Albatross



Great Frigatebird



Frigatebird in flight



Bulwer's Petrel



Bonin Petrel



Dark-Rumped Petrel



Band-Rumped Storm Petrel



Gray-Backed Tern



Sooty Tern



White Tern



Large, heavy seabirds that spend most of their life out at sea. As highly migratory birds, Albatross travel across the Pacific Ocean for food. They are regularly seen following ships. Their diet consists of squid, flying fish eggs and waste from ships.

Black-footed Albatross • *Phoebastria nigripes*
76" - 84" wingspan • Brown-black plumage, white around base of the bill and eye • Dark colored hook bill with tube nostrils

Laysan Albatross • *Moli* • *Phoebastria immutabilis*
77" - 80" wingspan • White plumage, darker shading around the eyes and base of the bill • Fleшы-colored bill with a gray tip and external tube nostrils • 99% of all Laysan Albatross breed in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands • Also known as "Goonie Bird"

Short-Tailed Albatross • *Phoebastria albatrus*
24" - 90" wingspan • Largest of northern hemisphere Albatross
Bright, pink bill with tube nostrils • With a population of an estimated 1,900, this Albatross is extremely rare and endangered under the United States Endangered Species Act • Breeds on only two islands in the Western Pacific near Japan



Offshore seabirds with long, pointed wings and dagger-like bills. They will plunge dive from considerable heights to catch food. Also known to follow fishing vessels and feed on fish and squid. Often become injured during trolling operations.

Brown Booby • 'A • *Sula leucogaster*
52" - 59" wingspan • Brown plumage with a white breast
Male has blue bill • Females are larger than males and have bright, yellow-green bill and feet

Masked Booby • 'A • *Sula dactylatra*
60" wingspan • Adult birds are white with dark brown or black wing-tips and a dark tail • Yellow bill and yellowish-gray feet
Female and males are similar in their appearance
Largest and heaviest Booby in the tropics

Red-footed Booby • 'A • *Sula sula*
36" - 40" wingspan • Adult birds have blue bill and red feet and a white tail • Young birds of this species are light brown with dark to pinkish bill • Tree nesting birds
Also known as the "Mahi / White Bird"



The Great Frigatebird can be seen soaring in the skies over all the Hawaiian Islands. With its long, pointed wings, forked-tail, and light-weight bodies, it is an extremely graceful flyer. They can drift slowly above the water, using their long, hooked bills to snatch up floating food such as fish, squid, newly hatched sea turtles and flying fish. Great Frigatebirds are also called "man-of-war" birds or "Iwa" (thief) birds in Hawaiian. This comes from the bird's habit of bothering other seabirds, by chasing and diving at them until they drop their food.

Great Frigatebird • 'Iwa • *Fregata minor*
81" - 91" wingspan • Large, fork-in tail • Agile flyers
Males have red gular pouch that inflates to attract females
Females have a white breast and throat • Construct their nests in shrubs or sometimes in piles of sticks that have been gathered together



"Aku (Skipjack Tuna) Birds" often seen by fishermen. Wedge-shaped tails and long, slender bills.

Black Noddy • *Anous stolidus pileatus*
26" - 28" wingspan • Compared with the Brown Noddy, it is more black in color, with a proportionately longer and thinner bill, whiter cap and slender body

Brown Noddy • *Noio koha* • *Anous minutus*
31" - 34" wingspan • Compared to Black Noddy, it is more brown with a larger, stockier body
Feeds offshore over tuna schools

Blue Noddy • *Procelsterna cerulean*
18" - 24" wingspan • Light, blue-gray in color
Smallest Tern in the world (about the size of a Mynah Bird)
Eats sea striders and crustaceans on the surface of the ocean



The Petrel is a smaller seabird compared to the Shearwater. It has defined tube nostrils on top of the bill with a hooked tip.

Bulwer's Petrel • 'Ou • *Bulweria bulwerii*
26" - 28" wingspan • Brown with pale, diagonal bar across bottom-side of the wings • Wedged-shaped tail, usually held at a point

Bonin Petrel • *Pterodroma hypoleuca*
25" - 28" wingspan • Gray-black plumage on top, white on bottom
Wedge-shaped tail • Breeds on Midway, Laysan, and Lisianski Islands in the greatest numbers

Dark-Rumped Petrel • 'Ua 'u • *Pterodroma phaeopygia sandwichensis*
3' wingspan • Dark-gray head, wings, and tail with a white forehead and belly • Endangered due to mammalian predation and collision with man-made objects • Nests only in the highlands of the main Hawaiian Islands • Has a distinctive call during breeding season that sounds like "oo-ah-oo" • Also known as the "Hawaiian Petrel"

Band-Rumped Storm Petrel • *Oceanodroma castro*
36" wingspan • Large size Storm Petrel • Dark plumage with a narrow, rectangular, white rump patch • Slightly forked-tail
Also known as the "Hawaiian Storm Petrel"



Small, native, marine birds sometimes referred to as "matori/aku" birds. They have slim, hooked, dark bills and dark bodies with light undersides. They form "rafts" on ocean surface, by grouping together where tuna have been feeding near the surface

Christmas Shearwater • *Puffinus nativitatis*
28" - 32" wingspan • Medium-size bird • Always dark in color (brownish-black) • Dark bill and feet • Short and rounded tail

Newell's Shearwater • 'A 'o • *Puffinus auricularis*
30" - 35" wingspan • Black top with a white underside
Currently endangered due to population declines caused by mammalian predation • Commonly found injured in the street due to collisions with power lines and light posts • Breed only in the Hawaiian Islands, mainly in the highlands of Kauai

Wedge-Tailed Shearwater • 'Ua 'u kani • *Puffinus pacificus*
38" - 41" wingspan • Dark brown to brownish-gray in color, with a light underside and a white forehead and belly
Long, wedge-shaped tail • Burrows a nest in sand or rock
Also known as the "Matori bird"

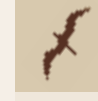


Known as "Ahi birds." They have a forked-tail and a pointed bill. Distinguishable from Noddies by their white-colored breasts.

Gray-Backed Tern • *Pokalakala* • *Sterna lunata*
29" - 30" wingspan • Confined to tropical Pacific Ocean
Gray plumage on back • Distinguished from the Sooty Tern by being smaller in size and less aggressive
Also known as the "Speckled Tern"

Sooty Tern • 'Ewa 'ewa • *Sterna fuscata*
32" - 37' wingspan • Black plumage above and white below
Forked, black tail with white streamers on outermost tail feathers
Nerve racking calls gives it the nickname "wide-awake"
Can soar to altitudes of 3,000 feet and higher

White Tern • *Manu-o-ku* • *Gygis alba*
28" - 35" wingspan • Small size • All-white plumage and black eyes • Near-shore bird seen around Honolulu
Also known as the "Fairy Tern"



Solitary birds that usually feed at twilight by plunge diving for food. They have long, thin, tail streamers that protrude from their wedge-shaped tail area.

Red-Tailed Tropicbird • *Koa e' ula* • *Phaethon rubricauda*
41" wingspan • Both bill and tail streamers are red
Black line near eye • Nests under shrubs in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and on cliffs of offshore islands

White-Tailed Tropicbird • *Phaethon lepturus dorotheae*
35" - 38" wingspan • White tail streamers are 15" - 16" long, compromising half of the body • Black markings on wing
Nests on cliffs in the main Hawaiian Islands

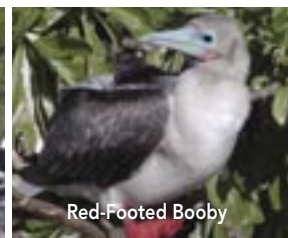
Photos courtesy of Cathleen Bailey, Dr. Hiroshi Hasegawa, Steve McConnell, Eric VanderWerf, Brenda Zaun and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



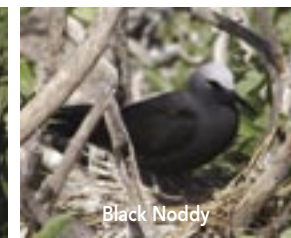
Brown Booby



Masked Booby



Red-footed Booby



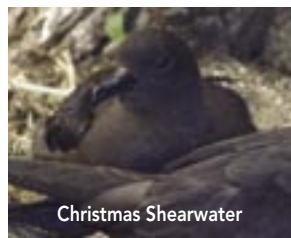
Black Noddy



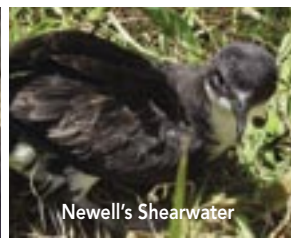
Brown Noddy



Blue Noddy



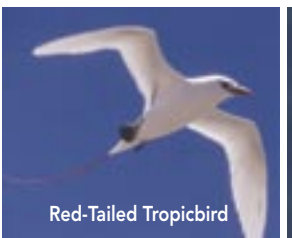
Christmas Shearwater



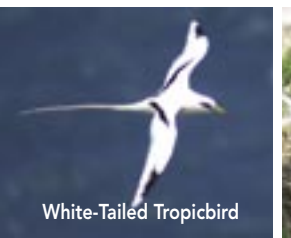
Newell's Shearwater



Wedge-Tailed Shearwater



Red-Tailed Tropicbird



White-Tailed Tropicbird



Red-Tailed Tropicbird

ALBATROSS

FRIGATEBIRDS

PETRELS

TERNs

BOOBIES

NODDIES

SHEARWATERS

TROPICBIRDS