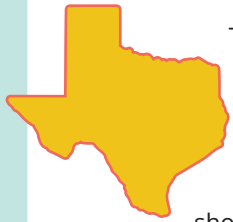




# HOW TO AVOID HARMING Sea Turtles While Fishing From Land



The Texas Coast is home to 5 different species of sea turtles. Some sea turtles live offshore, while others live in the bays year-round or for short periods of time. Just like fish,

sea turtles are attracted to bait used by anglers and can become hooked or entangled in the fishing line.

It is illegal to deliberately harm, harass, capture or kill sea turtles because they are protected by federal and state laws, **but if you accidentally hook a sea turtle while fishing, DON'T PANIC! You will not get in trouble.** See the other side of this flyer for recommendations if you accidentally hook a sea turtle.

**Sea Grant**  
TEXAS  
AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

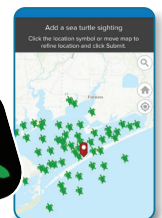


## TEN GOOD PRACTICES

- 1** **Inspect your gear before you begin fishing** to reduce line breaks while fishing.
- 2** **Use barbless hooks** to reduce injury to sea turtles.
- 3** **Use non-stainless steel hooks** that will eventually corrode.
- 4** **Use artificial bait** which is less attractive to sea turtles.
- 5** **Never leave fishing gear unattended** for any length of time, and check your bait often.



- 6** **Don't discard bait or fish scraps in the water** because this will attract sea turtles.
- 7** **Never intentionally feed sea turtles.**
- 8** **Put used fishing line in a recycling bin.** →
- 9** **Put all other trash in trash cans.**
- 10** **Report sea turtle sightings** using the iSeaTurtle app for Android or iPhone.





**Call the Sea Turtle  
Hotline for Help  
1-866-TURTLE-5 or  
1-866-887-8535**

# **IF YOU ACCIDENTALLY HOOK A Sea Turtle While Fishing From Land**

**DON'T PANIC!** You *will not* get in trouble for accidentally hooking a sea turtle, so *please* report it!



**NO**

**Gently reel in the slack-line,**  
keeping the turtle above water  
to breathe. **DO NOT** tug or pull on  
the line; minimize injury by applying  
steady pressure on the line

**Cut the line**  
as close to  
the turtle as  
possible to  
release it

**YES**

**Provide your contact  
information** and location  
as well as the turtle's size  
and condition. Remember,  
**DON'T PANIC!**

**Follow  
instructions**  
provided by the  
Sea Turtle  
Hotline

