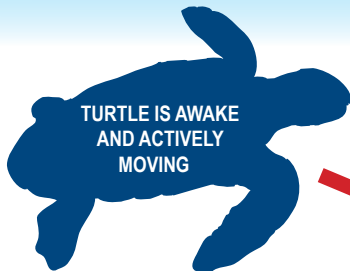




**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Sea Turtle Handling and Resuscitation Requirements

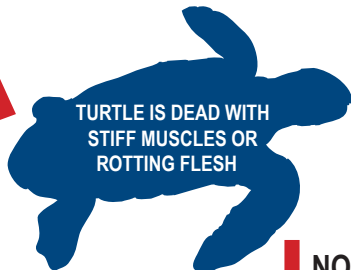
TURTLES CAPTURED DURING FISHING MUST BE HANDLED WITH CARE ACCORDING TO THESE PROCEDURES PER REGULATIONS AT 50 CFR 223.206.



TURTLE IS AWAKE AND ACTIVELY MOVING

YES →

NO →



TURTLE IS DEAD WITH STIFF MUSCLES OR ROTTING FLESH

YES →

NO ↓

RELEASE OVER THE STERN

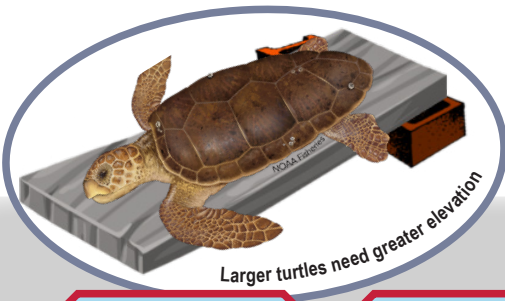
- When fishing gear is not in use;
- As close to the water as possible;
- When the engine is in neutral; and
- In areas where the turtle is unlikely to be recaptured or injured by vessels.

TURTLE BECOMES ACTIVE AFTER RESUSCITATION PROCESS OR TURTLE DOES NOT RESPOND TO REFLEX TEST FOR AT LEAST 4 HOURS (UP TO 24 HOURS).

CONSIDER THE TURTLE UNRESPONSIVE. YOU MUST ATTEMPT RESUSCITATION.

RESUSCITATION PROCESS

Attempt resuscitation for at least 4 hours (up to 24 hours).



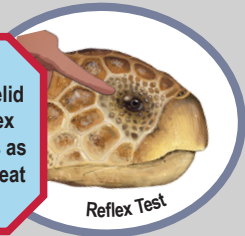
Larger turtles need greater elevation

Place the turtle top shell up and elevate its hindquarters (use board, tire, rope coil or other object) at least 6 inches (15-30°).

Over 60 °F, keep the turtle shaded and moist. Place a damp towel over the shell/flippers or regularly wet the turtle with seawater. Never put the turtle in a container with water.

Rock the turtle gently side to side by holding the outer edge of the shell and lifting one side about 3 inches, then alternate sides. Repeat periodically.

Gently touch the corner of the eye or eyelid to see if it moves (reflex test). Movement returns as the turtle recovers. Repeat periodically.



Reflex Test