

If you hook a bird...

DON'T panic, stay calm

DON'T cut the line

GENTLY reel the bird in.
Even pelicans can be slowly hauled to shore, and contrary to popular myth, they are actually placid creatures

PLACE a towel or shirt over the bird's head and eyes, then carefully try to remove the hook or line

DO NOT RELEASE the bird if hooks have been swallowed or are too deeply imbedded for easy removal. Contact WA Seabird Rescue for assistance.



WA Seabird Rescue
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Wildcare Helpline
9474 9055

Seabird Rescue Mobile
0418 952 683



Remember

Hooks don't rust away in a few days, even in the gut of a bird

In salt water environments most hooks

including the common "bronzie" can take at least 6 months to disintegrate.

If embedded in a bird, a hook will very likely cause a fatal infection or painful death due to other complications.

Seabird rescuers have well developed techniques for capturing most injured seabirds.

By not offering food or your fish cleaning or bait scraps to pelicans and other birds we will help to discourage them from popular fishing spots.

By fishing responsibly we can prevent injuries and needless suffering to our wildlife.



Every year around the West Australian coast large numbers of birds, especially pelicans, are hooked or entangled in fishing gear.

By far the most common cause of injury is accidental hooking when birds forage near recreational fisheries, or around unattended lines or tackle.

The injuries which result can be severe and often fatal, when not attended to.



TIPS TO HELP REDUCE INJURIES and greatly increase chances of survival

- ✓ Cast away from areas where birds are foraging, or move away.
- ✓ Avoid using unattended lines.
- ✓ Avoid using stainless steel hooks which take many years to break down if left in the environment.
- ✓ Collect any discarded line, other gear or rubbish you may find and dispose of it properly.
- ✓ Don't leave ANYTHING behind. Even plastic bags can prove fatal when sea life mistakes them for natural food.
- ✓ Take any tangled tackle home. Dispose of it properly by cutting it into small pieces to avoid entanglement when birds scavenge rubbish dumps.