

Tangled turtle rescue

This hawksbill turtle (*photos below*) became tangled in discarded fishing line at the Sundivers “Turtle Reef” dive site in West Bay. Entangled turtles usually die from injuries caused by loops of line tightening around their flippers—or drown when they cannot break lines to reach the surface—but this turtle was luckier. Fishing line had already wrapped around the flippers but divers found the turtle on the reef at a depth of 60 ft and were able to free it. ***If you see a tangled or hooked turtle, please call DoE (contact details below).***



Photo: Graham Harris



Photo: Graham Harris



Photo: Gary Redfern

Left and center: Cutting the line: Bryan Andryszak, Ollie Dubock, and Gary Redfern. Holding the turtle: DoE Research Officer Janice Blumenthal. Photographing the rescue: Graham and Angela Harris. **Right:** line removed from around the turtle.

Lost and discarded fishing line kills

In the Cayman Islands, entanglement in lost fishing line is one of the leading causes of severe injury and death for turtles. Department of Environment and Cayman Wildlife Rescue are partnering in an awareness campaign to aimed at reducing this threat. **How to help:**



Photo: Joanna Humphries

Above: Diver collecting lost line.

Fishers: use responsible practices

- ◆ Never discard tangled fishing line into the sea.
- ◆ Do not leave lines unattended.
- ◆ Use non-stainless circle hooks. These degrade more quickly than stainless steel and are less likely to gut hook an animal.
- ◆ Do not rip out hooks or leave hooked animals in the wild. Call us to assist with hook removal, rehabilitation, and release.
- ◆ Contact us with questions, comments, and suggestions.

Divers and snorkellers: collect lost fishing lines

- ◆ Prevent entanglements: collect lost fishing line onshore, nearshore, and on the reef.
- ◆ Carry a dive knife or scissors to cut lines (do not pull as this may damage tangled corals and sponges).
- ◆ Spread the word to other divers about the importance of collecting lost line and contact us for information on arranging a fishing line clean-up.
- ◆ Report injured or dead wildlife (contacts below).



For **injured or dead turtles** call DoE
Grand Cayman: 949-8469 or 916-4271
Cayman Brac: 926-0136 or 926-2342
Little Cayman: 916-7021 or 926-2342
General: 949-8469 or DoE@gov.ky



For **other injured wildlife**, call
Cayman Wildlife Rescue
Hotline: 917-BIRD(2473)
Website: <http://www.caymanwildlife.org/CWR/>
Email: caymanwildliferescue@gmail.com