GUIDE TO RELEASING SEA TURTLES



Handling

- 1. Using your hands or a net, pull the turtle aboard. **Never pull it up by the line**.
- 2. For easier handling place the turtle on a tire, lying face up or down.
- 3. 3. Cut all lines. Never leave behind any lines that may impede the turtle's ability to swim.

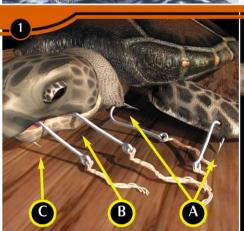


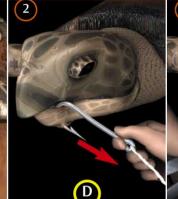
External hooks

- 1. If the entire point of the hook is exposed, cut it and pull out the rest of the hook (A). If the point is not exposed, use pliers or a de-hooker to remove it (B). If the point is barely sticking out, follow the subsequent steps (C).
- Push or pull on the hook until the point comes out (D). Never push against the skull, jaw or throat.
- 3. Cut the point with wire cutters or pliers (E).
- 4. Pull out hook (F).

/ Internal hooks

- 1. Use a broom stick or a rope with a hose to keep the mouth open.
- 2. If the hook is in the roof of the mouth, throat or deeply embedded, cut the hook as far back as possible.
- 3. Use the de-hooker to remove internal hooks that are slightly embedded. If the point is exposed, cut if off and remove hook.

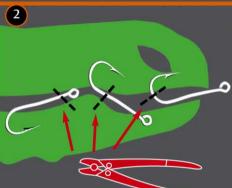






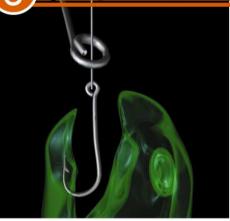








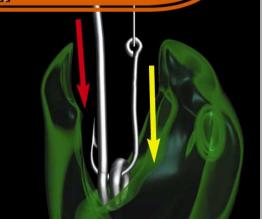
J shaped hooks slightly embedded in the mouth



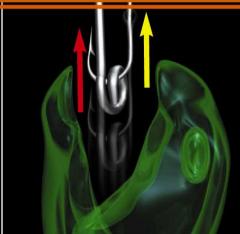
1. Place the spiral end of the de-hooker around the line.



2. Slide the de-hooker down until reaching the hook.



3. When the de-hooker is parallel to the hook, push down.



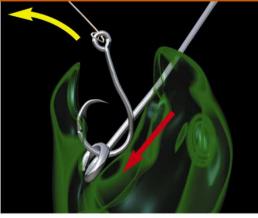
4. Remove the hook with the de-hooker so that the point does not get embedded again.

Circle hooks slightly embedded in the mouth

1. Follow steps 1 and 2 of the previous "J" hook section so that the de-hooker reaches the base of the hook.

Because of its shape, the circle hook can't be removed the same way as the "J" hook.

It must be turned by pulling on the line and the de-hooker acts as the supporting axis.

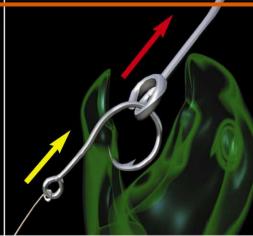


2. Pull the line, rotating the hook while using the de-hooker as the axis point.



3. Continue pulling the line to rotate the hook until its point dislodges as much as possible.

Turtles in poor condition



4. Place the de-hooker at the base of the hook, pull and remove it.

Turtles too large to bring aboard

- 1. Use extensions for the de-hookers and line cutters.
- 2. Follow the previous steps to remove the hooks and cut lines.



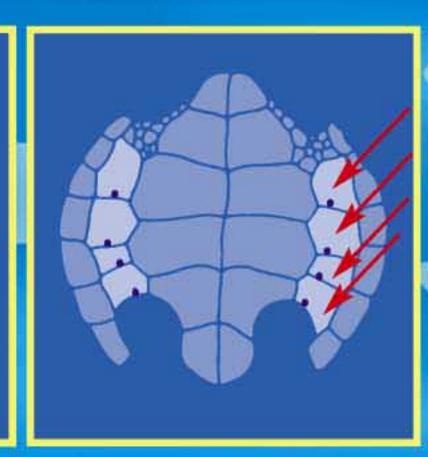
1. Verify that the turtle is alive by lightly touching the base of the eye.

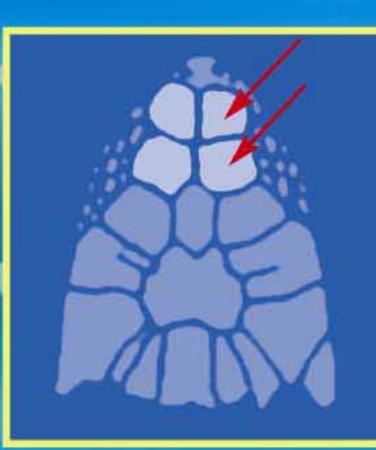


2. Elevate the posterior end of the turtle about 20 cm to rid the lungs of water.



3. Place the turtle in the shade and cover with wet towels.

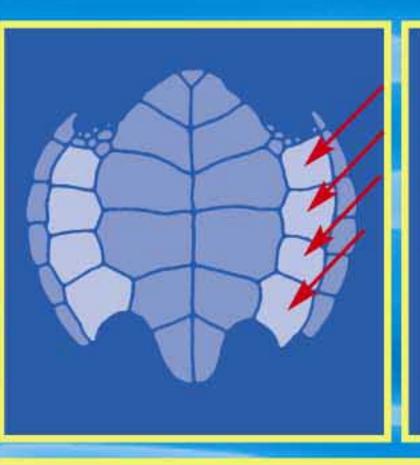


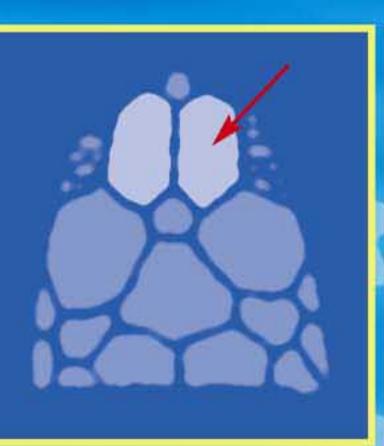


- carapace: 5-9 pairs lateral scutes
- flipper: 2 claws (adults lose secondary claw)
- plastron: 4 inframarginal scutes with pores
- head: 2 pairs of prefrontal scales

common name in spanish / english: GOLFINA / OLIVE RIDLEY



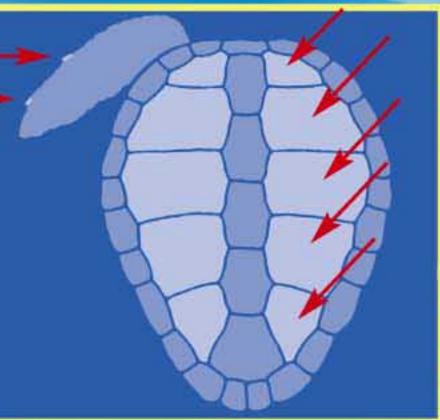


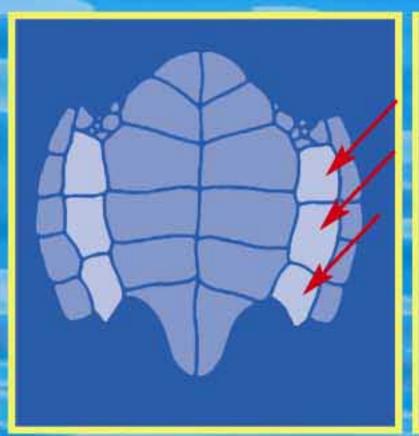


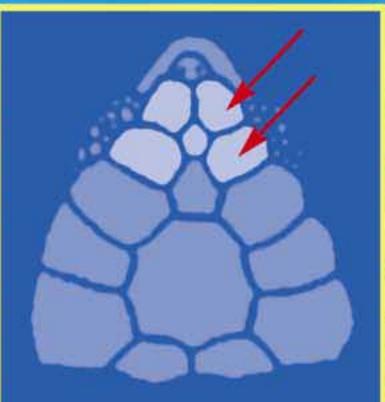
- carapace: 4 pairs lateral scutes and posteriorly tapered
- flipper: 1 claw
- plastron: 4 inframarginal scutes without pores
- head: 1 pair of prefrontal scales

common name in spanish / english: PRIETA o NEGRA / BLACK







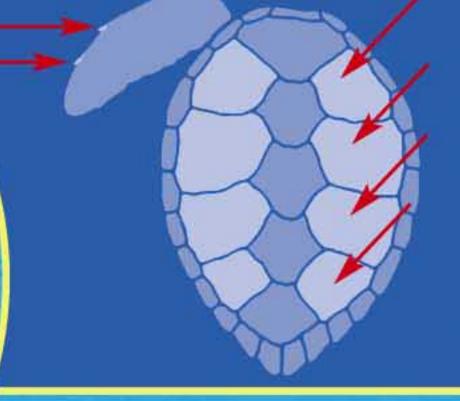


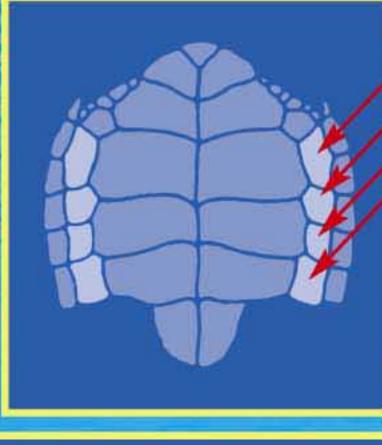
- carapace: 5 pairs lateral scutes
- flipper: 2 claws
- plastron: 3 inframarginal scutes without pores
- head: 2 pairs of prefrontal scales

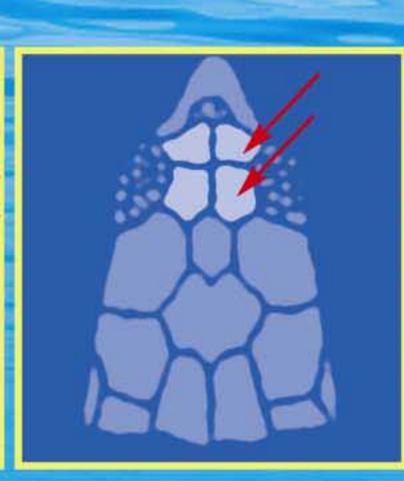
Caretta caretta

common name in spanish / english: CAGUAMA o PERICA / LOGGERHEAD



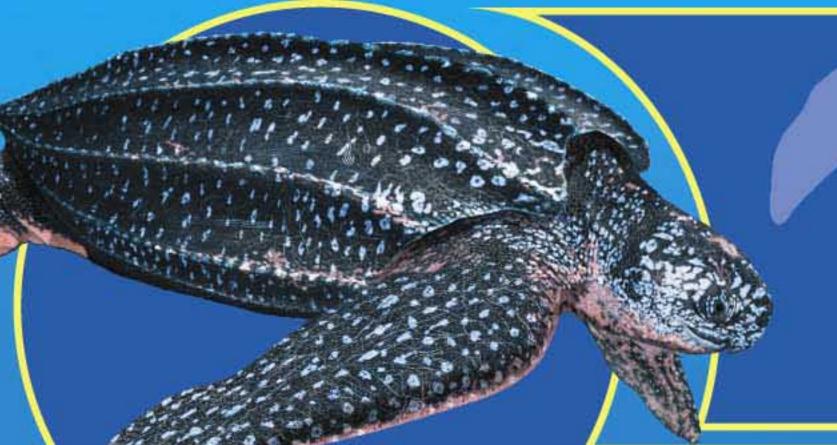


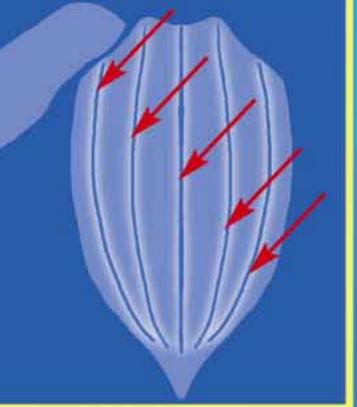


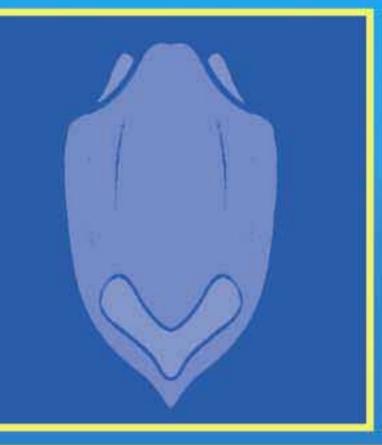


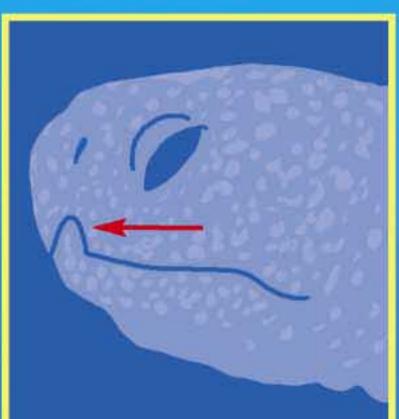
- carapace: 4 pairs overlapping lateral scutes
- flipper: 2 claws
- plastron: 4 inframarginal scutes without pores
- head: 2 pairs of prefrontal scales

common name in spanish / english: CAREY / HAWKSBILL







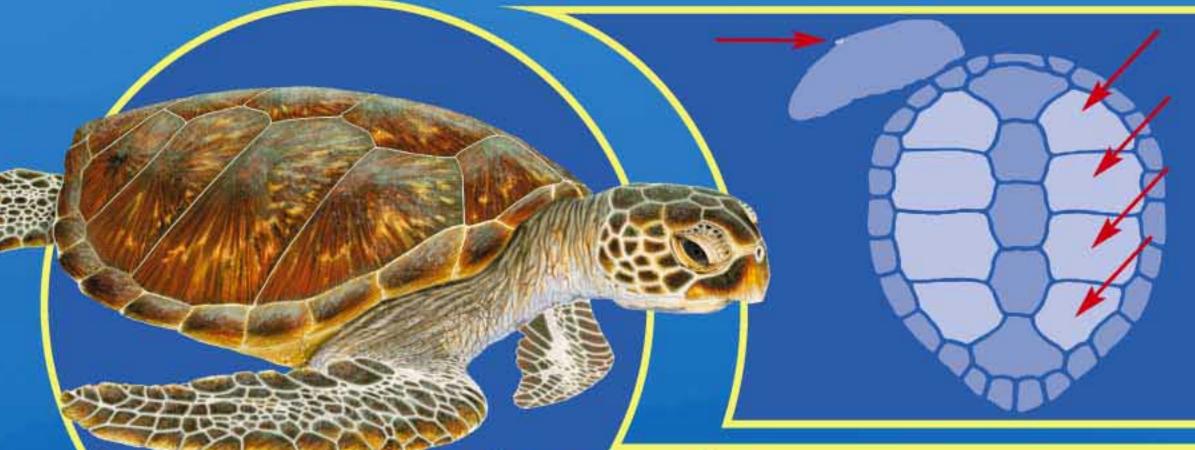


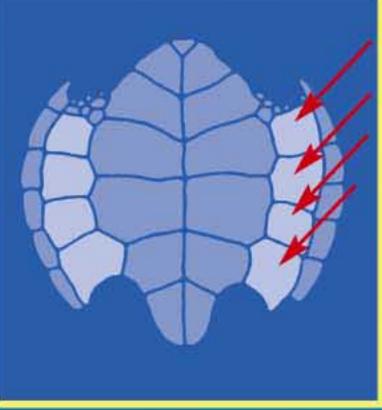
- carapace: 7 ridges, scutes absent
- flipper: clawless
- plastron: small, scutes absent
- head: no scales and maxillary cusps

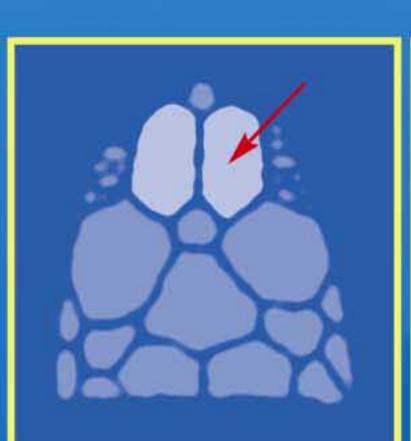
Dermochelys coriacea

Eretmochelys imbricata

common name in spanish / english: LAÚD o BAULA / LEATHERBACK

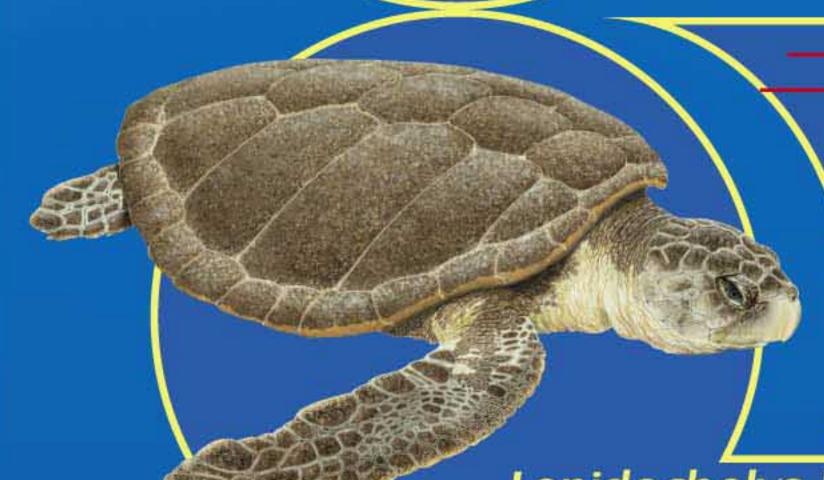


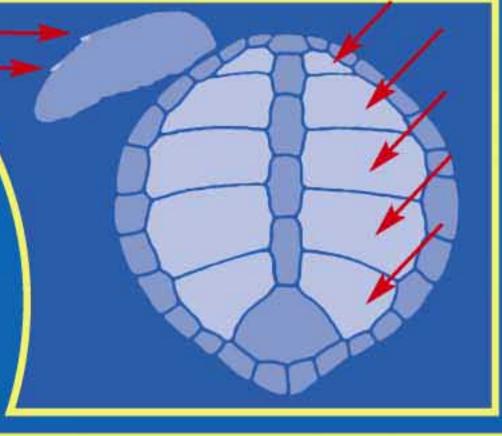


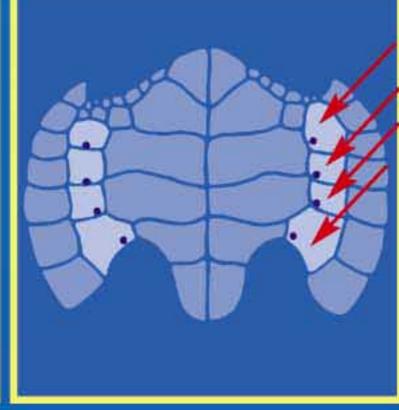


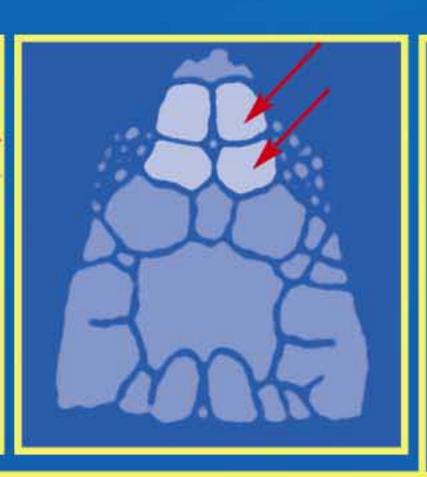
- carapace: 4 pairs lateral scutes
- flipper: 1 claw
- plastron: 4 inframarginal scutes without pores
- head: 1 pair of prefrontal scales

Chelonia mydas common name in spanish / english: BLANCA o VERDE / GREEN









- carapace: 5 pairs lateral scutes
- flipper: 2 claws (adults lose secondary claw)
- plastron: 4 inframarginal scutes with pores
- head: 2 pairs of prefrontal scales

Lepidochelys kempii common name in spanish / english: LORA / KEMP'S RIDLEY