

Response to Shark and Ray Incidents

RELEASE

- Release at high tide.
- Select a site that is deep enough with no physical barriers.
- It may be necessary to herd with a boat, use underwater noise, or tow the animal into deeper water to facilitate release.
- Let the animal swim on its own if the conditions are right.
- Monitor for an hour if released successfully.

IN THE SHALLOWS

- Secure the animal in waist-deep water.
- Position the animal facing the open sea.
- Acclimatize or let the animal get used to the condition before release.
- Make sure the animal can swim upright and the gills are fully submerged.
- Check the animal's buoyancy and vital signs.
- Gently massage the body of the animal to reduce metabolic build-up.
- Do not use metallic objects and electrical equipment around the animal.

CAUGHT WITH A HOOK

- Check how the hook and line snagged the shark.
- Bring the animal's head out of the water, but never pull out with the hook and line.
- Remove the hook by cutting off its barb, then pull out the shank.
- Release immediately if the animal is active and healthy.

CAUGHT IN FISHING GEAR

- Coordinate the release effort with the owner of the fishing gear involved.
- Approach the animal cautiously, making sure no additional injury nor stress is given.
- Make sure no body parts are constricted, especially the gills.
- Study how to untangle the animal from the net or enclosure before executing the release.
- It might be necessary to cut the net to release the animal.

ON THE BEACH

- Immediately bring the animal back into the water.
- Use a stretcher or some support when moving the animal.
- Never tie or pull the fins and tail of the animal.
- Avoid loud noises and abrupt movements.
- Make sure that the animal is wet and shaded all the time.
- Do not transport the animal to another location.

REMINDERS

- Report any incident to the nearest DA office before taking action.
- Collect as much information as possible from the shark or ray.
- Use standard data sheets.
- Submit an incident report to the DA-BFAR.
- DO NOT MEDICATE THE ANIMAL
- DO CONTROL THE CROWD

STRANDED DEAD ANIMAL

- Retrieve the animal and bring to a secure place.
- Perform necropsy to determine the cause of death.
- Collect tissues and other samples for analysis.
- Bury the animal or dispose at sea.