

Quick Guide

You have found marine debris

Is a turtle entangled?

YES

NO

1. Stop, think and assess the situation
2. Carefully remove entanglement around the turtle
3. Bring the turtle to a dry area to inspect injuries (remember the debris!)
4. Record data; curved carapace length, sex, GPS coordinates and injuries sustained
5. Take pictures/video of how the turtle was entangled giving priority to the welfare of the turtle

1. Record GPS
2. Recover marine debris from the ocean
3. Keep hold of the debris and report to the Olive Ridley Project

Is the turtle badly injured?

NO

YES

1. Take ID pictures (left and right side of the head) and return turtle carefully to the water
2. Observe swimming and diving behaviours

1. Bring the turtle to a dry area
2. Immobilise with wet towels
3. Place in a quiet shaded area
4. Report to the Olive Ridley Project immediately!

Can the turtle dive?

YES

NO

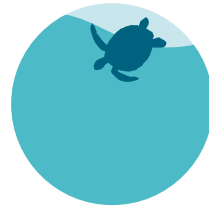
1. Successful release!
2. Report incident and data to the Olive Ridley Project



Right side



Left side



Finding an Entangled Turtle

A step-by-step guide on what to do when you find an entangled sea turtle.



OLIVE RIDLEY PROJECT

Finding an Entangled Turtle:

ASSESS, RETRIEVE, PHOTOGRAPH, REMOVE DEBRIS, SECURE

1 ASSESS

Assess the entanglement and make sure that the turtle can be **safely removed** from the sea. The debris may be attached to coral and so should be treated carefully. Use a knife to remove the debris from anything which may be anchoring it to the reef.



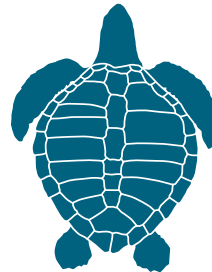
2 RETRIEVE

Retrieve the turtle. **Do not pick up the turtle by the debris**, but place hands around the turtle itself (one hand over the shoulder of one flipper/on the shell behind the head, and the other on the bottom of the shell). You could do more damage to the turtle if you pull it up by the debris. Be careful to keep fingers away from their beak, their bite is very painful!

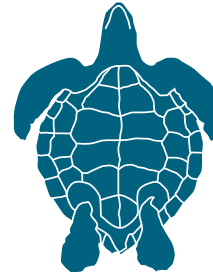


3 PHOTOGRAPH

Once turtle has been moved to a dry area, take pictures of the turtle, one from above (of its shell) and one from below (carefully turn over, use two people to prevent flapping). It is important to quickly **assess any injuries** that the turtle may have.



From above



From below

4 REMOVE THE DEBRIS (AND KEEP IT)

Remove the debris carefully, making sure not to do any more damage to the turtle. This may be difficult as the debris may be embedded within the skin. If the debris is embedded or tightly wrapped around the turtle, **leave it in place** and wait for medical care.

If the debris is a ghost net please input this information into our website www.oliveridleyproject.org

5 SECURE

Dampen a towel in sea water. Wrap the turtle in the towel, (swaddle like a baby). This prevents the turtle from moving and causing harm to you or itself. Cover its eyes with the towel as this will reduce stress.



If the turtle has any injuries, it will need medical help, so do not release it. If a turtle looks well but cannot dive after being released from the debris, it will also require medical help. Please call our veterinarian, and/or our support officer based in Male.

CONTACT

Veterinarian: 9552205

Olive Ridley Community Support

Officer: 9932446

Facebook: The Olive Ridley Project

Biologist: