How to release birds caught in hooks

1 Bring the bird aboard

Stop or slow the boat and gently lift the bird by using a hand net; avoid pulling the line.

2 Handle the bird with caution

- **Small bird**
  - hold the bird with both hands, keeping its wings folded and pressing lightly
- **Medium-sized bird**
  - hold with one hand the upper part of the neck firmly but gently; grasp the wing tips, tail and legs with the other hand.
- **Large bird**
  - Wrap the bird using a towel, keeping the wings held against its body. Hold the neck from back part.

   To facilitate the removal of the hook, introduce the bird in a cloth bag, keeping the wings folded and the head outside.

3 Remove the hook

- **a** Cut the tip of the hook using pliers. If it were not possible, cut the other extreme (hook eye).
- **b** Pull the hook back out with your hand or using pliers.
- If the bird has swallowed the hook don't try to remove it; cut the line as close as possible to the bill.

4 Release the bird

- **Small bird**
  - If the bird is in bad condition, keep it in a ventilated box or bin in a quiet place until it shows signs of recovery (alert and holding its head up).
- **Large bird**
  - Release the bird directly on the water or from one side of the vessel, windwards.

**Material required**

- Small bird
- Medium-sized bird
- Large bird
- Hand net
- Pliers
- Towel
- Gloves
- Cloth bag

**I case of capture, please report it. You may use the BYCATCH**

seo@seo.org

**BYCATCH**

Pay particular attention to any rings and other tags.

Illustrator: Raul Deamo