

Reelin' in the Big One with Barbless Circle Hooks by Karen Bryan

Hawaii's marine resources provide significant economic and social benefits from commercial fishing, tourism, and recreational activities. MCBH Environmental Compliance & Protection Division is dedicated to safeguarding natural resources for long-term sustainable use through management and habitat conservation. Endangered Hawaiian green sea turtles and monk seals can be seen regularly as part of the healthy nearshore ecosystem. For this reason, MCBH implemented unique fishing regulations that require anyone who fishes to use barbless hooks. The main purpose of the barbless hook is to make it easier to free marine animals if they accidentally take your bait. Barbless hooks help to promote the survival and recovery of endangered marine animals as well as protected seabirds.

Tips to protect marine animals at MCBH:

- Crimp down the barb on all fishing hooks. A crimper is available for use FREE of charge at the MCCS Marina and the MCBH Annex (Selden Street, Building 1090).
- Each person actively fishing may only have 2 fishing poles.
- Never leave your fishing gear unattended.
- Gill nets, lay nets, and cross nets are prohibited at MCBH.
- Don't discard fish parts or leftover bait in the water. It attracts marine animals and leads to unintended hooking incidents.
- Report hooked marine life to NOAA at (808) 220-7802 or Environmental at 257-7000.

It's ok to help hooked sea turtles. See the fisheries link below for more info.

Refer to Base Order P1710.1 for detailed fishing regulations at:

<https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/Offices-Staff/S-4-Installations-Environment-Logistics/Environmental/Fishing-Regulations/>

Activity: Check out the info from NOAA at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/pacific-islands/resources-fishing/fishing-around-seals-and-turtles> . List an important tip from NOAA in the comments about fishing around marine animals. Random drawings for participant prizes will be held after COVID-19 social distancing is lifted.

Mālama i ka 'āina—care for and live in harmony with the land. Earth Day every day at MCBH.