New Zealand is a haven for seabirds & some are now rarer than kiwi. For these birds every death or injury can affect the population. All anglers can reduce the risk of catching seabirds.

**Avoid attracting seabirds**
- Sink bait out of sight fast
- Keep bait & offal in a covered bin
- Cover any baited hooks on board
- Use a burley bag or grind up burley

**Deter seabirds from your boat & gear**
- Throw a bucket of water, use a hose or toy water gun to move birds away

The more birds, the higher the risk - always watch your gear & consider moving

For more information visit [www.southernseabirds.org](http://www.southernseabirds.org)
Release kit

1. Use a landing net to lift the bird on board.
2. Hold small birds between fingers behind the neck.
3. Wrap medium sized birds in towels & cover their eyes if possible.
4. Hold large birds’ beaks shut, don’t cover nostrils.
5. Cut fishing line. Use pliers to flatten the barb or cut hook with small bolt cutters.
6. Pull the hook back out of the beak.
7. If hook is swallowed cut as close to entry as possible. Fishing line left on bird can tangle in vegetation at nests.
8. If bird is exhausted or waterlogged place in loosely covered box to recover.
9. Release healthy bird onto the water.

Helpful hints

- Keep a towel, net & pliers on board
- Approach birds from behind where possible
- Protect your eyes when handling birds
- When holding the bird, make sure the beak is not twisted & nostrils are not covered

Southern Seabird Solutions Trust is a partnership between the Ministry for Primary Industries, Department of Conservation, Seafood New Zealand, WWF & Te Ohu Kaimoana. Project sponsored by the Pacific Development and Conservation Trust.

Wildlife emergencies: 0800DOCHOT or 0800362468