TURTLES CAPTURED DURING FISHING MUST BE HANDLED WITH CARE ACCORDING TO THESE PROCEDURES PER REGULATIONS AT 50 CFR 223.206.

**Sea Turtle Handling and Resuscitation Requirements**

**TURTLE IS AWAKE AND ACTIVELY MOVING**

- **YES**
  - TURTLE IS DEAD WITH STIFF MUSCLES OR ROTTING FLESH
    - **NO**
      - CONSIDER THE TURTLE UNRESPONSIVE. YOU MUST ATTEMPT RESUSCITATION.

**RESUSCITATION PROCESS**

*Attempt resuscitation for at least 4 hours (up to 24 hours).*

- Place the turtle top shell up and elevate its hindquarters (use board, tire, rope coil or other object) at least 6 inches (15-30°).
- Over 60 °F, keep the turtle shaded and moist. Place a damp towel over the shell/flippers or regularly wet the turtle with seawater. Never put the turtle in a container with water.
- Rock the turtle gently side to side by holding the outer edge of the shell and lifting one side about 3 inches, then alternate sides. Repeat periodically.
- Gently touch the corner of the eye or eyelid to see if it moves (reflex test). Movement returns as the turtle recovers. Repeat periodically.

**RELEASE OVER THE STERN**

- **• When fishing gear is not in use;**
- **• As close to the water as possible;**
- **• When the engine is in neutral; and**
- **• In areas where the turtle is unlikely to be recaptured or injured by vessels.**

**TURTLE BECOMES ACTIVE AFTER RESUSCITATION PROCESS OR TURTLE DOES NOT RESPOND TO REFLEX TEST FOR AT LEAST 4 HOURS (UP TO 24 HOURS).**

IF YOU ENCOUNTER AN ENTANGLED, INJURED, OR UNRESPONSIVE SEA TURTLE: CALL 866-755-6622 FOR GUIDANCE (MAINE THROUGH VIRGINIA)