

NOAA Barbless Circle Hook Project 2012 Keiki Barbless Project



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What are barbless hooks?



Barbless hooks are hooks that have the barbs smashed down or filed off. Any kind of hook can easily be made into barbless hooks. You have to make them yourself because they are not usually sold in stores. It is easy to make. All you need is a pair of pliers or crimpers and a hook.

Will my bait fall off?

Fishermen using barbless circle hooks have noticed that the small fish eat the bait so fast that it didn't make any difference. At other times their bait came back time and time again so there was no difference using the barbless circle hooks. When using J hooks there could be more bait loss because of the shape of the hook.

Do barbless hooks really work?

Barbless hooks do really work. The Pacific Island Fisheries Science Center did some research comparing barbless circle hooks and barbed circle hooks. We couldn't tell the difference after catching over 300 reef fish of all kinds.

Can I make my own barbless hooks?

How do you do it?

YES. Anyone can make them. **Do it yourself** because they are not usually sold in stores. Just smash the barbs down with a pair of pliers or crimpers. Use pliers for the smaller ones and crimpers for the larger ones. Save some money and help out the fish and animals at the same time.



What kinds of fish can I catch with barbless hooks?

Any kind of fish. It does not matter if saltwater or freshwater. Eels, stingrays, sharks are fish too. So are tilapias.

Is using barbless hooks only for releasing fish?

NO, it is for fishing in general and especially when you see turtles or seals in your fishing area.

If I use barbless hooks can I keep my fish?

YES, of course you can! Just remember to follow the fishing regulations on size, seasons, and bag limits.

Is using barbless hooks good for the fish?

YES, Using barbless hooks is better for the fish because it causes less injury to them and maybe to you too (be careful).

Do they work?
What do you think?



Do They WORK?!?!



Kahana Itozaki
September 2011
101.2 lb. White ulua
Big Island, Hawaii



Randall Elarco Jr.
May 2006
117 lb. White ulua
Big Island, Hawaii

Do they work for Kids too?!?! NO PROBLEM!!!



What do I do after I catch my fish?

Know the current regulations. If you are going to eat your fish make sure it is legal to keep. Then put it in an ice chest to keep it from spoiling or in a bucket or tide pool to keep it alive. Be conservation minded. Release your catch alive if you do not intend to eat it or use it for bait.

“Catch and release” or “tag and release” is another option. Unhook the fish gently - it should be easy to do with a barbless hook. Use a bucket of water or a tide pool to hold the fish while you look for your measuring tape. Measure the fish and record the length, species, and tag number for the tagging report.



Can I release my fish?

YES, it is a good idea to release your fish if you are not going to eat it or use it for bait. Handle the fish as little as possible. One of the advantages of using a barbless hook is that it is easier and quicker to unhook and you will be able to release the fish quickly with less damage. That means that the fish will be out of the water for a shorter time and will have a better chance of surviving so someone else can have the fun of catching it. It is not good to waste any fish. We should all practice wise use of our resources.



How do I release my fish?

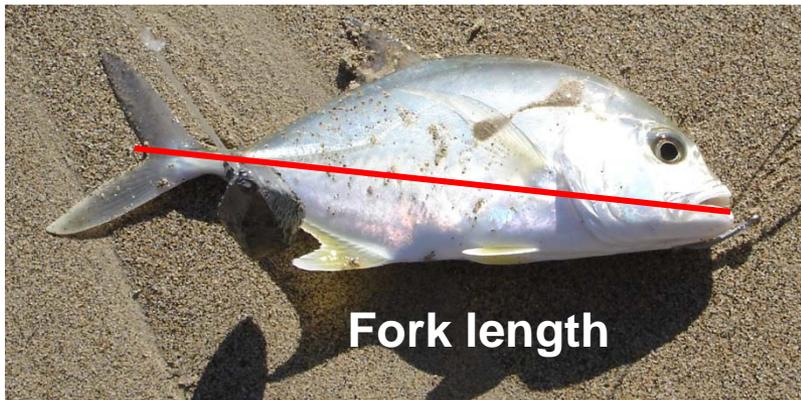
Treat the fish with care and respect by being gentle. Keep your hands wet while handling the fish to help keep its protective slime on its body. Remove the hook and gently release it into the water. If you need to measure it first please handle it carefully while doing so. A good suggestion would be to have a bucket of water to put it in before and after measuring. Use the bucket to take the fish back to the water and dump it all in.



I want to tag my fish so how do I measure it?

Use a measuring tape. Lay it flat on the ground and lay the fish on it with the end of the head at the start of the tape. You can also stretch the tape over the fish. Measure to the inside fork of the tail if the tail is forked. This is called the fork length. Papios have forked tails.

If the tail is not forked and looks like a spatula then measure to the end of the tail. This is called the total length. Tilapia, roi, and most hinalaea have spatula shaped or truncated tails.



Papio have a forked tail.
Measure from the tip of the head to the fork of the tail.



Hinalaea have a truncated tail.
Measure from the tip of the head to the end of the tail.

Can I keep my fish?

YES. You can keep it as long as it is not kapu. Make sure you know the regulations on the open and closed seasons and the legal size and bag limits for the different kinds of fishes. If you are not going to eat it then please conserve our resources and practice catch and release so we will have fish for the future.

Can I tag my fish?

YES, if you are participating in the State Uluu Tagging Project and have a tag kit you can help the State gather important information on the growth and movement of the papios and uluas in Hawaii. Contact Clayward Tam at uluu_tagging@hawaii.gov. Ph 587-0595.



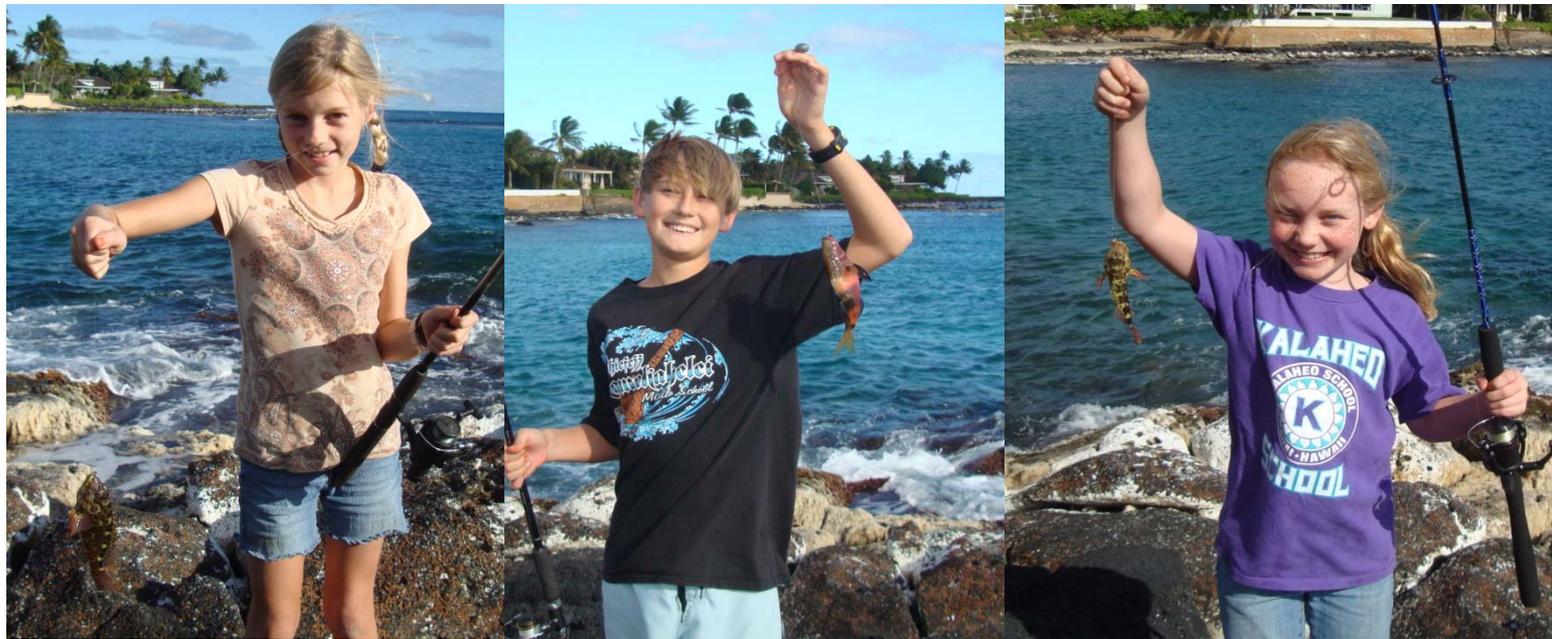
Why should I use a barbless hook?

Fishermen like to catch fish but we don't always catch what we want. Barbless hooks are considered to be self-shedding meaning that any fish or animal can more easily get rid of a barbless hook on its own. If the **fish** gets away by breaking the line then it can shake or spit the hook out and get on with its life. If the fish can't get rid of the hook it may not be able to eat and could slowly starve to death or needlessly suffer from its injuries.



Another reason to use barbless circle hooks is because fishermen do lose a lot of gear. We fish in rocky areas and lose the lead, swivel, and the baited hook too. If something bites the hook after we lose the whole rig then they can more easily get rid of the hook themselves.

Think about it. We lose more rigs than we catch fish so even if we lose the rigs we can still fish responsibly and perhaps catch that fish the next time we go fishing.



Why else should I use a barbless hook?

SAFETY - SAFETY - SAFETY

Being safe while doing anything is number one. It will save your fishing day from being spent in the emergency room.

It will also let you fish more efficiently by letting you get the hook out of your oama, your net, your t-shirt, shorts, hat, ear, or finger. Barbless hooks are easier to remove from whatever you catch.

Is there another reason?

YES. Using barbless hooks can help other wildlife that are in the ocean. Monk seals and turtles are getting more plentiful every year. Once in a great while these are accidentally hooked while shorefishing. As long as you are fishing in the ocean there is a very small chance that you may accidentally hook one of them.

Are monk seals and turtles protected by a law?

YES. Monk seals and turtles are protected by law. It is illegal to harm or harass them. The Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act are the main laws that protect these marine animals.



What should I do if I accidentally hook one of them?

If possible you should bring them in and **cut the line as close as possible to the hook**. Any trailing line could entangle the animal and cause it more injury. Turtles can be more seriously hurt by the trailing line than the hook itself.

Can using a barbless hook help the monk seals and turtles?

YES. Because the hooks are **self-shedding** any animal, like the fish can more easily get rid of the hook without our help. By using barbless hooks you can help the animals and the researchers avoid unnecessary injury.

Seal 042 on the Big Island self shed this barbless circle hook while the researchers watched. **Positive proof** that it works.

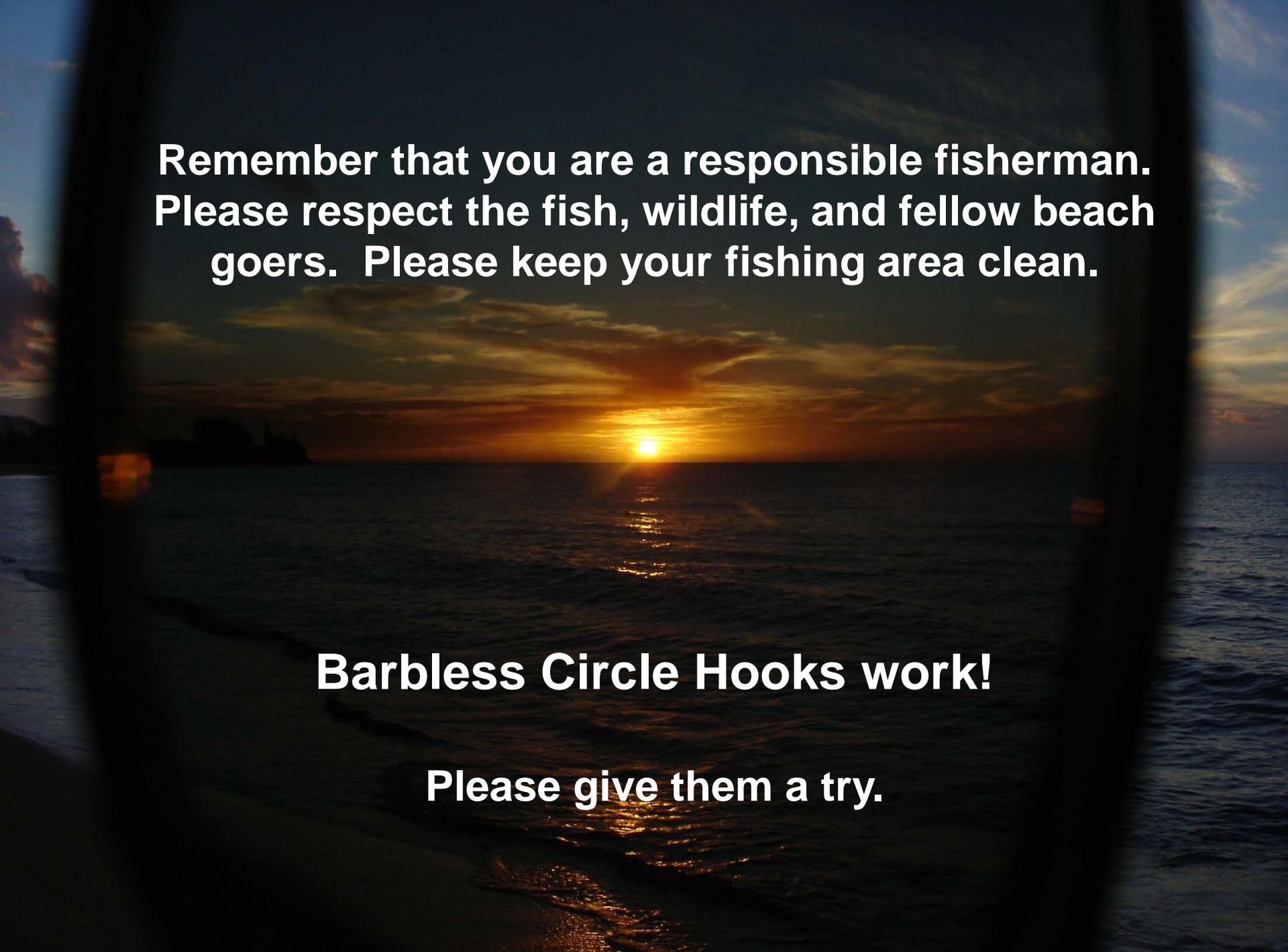


What can I do to help the monk seals and turtles?

If you see them in the water where you are fishing you could wait until they leave or move to another spot or voluntarily use a barbless hook for the day. If you are fishing in an area where you always see a lot of them then using a barbless hook is a good way to show your responsibility and commitment towards sustaining our valuable shoreline resources. Think and act for the future generations of fishermen.

Barbless Hooks Really WORK!



A sunset over the ocean with a dark vignette effect. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The text is overlaid in white, bold font.

**Remember that you are a responsible fisherman.
Please respect the fish, wildlife, and fellow beach
goers. Please keep your fishing area clean.**

Barbless Circle Hooks work!

Please give them a try.