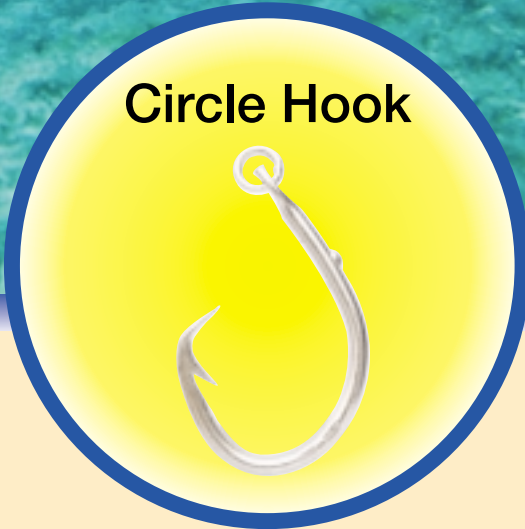
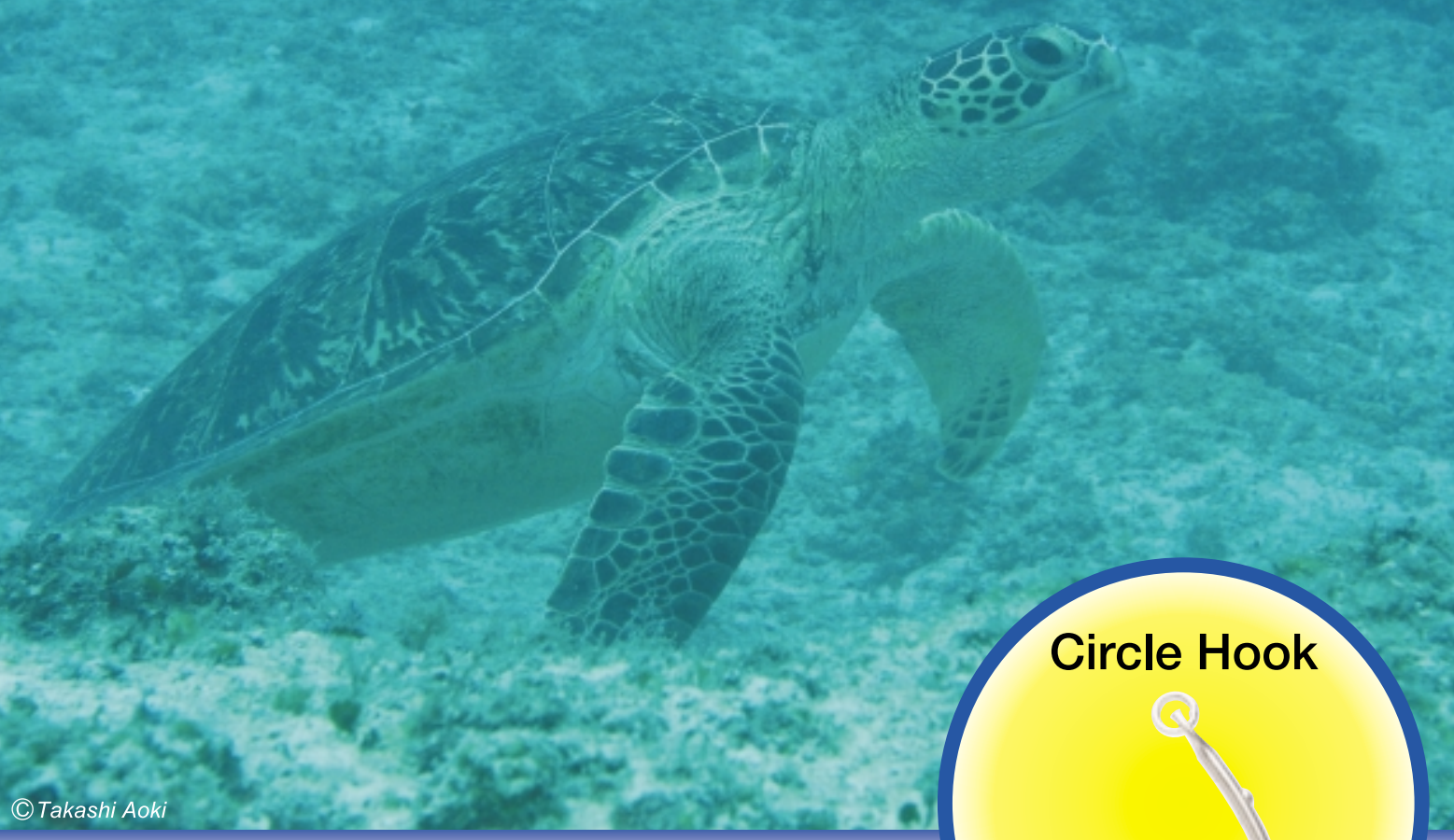


Efforts are being made in the international community to ensure the compatibility of sea turtle conservation and fishery sustainability.

# The Initiative Taken by the International Fisheries Community for Reducing Sea Turtle Bycatch



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2003

June 2003,  
IATTC (Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission)  
• Promotion of data collection  
• Development of a 3-year sea turtle conservation program  
• Development of short-term measures to reduce bycatch

November 2003,  
ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas)  
• Promotion of data collection  
• Promotion of safe handling and release of sea turtles on board vessels  
• Improvement of data collection and reporting techniques

2004

March 2004, FAO  
• Expert consultation on sea turtles

January 2004, IATTC  
• Meeting of working group on bycatch

December 2004, FAO  
• Intergovernmental meeting on sea turtles

June 2004, IATTC  
• Adoption of resolution on sea turtle conservation

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has analyzed all the factors affecting sea turtles, including nesting grounds, marine pollution and food sources, as well as bycatch in fisheries, and is encouraging measures to promote the conservation of sea turtles.

2005

March 2005, FAO Committee on Fisheries  
• The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the FAO Technical Consultation on Sea Turtle Conservation and Fisheries

**A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO ADDRESS SEA TURTLE ISSUE IS NECESSARY.**  
The sound management of sea turtles needs to encompass the entire life-cycle of sea turtle in question, taking into consideration of non-fishing factors such as deterioration of nesting sites and swallowing marine debris derived from general human activities, which also account for sea turtle mortality.

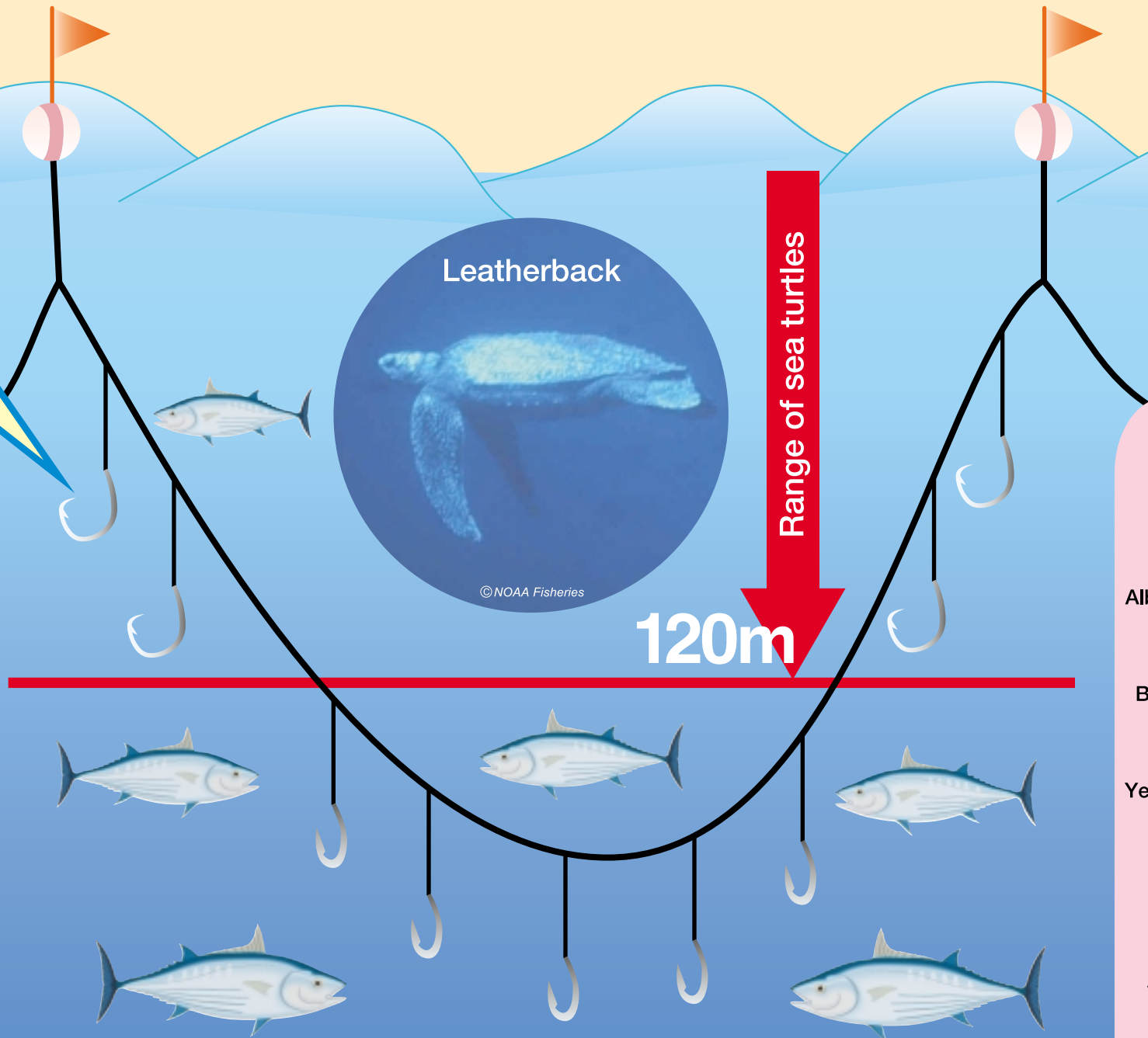
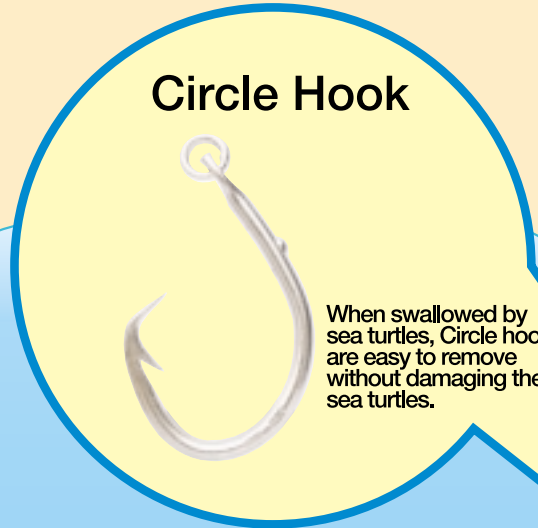
**OPRT is supported by all parties involved in tuna production, trade, distribution and consumption.**  
**Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries**  
Sankaido Bldg. (9th Floor) 1-9-13 Akasaka, Minato-ku Tokyo 107-0052 Japan  
Tel: 03-3568-6388 Fax: 03-3568-6389  
<http://www.oprt.or.jp>



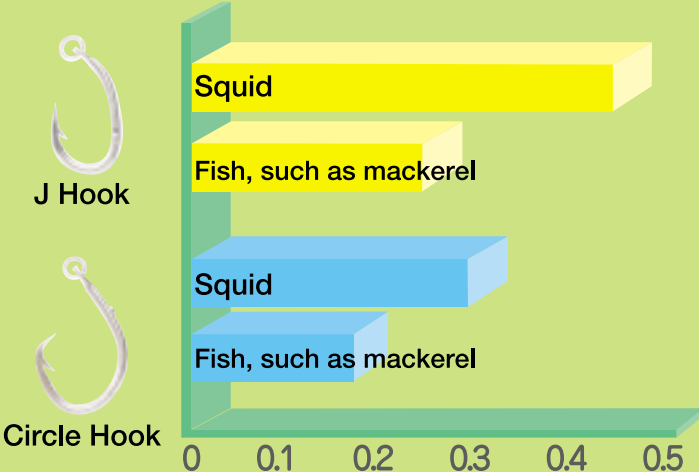
**OPRT**  
Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries  
Supervised by Ecologically Related Species Section  
National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, Japan

# Prevention of bycatch will lead to the successful future of longline fisheries and sea turtles.

Use Circle hooks in waters less than 120 meters deep.

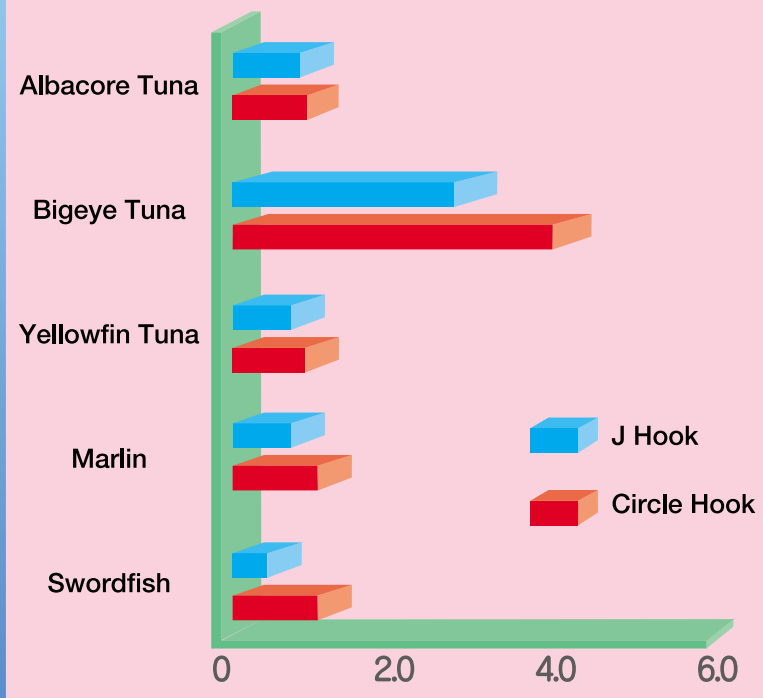


Using Circle hooks with fish bait, such as mackerel, would minimize the bycatch of leatherback sea turtles.



Bycatch rates of leatherback sea turtles according to hook and bait type  
 ※Number of sea turtles bycaught per 1,000 hooks  
 (Data courtesy of NOAA Fisheries, US Department of Commerce)

Using Circle hooks may increase tuna hooking rates.



Comparison of tuna hooking rates between J Hook and Circle hooks  
 (Data courtesy of National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, Japan)

Fishermen are also encouraged to take appropriate handling and release of bycaught sea turtles to reduce injury and improve chances of survival.