

Why I'm here:  
Caught on fishing hook and line

Patient: Squidward  
Species: Kemp's Ridley  
Latin Name: *Lepidochelys kempii*

Age: Juvenile  
Gender: Unknown  
Weight: 3.05 kg/6.71 lbs  
Found: St. Andrews Picnic Area, Jekyll Island  
Arrived: May 4, 2014  
Rescued by: Local fisherman



## TREATMENT FOR:

Squidward  
(MAY BE PREVIOUS OR CURRENT)

- Initial IV electrolytes & dextrose fluids for dehydration and low blood glucose (LRS + 5% dextrose)
- Sedated for hook removal.. Hook was removed without surgery because bait was protecting the esophagus from the barb of the hook.
- Amikacin (antibiotic for aerobic bacterial infection)
- Elbow abscess flushed with antiseptic solution, debrided, and dressed with silver collasate.
- Therapeutic laser treatment for carapace ulcer and elbow abscess

PRESCRIBED: DR. NORTON, DVM

### Exam Findings:

Hook and bait lodged in lower esophagus or stomach

Small deep abscess on right elbow

Few barnacles on carapace

Beak fracture

### Blood work:

Slightly low glucose

Dehydrated

Low blood protein

Elevated muscle enzymes from struggling

### Radiographs (x-ray):

Other than ingested fishing hook, no abnormalities present.

### How you can help turtles like me:

Squid is a popular bait choice in recreational fishing.

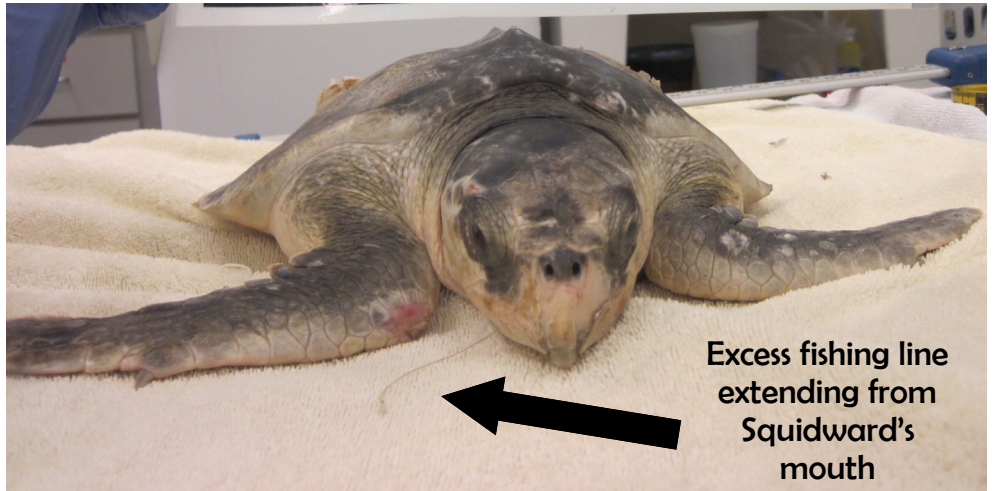
It is also a favorite food for sea turtles, particularly the Kemp's Ridley. Look on the back of this page to see pictures from Squidward's initial surgery, as well as tips for what to do if you accidentally hook a sea turtle while fishing.



Current Weight:

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The sea turtle esophagus is equipped with keratinized papillae that protect their throat from sharp items (such as crab parts) and hold the prey item in place while the expel salt water during feeding. However, when sea turtles ingest foreign items, such as fishing hooks, they can be easily lodged in the throat due to these papillae. If you are fishing recreationally in Georgia, and you accidentally catch a sea turtle, please call 1-800-2SAVE-ME. This hotline will reach sea turtle stranding personnel.



If you must cut the line, leave a lot of slack and attach the excess line to the turtle's carapace (top shell) using tape. It is much easier to locate and remove fishing hooks if veterinary staff are able to use the excess line to find the exact location of the hook.

Here are some "turtle-friendly" tips for fishermen:

- Avoid using braided fishing line. It is very strong and abrasion resistant, and can result in severe entanglement injuries.
- Use non-stainless steel hooks, such as bronze. Non-stainless steel hooks will break down much faster in a marine environment.
- Consider your bait choice, and avoid using bait items that sea turtles may prefer as prey (such as squid or shrimp).



Successful hook and bait removal!