

# HOW TO UNHOOK A SEABIRD

- Prepare by gathering pliers, wire cutters and gloves, plus a knife, towel and eye protection. Recruit other people to help.
- Reel in the bird slowly.
- Grab the bird quickly and decisively. Hold its beak firmly and slightly open, folding its wings against its body and covering its head with a towel.
- Locate and remove the hook by exposing and cutting the barb and then backing the hook out of the wound.
- If the bird swallowed the hook or is seriously injured, do NOT cut the line. Contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), 888-404-3922, or Kritter Inc., 850-819-3354.
- Before releasing, examine the bird for remaining hooks or fishing line and remove them.
- Release the bird by pointing its head towards the water and away from you. Step back as you let it go.

