

Keep our waters  
tangle-free.



Photo by Craig Harms  
NCSU

This loggerhead sea turtle ingested fishing line and lost its front left flipper due to entanglement.

Recycle your  
fishing line  
responsibly!!



Photo by Keith Rittmaster, NC Maritime Museum

Two live pelicans entangled together in the same piece of monofilament fishing line. They were disentangled, released, and flew away.

## MONOFILAMENT LINE FAQs

### •What is monofilament line?

Monofilament line is single strand, strong plastic line in clear or tinted blue, pink, or green.

### •Monofilament line can be recycled!

### •Who recycles monofilament line?

The Pure Fishing Company (Berkley)  
1900 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Spirit Lake, IA 51360.

### •How is monofilament line recycled?

Monofilament line is collected and cleaned of all hooks, leaders, weights, fishing lures and trash by volunteers. It is shipped to the Pure Fishing Company where it is melted down into raw plastic pellets that can be made into tackle boxes, fishing line spools, fish habitats and toys.

### •What damage does discarded line do?

Discarded fishing line causes injury and death to birds, turtles and marine mammals, such as dolphins, whales and seals. Line also tangles up boat propellers, causing motor damage.

### •What can you do?

Please ask people not to discard any plastic, and especially monofilament line in the ocean or on beaches. Contribute time or money to a recycling program or stranding network. Collect discarded fishing line when encountered. Encourage others to do the same.

•If you must throw away monofilament line, cut it into small pieces (6") so it cannot entangle any living organism, and dispose in trash can.

•How long does monofilament line take to degrade? Monofilament line takes approximately 600 years to degrade in the environment.

### •Spread the word!

•Look for monofilament recycling receptacles at fishing piers, bait and tackle shops, dive shops and beaches.

•Make a financial contribution using the form on this brochure.

For more information on monofilament recycling in North Carolina, visit [capelookoutstudies.org](http://capelookoutstudies.org)

## North Carolina Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program



Please dispose of fishing  
line responsibly

## The Problem

Marine wildlife (dolphins, sea turtles, birds and fish) entangled in discarded monofilament fishing line is a pervasive problem that appears to be getting worse in North Carolina. Entangled marine wildlife often die a slow and painful death due to drowning, starvation, and/or injury such as loss of a limb. Animals also swallow fishing line resulting in illness, injury and death.



Photo courtesy of NOAA Fisheries, Beaufort, NC lab

Bottlenose dolphin calf showing lethal cuts from entanglement and monofilament line that had wrapped from mouth to tail.



Photo by Keith Rittmaster, NC Maritime Museum

Leatherback sea turtle entangled in piece of monofilament fishing net. This turtle was released alive.

Fishing line also entangles boat propellers, causing motor damage.



## The Solution

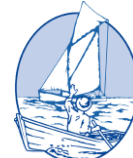
Please don't leave your line behind and pick up discarded line that you find. Look for recycling receptacles (pictured below) at local bait and tackle shops, boat ramps, marinas, fishing piers, and other outdoor fishing and boating locations. Encourage others to do the same.



Outdoor bin



Indoor box



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Please consider making a donation by using the form below or online by visiting [capelookoutstudies.org](http://capelookoutstudies.org). On behalf of all the marine wildlife whose entanglement may be averted, we appreciate your support.

----- Cut here -----

I would like to help support the NC Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program with a donation at the following level:

\_\_\_ \$2,000 (Marine Wildlife Steward) \_\_\_ \$1,000 (Dolphin) \_\_\_ \$500 (Sea Turtle)

\_\_\_ \$250 (Shark) \_\_\_ \$100 (Pelican) \_\_\_ \$50 (Cormorant) \_\_\_ \$25 (Crab)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Friends of the Museum and mail to NC Maritime Museum, 315 Front St., Beaufort, NC 28516, Attn. Monofilament Recycling. Marine wildlife thanks you for your support.