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

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 18th 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)
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.

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

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

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.

This brochure is printed on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified paper.

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