



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

This dolphin suffered many injuries from discarded hook and line — including a ripped dorsal fin (left) and a hooked mouth (top).

## REPORT ENTANGLED WILDLIFE

Report all entangled **marine wildlife** to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources at 228-374-5000 or NOAA Fisheries Service at 228-762-4591 or 978-281-9351, and **marine mammals** to the Institute of Marine Mammal Studies at 888-SOS-DOLPHIN (888-767-3657).

Report all entangled **land animals** to WRANPS at 228-452-WILD (228-452-9453); or Wildlife Care and Rescue Center at 228-669-2737.



Monofilament entangles a dead osprey's beak and face.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Do not attempt to disentangle an animal as it may result in injury to yourself and/or the animal.

## REPORT DUMPING OF MARINE DEBRIS

Call the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources State Marine Patrol at 800-294-5551 or the U.S. Coast Guard at 800-424-8802.

## HELP KEEP OUR GULF CLEAN



[www.dmr.ms.gov/fishinglinerecycling](http://www.dmr.ms.gov/fishinglinerecycling)

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources  
1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi MS 39530  
228-374-5000 • [www.dmr.ms.gov](http://www.dmr.ms.gov)



Special thanks to the Florida Monofilament Recovery & Recycling Program: [www.fishinglinerecycling.com](http://www.fishinglinerecycling.com)

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**ON THE COVER:** This entangled juvenile lined seahorse was found wrapped in fishing line and a piece of a derelict crab trap in the Mississippi Sound (top). A young angler places fishing line in a monofilament recycling tube in Gulfport (bottom).

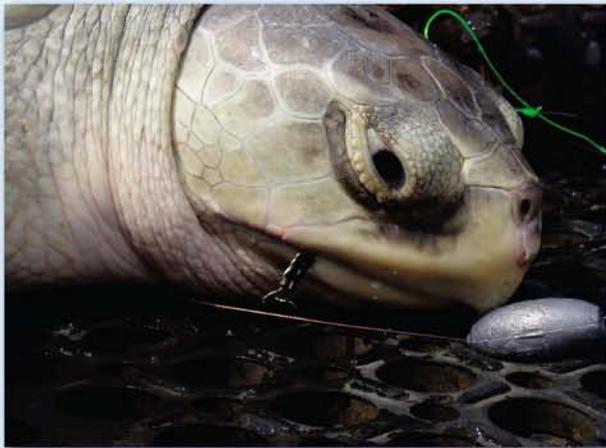
# Mississippi Monofilament Recycling Program



**Don't leave your line behind!  
Recycle your used fishing line**

## THE PROBLEM

- Monofilament is a strand of strong, flexible plastic used for fishing, and the majority of it is non-degradable in water and lasts about **600 years!**
- Monofilament thrown in garbage cans can still pose a threat when blown out by the wind or taken out by wildlife scavengers.
- Wildlife monofilament entanglements result in drowning, starvation or loss of flipper or tails. Wildlife ingestion of fishing line often results in illness and death.
- Abandoned fishing line often poses a threat to divers who become entangled and drown. Boaters are all too familiar with the costly repairs required when discarded fishing line entangles their propellers.
- Monofilament can affect big business and industry by blocking industrial bilge pumps and intake valves.



Institute of Marine Mammal Studies

This endangered Kemp's Ridley sea turtle was found stranded and entangled on the Mississippi coast.



Shen Colazzo/Marine Photobank

A gray snapper is hooked by discarded fishing line.

## THE FACTS

- Since the start of the Mississippi Monofilament Recycling Program in 2008, more than 254 pounds of fishing line have been collected.
- In the 2010 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, 261 pieces of fishing line were picked up and recorded in just three hours, and two fish were found entangled in monofilament.
- Fishing line was the No. 1 entanglement item during the 2010 International Coastal Cleanup (ICC), and over the ICC's 25 years, fishing line has been the No. 1 entanglement item of all time, with 40 percent of all animal entanglements.



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Fishing line can get caught in a boat's propeller and cause costly damage to the engine.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Don't leave your line behind. If you have unwanted line, store it safely and securely until it can be placed in a recycling receptacle. Remember: Mississippi law requires all boats to have onboard a closeable trash receptacle.
- Cast with care! Survey the area before you cast your line to avoid trees, utility lines, reefs, wildlife and other anglers.
- Collect discarded line and drop it off at one of over 50 monofilament recycling stations at piers, harbors, and bait shops across the Mississippi Gulf Coast.
- Maintain your line — check frequently for frayed line.
- Participate in local cleanup efforts, including the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup held every year in October in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup. For more information, visit [www.mscoastalcleanup.org](http://www.mscoastalcleanup.org).
- Do not feed wildlife as it encourages animals to approach fishing boats and anglers.



For a list of monofilament recycling locations on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, go to [www.dmr.ms.gov/fishinglinerecycling](http://www.dmr.ms.gov/fishinglinerecycling) or call the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources at 228-374-5000.