MONOFILAMENT RECOVERY – TURNING OLD FISHING LINE INTO SOMETHING NEW



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What is Monofilament Line? Monofilament line is another name for single-strand, high-density nylon fishing line that is used on fishing reels and in the manufacturing of fishing nets.

What is the Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program? The Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program (MRRP) is a statewide effort to reduce monofilament in the environment by:

➤ Educating the public about the problems caused by monofilament line left in the environment, and



➤ Encouraging recycling through a network of line recycling bins and drop-off locations.

Charlotte County's MRRP program was initiated by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 87 in the Englewood area in 2004. In 2005, Sea Grant expanded this effort to the rest of the County. The program is supported by volunteers who empty the bins on a regular basis.

Where are recycling bins located? Outdoor recycling bins, which are constructed of PVC pipe, are currently located at several County locations including Tom Adam's Bridge fishing pier, Ainger Creek boat ramp, Cedar Point Environmental Park, Royal Palm Marina, Oyster Creek Mobile Home Park, Eldred's Marina, Gasparilla Marina, Stump Pass Marina, Marine Dynamics, Manasota Beach Park, El Jobean fishing pier, Spring Lake Boat Ramp, Port Charlotte Beach pier and ramp, Bayshore fishing pier, Ponce de Leon Park, Laishley Marina and Fishermen's Village Marina (at King Fisher Fleet).

Indoor recycling boxes are also located at the Englewood Bait House, Captain Ted's Tackle in Port Charlotte, Fishin Franks Bait & Tackle in Charlotte Harbor and Laishley Marina (ships store) in Punta Gorda.

Additional outdoor bins are maintained at Indian Mound Park (Sarasota County) and at Inn Marina (Boca Grande in Lee County).

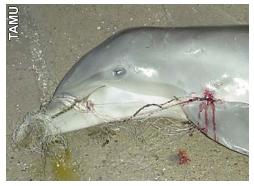
Why is monofilament recycling important? Monofilament line remains in the marine environment for up to 600 years? Monofilament entangled wildlife can lead to injury or death. Mono-

(Continued on page 2)

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filament entangled props can lead to costly repairs.

What happens to the collected line? Monofilament line retrieved from our bins is sent to Pure Fishing in Iowa who melts the line into small pellets, which are in turn used to make fishing related products such as tackle boxes, spools for new monofilament line, and freshwater artificial fish habitats.

Monofilament recycling is provided as a service to the community. Your help in assuring only monofilament line is placed in the bins is greatly appreciated! With that said, I thought I'd run through a list of some of the other items volunteers have found in the bins and suggest reasons why they are not appropriate for monofilament recycling.

- Empty beer bottles. This is a popular one. Beer bottle are not made of monofilament. Volunteers who recover them must dispose of them, and that is not what they signed up to do.
- <u>Cigarette butts</u>. Another popular item. Cigarette butts are not made of monofilament. Cigarette butts retrieved by volunteers, must in turn be placed into the garbage. Ironically, the bins with the greatest number of butts in them have garbage cans located right beside them.
- 3. **Shrimp**. This one is just plain nasty, but yes, they have been found in a bin.
- Braided Line. Braided line has become popular in the last several years. It is not made of monofilament and therefore should not be discarded in the bins.

For more information about the monofilament recycling program statewide visit www.fishinglinerecycling.org/index.asp.

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Photos courtesy of www.fishinglinerecycling.org

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