

HELP KEEP OUR GULF CLEAN

dmr.ms.gov/monofilament-recycling

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi MS 39530
228-374-5000 • dmr.ms.gov



ENHANCE • PROTECT • CONSERVE



MISSISSIPPI SOUND
ESTUARY PROGRAM



Entangled Black skimmer
Captured by Audubon



REPORT ENTANGLED WILDLIFE

- Report all entangled **marine wildlife** to NOAA Fisheries Service at 877-WHALE-HELP (877-942-5343) and **marine mammals and sea turtles** to the Institute of Marine Mammal Studies at 888-SOS-DOLPHIN (888-767-3657).
- Report all entangled land animals to **Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation** at 662-469-1645, **Woodside Wildlife Rescue** at 228-223-0430, or **Wild at Heart Rescue** at 228-669-7907
- Do not attempt to disentangle an animal as it may result in injury to yourself and/or the animal.

REPORT DUMPING OF MARINE DEBRIS

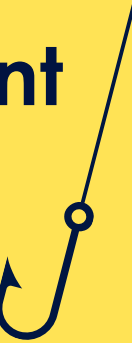
- Call the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources Marine Patrol Dispatch at 800-294-5551 or the U.S. Coast Guard at 800-424-8802.

Rope debris removed by
Mississippi Coastal Cleanup volunteer
Captured by Les Clark photography



ON THE COVER: An endangered Kemp's Ridley sea turtle found stranded and entangled on the Mississippi coast.

Mississippi Monofilament Recycling Program



DON'T LEAVE YOUR LINE BEHIND!

THE PROBLEM

- ❗ *Monofilament is a strand of strong, flexible plastic used for fishing, and most of it is non-degradable in water and can stay in the environment for about 600 years!*
- ❗ *Monofilament and other fishing line thrown in garbage cans can still pose a threat when blown out of the trash receptacle by the wind or carried off by wildlife scavengers.*
- ❗ *Wildlife monofilament entanglements can result in drowning, starvation or loss of flippers and tails. Ingestion of these fishing lines often results in illness and death.*
- ❗ *Abandoned monofilament and braid can also pose a threat to divers who can become entangled and drown. Boaters are also familiar with the costly repairs following entangling their propellers in improperly discarded fishing line.*
- ❗ *Monofilament left in the environment long term can be detrimental to big business by blocking industrial bilge pumps and intake valves.*



Sea turtle entangled in monofilament

Captured by the National Park Service

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 closable trash receptacle.**
- ❗ **Cast with care!**
Survey the area before you cast your line to avoid trees, utility lines, reefs, wildlife and other anglers.
- ❗ **Collect all discarded line**
Collect all discarded line, **not just single strand line**, and drop it off at one of over 30 monofilament recycling stations at piers, harbors, boat launches and bait shops across the Mississippi Gulf Coast.
- ❗ **Maintain your line**
Check frequently for fraying line so your line, and your catch, doesn't get away from you!
- ❗ **Participate in local cleanup efforts**
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 mscoastalcleanup.org.
- ❗ **Do not feed wildlife**
Do not feed wildlife as it encourages animals to approach and interact with fishing boats and anglers, causing harm to the animals.

For a list of monofilament recycling locations on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, visit dmr.ms.gov/monofilament-recycling or call the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources at 228-374-5000.



Monofilament recycling station

THE FACTS

The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Program has removed thousands of...



pieces of monofilament or braided fishing line and lures



yards of rope



pieces of fishing net



fishing buoys, pots and traps

Visit www.mscoastalcleanup.org to learn more.