Getting Started

Monofilament Recovery & Recycling Program

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Entanglement of protected marine wildlife in monofilament line in NC is a serious problem and appears to be getting worse. Thanks for your interest in working on a solution.

Regarding bin placement and maintenance, please consider the following:

1) **Find a good location.** This could be a tackle shop, fishing pier, head boat, boat ramp, dock from where charter boats depart, fishing shoreline, etc.
2) **Get permission** from the organization or landowner to install a bin and sign.
3) **Raise funds to pay for the bins.** The materials for each bin cost around $200 including the stickers and sign. I'll gladly build them if you can raise the funds, donation payable to Friends of the Museum. The mobile bin costs an additional $50 for the cart and hardware.
4) **Build bins** (or have me build them). Make sure your name and contact information is on each bin and sign. I can make waterproof stickers for you.
5) **Install the bins.** Through-bolting to an existing rail or post seems to work best. We use 3/8" galvanized bolts. I can send you photos and more advice if you'd like.
6) **Monitor the bins.** You'll have to figure out how often to do this as it varies wildly depending on the location and season. Some we check weekly (more during fishing tournaments), most every 2-4 weeks, less often in the winter. We generally don't empty a bin unless it's over half full.
7) **Deal with the contents.** To evaluate the success of this program I'd really like the weight of the fishing line collected. This requires removing hooks, weights, bait bags, bottles, cans, and other trash. You can do this yourself if you have a scale, or if you can get the contents (just monofilament line, no trash or gear) to me in Beaufort every 2-12 months I'll gladly weigh and recycle it. Or you can send it to Berkeley for recycling yourself (see brochure or contact me for more info).
8) **Remove your bins** or hopefully find someone to take them over when you can no longer commit to them.