



Fishing Line (Monofilament) Recycling Program



NE Florida Sea Grant Extension Program

3125 Agricultural Center Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32092 (904) 824-4564

Monofilament Recycling Bin Commitment Guidelines

The purpose of this document is to outline the responsibilities undertaken with an agreement to empty outdoor monofilament (fishing line) recycling bins, and to verify this agreement. Voluntary agreement to empty a recycling bin is an integral part of Florida Sea Grant's recycling efforts and is a commitment deeply appreciated by Florida Sea Grant and supporting agencies.

The intent of the following information is to clarify the steps involved in this commitment so both the volunteer and Florida Sea Grant understand what is expected of each other. To accommodate this goal the bin checking and emptying process has been broken down into the following five steps.

Step One:

The volunteer goes to their committed location and gives the bin a general visual inspection.

- Check to see if the stickers are worn or faded and in need of replacement
- Make sure that the bin is still fastened securely
- Ensure that the sign (when applicable) is still present and in good condition
- Inspect for general cleanliness and good condition of the recycling bin

If any problems are noted in this step the volunteer should call the Florida Sea Grant extension office at 904-824-4564 and notify them of the poor conditions. Florida Sea Grant will ensure any reported problems are rectified.

Step Two:

The volunteer should bring a trash bag or a reused plastic shopping bag to collect line from the bin. By placing their bag under the cap at the bin's base and unscrewing the cap, monofilament line can be removed from the bin so that it falls directly into the bag. The volunteer should then replace the cap. If there is a problem with the cap sticking so that it cannot be opened, please contact the Florida Sea Grant extension office.

Step Three:

In many cases there may be discarded items other than fishing line in the bin. Volunteers are welcome to recycle any aluminum cans or plastic bottles at their home recycling facilities.

- Any trash will need to be sorted out and placed in a garbage can.

Bin Commitment Guidelines

- In addition to trash mixed in with the line, any leaders, hooks, weights, lures and other fishing paraphernalia will need to be cut out of the monofilament.

Some of the line itself may be badly degraded and either encrusted with organisms from a long period underwater, or in poor condition from long exposure to sunlight. Unless this damaged line can be reasonably cleaned, perhaps at home with a garden hose and then dried, spoiled line should be discarded in the garbage, as it cannot be recycled. In our experience, cleaning line is more easily accomplished indoors, perhaps in a garage, shed, or on a sheltered patio at home. Working with monofilament line in the windy outdoors can become a losing battle.

- Cut discarded line into small lengths – less than 12”. This will ensure that the line does not entangle scavenging animals that might interact with it in a landfill.
- A general rule of thumb is; “When in doubt throw it out.” The Berkley Pure Fishing Company that recycles our monofilament is very particular about having only clean line end up at their recycling facility.

To cut hooks and leaders out of the monofilament, and to cut damaged monofilament into small pieces, Florida Sea Grant recommends using:

- A pair of fingernail or toenail clippers is the ideal tool; very safe and very strong
- A safe cutting tool such as a presto letter opener (a small sharp blade protected by a plastic casing about the size of a business card); very inexpensive
- A plastic guarded seatbelt cutter

Call the Florida Sea Grant extension office for more information on these products or for other suggestions.

Step Four:

The remaining clean and cleared line may now be taken to a local tackle shop that provides an indoor Berkley recycling receptacle. For names of these tackle shops please see the attached list. If the volunteer is unable to get to a tackle shop to drop off their line, please contact the Florida Sea Grant extension office and other arrangements will be made.

Step Five:

The final phase in emptying a monofilament recycling bin is to record the amount of line that was emptied with each visit, and the frequency of visits on the attached “Data Form.” One data form should be used for each bin, and each data form can be used for five visits. In other words, the volunteer should jot down how often they empty each bin and if the bin was one quarter full, one half full, three quarters full, or completely full each time they empty the bin.

- Please try to base estimates on line that is well compressed into the cylinder portion of the bin.

Estimates and rates of emptying should be reported periodically to the Florida Sea Grant extension office, either mailed in or sent by e-mail (to: mpmcguire@mail.ifas.ufl.edu).

Additional Responsibilities:

If at any time during their commitment to bin emptying the volunteer finds the condition of the bin or its contents to be beyond the scope of their management, they are encouraged to contact the Florida Sea Grant extension office and report the problem. Examples of problems that might be beyond a volunteer's responsibilities include bins that have been marred by graffiti, bins that have come unattached from their supporting posts, or contents that are dangerous. Florida Sea Grant or the appropriate facility manager will handle anything beyond the realm of the responsibilities listed in the five steps above, but notification is essential.

The frequency with which individual bins will need checking and emptying will vary depending on the season and location. A visual inspection should be conducted about once a month in case of vandalism or the effects of severe weather. The rate of bin emptying described in steps two through five will need to be determined during the monthly visual checks. At some locations a bin may need monthly emptying, while at another a few months may pass before a substantial amount of line accumulates.

If you have read, understood, and agree to the responsibilities outlined in the five steps to empty a recycling bin, please sign and date this agreement in the space provided below.

I agree to check, empty, and deliver recyclable fishing line to a tackle shop for Florida Sea Grant's outdoor recycling bin(s) at the following locations:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I will check, empty and deliver recyclable fishing line for at least one year from today's date. If I wish to end this commitment I will notify the Florida Sea Grant extension office so that a new volunteer can be found to continue maintaining the outdoor recycling bin(s) at the site(s) listed above.

Signed: _____

Date: _____