



Collier County Government

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXTENSION SERVICES EXPANDS MONOFILAMENT RECYCLING PROGRAM

Fish Florida has awarded a \$10,000 grant to Collier County's Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program in a statewide effort to educate the public about the importance of recycling fishing line to reduce injuries to wildlife.

As a result, Collier County's University of Florida Extension Office has partnered with Mote Marine Laboratory's Sarasota Dolphin Research Program to create 1,000 mini-fishing line recycle bins. The personal recycle bins will allow fishermen in Collier County to recycle immediately rather than waiting to return to a public boat ramp with a monofilament recycle bin.

These new recycling bins are made from used tennis ball cans and have educational stickers displayed reminding people to recover and recycle their monofilament fishing line. Additionally, the bins educate fishermen about the impacts fishing line takes on dolphins if the line is just tossed into the water rather than recycled.

The Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program already boasts dozens of stationary recycle bins at public boat ramps, marinas, bridges and Naples Pier. Many tackle shops also have indoor drop off locations where anglers can take their line to get shipped off and recycled.

"The new personal recycling bins will especially come in handy for anglers that perhaps do not visit public boat ramps or other areas where we have stationary recycling bins," said Collier County Sea Grant Extension Agent Bryan Fluech. "The mini bins have a Velcro ring that can be fastened to a boat console, private dock, or kayak and serve as a mobile reminder that we need to respect marine life by recycling our used fishing line."

Naples High School students in the Marine Science Class and a local 4-H Club helped construct the bins. Already, 700 bins have been put in the hands of active fishermen, which should help make a difference. Rookery Bay, Captain Will Geraghty of Grand Slam Charters, and Captain Bill Bowser, manager of Angler's Answer Tackle Shop are also helping distribute the bins as well.

For more information, the public may call Bryan Fluech at (239) 417-6310, extension 204.