



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES  
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## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### *DMR Reminds Fishermen to Recycle Fishing Line*

BILOXI, Miss. – The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) wants to remind fishermen along the Coast to drop their used fishing line in the designated recycling tubes located at piers and boat launches throughout the three coastal counties. **Only monofilament fishing line should be placed in the tubes. Bait, hooks, nets and all other trash should be placed in a proper garbage receptacle.**

DMR, along with partners National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Coastal Conservation Association and the Mississippi Wildlife Federation, launched the state's first large-scale monofilament, or fishing line, recycling program in May 2008.

"The first year of the program was very successful, with more than 100 pounds of fishing line collected," says Wesley Devers, DMR marine fisheries scientist.

Fishing line is consistently in the top 10 of debris found during the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, which is now held each year on the third Saturday in October. Monofilament is non-biodegradable and can last about 600 years in the marine environment.

"Monofilament poses an entanglement hazard for all marine life," says Devers. "Plus it causes extensive damage to boat motors and water intakes on marine vessels and industrial facilities."

The monofilament recycling tubes, made from 6-inch PVC piping, are posted along with signs encouraging fishermen to "Help Keep Our Gulf Clean" by dropping their used fishing line into the tubes. There are 45 locations across the Mississippi Coast (see list below).

The used fishing line is collected by DMR and partnering organizations and then shipped to Pure Fishing America, the parent company of Berkley fishing line. Foreign debris is removed from the line and then the line is put through a processing machine. The line is ground into tiny pieces, melted down and then remolded into various products, such as spools for fishing line, tackle boxes and freshwater fish habitats. The recycled monofilament is not used to make new fishing line.

Monofilament is a high-density plastic and requires a special recycling process. The fishing line must be placed into the specially designated receptacles. Even fishing line thrown in the garbage can find its way into and along the environment or marine waters, either by blowing out of the garbage can or landfill, or by being taken out by birds or animals.

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The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at [www.dmr.ms.gov](http://www.dmr.ms.gov).

Monofilament recycling indoor and outdoor bins are being installed at the following sites in the three coastal counties:

**Jackson County**

Mary Walker Marina  
Gautier River Park  
Tucie's Marina  
Moss Point Riverfront  
Ocean Springs Harbor  
Ft. Bayou boat ramp and pier  
Bayou Cassotte boat ramp  
CC's bait shop  
Singing River Yacht Club  
West Beach boat launch and pier  
Highway 90 boat launch  
River Park public pier  
Graveline boat launch  
Gulf Coast Research Lab  
River City Harbor  
Pascagoula Beach Park public pier  
Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

**Harrison County**

Point Cadet  
Biloxi Small Craft Harbor  
Pine Street pier  
Forrest Avenue pier and boat launch  
Biloxi Yacht Club  
Keesler Air Force Base marina  
D'Iberville boat ramp and pier  
Kremer Marine boat ramp  
Courthouse boat ramp  
Ken Combs Pier  
James Hill Park  
Gulfport Lake boat ramp  
Moses Pier  
Urie Pier  
Gulfport Small Craft boat ramp  
Gulfport Yacht Club  
West Side Pier  
Long Beach Harbor  
Pass Christian Harbor  
Pass Christian Yacht Club  
Wolf River boat ramp  
Pelican Cove boat ramp

**Hancock County**

La Frances Fishing Camp

Bay-Waveland Yacht Club

Bay Marina

Washington Street Pier

Bayou Caddy boat ramp and pier

Pearlington boat ramp



**PHOTO CREDIT: Courtesy of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.**

**PHOTO CUTLINE (09-46-LDJ): The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) reminds fishermen to place their used fishing line in the designated monofilament recycling tubes located at 45 sites across the Mississippi Gulf Coast.**