



VA Fishing Line Recycling Program

- Multi-agency state-wide recycling program to prevent discarded monofilament line from entering the Commonwealth's waterways
- PVC collection bins that are placed at piers, docks, and marinas for monofilament collection
- Line is collected, recorded, and shipped to the Berkley Conservation Institute for recycling into fish habitat structures





Funded by the VSRFDF



- Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 28.2-302.3 , funds collected by the Commonwealth of Virginia for the sale of recreational licenses are deposited in a special non-reverting fund and used to improve recreational fisheries in Virginia.
- Virginia Fishing Line Recycling Program was funded by the VSRFDF in 2009



Recycling Program History

- In 2008, the program received an initial shipment of bins from the Boat U.S. Foundation
 - (NOAA grant)
- The VA Fishing Line Recycling Program was officially initiated in 2009
 - (Governor Tim Kaine's Year of the Environment)
- 21 bins were placed in the first year
- Several more added each year since
- Always looking for partners/volunteers



Monofilament

- Monofilament fishing line poses an environmental hazard
 - Can endanger fish, shore birds, turtles, and marine mammals.
 - An animal entangled in fishing line can suffer drowning, infection, loss of limbs, and starvation
- Destruction of Property
 - Improperly discarded fishing line can wrap around propellers, causing damage and costly repairs
- At this time, the recycling program only accepts monofilament line (no braided line)



Program Partners

- The Virginia Fishing Line Recycling Program is run jointly by
 - Virginia Marine Resources Commission
 - Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- The program receives support from
 - Boat US Foundation (Reel in and Recycle Program)
 - supplies and how-to videos
 - reporting and monitoring website that tracks all of the fishing line recycled in the state
 - Berkley Conservation Institute
 - Recycles Line
 - Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center
 - storage, support, and assembly
 - Eastern Shore Waste Watchers
 - Volunteer collection
 - Volunteers, shop owners, pier managers, etc.



Recycling Bins



- Sturdy PVC bins that are bolted/strapped in high-use areas
 - Very sturdy, screw off bottoms for safety
 - Bins are not always available from the VMRC
 - Location partners may choose to build their own bins, and VMRC will provide decals



Bin Locations

- Original locations
 - Chosen due to proximity to the VMRC main office and normal traveling routes of VMRC field staff
- Locations include
 - Marinas
 - Docks
 - Bait and tackle shops
 - Examples: Chincoteague, Cape Charles, Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Hampton, Newport News, and Lancaster County
- New locations depend on volunteer bin managers



Locations

(VMRC managed sites are listed)

Buckroe Fishing Pier,
Hampton
Capt. Bob's Marina,
Chincoteague
Chris' Bait and Tackle, Cape
Charles
Don's Bait and Tackle,
Wachapreague

Belle Isle State Park Canoe Launch/ Fishing Pier
Belle Isle Boat Ramp
Chesapeake Boat Basin
Greenvale Creek Public Boat Ramp
Windmill Point Launch Site
Windmill Point Resort
Long Bay Pointe Marina, Virginia Beach

Denbigh Boat Ramp
Hilton Pier
King Lincoln Park
Leeward Marina
Monitor Merrimac Overlook
Fishing Pier
Newport News Park Campsites
Ocean View Fishing Pier, Norfolk
Wallace's Bait and Tackle,
Hampton
Cape Charles (2 bins)
Captain Zed's
Kiptopeke State Park (5 bins)
Morley's Wharf
Oyster Boat Ramp
Quinby Boat Ramp
Wachapreague Boat Ramp
Willis Wharf
Wise Point Boat Ramp
Virginia Beach Locations



How it works

- Bins: Anglers deposit monofilament in bins placed on docks, piers, and bait and tackle shops
- Partners: Line is collected, weighed, and recorded by the VMRC or volunteers
- Berkley Pure Fishing: Line is shipped to Berkley in pre-paid shipping boxes
- Monofilament is used to make fish-habs



Results

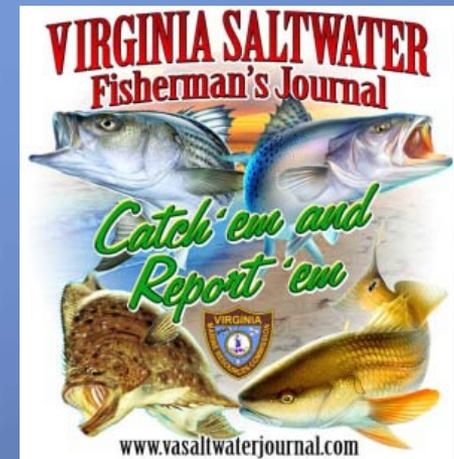
- 36 recycling bins have been installed (DGIF has installed more)
- 600 + pounds of fishing line sent from the Newport News office
 - Many more shipments have been made from program partners
 - Represents line that has been safely recycled (NOT in our waterways!)
- Recycling Program is an easy way to help out!





Just one part

- The VA Fishing Line Recycling Program is part of a suite of recreational programs funded by the VSRFDF and administered by the VMRC
- Other programs include:
 - Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament
 - Virginia Marine Sport Fish Collection Program
 - Saltwater Fisherman's Journal
 - Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program
- These programs allow the VMRC to work with the angling public to aid in data collection, conservation, and fisheries management





How to get involved?



- Contact the VMRC to join the program!
- New locations require:
 - Permission of location owner/manager
 - A reliable person to agree to be the bin manager (responsible for making sure the bin stays up)
 - Someone who agrees to check/empty the bin
 - Line is either shipped directly from the location (prepaid shipping boxes) or taken to the VMRC for shipping



Contact information

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 - 757-247-2244
- Websites:
 - http://www.mrc.virginia.gov/rec_assessment/VFLRP_AD.shtm
 - <http://www.berkley-fishing.com/about/berkley-conservation-institute/recycling>
 - <http://www.boatus.com/foundation/monofilament/>



Questions?

