

Entanglement Fact Sheet

- Monofilament is non-biodegradable and can remain in the marine environment for over 600 years.
- From 2000-2004 over 37 dolphins have been stranded with monofilament entanglements or fishing hook ingestions.
- Between 2000 and 2004, 166 sea turtles were entangled in fishing line in Florida.
- One turtle rescued had ingested approximately 590 feet of monofilament.
- From 1991-2005 of the 655 manatees rescued for injuries, approximately 7% of all manatees rescued were due to entanglements in monofilament.
- Monofilament caught around the flipper of a marine mammal or sea turtle can result in the loss of the flipper or death due to infection and/or a weakened health state.
- Feeding marine mammals may encourage them to approach humans, which increases their risk of becoming entangled in fishing gear or being injured from a boat collision.
- Researchers have documented over 60 fish species that have swallowed or become entangled in marine debris.
- Thousands of seabirds are rescued annually due to hook and line entanglements.
- Between 1999 and 2000, over 250 seabirds were rescued due to hook and line entanglements and of those, 92 died.