

The Great Monofilament Tube Adventure



Monitor Training

March 25, 2023




Agenda

- Welcome / Safety / Goals for Day
 - Project Overview
 - Monitor Responsibilities
 - Tools of the Trade
 - Safety in the Field
 - Reporting – How / Who / Problems
 - Choosing Bins
 - Final Thought
- 



Goals for the Day

At the end of this presentation you should understand:

- The monofilament project background, structure and goals
 - Who leads each team and what these teams do
 - What is expected of you as a bin monitor
 - What tools you will need
 - How to report your collection data
 - How to stay safe in the field and report problems
 - Which bin(s) you have selected and recommended collection frequency
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Project Overview

Background

- Texas Monofilament Recovery & Recycling Program
 - Statewide effort – started in 2009 in Chambers & Jefferson Co
 - Website a great resource
(<https://texasseagrant.org/programs/monofilament-recovery-and-recycling-program/>)
 - Listed of all **known** bins in Galveston county
- GBAC Members recognized issues fishing line collection
 - Only a small subset of the bins listed for Galveston county
 - Many bins apparently abandoned
 - No coordination or local oversight
 - No long-term plan to sustain the effort
- Team formed & GBAC project initiated to address these issues
- Over 100 bins were located, GPS mapped, described and photographed
- Google Map of bins was developed

The Problems with Fishing Line

- Monofilament line is flexible with shock strength, available in many colors, hard for fish to see and inexpensive.
- The very qualities that make it appealing to anglers make it a serious threat when it is discarded into the environment.
 - Not biodegradable
 - Animals become easily entangled leading to injury, starvation or death
 - Swimmers and divers can become entangled
 - Line can foul boat propellers and shafts, resulting in expensive repairs
 - Can't be recycled by normal plastic recycling centers



How Do You Dispose of Fishing Line

Why not bag it and throw it away?

- It can still end up back in the environment when animals scavenge the trash or birds try to use it in nest building.



Photo © iStockphoto.com/zeljksantrac



Mission

Community members coming together to *educate* and *encourage* everyone to *collect* and *responsibly recycle* fishing line to keep our *wildlife safe* and our *waterways clean*.



Monofilament Teams

Communications Team – Maureen

- Created/maintain Facebook page
- Created TMN website tab
- Article in Coastal Magazine

Outreach Team - TBN

- Developed outreach kit
- Seek opportunities to spread our message
- Need a team lead to coordinate outreach opportunities

Monitor & Adoption Team - Stennie & Sandy

- Trained monitors and assigned bins
- Registered tubes with Texas Agrilife
- Developed report form (Google forms)
- Report volume of line collected to state program

Maintenance Team - TBN

- Developed processes for adding sites
- Need team lead/members



Fishing Line Tube Monitors

- Responsibilities
 - Visit Tube Monthly to begin – adjust accordingly
 - Remove all line and trash from the Tube
 - Remove weights, hooks and debris from the line
 - Complete log form - submit form as you collect
 - Assess the Tube condition and report any issues, suggestions, lessons learned, tube location
 - Provide feedback on any contact with the public
 - Deposit line as needed to Carbide Park collection box



Fishing Line Tube Monitors

Tools of the trade / Feedback

- 5 gal. Bucket
- Gloves
- Channel locks
- Clean-out tool
- Safety Glasses
- Boots/Closed-toe shoes
- ~~Ziplock bags (pre-labeled with tube numbers)~~
- ~~Scale (if applicable)~~
- ~~Email info for Log spreadsheet~~



Fishing Line Tube Monitors

Tools of the trade / Feedback

- 5 gal. Bucket
- Gloves
- Channel locks
- Clean-out tool
- Safety Glasses
- Boots/Closed-toe shoes
- Pocket Knife/Scissors
- Report form on your phone (Google form)
 - Instructions provided for iPhone & Android to make the form into an icon
 - Report as you collect

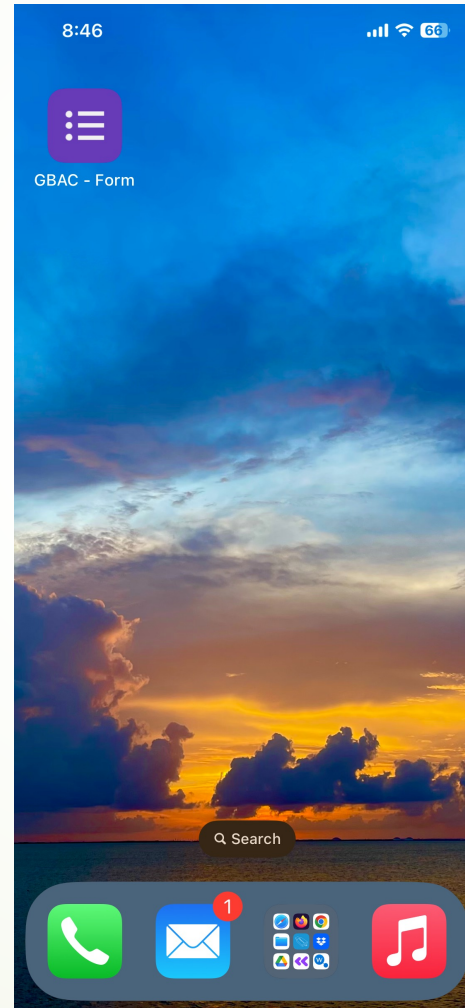


New Google Reporting Form

- Developed real-time reporting form
 - Report as you collect
- Streamlined reporting requirements
- Submit form from your phone
- New Google form automatically populates spreadsheet
- Data used to make monofilament tube decisions
- Line will be weighed in bulk prior to sending to Berkley Fishing Tackle for Recycling

Add New Reporting Form as an Icon

<https://www.equitytool.org/adding-the-survey-form-to-the-home-screen-of-a-mobile-device/>



Fishing Line Tube Monitors

Safety for Monitors

- Use the buddy system as needed
- Always wear Safety Gear: gloves, glasses, boots
 - Beware of hooks during tube cleanout
- Identify yourself: Wear T-shirt, TMN Name tag
- Be aware of surroundings - watch for snakes etc.
- **Do not confront** – Make a friend and suggest they use the tubes



Reporting

- How do I report collection data?
 - Use the Google form
- When do I report?
 - As you collect the line
- To whom do I report problems / issues?
 - On the Form – Yes/No buttons & Additional comments
- How do I share learnings and good news stories?
 - Post on our Facebook page:
 - ***Fishing line – recycle yours in Galveston county***

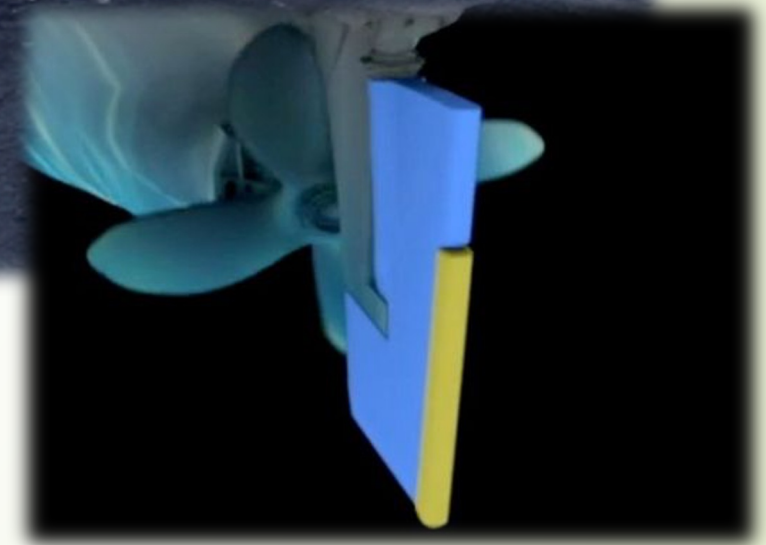


Choosing Bins

- **Monofilament Tube Map**
- You may want to choose bins close to your home
 - Utilize the map to help
- **Spreadsheet listing:**
 - Current monitors
 - Bins that are not assigned

Line Cleaning & Weigh In





Final Thought – Trim Tab

- ***Small actions can have major impact***
- ***You can be a “Trim Tabber”***