



The Texas Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program (MRRP) is a statewide, volunteer-led effort to reduce monofilament in the environment by: educating the public about the problems caused by monofilament line left in the environment, and encouraging recycling through a network of line recycling bins and drop-off locations. Monofilament line is another name for single-strand, high-density nylon fishing line that is used on fishing reels and in the manufacturing of fishing nets. Used line can be harmful to boat motors and marine wildlife. Birds and animals cannot see discarded monofilament fishing line, so it is easy for them to become tangled in it and starve, drown or lose a limb.

What You Can Do...

Sponsor a recycling bin. Volunteers check the bins on a regular basis to make sure that the line is free of other debris. When the bin is full, they send the monofilament to a collection point. The used monofilament is chopped up, melted down and the plastic is then used to manufacture new plastic fishing-related products like tackle boxes, spools for lines, and artificial fish habitats. It is not made into more monofilament line.

Report tangled animals. Birds and animals cannot see discarded fishing line, so it is easy for them to become tangled in it. If you see an animal tangled in fishing line, go to the Texas Parks and Wildlife web site to locate a wildlife rehabilitator in your county.

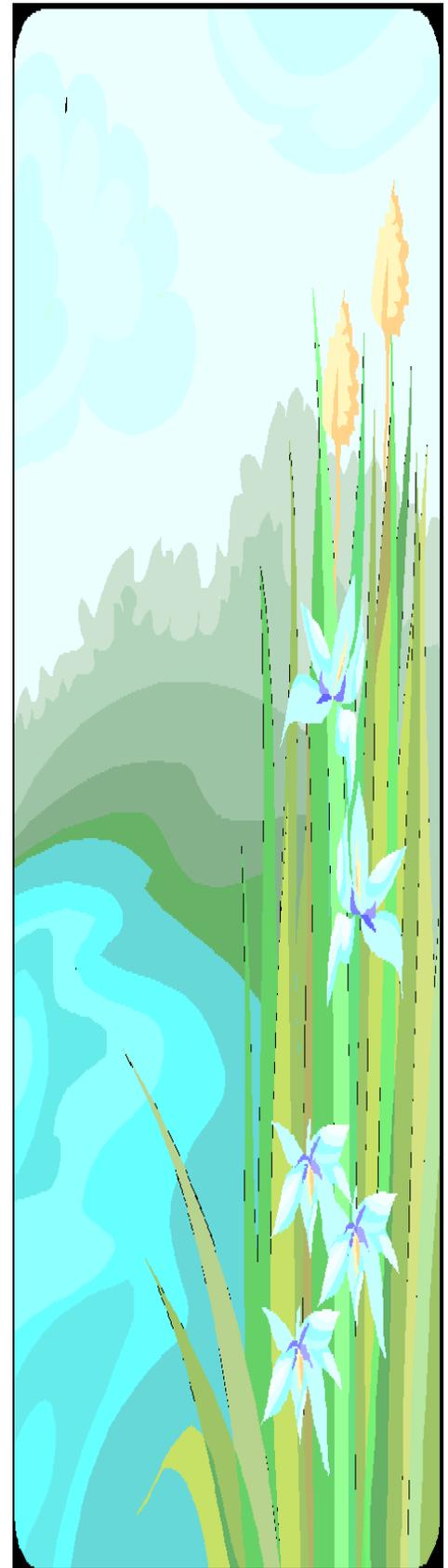
<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/rehab/list/>.

Recover your line. Whenever possible retrieve and properly dispose of any monofilament fishing line that you encounter. Take the time to remove any monofilament if it becomes tangled.

Volunteer. Participate in local beach and river cleanup events. Volunteer for agencies that are actively sponsoring cleanups. Volunteer to sponsor an outdoor monofilament recycling bin and empty it on a monthly basis.

Be Line Conscious. Consider the age of your line and its strength. Store loose pieces of fishing line. Even the tag ends cut from leaders should be stored for proper disposal. Cut an 'X' into the lid of a film or tennis ball canister to make it easy to poke the pieces of line through and store this in a secure location. Make it a rule never to throw any kind of plastic into nature, especially not monofilament line. When you throw away fishing line, cut it into pieces less than 12 inches.

Recycle. Recycle monofilament fishing line the local AgriLife Extension office or in outdoor PVC recycling bins posted at boat ramps and piers. If your tackle shop does not have a recycling bin encourage them to contact Terrie Looney, Coastal & Marine Resource Agent, Texas AgriLife Extension office, Beaumont, Texas, at (409) 835-8461.





Camp Seaport offers vision of maritime careers

Article by: **MARY MEAUX**

The Port Arthur News, PORT ARTHUR

July 2009

Aurielle Mosley may not decide to become a ship's captain but she can now envision a career in the maritime industry. The Monsignor Kelly High School junior, along with about a dozen other local high school students, began a five day educational voyage into the maritime industry during the Second Annual Port of Port Arthur Camp Seaport on Monday.

After listening to several presentations from industry professionals the students embarked on a hands-on nautical knot tying experience courtesy of Texas Sea Grant Extension agents. Rhonda Cummins, a Calhoun County Agricultural Extension Agent with Sea Grant who also holds a 200 ton captains license, entertained the group with knot tying techniques. With students seated in the Port of Port Arthur Commissioners meeting room, Cummins let the teens choose a piece of rope and began instructions for a Bowline Knot. She explained the simple knot is one of many that are standard to the maritime industry. Applicants for all Able Seaman ratings must demonstrate skills and knowledge of knots, splices, bends and hitches and be able to perform these tasks within an allotted time frame.

Terrie Looney, County Extension Agent for Jefferson and Chambers counties, also assisted with the session. One teen wanted to know how tying the Bowline Knot would help her in real life situations to which Cummins quickly answered. "The Bowline is one of the most useful knots," Cummins said. Cummins slipped the knot tied rope around the handle of a chair to demonstrate a way of tying a bicycle up to a post or a dog, she said. The knot is useful for sailing and rescuing.

"At first I wasn't that interested until the hands-on session, it caught my attention, woke me up," Mosley said. The student said she could see herself in a career in the maritime business but not on a boat or ship. Miguel Loreda, who has plans for a career in underwater welding, learned a few new tricks, tying knots, the Memorial High School student said. During the five day Camp Seaport students will tour the Port of Port Arthur, spend time at Gulf Copper Dry Dock and visit Galveston to tour the Texas A&M Maritime Academy. Students will also meet with professionals in various maritime industries and attend a session on maritime Global Positioning Systems. The camp is free to students and open to 10th and 11th graders.



OXYGEN DEPLETIONS IN FARM PONDS

Source: CEP-PVA&M

Every year a number of Texas pond owners lose part of all or their farm pond population due to oxygen depletion. An oxygen depletion is not the only cause of fish die-offs in Texas ponds, but it is the most common. Pond owners should be aware of the causes, signs, and corrective measures to lessen the likelihood of experiencing an oxygen depletion.

Oxygen depletion in a pond is the result of demand exceeding supply. Aquatic animals, plants, and decaying organic matter consume oxygen. Aquatic plants are primary producers of oxygen. Plants produce oxygen as a by-product of photosynthesis. The rate of photosynthesis is dependent upon light. Because of the effect of sunlight on photosynthesis, the amount oxygen fluctuates daily. Oxygen levels are usually highest at midday and lowest just before sunrise. Fish kills usually occur when more oxygen is consumed during the night hours than is produced during daylight hours. Warm water does not contain as much oxygen as cold water. Thus, during warm weather months, mismanagement of ponds by overstocking, overfeeding, over fertilization, pollution from barns and feedlots, or chemical treatment of aquatic weeds can result in oxygen depletion and fish kills.

The pond owner should be alert to the possibility of oxygen depletion if one or more of the following conditions exists:

- after a heavy rain
- during periods of strong winds
- during periods of calm, cloudy days
- during the fall when air temperatures are rapidly cooling
- after chemical treatment of aquatic weeds.

If one of these conditions exist, a pond owner should inspect his pond daily for sign of oxygen depletion. Emergency treatment must be undertaken immediately to prevent loss. The following physical and chemical emergency treatments are effective. The most effective emergency treatment is mechanical aeration of the water. There are a number of ways the water can be aerated mechanically.

- Paddle Wheel Aerator
- Large Volume Pumps
- Bush hog Mower
- Outboard Motors
- Water Replacement.

The key to preventing oxygen depletion is proper pond management. After the emergency has passed, find and eliminate the cause of oxygen depletion. It can weaken and stress surviving fish making them more susceptible to diseases and parasites. Surviving fish should be watched closely during the few weeks following oxygen depletion to determine if treatment is necessary.

Fish that are still alive may be harvested and are safe to eat. Dead fish should be removed.

Terrie Looney

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Catch Us on the Web!
<http://Jefferson-tx.tamu.edu>

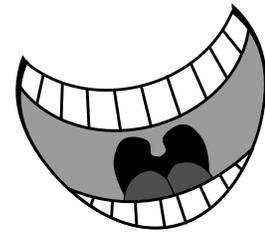


*"I'm not here for the meaning of life.
I wanna know if the fish are biting
and where."*



*"I think I got another nibble. I haven't
heard a peep out of you. Maybe today's
just not the day you catch the big one."*

just for laughs



*"Relax, I'm not here for you. I'm here
for the worm on the end of your hook,"*



*"Excuse me, Sir, but there's a fish on
line 3. He claims you caught him but
he got away. I think he's calling to gloat."*



*"If people enjoy buffets, then
maybe the fish will too."*