

Fishing Line Recycling Locations in Connecticut



Dead osprey tangled in fishing line and found hanging from its nest in Old Lyme.
Photo courtesy of Hank Golet

Don't Let this Happen Again!

Carelessly discarded fishing line can seriously harm or kill wildlife. Animals can become entangled in, or ingest, the line, whereby starvation, strangulation, or deep wounding are possible. Wildlife usually cannot survive the injuries they sustain from entanglements.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has installed monofilament fishing line recycling receptacles at inland and coastal sites around the state to encourage less waste line in the environment. The disposed fishing line is collected by volunteers, and then sent to a company that recycles it to make underwater habitat structures for fish.

The Menunkatuck Audubon Society, a local chapter of National Audubon serving the shoreline from Madison to West Haven, also has installed several recycling receptacles (www.menunkatuck.org).

DEEP Receptacles at Coastal Locations:

- Groton:** Bluff Point State Park (Depot Rd.)
- Milford:** Audubon Coastal Center (Milford Point Rd.)
Gulf Street Beach (Gulf St.)
- Old Lyme:** DEP Marine District HQ (333 Ferry Road)
- Stonington:** Barn Island Boat Launch (Palmer Neck Road)
- Stratford:** Long Beach Parking Area (Oak Bluff Rd.)
Parking Area and Dock off Lockwood Ave.
- West Haven:** Sandy Point (Beach St.)



Monofilament fishing line recycling container at one of the coastal locations.

DEEP Receptacles at Inland Locations:

- Burlington:** Farmington River Trail (Off Rte. 4 near the Farmington town line)
- Colchester:** Babcock Pond Boat Launch (Rte. 16)
- Farmington:** Shade Swamp WMA (Rte. 6)
- Griswold:** Pachaug Pond Boat Launch (Rte. 138)
- New Fairfield:** Candlewood Lake (Rte 39 S)
Squantz Cove Boat Launch (Rte. 39 S)
Squantz Pond State Park Boat Launch (178 Shortwoods Rd.)
Ball Pond Boat Launch (Ball Pond Rd.)
- Salem:** Gardner Lake Boat Launch (Rte. 354)



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Salisbury: East Twin Lake Boat Launch (Gravel road off Twin Lakes Road)
Torrington: Stillwater Pond Boat Launch (Rte. 272)
Watertown: Black Rock State Park (Rte. 6)
Winchester: Highland Lake Boat Launch (Take a right off Woodland Ave.)

Menunkatuck Audubon Receptacles:

Guilford: Guilford Town Dock (maintained by dock employees)
 Boat Launch at Lake Quonnipaug (maintained by Menunkatuck Audubon)
Guilford/Madison: Boat Launch ramp on the East River (maintained by local resident)
Madison: Hammonasset Beach State Park (5 receptacles maintained by DEEP Parks Division)

Menunkatuck Audubon will be installing more receptacles. For more information, contact lorrie@menunkatuck.org.



Monofilament fishing line recycling container installed by Menunkatuck Audubon at East River Boat Launch.

Help protect wildlife and keep your favorite fishing area clean by placing waste fishing line in a recycling receptacle. It's the responsible thing to do!



This red-throated loon was found in Guilford with fishing tackle entangled around its body. Unfortunately, the loon could not be caught to remove the fishing line, and its fate remains unknown.

Photo courtesy of Paul Fusco

Fishing line, hooks, lures, sinkers, kite string, helium balloons, plastic bags, and other carelessly discarded trash are deadly threats to wildlife.

Please retrieve these items and discard them in covered trash or recycling containers. We all can help further by picking up other people's trash, especially along our waterways.



The Monofilament Fishing Line Recycling Project received funding from Connecticut's Endangered Species/Wildlife Income Tax Check-off Fund.