

Dispose of Fishing Line Responsibly

Many coastal and inland birds, invertebrates, sea turtles and marine mammals are injured or killed each year as the result of becoming tangled in fishing line, hooks and tackle that have been improperly disposed of along beaches, dams or thrown overboard into the water.

Fishing line entangles animals and as they struggle the line gets tighter, cutting off circulation and severing legs and wings.

Fishermen are urged to act more responsibly, both along coastal shore lines and at inland fishing sites.



When Woollynecked Stalks (above) get entangled in fishing line, the line becomes tight, stopping the flow of blood, resulting in swelling and eventually foot or toe loss. The entangled birds must be in terrible pain, and they cannot roost on tree branches at night as they cannot grasp the branch when the wind blows.



A Palm-nut Vulture, photographed at Mtunzini with fishing line attached to its one foot. The one toe is badly swollen and the bird would have probably lost that extremity. (Palm-nut Vultures are endangered).

Thank you to Hugh Chittenden for use of his photos and being so aware of this terrible problem.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Place all broken and used line in a **fishing line recycling bin** like this one on the right. →
- If no recycling bins are available, place broken and used fishing line that has been cut into 10 cm lengths, hooks and sinkers in a rubbish bin with a lid.

