

BIRDS are being killed in increasing numbers on the Gold Coast as a result of inappropriately discarded fishing line.

This week an injured curlew who was entangled in line was taken to Sea World for care after it was found at Marine Stadium fighting for life.

A second bird was also found in the same tangle but had died.

Yesterday, Sea World released the curlew back into the wild but urged fisherman to discard fishing line safely.

[Have your say on the feedback form below](#)

"Unfortunately we do take in a lot of sea birds with discarded hooks in their mouths and fishing line wrapped around them and had the curlew not been spotted and brought in it would have died," Sea World's Tacha Mulligan said.



A curlew who survived a fishing line entanglement is set free. Pic: Inga Williams. Inset: The entanglement. Pic: Supplied

[Pictures: Entangled curlew set free](#)

"Any type of restriction from fishing line and other rubbish around the animal can lead to a loss of blood flow to that area which can lead to amputation and horrific injuries."

Pelican and Sea Bird Rescue Association president Hammy Forrest said fishing line entanglements were among the biggest problems facing birds but could easily be solved if people made the effort.

"The hazards are huge when it comes to entanglements and the incidents are plenty," she said.

"It comes down to education and getting people to make the effort -- if they want to make the most of the environment they need to look after it."

Rowley Goonan, who looks after capturing injured birds on the Gold Coast, said entangled birds were a big problem on the Coast, a problem he said could be easily solved with a little effort.

Your Say

"A very simple strategy is for people to stop dropping fishing line on the ground, that would solve the problem overnight," he said.

Your Say

The Hamstar Posted On 10:49pm Friday 30th September

You need a licence to drive a car, shoot a gun or own a dog or cat but you can cause havoc within the environment without any education or regulations in place while participating in the most popular sport in Australia - fishing. Consideration for their well being and respective environs is all that is needed for the preservation of our wildlife.

Harry A Boniface Posted On 09:31pm Wednesday 28th September

Regarding discarded fishing gear, the Grey Ghost should realise that one doesn't need to be an intellectual to dangle a line in the water. And, perhaps more of a concern, many of these mature anglers get to vote.

The Grey Ghost Posted On 07:17pm Wednesday 28th September

Governments say lots about protecting wildlife and marine life. Some of them are even making noises about 'green zones' and locking up the GBR to placate PEW. Noble thoughts, but how come they still allow bait to be sold in plastic bags, and more importantly why do the bait suppliers package it that way? Everyone knows where it ends up. What's wrong with newspaper, turtles can digest that? Shame, shame.

PalmyGreg Posted On 04:08pm Wednesday 28th September

I fish a few times a week and am constantly picking up discarded line. From what I see it's usually dropped by tourists who rarely fish rather than regular local fishos.

Ian Posted On 09:07am Wednesday 28th September

Pictures speak a thousand words!! Whilst encouraging our native wildlife to flourish isn't it a shame the GCCC can't use graphic pictures of the perils of discarded fishing line to our seabirds. PICTORIAL Signs in our recreational fishing areas "may" help to remind fishermen the dreadful consequences and slow torture it can inflict if discarded carelessly.