

Media Release



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For Immediate Release

Untangling the Angler in Fraser Coast Region

OceanWatch Australia in partnership with Fraser Coast Regional Council is encouraging fishos to put unwanted fishing line in specially designed TAngler Bins.

OceanWatch Australia is a national not-for-profit environmental organisation working to advance sustainability in the Australian seafood industry. OceanWatch key activities involve enhancing fish habitats and improving water quality in estuaries and coastal environments, working with industry and local communities to minimise environmental impacts and introducing industry and communities to sustainable technologies and behaviours.

TAngler Bins are an unusual looking structure made from PVC pipes designed specifically for the disposal of old, tangled fishing line, bait bags and hooks. They are an effective tool for keeping popular fishing spots tidy.

The Great Sandy Straits fringing Council is about to install a number of TAngler bins at popular fishing spots throughout their region over the coming month, to keep line littering at bay.

"Fraser Coast Regional Council is installing TAngler Bins to help local fishers to keep their fishing spots tidy. TAngler Bins make an easy job of being a responsible fisher - they are not easily missed and are situated as close as possible to popular fishing sites or at fish cleaning tables," said Councillor Sue Brooks.

The TAngler Bins will be emptied by Council as part of the existing waste management and cleaning program.

Funded through the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program by Burnett Mary Regional Group, the OceanWatch Australia initiative has been effective in helping Councils based in Sydney to keep fishing line out of fish habitats and favourite fishing spots. Fishing line litter is not only unsightly, but can last for up to 600 years and can therefore cause significant, long lasting problems in the environment.

Burnett-Mary Regional Group applauds Fraser Coast Regional Council in setting an example for other Councils to establish a network of TAngler Bins.

Business Development & Planning Manager of Burnett-Mary Regional Group, Sue Sargent, says, "*TAngler Bins have been instrumental in other areas in bringing about attitudinal change for more responsible disposal of fishing line. This initiative is a positive step in the right direction to reduce local impacts of discarded fishing line on marine wildlife and habitats.*"

OceanWatch Australia supports this project through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program, in partnership with Fraser Coast Regional Council and Burnett Mary Regional Group.

For more information about TAngler Bins, contact Fraser Coast Regional Council on 1300 794929 or local OceanWatch Australia officer, Michelle Haase, on 4181 2999.

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(Photograph over page)





TAngler Bin installed

<http://www.oceanwatch.org.au/our-work/tangler-bin/>