



Sustainable Recreational Fishing Line Use

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#BeatPlasticPollution
 If you can't reuse it, refuse it

What is recreational fishing?

- Recreational fishing = angling = hobby fishing
- Catching fish with hook and line (rivers / lakes and also sea)
- Synonymous with rod and line (also pots / nets)
- 220 - 700 million anglers (FAO 2012, World Bank 2012)
- Global industry \$190bn (World Bank, 2012)
- Economic opportunities for tourism-dependent communities

* <https://ww.des.nh.gov/>

Issues: synthetic fishing line

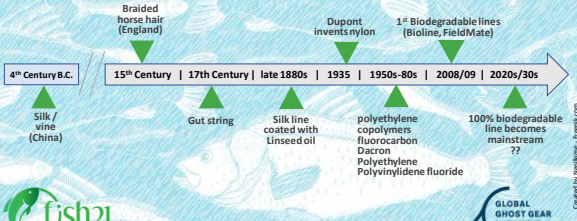
- Photodegradation ≠ biodegradation
- c.600 years to decompose*
- Ghost fishing
- Ocean micro-plastics
- Fouling
- Water user risks
- Littering



* <https://www.des.nh.gov/>



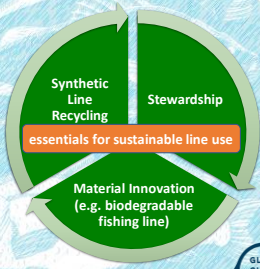



Fishing line ... back to the future?



Timeline:

- 4th Century B.C.: Silk / vine (China)
- 15th Century: Braided horse hair (England)
- 17th Century: Gut string
- late 1880s: Silk line coated with Linseed oil
- 1935: Dupont invents nylon
- 1950s-80s: polyethylene copolymers, fluorocarbon, Dacron, Polyethylene, Polyvinylidene fluoride
- 2008/09: 1st Biodegradable lines (Bioline, FieldMate)
- 2020s/30s: 100% biodegradable line becomes mainstream

Sustainable fishing line use

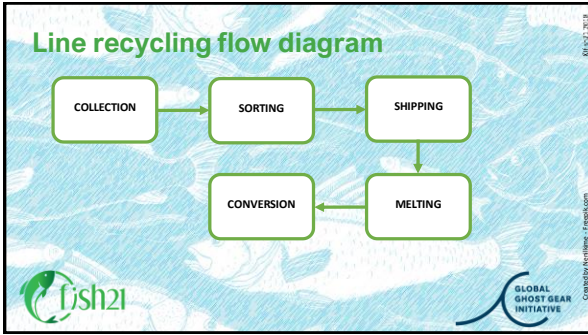




Line recycling – what 'good' looks like

- Education / engagement
- Financial viability
- Strong volunteer network
- Management plan
- Communications strategy
- Reprocessor partner







Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme

- 1st UK scheme - founded by LISA
- To date: 115 stores / 6 fisheries
- Strong volunteer network
- 1,100 anglers surveyed (LISA/GGCI)
- >50% anglers change line annually
- Est. 1.2 million km line / 241 tonnes nylon (per million anglers)

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Innovation ... biodegradable line

- Innovation - dissolvable medical stitches
- Bioline® / TravelMate™
- Potential >99% reduction wildlife threat
- Independent testing
- High interest - perceived issues
- Customer confidence key

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Key U.N. Sustainable Development Goals

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

15 LIFE ON LAND

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

fish21 and the Global Ghost Gear Initiative support the UN's SDGs
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

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Launch of fish21 / GGI Sustainable Recreational Line Use Infographic

LOST or DISCARDED recreational fishing line (and other equipment including weights and hooks) known as 'ghost gear' can continue causing problems for life below water and on land.

600 years... the estimated time synthetic line stays in the environment - back to Shakespeare's era!

SYNTHETIC LINES cannot decompose and slowly disintegrate in water. Instead they become brittle, break into pieces and contribute to micro-plastics in the environment.

LINE RECYCLING = 5400 km² of fishing gear recycled

ANNOUNCEMENT We have the potential to be 100% recycling in line gear, reducing the long-term threat to wildlife by **99%**

STEWARDSHIP Manufacturers promote responsible use of their products.
 • People starting recreational fishing learn and adopt good practice

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"In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught."
 (Baba Dioum, 1968)

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THANK YOU
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