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Responsible Fishing Reduces Wildlife Injuries

seized pair injuried common

Many varieties of birds and other creatures that inhabit our marine waters, wetlands, rivers and dams are all too regularly hooked or entangled by lost or abandoned fishing tackle. The injuries that result can be severe, horrific and often fatal if not attended to.

Rescue, Research and Education



Marine Education Society of Australia (MESA)
MESA aims to achieve through understanding the ecologically sustainable use of our oceans, from the catchments to the deep sea.



Parks Victoria
Throughout the world there is growing recognition of the vital contribution parks make to a healthy environment, to the health of individuals and to a healthy society. Victorians are very fortunate to have inherited a world-class network of parks and reserves, now accounting for more than 16% of Victoria's landmass.

Parks Victoria is responsible for managing these marvellous national, state, regional, reservoir, marine and major metropolitan parks and conservation reserves. Parks Victoria also manages many well-known historic properties and gardens and Melbourne's bays and major waterways.

Our role is to protect the natural and cultural values of the parks and other assets we manage, while providing a great range of outdoor opportunities for Victorians and visitors.

For further information call the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 or visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au



Department of Primary Industries
The Department of Primary Industries Fisheries Division is responsible for ensuring Victoria's fish resources, and the habitats that support them, are managed sustainably while optimising the benefits of commercial and recreational fishing and aquaculture development to the Victorian community.

Please report illegal fishing activities to 13 3474.



Coast Action/Coastcare
Coast Action/Coastcare is a community program supporting volunteers and land managers in protecting and enhancing our coast and marine environments.

For further information visit www.dse.gov.au/coasts

Sponsors



Envirofund
www.nht.gov.au/envirofund



MESA
www.mesa.edu.au



VR Fish
www.vrfish.com.au



Vic Seabird Rescue
www.avianangles@yahoo.com



Rex Hunt "Futurefish" Foundation
www.futurefish.com.au



Wildlife Victoria
www.wildlifevictoria.org.au



Dept. Primary Industries
www.dpi.vic.gov.au



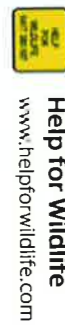
Fishcare Geelong & District
www.fishcare.org.au



Victorian Wader Study Group
home.vicnet.net.au/~vwsq/



Australian Fishing Network
www.afn.com.au



Help for Wildlife
www.helpforwildlife.com



Coast Action/Coastcare
www.dse.vic.gov.au/coasts



Parks Victoria
www.parkweb.vic.gov.au



Phillip Island Nature Parks
www.penguins.org.au



Swan Bay Integrated Catchment Management Authority
corangamite.landcare.net.au/groups/swan_bay/



Birds Australia
www.birdsaustralia.com.au

Please report illegal fishing activities to
13 3474



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responsible
fish fishing
A Guide for Fishers to help protect wildlife



Responsible fishing to protect wildlife

Every year along the Victorian coast large numbers of birds are hooked or entangled in fishing gear. By far the most common cause of injury is accidental hooking when birds forage near active fishers. Birds that forage in estuaries or along beaches and breakwalls are frequently entangled by unattended set lines or discarded tackle. Many terrestrial birds are also entangled by discarded line that they have scavenged for nest-building.









Image courtesy Lance Ferris

If you hook a bird:

- > DON'T panic, stay calm.
- > DON'T cut the line.
- > Gently reel the bird in.
- > Place a towel or shirt over the birds head and eyes. If the hook can easily be removed cut barb from hook, then carefully remove the hook or line.
- > DO NOT release the bird if hooks have been swallowed or are too deeply embedded for easy removal. Call Help for Wildlife or Wildlife Victoria for assistance.

REMEMBER
by fishing
responsibly
we can
prevent
injuries to
wildlife

Fishing Tips That Will Help Reduce Wildlife Injuries

-  Cast away from birds foraging near where you are fishing or move away.
-  Attend to your fishing gear at all times.
-  Collect any discarded line, other gear or rubbish that you may find. Don't leave ANYTHING behind. Even plastic bags and bait bags can prove fatal when dolphins, seals and sea turtles mistake them for their natural jellyfish prey.
-  Dispose of fishing line properly by taking it home and cutting it into small pieces to avoid entanglement when birds scavenge rubbish dumps.
-  Take care not to discard fish waste that may contain hooks.
-  Report any injured animals to Help for Wildlife or Wildlife Victoria.