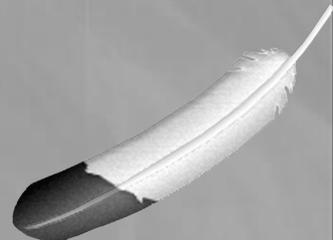


# LIFE ON THE LINE



Heather W. Barron, DVM, DABVP  
Hospital Director, CROW



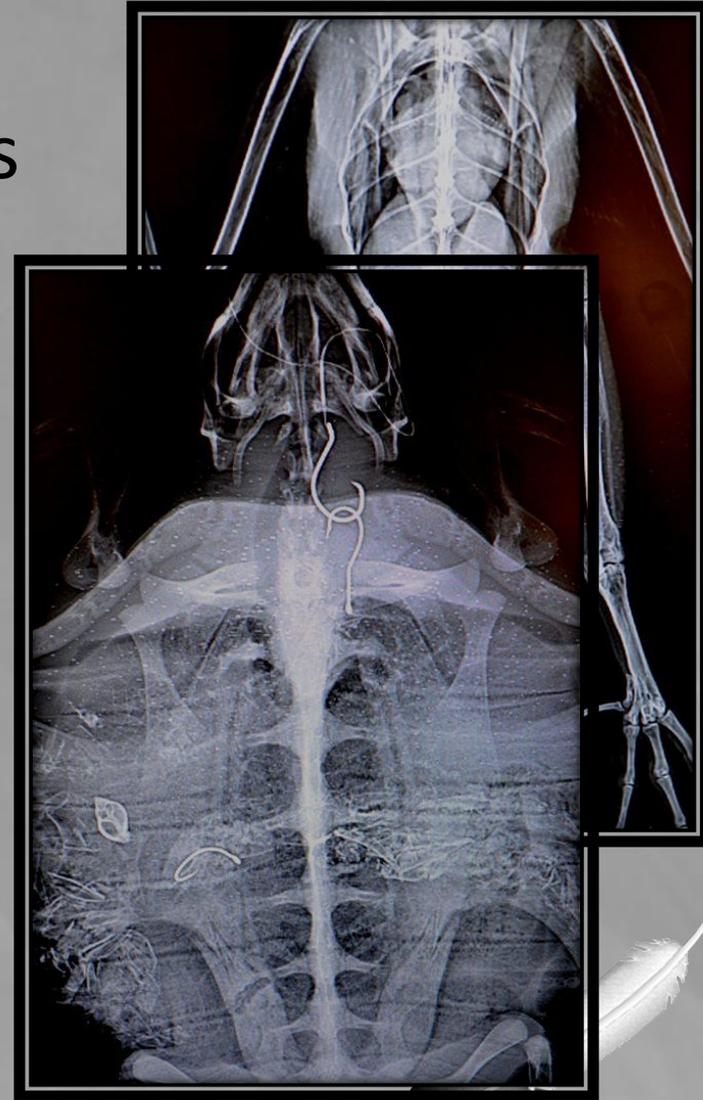
# CROW Mission

The mission of the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife is to advance the health, welfare, and conservation of wildlife through state-of-the-art medical & surgical care, research, and education.

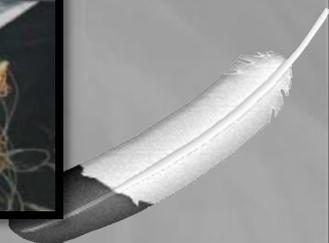


# Education

- In 2013, saw 107 patients (including endangered species of birds and sea turtles) for hook/monofilament line injuries.
- ~ 25% increase over last year
- Hundreds of thousands of seabirds killed each year by fishing tackle



# Ghost Fishing



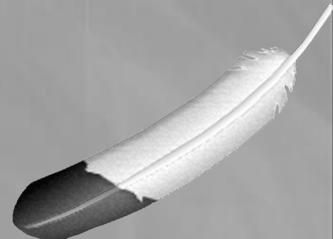
# Recycle Your Line

- Over 40 Florida counties now have recycling bins in place!
- Monofilament Recovery & Recycling Program (MRRP)  
FL statewide education



# It's The Law!

- Against FL law to intentionally discard monofilament into area waters.
- Federal offense to dispose of any type of plastic at sea including monofilament.
- Federal offense to feed, harass, touch or otherwise harm a marine mammal
- Against Florida law to feed any bird listed on that state's endangered or threatened list



# Is Your Line & Hook/Lure Overkill?

- Make sure wt of line appropriate for the fish
- Avoid 3 prong lures where possible
- Use lead free tackle
- Single siwash hooks
- Barbless hooks



# Use Biodegradable Line & Lures

- Performs as well as monofilament fishing line
- Breaks down in environment in 5 years vs. 500+ years with conventional line.



# Recommendations for Anglers

- Check fishing gear before heading out
- Make sure the line is in good shape
- Stow used line until safe disposal possible
- Move away from wildlife looking for a free lunch (never throw anything into the water)



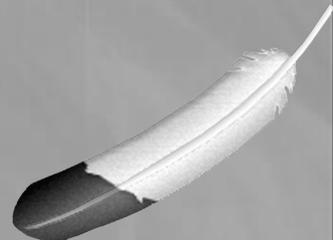
# Monofilament Madness

- Lee Co. event; collected enough monofilament to stretch from Ft. Myers to Tallahassee (393.4 miles) since 2009.
- 2012 coastal cleanup event in FL collected 10,673 *yards* of monofilament.

• **SATURDAY, November 1, 2014**

**8:00 AM - 1:00PM**

**FISH-TALE MARINA FORT MYERS BEACH**



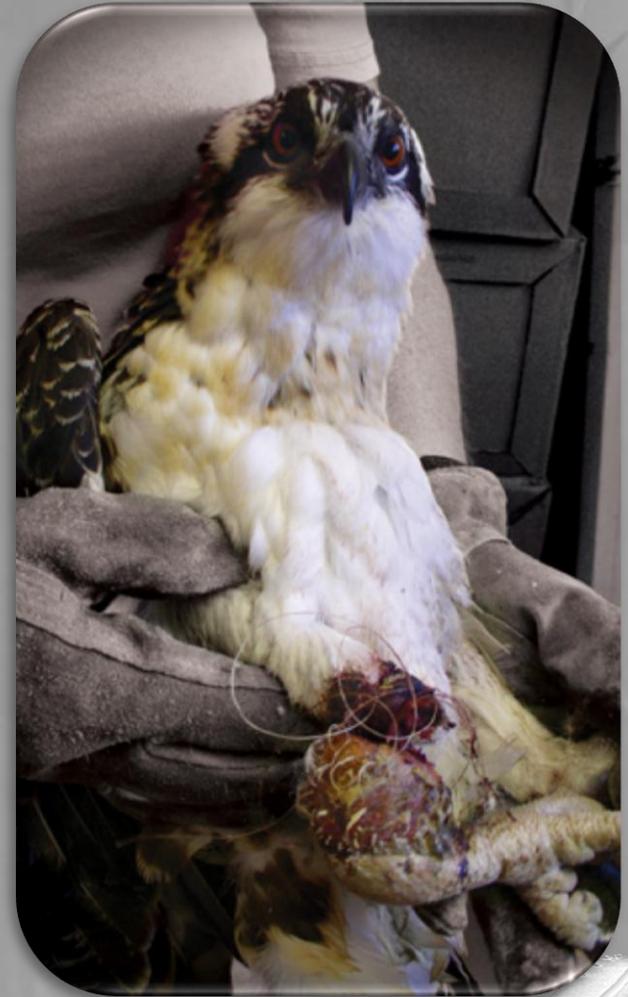
# What If Your Catch Of the Day Isn't What You Intended?

- Do NOT just cut the line and hope problem will resolve itself.
- Use a net to bring the animal within reach
- Use a towel to help restrain the animal
- A towel over the eyes may help keep it calm
- Use gloves and glasses to protect yourself



# Defense Mechanisms Vary By Species

- Raptors may claw or bite you
- Birds with long beaks will stab at you, esp your face
- Pelicans will nip, avoid the hook on the end; tomia sharp but beak weak.
- Cormorants & Anhingas are crazed killers!!



# Obligate Mouth Breathers

Gannets,  
cormorants,  
anhingas,  
frigate birds, &  
pelicans have  
no external  
nares



# Safe Restraint

- Avoid injury to yourself and the animal
- Call CROW 472-3644; press 1, then 1 again
- Put in box or bin
  - Ventilation
  - Towel over to keep dark and calm



# Hook Removal

- Do NOT tear hook out
- If swallowed, cut line  $\frac{1}{2}$  way down neck and tape to neck
- If in skin, can push through and cut barb
- Otherwise leave in and call CROW



You Can Make A Difference!



# Every Life Counts!



# So Long, And Thanks For All The Fish



Please Be Kind and Don't Leave Your Line Behind!