

# Tackling Trash When Fishing

By Jill Bartolotta, Ohio State University Extension, Ohio Sea Grant

- 1 Pack all your food and beverages in reusable bags or containers** to prevent accidental littering.
- 2 Bring water in a reusable water bottle** instead of using disposable plastic bottles. If you are using any disposable cans or bottles, place these items in the recycling bin. Make sure to rinse and dry them first.
- 3 Watch where you cast to avoid snagging your line.** If your line snags or breaks off, remember to remove from the environment and properly dispose of in a trash container. Remove any fishing line you find (yours or others) as it is the number one litter item entangling fish and wildlife in Ohio.
- 4 Use fishing line recycling bins when available.** Only place fishing line in these bins. Do not put your trash in them. (show image of monofilament recycling bin)
- 5 Lures, hooks, soft plastic baits, and lead weights are all harmful to the environment if left behind.** When no longer useable, dispose of in a trash bin.
- 6 Dispose of unwanted bait, packing materials, and containers in the trash** - do not dump them in the water or on land.
- 7 Pick up any trash you see and dispose of it in a trash bin.** Be careful if picking up sharp items like fishing lures. Make sure to place sharp items in a sturdy container before disposing of them in the trash bin.
- 8 Bring a bag or container with you to hold any trash you create** such as the small pieces of line you trim when tying knots and leaders. Dispose of in a trash bin.
- 9 When fishing from a boat, tie down items or store them properly** when underway to prevent accidental littering.
- 10 Educate others so we can keep our favorite fishing spots trash free!**

