

## SeaClean Project

Anglers are helping marine life in Dorset by taking part in a trial project to collect unwanted fishing line. Special 'Fishing line bins' have been installed at key locations in Swanage for anglers to discard their unwanted line. If enough is collected it can be recycled, possibly into new tackle boxes or new line.

Discarded fishing line is a huge problem in the sea where it entangles all kinds of marine life from seals and seabirds to crabs and seafans. It is also a hazard to human sea users such as divers and boaters. It has been estimated that it takes around 600 years for monofilament fishing line to break down in the sea.

The SeaClean project has been initiated by Dorset Coastlink, a partnership of coastal visitor centres and organisations along the Dorset coast which aims to raise awareness of marine life and the problems it faces. Julie Hatcher from Dorset Wildlife Trust, one of the partners, says "Generally anglers are very environmentally aware and do all that they can to minimise any impact on the marine environment. The bins are a way of helping them take positive steps to protect our wildlife." The project has received a grant from the Dorset Biodiversity Partnership as well as support from the Swanage & District Angling Club, Swanage Angling Centre and Swanage Town Council



The five fishing line bins are situated on the pier, the stone quay, the Angling Club and at North Beach near the Ocean Bay restaurant. Anglers can pick up a leaflet which explains the project and location of the bins.

Swanage anglers are leading the way nationally and it is hoped that the scheme can be extended all along the Dorset coast and beyond. If anyone is interested in sponsoring a bin in their area please contact Coastlink on 01929 481044.