



Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

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Citrus County's Approach to Marine Litter Prevention and Cleanup.

Citrus County residents and visitors are very lucky to have so much natural beauty around them to enjoy. From the Gulf of Mexico to the Withlacoochee River to the chain of lakes, we can fish, swim, boat, ski, canoe, or kayak in a different place everyday. Many of us have been drawn to Citrus County because of all this unspoiled beauty, open spaces and waterways.

All this time spent on or around the water does require some effort on our part. The marine ecosystem does an excellent job at cleaning itself,

but cannot make up for all the pressure we put on it. With fishing comes fishing line and when you land that huge bass or you win a fight with a cobia, it's a great feeling. But if you get a knot in your line or lose that fish you have to cut the line or even put all new line on the reel. If you're focused on the fish you just lost, and not thinking about the line you have to fix or change, it might end up in the water. Fishing line in the water presents possibly deadly problems for wildlife in and around our waterways. Do you know that fishing line can be recycled? This benefits us in two ways; first, it has a positive impact on the environment, and second, it saves energy and other natural resources to make things like spools for more line or new lures. So, by recycling the line that jammed up your reel, you get the chance to use it again. Citrus County has over 18 locations to recycle monofilament fishing line. Just look the next time you are at a County boat ramp or fishing pier.

Monofilament fishing line is not the only thing that can be dangerous to our wildlife. Many items that might accidentally fall into the water or items that might blow out of our boat can cause serious issues. What can we do? When you get all your supplies together for your next trip include a bag for trash. If you forget your trash bag, Citrus County is kicking off a new program to help. It is called Snag 'N' Bag. The idea behind it is to collect your trash and possibly pick up litter in the water around you. Once you come back off the water just take the Snag 'N' Bag home and toss it in your trash can or place it in a can at the boat ramp. Snag 'N' Bag is just like a litter bag for your car, but made for your time on or around the water. The bags are bright yellow with a blue logo and a list of groups that sponsor the program.

Next time you're on or around the water, do your part to help make it just as beautiful or better for the next person. Come back with everything you left with and maybe even what someone else accidentally left behind.