



SEAL^{THE} LOOP



ZOOS
VICTORIA
Fighting Extinction

 **Victorian
Fisheries**
AUTHORITY

Preventing fishing gear from entering the environment

Each year aquatic birds, mammals and fish, are killed or injured by discarded fishing gear.

Zoos Victoria and the Victorian Fisheries Authority are working together to untangle these threats to aquatic wildlife. By installing specially designed bins at popular fishing spots, we make it easy for fishers to dispose of unwanted fishing gear.

More than just a bin

Made from 100% recycled plastic, *Seal the Loop* bins have collected more than 70km of fishing line and tens of thousands of hooks, sinkers and other unwanted fishing-related items.

There are over 300 bins at marine and freshwater fishing locations throughout Victoria, monitored by custodians who share our commitment to reducing fishing litter in the environment.

Responding to Injured Wildlife

Zoos Victoria also helps provide veterinary assistance to injured aquatic wildlife via the Marine Response Unit.

If you see injured or distressed wildlife, call the Marine Response Unit on **1300 245 678**

You can be part of the solution

Help reduce the threats to aquatic wildlife by placing any unwanted fishing gear, such as line, hooks, sinkers and bait bags in a *Seal the Loop* bin.

- Bachar Houli, VFA Ambassador.



Seal the Loop is an important part of being a wildlife-friendly fishers.

In addition to keeping fishing litter out of the environment, it is also important to keep a safe distance from aquatic animals while fishing, in order to keep them wild. This is because habituated wildlife is more likely to steal fish, and get caught in fishing gear.

“There are lots of simple ways you can keep seals and other aquatic wildlife safe while fishing.

Remove fishing lines from the water when wildlife is at risk of interacting with it, clean your fish away from the water’s edge or at designated cleaning locations, dispose of scraps in a rubbish bin, and place unwanted fishing gear in a *Seal the Loop* bin.”

- Mark Keenan, Marine Response Unit.

Join us

Find your nearest bin, or request one in your area and become a custodian - visit zoo.org.au/sealtheloop

Seal the Loop is proudly supported by Melbourne Water.