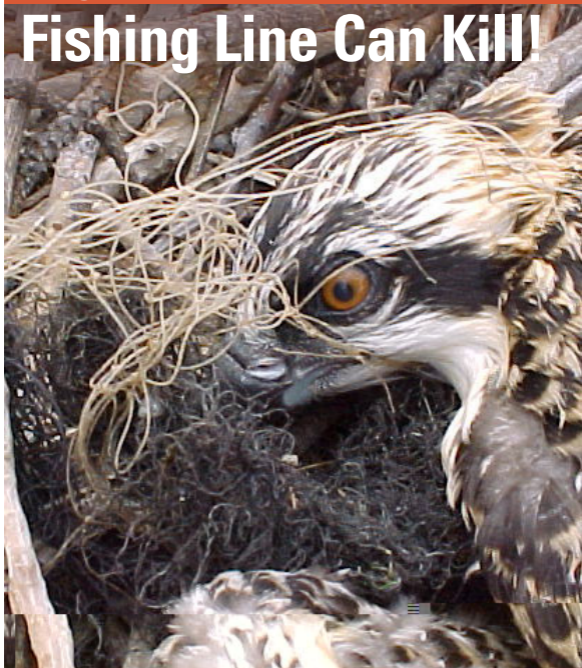The Chesapeake Bay has some of the finest fishing on the East Coast. In Maryland and Virginia, some 414,000 anglers fish the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries from late March through November. This period includes the entire breeding season for osprey (March-August). The Chesapeake Bay supports one of the largest nesting populations of osprey, with approximately 3,600 breeding pairs within the Bay. While anglers are fishing the Bay, these magnificent birds fly, build nests, and raise their young.

Ospreys are very tolerant of humans and will fish and nest close to populated communities. They often line their nests with a variety of natural and manmade materials. Some of the manmade materials ospreys pick up include paper, plastic rope and fishing line. Some of these prove to be deadly.

Osprey young have been found in their nests entangled in fishing line or impaled with fishing hooks. Adults have also been spotted entangled in line. Legs, wings and beaks can become so

tangled that the bird will not be able stand, fly or eat. Conservative estimates indicate that 5-10% of nests have fishing line present.

You can help. Anglers can reduce the injuries or deaths to ospreys and other wildlife simply by properly discarding fishing line and hooks. Retrieve broken lines, lures and hooks and deposit them in trash containers or take them with you. Help protect Chesapeake Bay wildlife.

The potential for entanglement is high.

In the Bay area there are:

80,896	boats registered with a Chesapeake Bay Sport Fishing and Virginia saltwater licenses
414,805	licensed anglers
115	anglers to each breeding pair or
58	anglers to each individual breeding osprey

Note: Angler to osprey ratios are probably higher than those listed above because boats registered with the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Sport fishing license cover more than one person on those vessels registered.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
      Chesapeake Bay Field Office
      Maryland Fisheries Office

Chesapeake Bay Trust

U.S. Geological Survey

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