

## Marine Debris

**Problem:** [Rubbish that finds its way into waterways](#) becomes a threat to marine life such as fish, birds and larger mammals like whales and dolphins. They can digest it or get trapped in it leading to a painful death. Recreational and commercial fishing tackle is one form of this pollution.

**Outcomes:** Projects are undertaken both above water and below water where material accumulates in snags. Projects also may involve changing community attitude and subsequent behaviour towards marine debris, particularly where people love to fish but still pollute and don't realise the linkages between the two activities. The [OceanWatch TAngler bin](#) is one such initiative to remove fishing line from our water ways.



*Left: A clean up on the Woronora River using tinnies.*

*Right: Recreational fishing line in rocks at the entrance to the Cooks River in Sydney*



*Commercial, residential and industrial waste dumped on a saltpan in Townsville.*

*Volunteers from Eco-divers, Councils and the Georges River Combined Councils Groups "Riverkeepers" assist a clean up in the Cooks River, Sydney.*