

LISA / GGGI – Line Recycling Survey Executive Summary Report



“ANLRS - Something the whole of angling can agree on”

Prepared by fish21
June 2018

Executive Summary

The *Local Independent Sea Anglers* (LISA), a volunteer-led and not-for-profit organisation, recognises that environmental benefits can result from recycling recreational fishing line. Whilst synthetic fishing line (e.g. nylon) can chemically breakdown in sunlight, it cannot biodegrade – in other words be decomposed by micro-organisms and easily and harmlessly disperse in the environment. Instead, it becomes brittle and breaks into smaller pieces which contribute to the rising amount of micro-plastics in the environment. These lines have been estimated to take up to 600 years¹ to break down.

With no obvious existing solution beyond landfill, and a general lack of interest from both the UK plastics recyclers and local authorities contacted, in 2016 LISA started the UK's first dedicated recreational fishing line recycling project. Initially working with Harry Owen (then) of MCB Seafoods in Newhaven, LISA collected used line which was shipped (in MCB Seafoods' bins) for reprocessing to Plastix, Denmark. LISA subsequently joined the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) to jointly develop this project and involve their affiliate membership. Recognising the need to engage with grass roots anglers and gain input on the project's development, in March 2018 LISA founded the Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme (ANLRS².)

A joint LISA / GGGI online Survey of 1,058 anglers represents the first major UK engagement with anglers on the subject of line recycling. Results indicate that annually each angler uses on average an estimated 1,245 metres of line. Assuming that there are around one million regular UK anglers, this equates annually to an estimated 1.245 million km of line – or one and a half return trips to the moon.

The full Survey results are presented in this executive summary report together with a quick-reference media briefing (Annex 1). Looking forward, the Survey's results represent an important contribution to both the development of a UK-wide recreational line recycling scheme, as well as for angling communities in other countries who have yet to do so.

Line recycling ... something the whole of angling can agree on....

¹ https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/trash/documents/marine_debris.pdf

² <https://www.anglers-nlrs.co.uk/>

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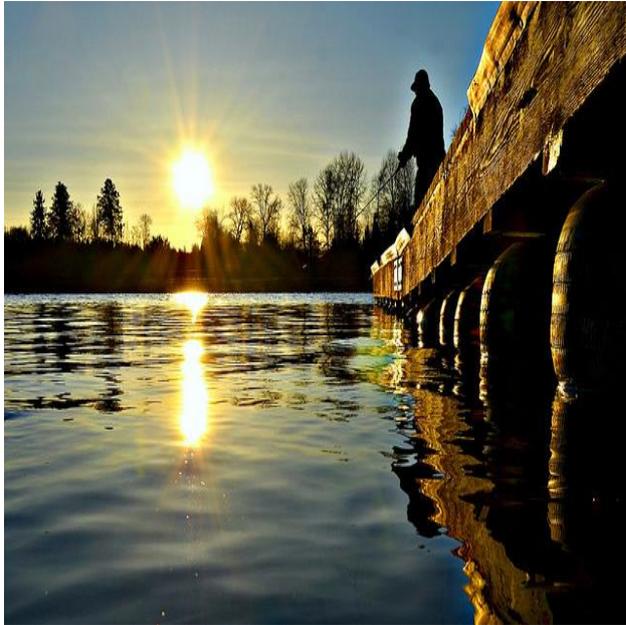
We also gratefully acknowledge all 1,058 anglers who took the time to complete the Survey, as well as angling businesses, such as Linear Fisheries (Oxford), who kindly highlighted the Survey via social media.

Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in this report are not necessarily those of LISA, GGGI, ANLRS or fish21. Any errors of fact or interpretation are those of the authors alone.

fish21 June 2018

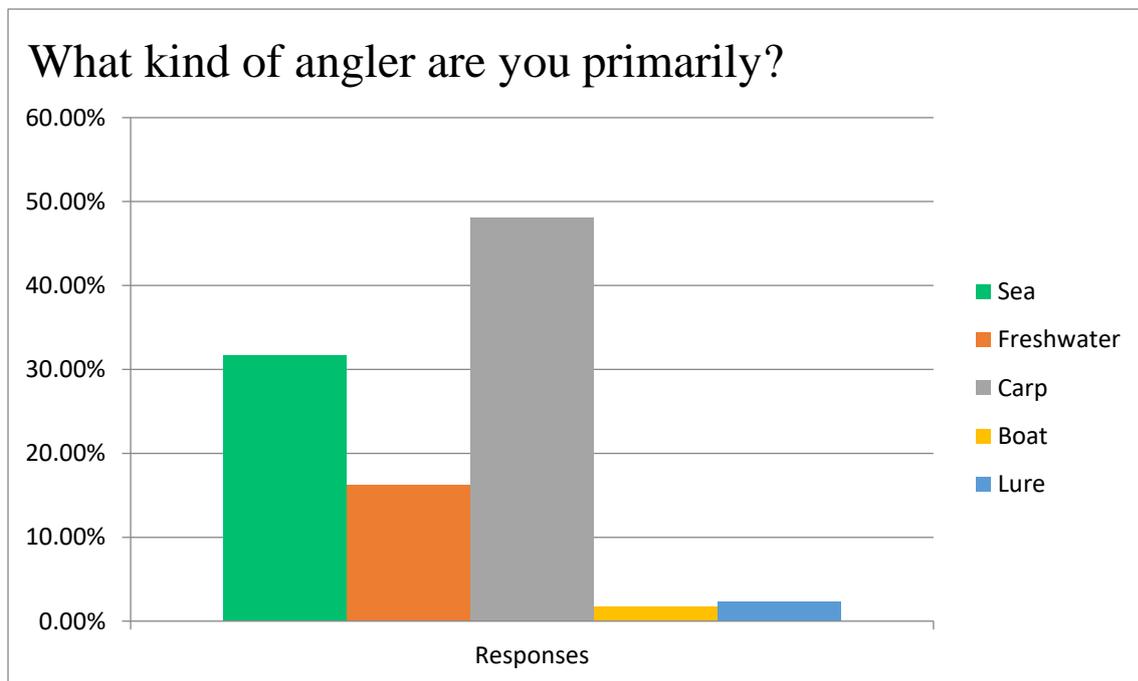
Angler type



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Of surveyed anglers, three angling types accounted for 96% of the total. Carp fishing had the highest participation (48.1%); followed by sea fishing (31.7%); and mixed freshwater fishing (16.3%). Lure and boat fishing accounted for the remainder.

Game fishing for trout and salmon, whilst not represented in its own category, is included in mixed freshwater fishing.

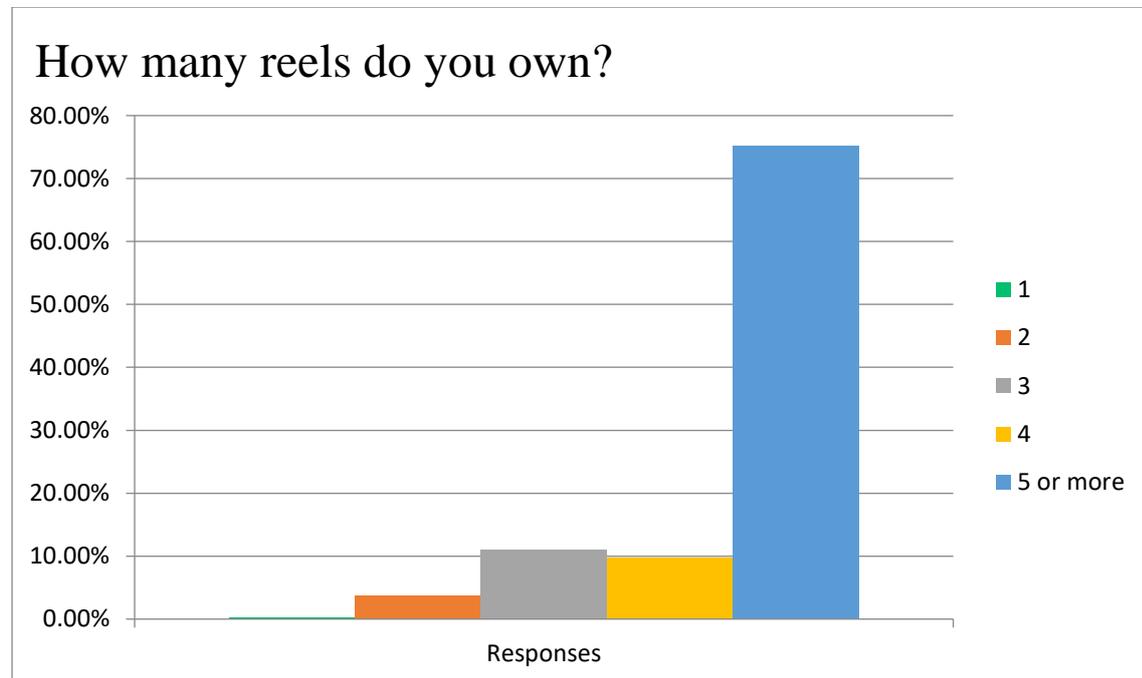


Reel ownership



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Three-quarters of surveyed anglers each own five or more fishing reels. Anglers owned a total of over 5,600 fishing reels (average of 5.3 reels per angler.)

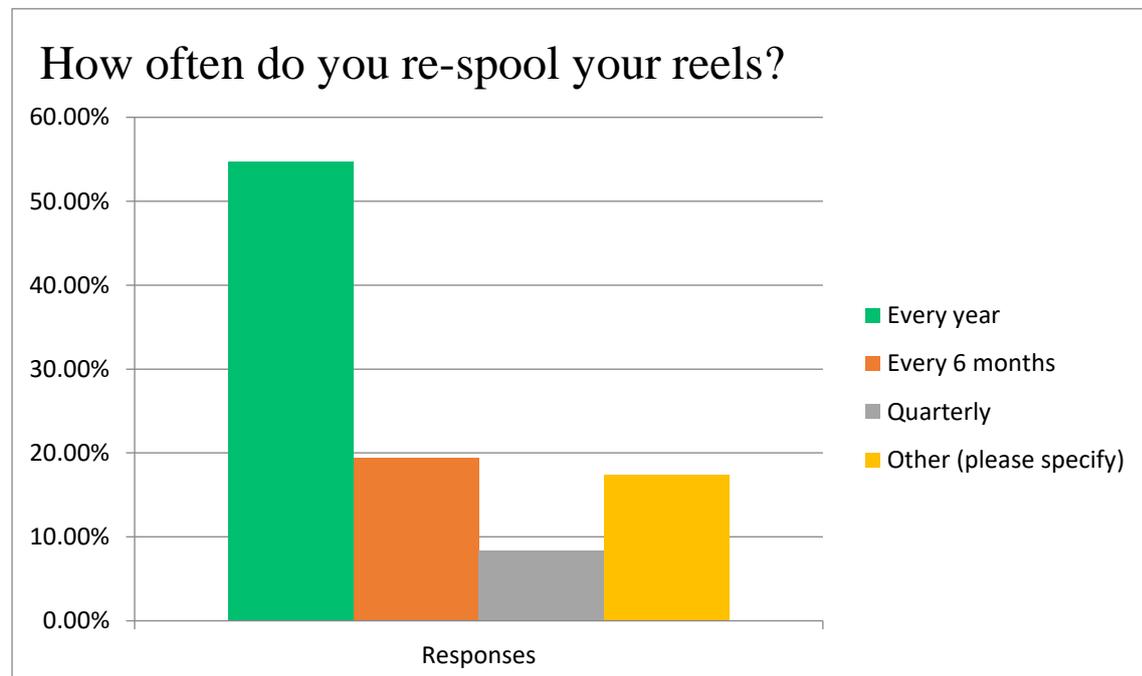


Line respooling frequency



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Of surveyed anglers, 82.5% change their line at least once a year. 27.8% change their line at least twice a year.

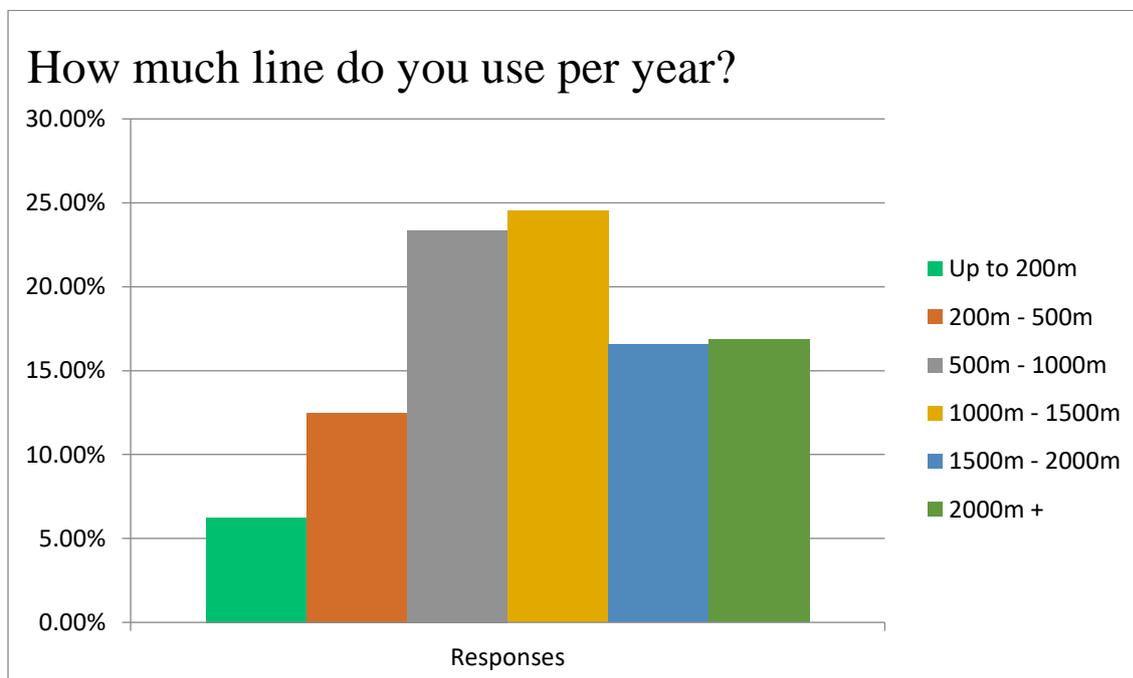


Annual fishing line use



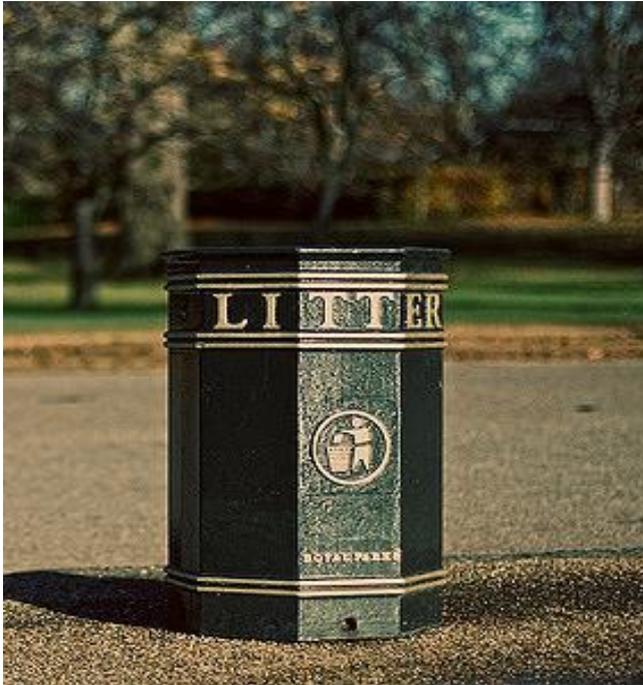
Of surveyed anglers, 57.9% use 1,000 metres+ of fishing line per year and of those 29% use 2,000 metres+.

Estimated average line usage per surveyed angler \approx 1,245 metres. Assuming that there are around one million regular anglers in the UK, this equates annually to \approx 1.245 million km of fishing line – or about three trips to the moon. This is equivalent to c.175 tonnes³ of nylon each year.



³ Assumes an average line breaking strain of 15lb (6.8kg) across all angling disciplines.

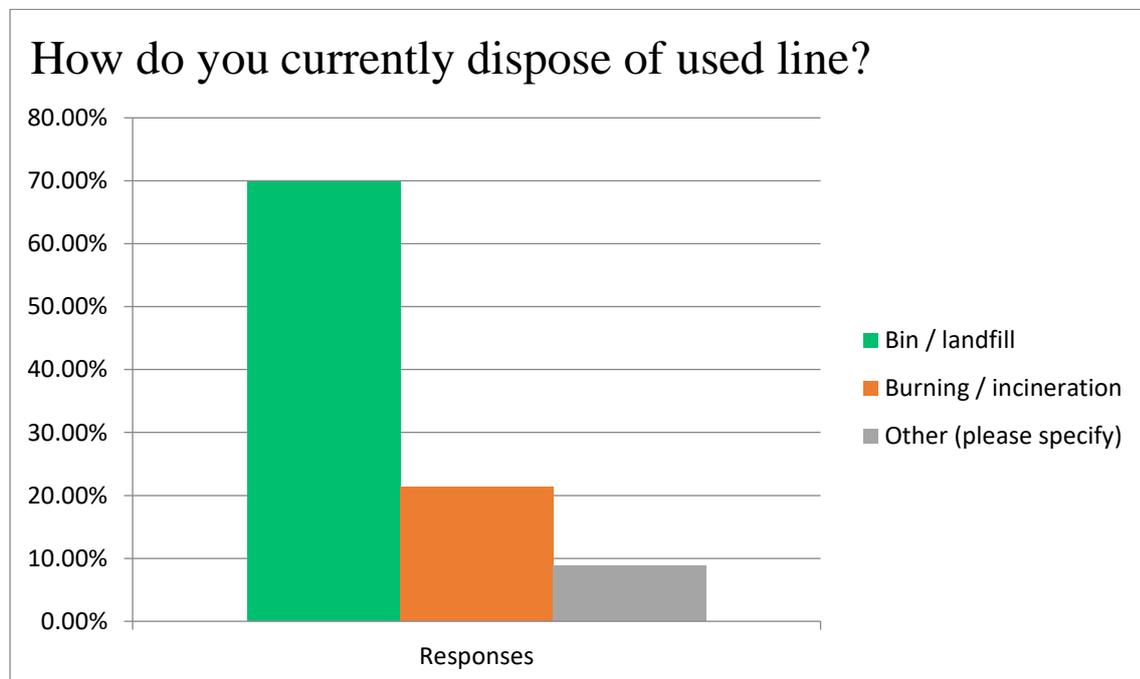
Current line disposal methods



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Over 91% of surveyed anglers dispose of used line through a combination of the rubbish bin and directly burning it to stop it entangling wildlife.

A total of 3.6% of surveyed anglers commented that they currently recycle fishing line; mainly at ANLRS participating tackle shops. A few anglers placed used line in domestic recycling collection bins and one via an ANLRS participating fishery.



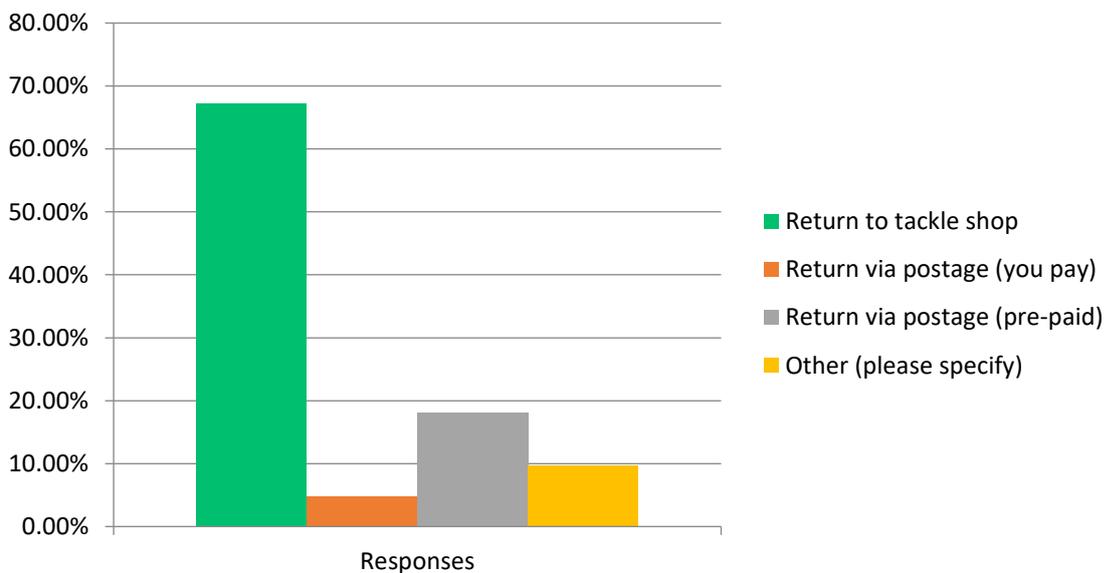
Line recycling preferences



67% of surveyed anglers expressed a preference to return used line to a tackle shop for onward recycling. 23% stated a preference to return used line in the post.

In their responses, a number of anglers mentioned a further option to add line bins at fishing venues. Some tackle outlets are also collocated at fisheries.

How would you prefer to recycle used line?

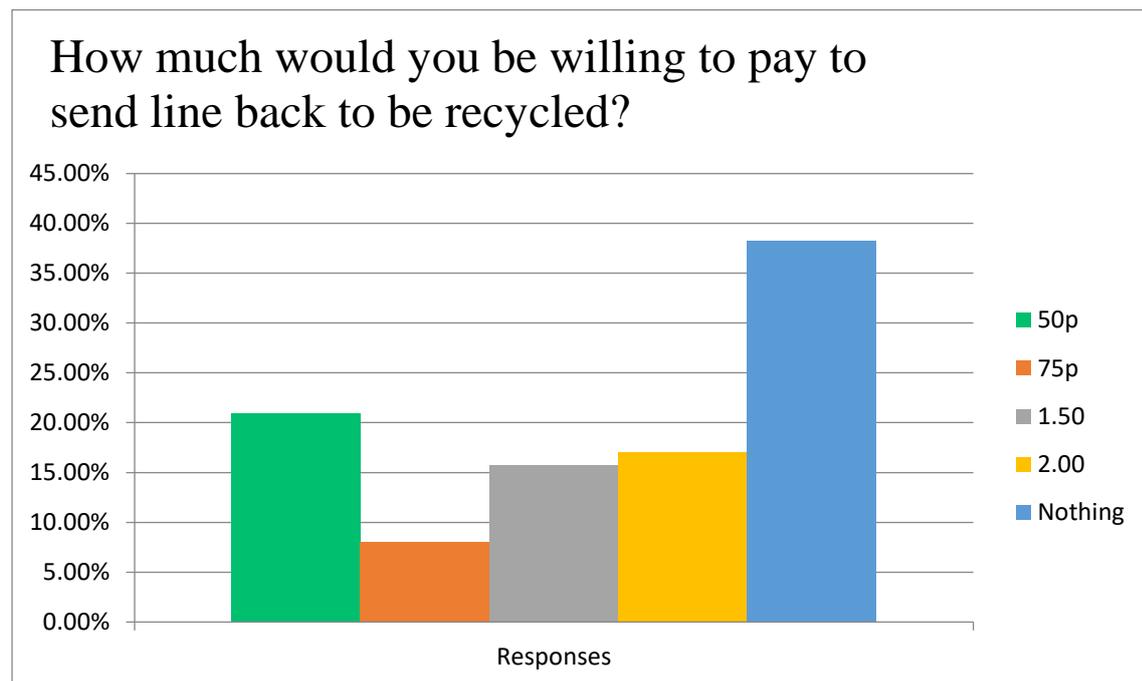


Willingness to pay



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Almost 62% of surveyed anglers would be willing to pay to send their line in the post for recycling; the remainder preferred a prepaid return system. Of those surveyed anglers willing to pay, 33.9% would be prepared to pay £0.50 and almost two-thirds £0.75 or more.



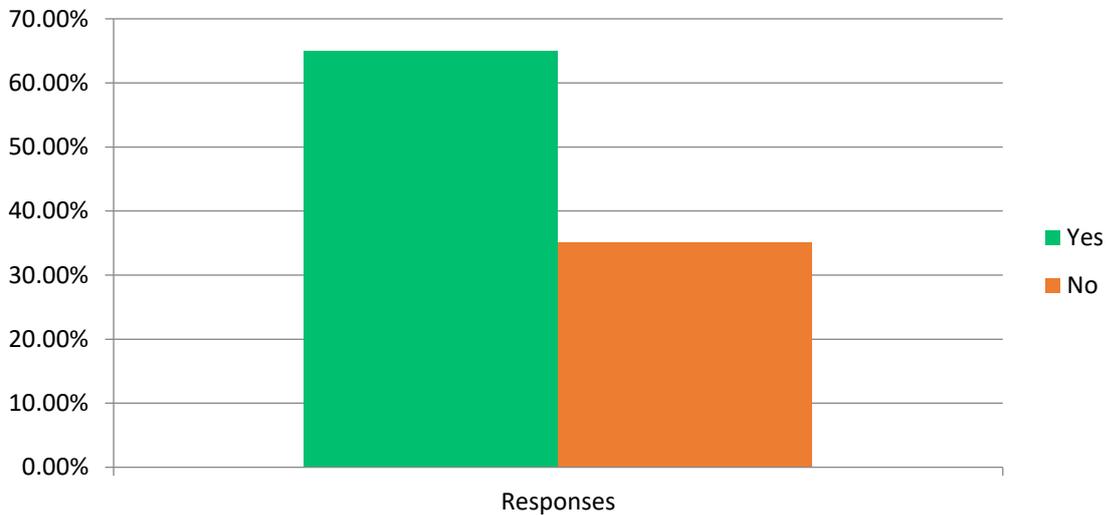
Subsidising line recycling



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Almost two-thirds of surveyed anglers would be prepared to pay more for their tackle items, to subsidise a recreational line recycling scheme.

Would you be prepared to pay more for tackle items to subsidise a recycling scheme?



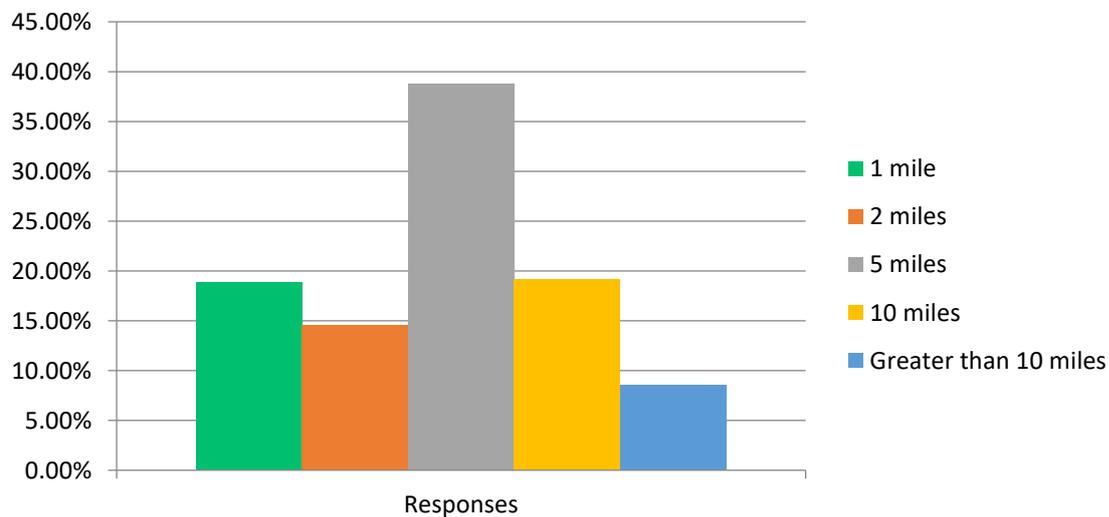
Travelling for line recycling



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100% of surveyed anglers would be prepared to travel to recycle fishing their fishing line. Over 90% being prepared to travel between one and 10 miles to do so - this indicates a strong support for a line recycling scheme. Over two-thirds of surveyed anglers stating a preference to recycle via a tackle shop; this could be a main 'selling' point for retail outlets to join the scheme.

How far would you be prepared to travel to recycle line?



Annex 1: Media Briefing

Of anglers surveyed:

Angler type

- 1) Three angling disciplines accounted for 96% of the total.
- 2) Carp fishing was the largest (48.1%); followed by sea fishing (31.7%); and mixed freshwater fishing (16.3%).
- 3) Lure and boat fishing accounted for the remainder (3.9%).

Reel ownership

- 4) Three-quarters own five or more fishing reels.
- 5) Over 5,600 fishing reels are owned in total (an average of 5.3 reels.)

Line respooling frequency

- 6) 82.5% change their line at least once a year.
- 7) 27.8% change their line at least twice a year.

Annual fishing line use

- 8) 57.9% use 1,000m+ of line per year, of which 29% use 2000m+.
- 9) Estimated average line usage per angler \approx 1,245 metres.
- 10) Assuming that there are around one million regular anglers in the UK, this equates annually to c.1,245,000 km of fishing line.
- 11) Equivalent to c.175 tonnes of nylon each year (assuming an average line breaking strain of 15lb [6.8kg] across all angling disciplines.)

Current line disposal methods

- 12) Over 91% currently dispose of used line through a combination of the rubbish bin and direct burning to stop it entangling wildlife.
- 13) 3.6% commented that they currently recycle fishing their line, mainly at ANLRS participating tackle shops.

Recycling preferences

- 14) 67% expressed a preference to return used line to a tackle shop.
- 15) 23% stated a preference to return used line by post.

Willingness to pay

- 16) Almost 62% would be willing to pay to send their line for recycling; with the remainder preferring a prepaid return system.
- 17) Of those willing to pay, 33.9% would be prepared to pay £0.50 and 66.1% would pay £0.75 or above.

Subsidising line recycling

- 18) Almost two-thirds would be prepared to pay a 'bit more' for tackle purchases to subsidise a line recycling scheme.

Travelling for line recycling

- 19) 100% would be prepared to travel to recycle fishing their fishing line.
- 20) Over 90% being prepared to travel between one and 10 miles to do so.

ABOUT

Local Independent Sea Anglers (LISA): was formed by a group of Sussex, England anglers who were all thinking along similar lines about local issues. Activities commenced with organising beach clean-ups. <https://lisa.fishing/>

Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme (ANLRS): the first UK-wide fishing line recycling scheme launched by LISA in March 2018 and run on a voluntary basis. <https://www.anglers-nlrs.co.uk>

GLOBAL GHOST GEAR INITIATIVE (GGGI)*: works to ensure safer, cleaner oceans by driving economically viable and sustainable solutions to the problem of ghost fishing gear globally. <https://www.ghostgear.org/>

fish21: works to deliver economic opportunities for angling clients whilst helping solve today's sustainability challenges <https://www.fish21.co.uk/>

**LISA and fish21 are GGGI participants*