

TACKLE BIN PROJECT 2019 REPORT

Tackle bins offer a handy solution to unwanted fishing tackle, keeping it safe out of the environment so it cannot harm wildlife, and increase awareness of the need for safe disposal. The Tackle Bin Project was initiated in March 2017 on the Gold Coast, installing 12 bins (designed in the state colour maroon) at popular fishing locations.

Since then, public awareness has been raised, more bins have been installed, and a fantastic bunch of volunteers have stepped up to clean and audit the bins weekly. We also help other communities to set up their own projects.

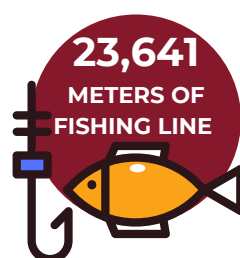


2019 OVERVIEW

We now have 24 Tackle Bins in operation, double the 2018 number thanks to funding provided by Gold Coast City Council. This allowed us to have 20 bins specially made (the minimum order quantity), and 12 of these stickered, installed and adopted. It also allowed for new promotional tide-time brochures to be printed and dropped at fishing shops and kiosks.

We built up resources on our website www.tacklebinproject.org for other community groups, including videos on how to install, maintain and audit bins.

Our 2019 data collection totals show that we safely removed nearly 24km of line (70+km overall) and over 3000 fishing hooks (6500+ overall) from the waterways and coastal areas of the Gold Coast.



BIN LOCATIONS

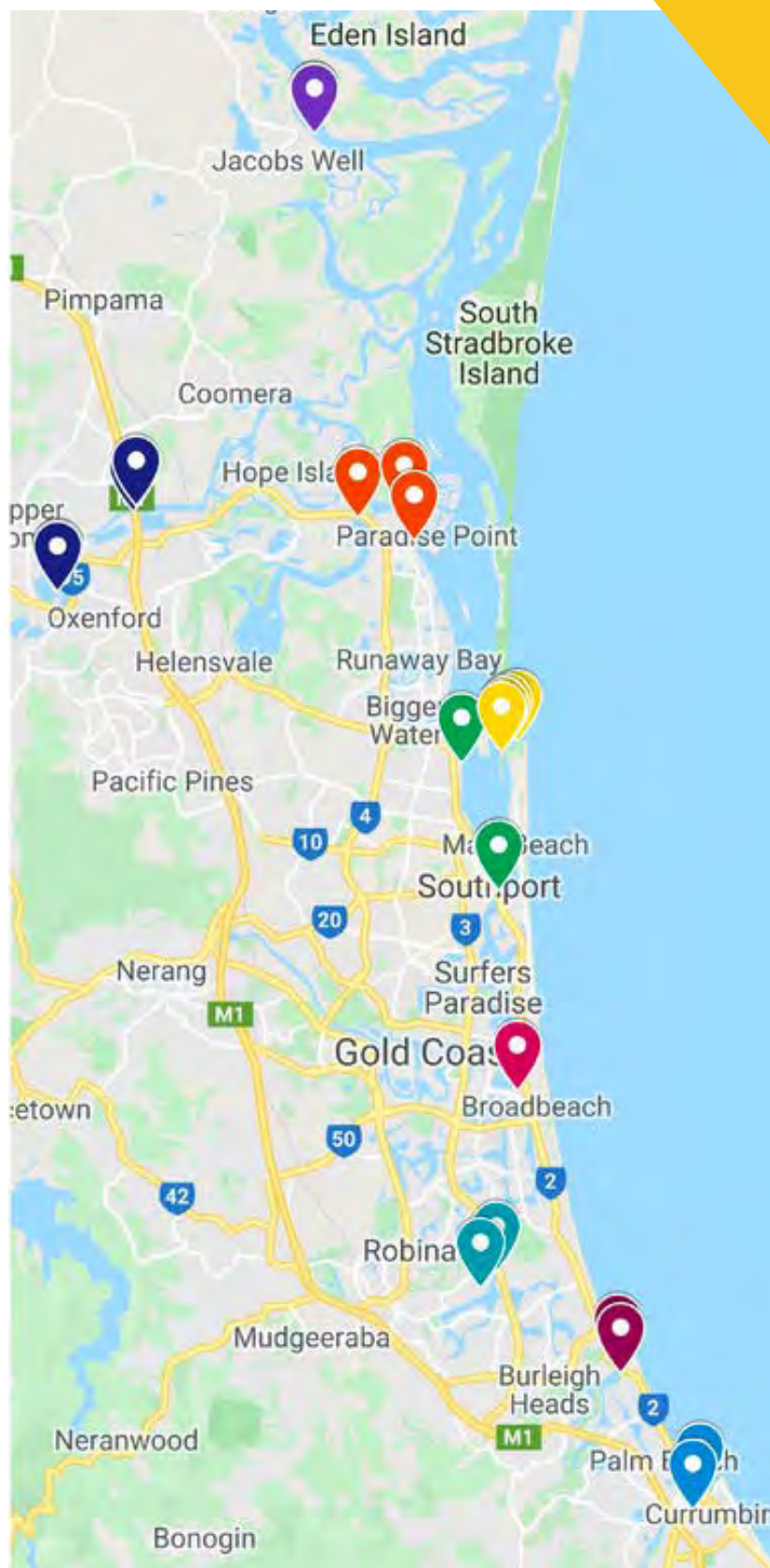
This map shows locations of bins in operation at the end of 2019.

Colour is used to show bin groups, installation dates of each bin is provided below.

(note - an interactive online map [can be found here.](#))

Tackle Bin Project bin locations

- 📍 Jacobs 1 (24/5/19)
- 📍 Jacobs 2 (24/5/19)
- 📍 Jabiru (6/7/19)
- 📍 Paradise 1 (25/5/19)
- 📍 Paradise 2 (25/5/19)
- 📍 Oxenford 1 (10/4/17)
- 📍 Oxenford 2 (20/5/17)
- 📍 Oxenford 3 (10/12/17)
- 📍 Coomera 1 (17/5/19)
- 📍 Charis (1/9/19)
- 📍 Sundale 1 (20/10/19)
- 📍 Sundale 2 (20/10/19)
- 📍 Spit 1 (1/3/17)
- 📍 Spit 3 (1/3/17)
- 📍 Spit 4 (1/3/17)
- 📍 Spit 5 (1/3/17)
- 📍 TE Peters (20/10/19)
- 📍 Bond Uni (20/10/19)
- 📍 Varsity 1 (26/5/19)
- 📍 Tallebudgera 1 (8/5/17)
- 📍 Tallebudgera 2 (8/5/17)
- 📍 Currumbin 1 (8/5/17)
- 📍 Currumbin 2 (8/5/17)



DATA SUMMARY

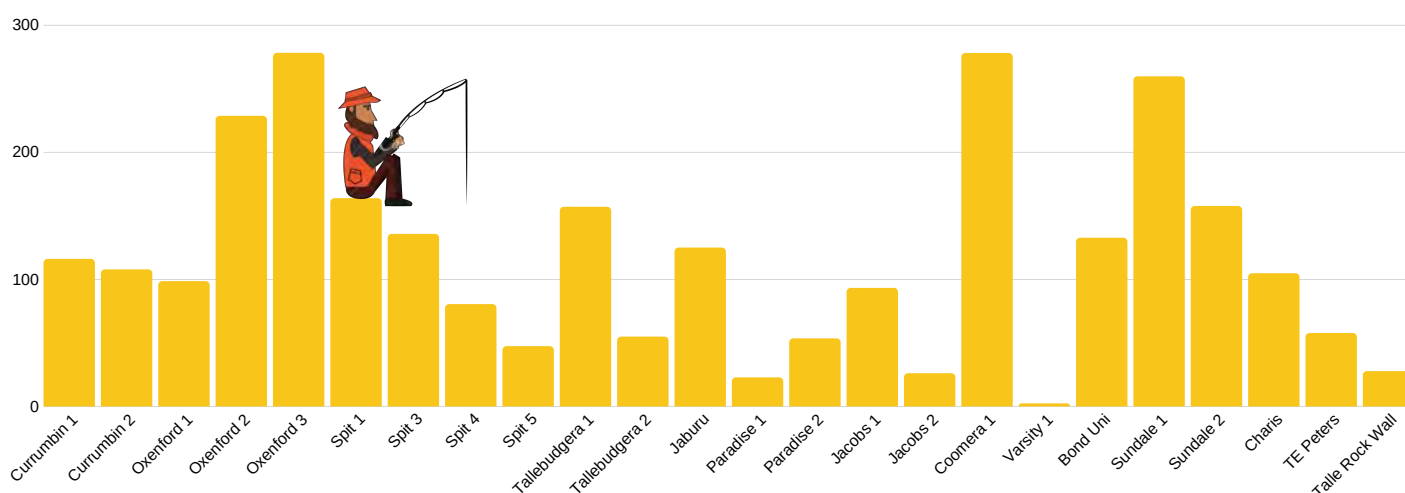
Totals for the project March 1, 2017 - Dec 31st 2019 are shown below. Note that not all tackle bins were in operation throughout the entire period.

OVERALL TOTALS	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL
Bait/tackle bags & packaging	742	1,261	2,668	4,671
Sinkers	751	687	1,391	2,829
Hooks	1,703	1,675	3,209	6,587
Fishing line (metres estimate)	28,151	17,439	23,641	69,231
Lures & floats	407	519	556	1,482

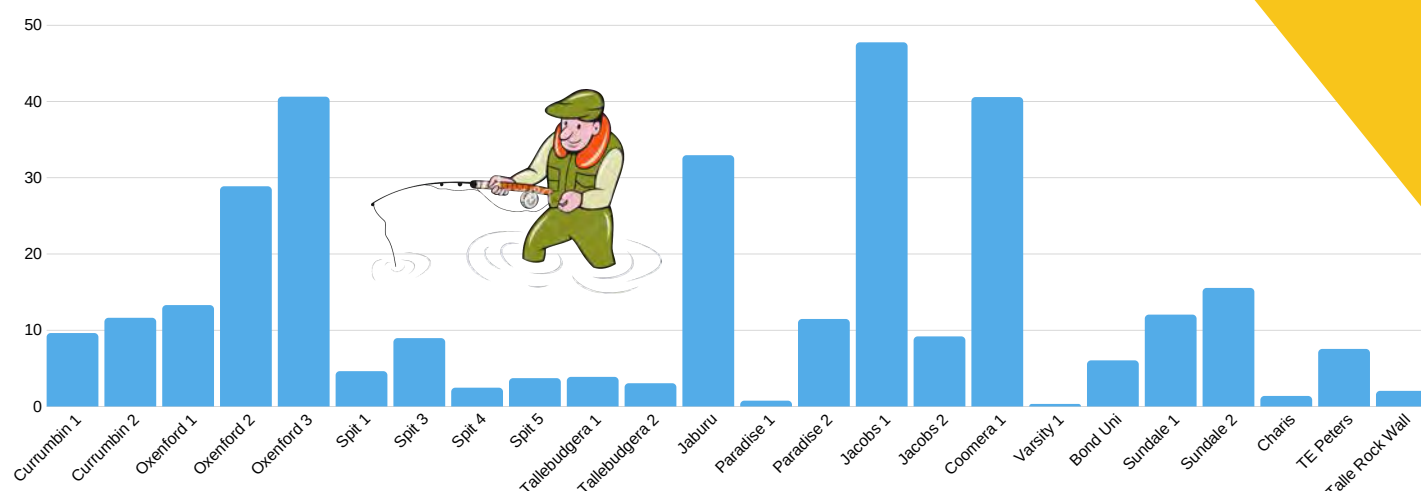
The 2017 data shows more line collected than subsequent years, even though we had less bins and a shorter time period. This is due to one of the bins initially installed at the Spit Dive Platform collecting excessive amounts of line, which was discovered to be largely coming from divers collecting line underwater and depositing it in the bin. As the purpose of the bins are to collect line from land-based sources, plus the fact the bin was collecting a lot of trash and was being damaged by smokers, it was removed after 6 months. The damaged sticker was replaced, and it is now the Oxenford 3 bin.

A few data comparisons by bin is shown below. As bins were placed throughout the year, averages are shown (data collected/months in operation). Actual data is shown in the Appendix.

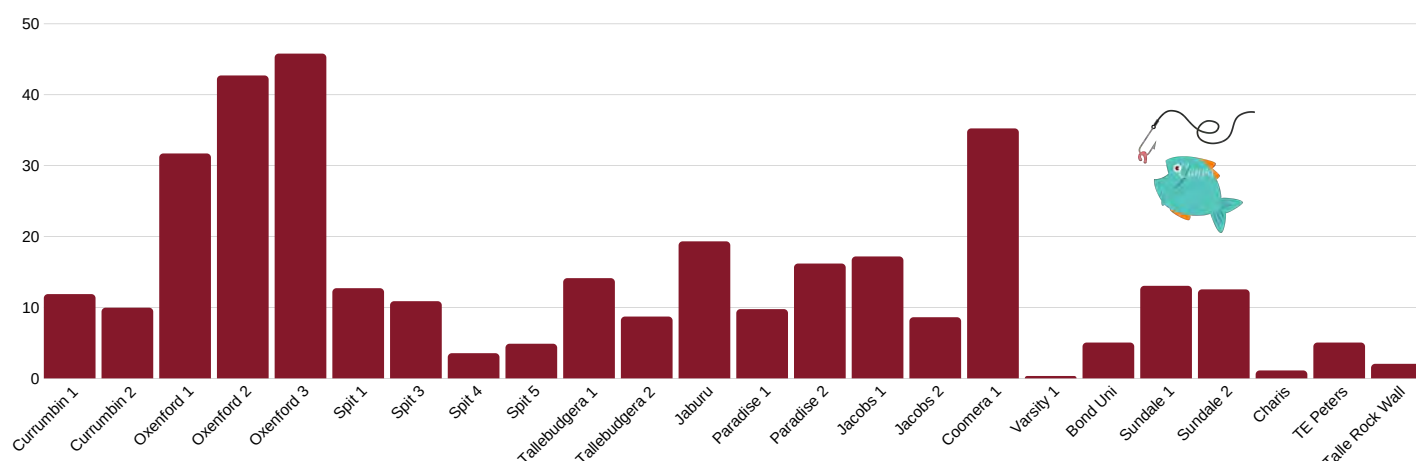
Fishing line (m) - average monthly collected 2019



Bait bags and packaging - average monthly collected 2019



Hooks - average monthly collected 2019

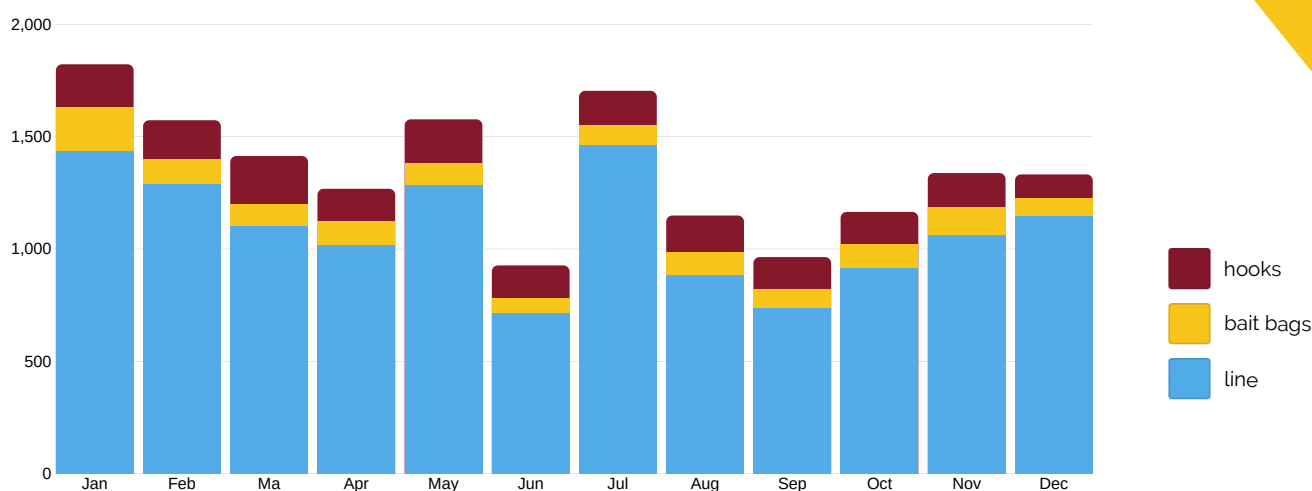


It is clear that the Oxenford Weir bins, and the bin underneath the M1 at Coomera (Coomera 1), collect the most amount of line and tackle - these areas are heavily fished.

Some of the new bins will be reviewed with a view to trial new locations - it is not always predictable how well a new bin will be utilised by fishers and the public. Sometimes we may choose to keep a bin based primarily upon its visual impact in high foot traffic areas. The bins attract attention, send a positive message and display wildlife rescue numbers.

Interestingly, we note that the bins located at the Spit are not as heavily utilised as they were prior to the Spit redevelopment in late 2017. It is unclear why this is the case, it may be that fishing activity has declined there in the last two years.

Monthly collections - line, bait bags and hooks



To determine whether collections varied through the year, we looked at data for line, bait bags and hooks from all bins that were in place through the entire year (11 locations). The most collection occurs in January, February, April and July, coinciding with school holiday periods. This is likely because more fishing activity occurs at these times, though may also be attributed to more people around the area available to pick up discarded tackle.

OTHER ITEMS

It's not just tackle that we find in our bins, we also get the usual assortment general rubbish.. plus some odd and often smelly things!

The bins are often used as a cigarette receptacle, and some have been defaced by cigarette burns. To mitigate, we try place them near council bins, and have started to fit metal plates to some tackle bins to restrict larger items and protect from cigarette burns.

In over 2.5 years we have only had two cases of vandalism. In both cases the bins were kicked from their poles, but not removed and sustained only minor damage.

Collected in tackle bins 2019

HUNDREDS OF RED FAKE FLOWER PETALS
 A WHISKEY BOTTLE AND WINE GLASSES
 THE CARCASS OF 72CM MANGROVE JACK
 MANY DIRTY NAPPIES
 WHOLE CAST NETS WITH HEAVY WEIGHTS
 A FULL SIZE BLANKET
 UNDERPANTS
 A LARGE METAL BAR
 A CAMP CHAIR
 A BLUETOOTH SPEAKER
 46 SPARKLER WIRES

INTO 2020

Our goals for 2020 are:

- 1 To review our current locations and determine any that should be changed.
- 2 To put stickers on our spare 8 bins, install them and adopt them out to new volunteers.
- 3 To put more information up on our website to help other communities start their own projects.
- 4 To increase our media and social media presence, and look for more ways to improve local knowledge and awareness of the bins and the need for safe disposal of fishing tackle.
- 5 To look into recycling and repurposing some of the fishing tackle we are collecting.
- 6 If time allows, do some public surveys to determine how aware people are of the bins and problems associated with discarded tackle, and whether awareness needs to be increased.

As always, the project would not be successful without the help of our **wonderful volunteers**: Mike, Steve, Craig, Michelle, Marty, Brett, Greg, Rosa, Cat, Frank, Deanna, Pam, Ray, Birgit and Rhonda, plus our volunteers past. We can't thank you enough for your hard work and dedication! Thanks also to **Rowley from Wild Bird Rescues** for assisting us to find locations for our bins, **Gecko** for their support, **Gold Coast Catchments Association** for administering our funding and providing volunteer insurance, and Mars and Andy from **Gold Coast Council** for internal support.

Thank you to the **Gold Coast Councillors** who funded us \$7000 this year, it was so very much appreciated!

Kellie Lindsay | Coordinator, Gold Coast Marine Debris Network | gcmarinedebris@gmail.com



APPENDIX

Data breakdown of bins is shown below. Note that several bins were trialled and subsequently removed due to poor performance - these were not included below, but their data was included in the totals reported on page 3.

Install date	Bin	Bait bags & packaging	Sinkers	Hooks	Fishing line (m)	Lures & floats
8/5/17	Currumbin 1	239	125	416	6526	201
8/5/18	Currumbin 2	282	85	342	4682	22
10/4/17	Oxenford 1	498	442	1034	6187	308
20/5/17	Oxenford 2	826	723	1317	7875	396
10/12/17	Oxenford 3	983	644	995	7245	242
1/3/17	Spit 1	222	117	407	7635	57
1/3/17 - 4/11/17	Spit 2	85	154	434	9955	60
1/3/17	Spit 3	420	132	385	4509	57
1/3/17	Spit 4	117	58	130	2362	14
1/3/17	Spit 5	159	42	145	3779	29
8/5/17	Tallebudgera 1	117	100	370	4957	48
8/5/17	Tallebudgera 2	101	85	312	3558	39
26/10/19 - 30/12/19	Talle Rock Wall	1	3	4	55	2
6/7/19	Jaburu	181	33	106	686	9
25/5/19	Paradise 1	5	12	68	158	0
25/5/19	Paradise 2	80	51	113	373	23
24/5/19	Jacobs 1	334	36	120	651	0
24/5/19	Jacobs 2	64	27	60	181	1
17/5/19	Coomera 1	304	155	264	2084	60
26/5/19	Varsity 1	2	3	2	15	1
1/9/19	Charis	5	7	4	392	1
20/10/19	Bond Uni	12	1	10	265	2
20/10/19	Sundale 1	24	17	26	519	14
20/10/19	Sundale 2	31	15	25	315	11
20/10/19	TE Peters	15	1	10	115	1

