



# PROJECT OCEANOLOGY

## Marine Debris: Entanglement Activity



Procedure:

**#1.** Pass out a six-pack holder to each participant. Share photos of wildlife caught in plastics. Talk about the potential dangers and problems of this type of litter.

**#2.** Pass out a rubber band to each participant and ask people to hold their left hand up in front of their face (back of hand to face). With a rubber band in right hand, hook the rubber band over the “baby” finger of the left hand, then stretch to hook over thumb (the rubber band should be taut; resting across the knuckles of your hand).

**#3.** Place the right hand on the bottom of the left elbow. Rules are: you cannot use your hand, teeth, face or other body parts to help you out of this predicament!

Now think of the gull or other marine animal trapped in plastic and try to free yourself from the rubber band.



Results: One or two people usually “free themselves” in 10-20 seconds, but most have difficulty; it’s the real struggling that we discuss:

- How does that goose feel after fighting that all morning? And missing breakfast? (--tired, angry, frustrated, hungry!)
- What happens after the goose has missed lunch? Dinner? (--It’s weak, exhausted, and eventually it may die.)

During the game I continue talking about this problem and encourage input from the group, while each of the participants continues to get the feeling of the situation “at-hand”.