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### **Common Loon Entangled in Fishing Line on Lake Jocassee, Oconee County, South Carolina**

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At about 1900 h on 25 May 2000, we observed a Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) in basic plumage along the shore of a small cove about 500 m south of the Bad Creek Project discharge on Lake Jocassee, Oconee County, South Carolina. About an hour later, we again saw the loon about 100 m from the Bad Creek Project outlet. At this time, Ellenberger and Joye noticed that the loon had monofilament fishing line wrapped around its head and body. The bird, however, appeared to be in good condition and was swimming without trouble. We decided to try to capture the loon from the boat with a large landing net. Joye was able to net the bird on the first try.

We found that line was wound around the wings and feet, with most of the line tightly wrapped around the tongue. The tongue was black and hard anterior to the line and soft and tan posterior to the line. With Joye restraining the loon, Ellenberger and Bowers cut the line with a single-edged knife. We found no hook or line traveling into the loon's throat, and the bird was not emaciated. Except for the injuries to the tongue, the bird appeared to be in good physical condition.

Upon release, the loon swam off at a leisurely pace. We observed the bird for another 30 minutes until dark.

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**CBC Rare Bird Alert**  
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