

# Ghost Net Reef- Printable Instructions

## Make your own sculptural sea creatures from marine debris

### How to make... A Bottle Fish

#### MATERIALS:

- Plastic bottles – size of 400-500ml suggested. (Cut off the bottom end – keep the top end with the lid on it)
- Pieces of colourful thongs (or coloured foam material if no thongs available)
- scissors
- Glue –use clear craft glue or silicon glue
- Needles – you can use heavy darning needles or doll making needles. Young kids can use plastic needles and pre-punch the holes with a leather tool
- fishing line
- hole punch
- Eyes- use small circular shaped debris such as fishing weights. Or you can draw eyes or use google eyes
- pen
- Decorations such as pieces of coloured rope, string, and other interesting pieces of debris...
- printed templates



#### INSTRUCTIONS:

**STEP 1.** Use scissors to cut the bottom of the bottle. Ensure that the end with the top end of the bottle with lid is to be kept intact, so that just the bottom side of the bottle is cut off.

**STEP 2.** Select pieces of colourful thongs. Use scissors to cut out shapes for the fish parts. These can include fish tail and fins. Use templates if needed to trace around shape and then cut out- you can use the templates attached to these instructions

**STEP 3.** Use scissors to carefully make a slit about 10 cm in the top and sides of bottle to fit in the gills and fins.

**HANDY HINT:** Grown ups may need to help with this step.

**STEP 4.** To attach the tail:

**OPTION 1:** Thread a needle with a double thread of fishing line at least 30cm length of fishing line, tie at the end of the thread to make the knot. Use the needle and thread to stitch the thong tail to the bottle to secure it. Tie it off with a knot to secure the thread so it won't come apart.

**OPTION 2:** Use clear craft or silicon glue to glue the tail on securely. Hold the glued pieces in place for about 30 seconds before leaving it to dry.

STEP 5. To attach the fins/gills

Place the thong shapes into the cut-out slits.

OPTION 1: Thread a needle with a double thread of fishing line at least 30cm length of fishing line, tie at the end of the thread to make the knot. Use the needle and thread to stitch the thong gills to the bottle to secure it. Tie it off with a knot to secure the thread so it won't come apart.

OPTION 2: Use glue to glue the tail on securely. Hold the glued pieces in place for about 30 seconds before leaving it to dry.

STEP 6. Add eyes and decorations.

Options include:

-drawing or the eyes with a paint marker

-Use marine debris such as fishing weights and bottle tops - use strong glue, or use needle and fishing line for stitching this

Or use googly eyes; attach these by gluing them on

STEP 7. Ensure all parts are well fixed. Doesn't your fish look so pretty?!

STEP 8. SHARE YOUR CREATIONS WITH US email [web@anmm.gov.au](mailto:web@anmm.gov.au)

# Bottle Fish template

