

DID YOU KNOW?

Kick Plastic

- Scientists predict that by 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish.
- By 2025, researchers predict that there will be 250 million tonnes of plastic in the ocean and the ratio of plastic to fish will be one to three.¹
- The annual damage of plastics to marine ecosystems is at least \$13 billion per year.¹
- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation estimates that the cost of ocean plastics to the tourism, fishing, and shipping industries was 1.3 billion and in Europe, beach cleaning could reach \$695 million per year.¹
- Current estimates put the oceans' total plastic load at 165 million tons.¹
- Plastic can be detected in the bodies of more than 50% of the world's sea turtles.²
- Scientists estimate that 90% of all seabirds have ingested plastic at some time in their lives.³
- Lobsters, sea cucumbers, and hermit crabs and other seafloor animals which can live at depths of up to 6,000 feet have consumed plastic.⁴
- Recent research shows that consuming plastics can increase fish mortality by causing behavioral and physical abnormalities such as slowed reaction time and reduced size.⁵
- Plastics break up over time, but never fully break down. So, these micro-plastics will continue to accumulate over time.⁶

1. http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_The_New_Plastics_Economy.pdf

2. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.13078/abstract>

3. <http://www.pnas.org/content/112/38/11899.abstract>

4. <http://www.nature.com/articles/srep33997>

5. <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es5053655>

6. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/sea-unworthy-a-personal-journey-into-the-pacific-garbage-patch-slide-show/>