

PLASTIC MARINE DEBRIS

HOW MUCH PLASTIC IS IN OUR OCEANS?

We don't know! We know that in every ocean it comprises 45-95% of all marine debris. Plastic enters the ocean via many sources, but most (80%) originates from land – it's washed into sewers, rivers, and then into the ocean.

USA – On average, a person uses 306.4 pounds of plastic EVERY YEAR
Weight: heaviest NFL players



USA – 50 MILLION single-use plastic bottles used EVERY DAY

Stacked end-to-end: reaches from Los Angeles to Beijing

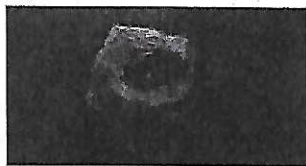
8 MILLION metric tons* of plastic enters the ocean every year; weight of 1.5 TRILLION plastic grocery bags. Stacked end-end: reaches to the sun 65 times

93 million miles

WHERE IS THE PLASTIC?



Ocean Surface



Water Column



Sediments



Deep Sea

300 MILLION metric tons* of plastic is currently in the oceans. This is equivalent to the weight of 906 Empire State Buildings. Amazingly, 95% of this plastic marine debris is unaccounted for.

WHY IS PLASTIC IN THE OCEAN BAD?

- Destroys and pollutes environment/oceanic habitats
- Transports invasive species
- Creates navigational hazards
- Threatens the economy
- It's everywhere: lightweight and travels quickly
- More than 800 oceanic species have been recorded ingesting or becoming entangled in plastic increasing mortality rates, leading to smaller populations.

THE FUTURE OF PLASTIC IN THE OCEAN:

Over the last 50 years, plastic production has increased by 620%: 8 BILLION metric tons* of plastic has been produced, only 10% of which has been recycled.

2025: 600 MILLION metric tons* of plastic in the oceans



Weight of 50 million school buses. Stacked end-to-end: reaches around the Earth's equator 17 times

2050: 1 BILLION metric tons* of plastic in the oceans



A freight train 3.5 times the Earth's circumference would be needed to carry that much weight

*Note: 1 metric ton = 1000 kg = 2204.62 lbs