

# **INC-4, Ottawa** **Experiences**

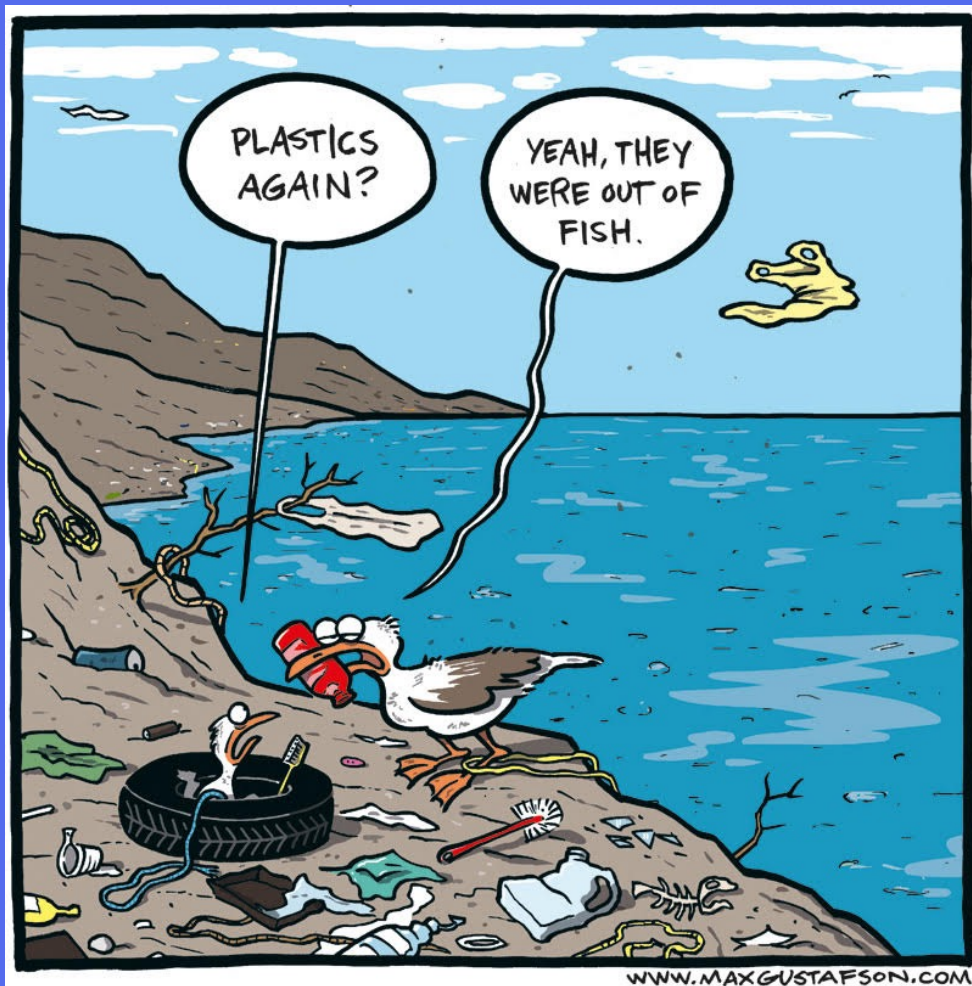


**CHIRAG BHIMANI**











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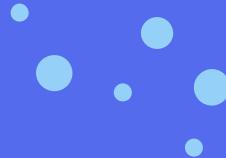


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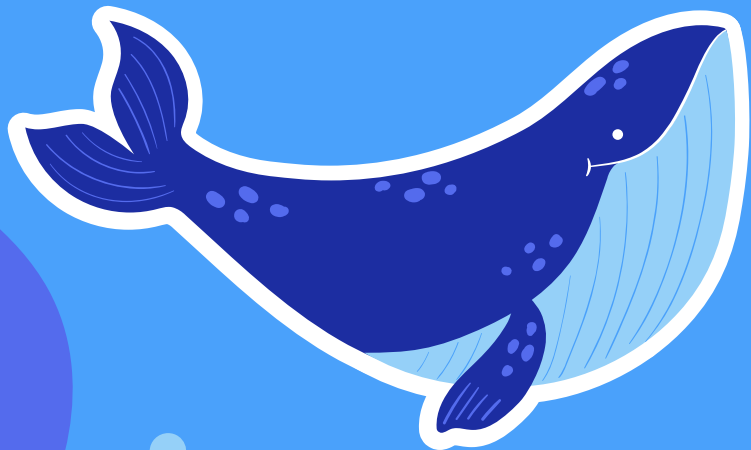
**About Global  
Plastic Treaty**





# Global Treaty

In March 2022, at the resumed fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), a historic resolution was adopted to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.



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**About INC**

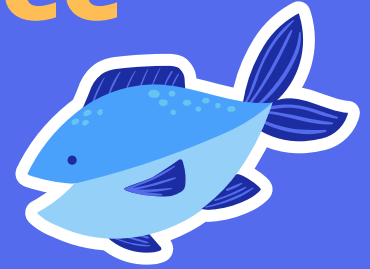




# Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee



The resolution (5/14) requested the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to convene an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop "the instrument"



# Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee

- ✓ The Instrument is to be based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic, including its production, design, and disposal.
- ✓ The INC began its work during the second half of 2022, with the ambition to complete the negotiations by the end of 2024.
- ✓ The first session of the INC (INC-1) took place in Punta del Este, Uruguay from 28 November to 2 December 2022.
- ✓ It was followed by a second session (INC-2) from 29 May to 2 June 2023 in Paris, France.



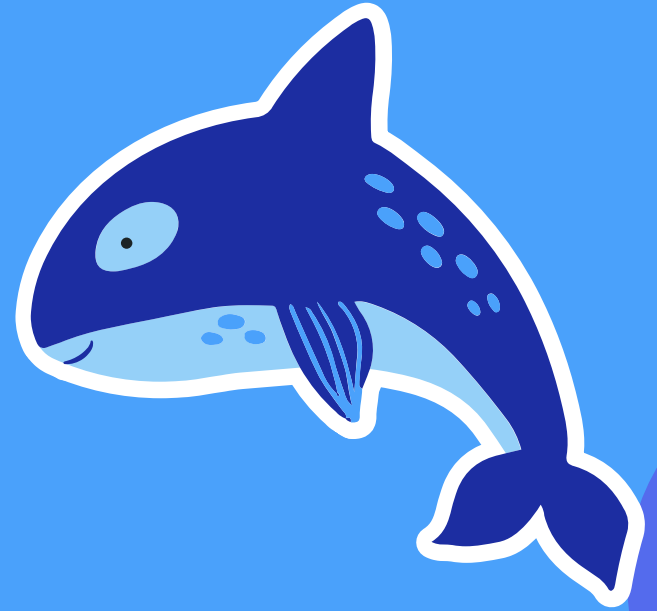
# Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee



- ✓ The third session (INC-3) marked the process' midway point from 13 to 19 November 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya,
- ✓ The fourth session (INC-4) concluded recently from 23 to 29 April 2024 in Ottawa, Canada.
- ✓ The fifth session (INC-5) is scheduled for 25 November to 1 December 2024 in Busan, Republic of Korea.



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**About INC-4**





# At INC-4



- ✓ The fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-4), concluded on 29th April, 2024 in Ottawa with an advanced draft text of the instrument and agreement on intersessional work ahead of the fifth session (INC-5) in November.
- ✓ More than 2,500 delegates participated in INC-4, representing 170 Members and over 480 Observer organizations including - non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, and UN entities.
- INC-4 marked the Committee's largest and most inclusive gathering to date, with Observer participation increasing by almost fifty per cent.

# At INC-4



- ✓ Over the course of INC-4, delegates worked on negotiating the Revised Draft Text of the international legally binding instrument.
- ✓ Delegates discussed, among other things: emissions and releases; production; product design; waste management; problematic and avoidable plastics; financing, and a just transition.
- ✓ INC Members also agreed on intersessional work – expert meetings that take place between the official INC sessions – that is expected to catalyze convergence on key issues.
- ✓ In addition, Members decided to create an Open-ended Legal Drafting Group to form at INC-5, serving in an advisory capacity by reviewing elements of the draft revised text to ensure legal soundness.



“We came to Ottawa to advance the text and with the hope that Members would agree on the intersessional work required to make even greater progress ahead of INC-5. We leave Ottawa having achieved both goals and a clear path to landing an ambitious deal in Busan ahead of us. The work, however, is far from over. The plastic pollution crisis continues to engulf the world and we have just a few months left before the end of year deadline agreed upon in 2022. I urge members to show continued commitment and flexibility to achieve maximum ambition.”



**- Inger Andersen,  
Executive Director, UNEP**



“Canada is committed to reaching a final agreement at INC-5 in the Republic of Korea before year end. We are no longer talking about “if” we can get there, but “how.” Together we can land one of the most significant environmental decisions since the Paris Agreement and the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. We are doing everything we can to raise the international profile of the plastic pollution crisis so that the agreement gets the global attention it deserves to cross the finish line.”



– **Steven Guilbeault,  
Minister of Environment  
and Climate Change,  
Canada**





“During these seven days of intense deliberations, you – the delegates – have managed to build on and advance the revised draft text of the instrument, providing streamlined text and entering textual negotiations on several elements. At the same time, we also leave with a much clearer picture of the work that remains to be done, if we are to deliver on the promise that Members have made through UNEA Resolution 5/14. We are all united by our strong shared commitment to deliver an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution. It is this spirit of multilateralism which has guided our discussions here in Ottawa. We have found some common ground, and we are walking this path together until the end. I firmly believe that we can carry this same spirit forth to Busan to deliver on our mandate.”



**– Ambassador Luis Vayas,  
The Chair of the INC**

“It has been an ambitious timeline of just 18 months and four sessions to get us to this point, and we are now firmly on the road to Busan. Compromise and commitment remains strong at this advanced stage of the negotiations. Members should arrive in Busan ready to deliver on their mandate and agree a final text of the instrument. This is more than a process – it is the fulfilment of your commitment to saving future generations from the global scourge of plastic pollution.”



**– Jyoti Mathur-Filipp,  
Executive Secretary of  
the INC Secretariat**



# Glimpses of INC-4





# Glimpses of INC-4




# Glimpses of INC-4

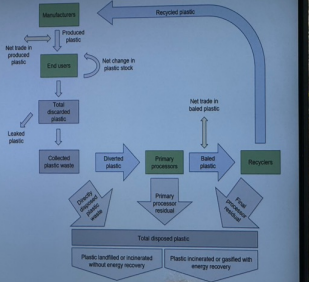


## Draft Plan of Actions for Implementation of Rapa Nui Declaration

1. Transition to a **Circular Economy** on Islands (**REDUCTION OF PLASTIC POLLUTION**)
2. Improve **Waste management** at sea - fishing fleets: domestic rubbish and ghost fishing gear (**REDUCTION OF PLASTIC POLLUTION**)
3. Remediation: Deal with **Clean-up Plastics** effectively (**REDUCTION OF PLASTIC POLLUTION**)
4. Robust international, regional, mainland and island **policies** required to reduce the burden of plastic pollution (**GOVERNANCE**)
5. Improve access to **data**, sharing **best practice** of clean up management, scientific processes, and standardising **monitoring** strategies in MPAs (**REDUCTION OF PLASTIC POLLUTION**)
6. Connect islands: share **knowledge systems** and **indigenous wisdom** effectively and create **connectivity** between islands across Oceania and the Oceanic islands of the Eastern Pacific (**REDUCTION OF PLASTIC POLLUTION**)
7. Find **sustainable funding mechanisms** to these action areas (**FINANCING**)



## PHYSICAL FLOW ACCOUNT FOR PLASTIC MATERIAL



- An environmental-economic account by Statistics Canada (StatCan) that estimates the flow of plastic through the Canadian economy.
- The account provides annual estimates by **product category, resin type, and province and territory**. The time-series starts in 2012 and now includes 2019.
- The flow begins with production, continues with use, and tracks waste and recycling.





# Glimpses of INC-4

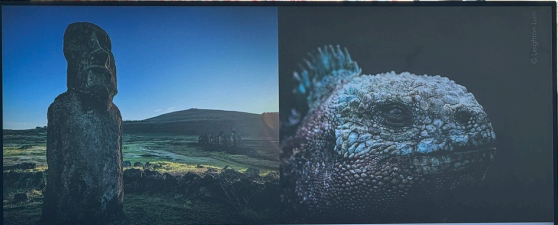


**INC-4 PACIFIC: Promoting Action for Conservation, Innovation and Future Island Collaborations- Tackling the Unfair Burden of Plastic Pollution**

PANEL DISCUSSION WITH

			
<b>Benjamin Ilabaca</b> Indigenous Rights Lawyer & Legal Advisor for the Municipality of Rapa Nui	<b>Nunú Fernández</b> Director of Planning for the Municipality of Rapa Nui	<b>Arturo Izurieta</b> Director of the Galapagos National Park	<b>Jen Jones</b> CEO of Galapagos Conservation Trust

Logos at the bottom: Forque Hecatori GALAPAGOS Founder, Galapagos Conservation Trust, Norwegian Retailers' Environment Fund, OCEANS Plastic Cleanup.



**INC-4 PACIFIC: Promoting Action for Conservation, Innovation and Future Island Collaborations - Tackling the Unfair Burden of Plastic Pollution**

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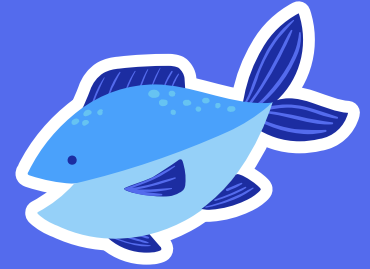
**Plastic Crisis**  
**At Local Level**



# INC-4 On Local Plastic Crisis



Local and subnational governments (LSNG) are at the frontline of the plastic pollution crisis, facing increasing pressure to mitigate and respond to its devastating impact on the health and well-being of the environment and communities.



# INC-4 On Local Plastic Crisis

- ✓ As part of a whole of government approaches, it is essential to highlight the significant contribution that local and subnational governments make in addressing this worldwide challenge.
- ✓ The treaty should address the imbalance of the plastic value chain by:
  - ✓ Establishing global rules and regulations across the full lifecycle of plastics,
  - ✓ Placing accountability and appropriate measures upstream,
  - ✓ Reducing the risk that cities responsible for waste management face by the uncontrolled accelerating growth in plastic waste generation.



# INC-4 On Local Plastic Crisis

To strengthen the global response to plastic pollution, INC should :



✓ **Include LSNGs in the Negotiation Process** and ensure their meaningful participation to harness their expertise and valuable local insights.

✓ **Recognize and Support** explicitly the pivotal role of LSNGs in the treaty, in particular in relation to its implementation.

✓ **Follow a Comprehensive Approach** by developing a robust treaty framework that addresses the entire plastic lifecycle, holds stakeholders accountable, and prioritizes waste reduction measures.



# How Ambitious Treaty?

- ✓ The least ambitious treaty would let each country or region handle its own plastic waste with national or regional rules. It would deal purely with the “downstream” issues of plastic pollution rather than “upstream” issues of how plastic is produced—and how much waste is generated.
- ✓ A medium-ambition-level treaty would set worldwide standards for product design of long-lasting plastic items. It would include some elements to limit plastic production, ban harmful chemicals and materials, and deal with waste management.



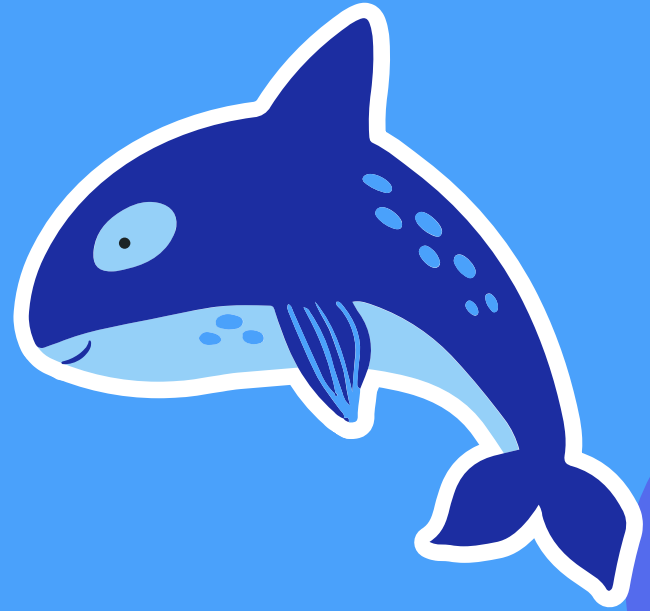
# How Ambitious Treaty?

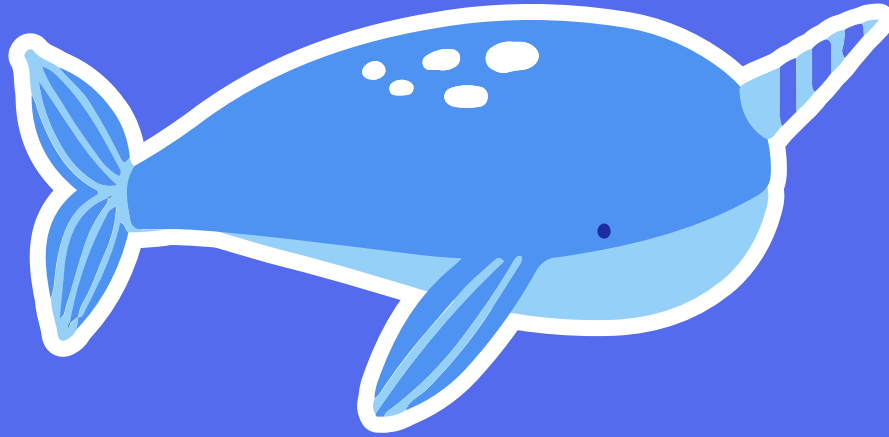
- ✓ And finally, the most ambitious treaty would create a global set of legally binding rules to govern virgin plastic production, problematic polymers and chemicals of concern, product design, how businesses are held accountable for the plastics they create, and how waste is managed. It would consider the entire life cycle of plastics to comprehensively address the scourge of plastic pollution.





Progress is made at INC-4 but more work needed to keep pace with urgency of plastic pollution crisis and include the local and sub-national governments since they are at the frontline of the entire crisis.





**With over 15 million tonnes of plastics leaking into the ocean just since the start of the negotiations, the progress on the treaty still lags behind the scale and urgency needed to end plastic pollution.**

# Microplastics in Food Chain

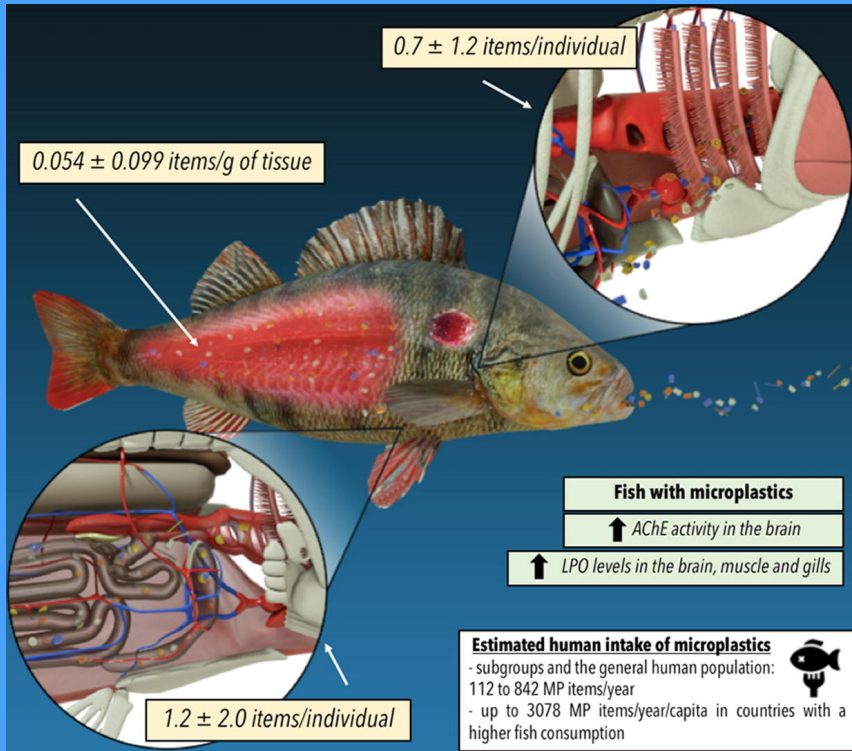


- ✓ Plastic pollution is a major problem in the Pacific region.
- ✓ A recent study on fish ingestion with samples from Samoa, New Zealand, Fiji, and Rapa Nui showed that 97 percent of all fish species sampled had micro-plastics.
- ✓ This was 30% higher than the global average.
- ✓ This is very concerning for the Pacific where fish is the main source for protein, and where fish consumption is at least approximately 3 or 4 times higher than the global average





# Microplastics in Food Chain



Based on the mean of microplastics found in various fishes during a study and the data regarding fish intake, the estimated human dose intake (children with different ages, and adults or the general population) ranged from **112 to 842 microplastic items/g/year.**



# The Galapagos Problem




## About Galápagos Islands :

- ✓ Situated in the Pacific Ocean some 1,000 km from the South American continent.
- ✓ These 19 islands and the surrounding marine reserve have been called a unique 'living museum and showcase of evolution'.
- ✓ Located at the confluence of three ocean currents, the Galápagos are a 'melting pot' of marine species.
- ✓ Ongoing seismic and volcanic activity reflects the processes that formed the islands.
- ✓ These processes, together with the extreme isolation of the islands, led to the development of unusual animal life – such as the land iguana, the giant tortoise and the many types of finch.
- ✓ It was these animal life and environment that inspired Charles Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection following his visit in 1835.



# The Galapagos Problem



- ✓ While the Galapagos Archipelago remains one of the most pristine ecosystems in the world, sadly it is not immune to the devastating effects of plastic pollution.
  - ✓ More than eight tonnes of plastic are removed by the local community from Galapagos beaches every year, and this is just the tip of the iceberg.
  - ✓ At least 38 different species have been found to be entangled in plastic, living in affected habitats or having ingested plastic after mistaking it for food.
  - ✓ Although ships are prohibited from dumping plastics at sea, researchers estimate that 30% of the garbage comes from fishing fleets.
- 



# The Galapagos Problem



# Great Pacific Garbage Patch



- ✓ The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a collection of marine debris in the North Pacific.
- ✓ The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, also known as the Pacific trash vortex, spans waters from the West Coast of North America to Japan.
- ✓ The patch is actually comprised of the Western Garbage Patch, located near Japan, and the Eastern Garbage Patch, located between the U.S. states of Hawai'i and California.
- ✓ 80% of plastic in the ocean is estimated to come from land-based sources, with the remaining 20% coming from boats and other marine sources.



# Great Pacific Garbage Patch

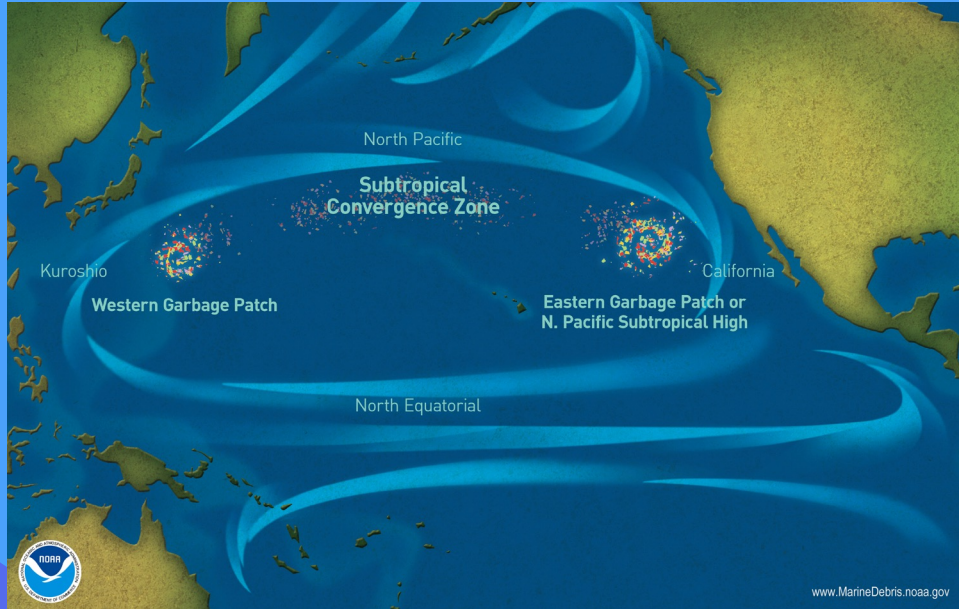


- ✓ A 2018 study found that synthetic fishing nets made up nearly half the mass of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, due largely to ocean current dynamics and increased fishing activity in the Pacific Ocean.
- ✓ Dangers are compounded by the fact that plastics both leach out and absorb harmful pollutants.
- ✓ As plastics break down through photodegradation, they leach out colorants and chemicals, such as bisphenol A (BPA), that have been linked to environmental and health problems.
- ✓ These chemicals can then enter the food chain when consumed by marine life.



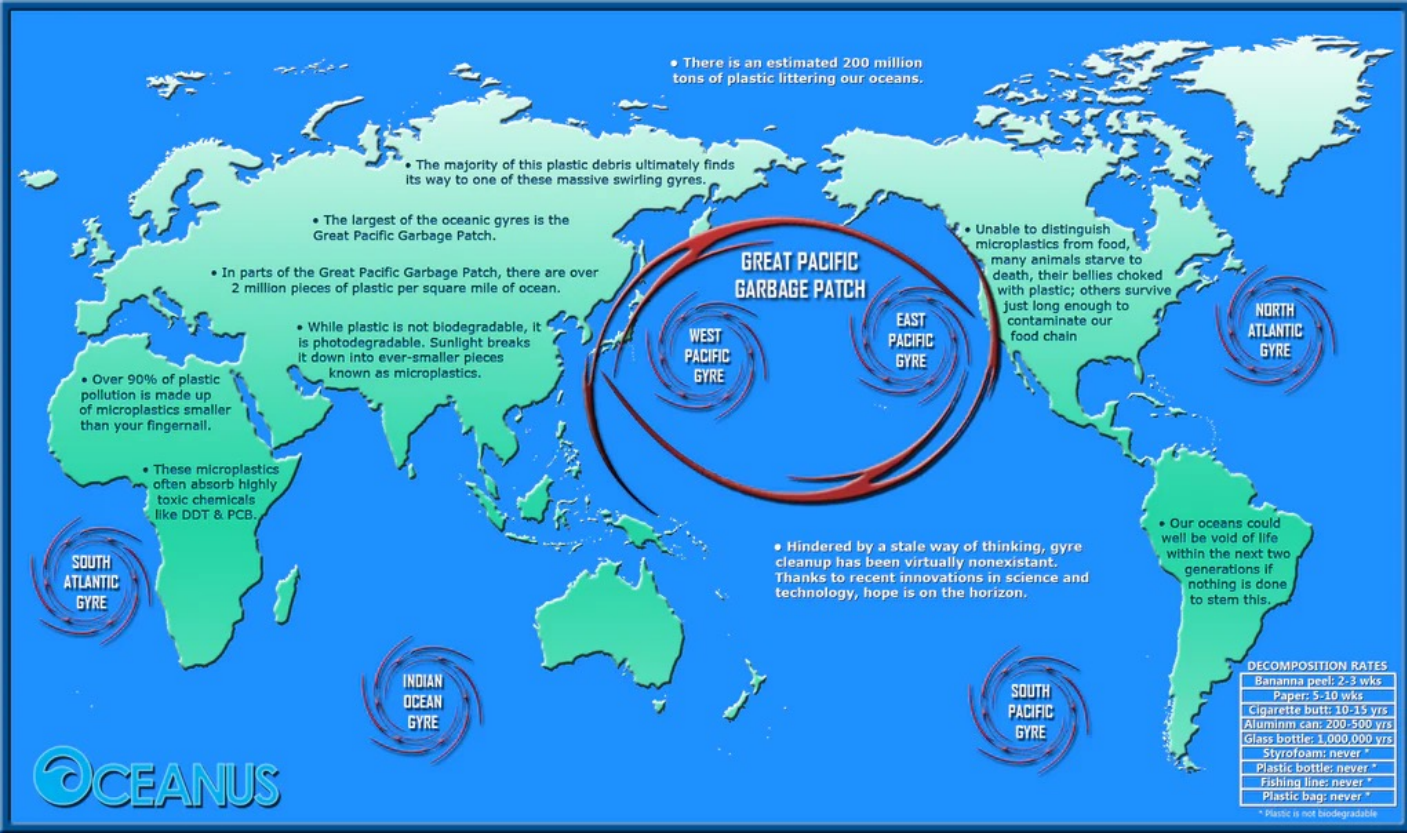


# Great Pacific Garbage Patch

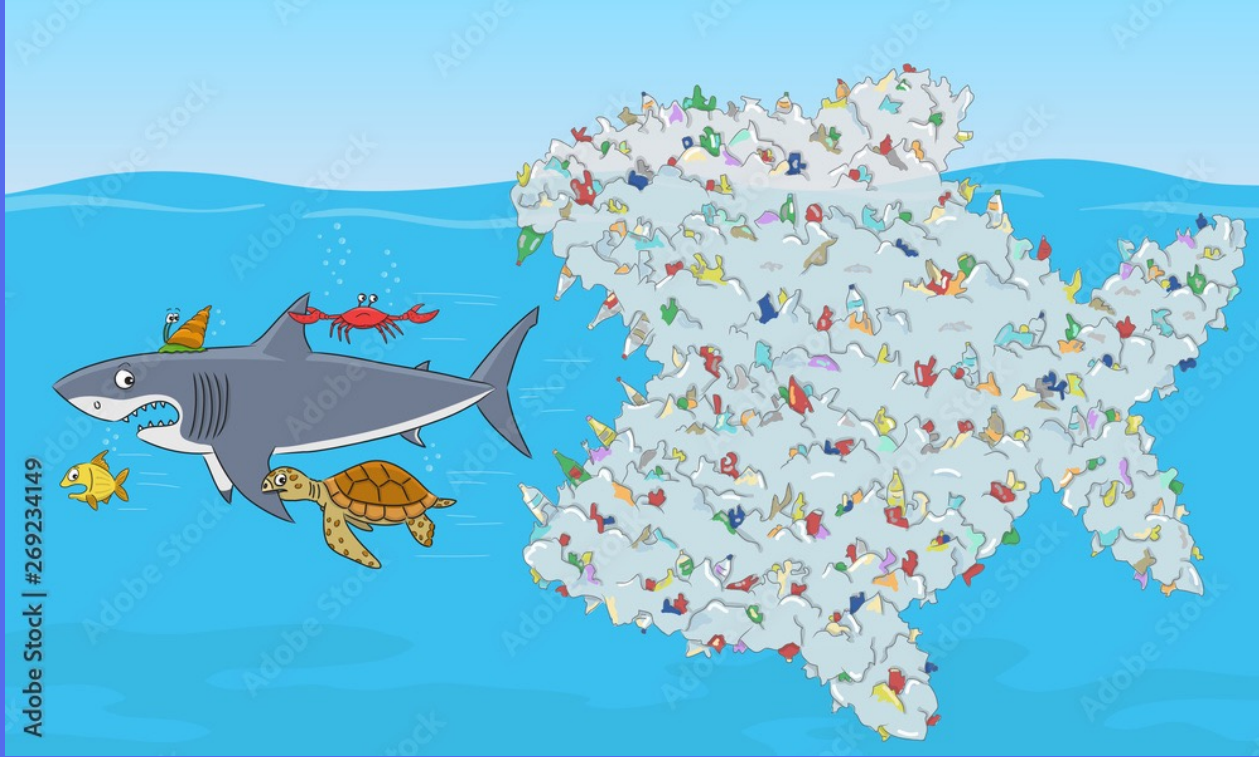




# Great Pacific Garbage Patch







# Thanks

Do you have any questions?

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