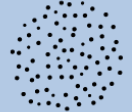


MARINE MICROPLASTICS RESOURCES

Microplastics

- Microplastics are small plastic fragments that are 1 – 5 mm versus macroplastics that are larger plastic fragments > 5 mm in size
- Primary microplastic sources are manufactured microplastics (cosmetic beads, pellets) while secondary sources of microplastics are larger plastic fragments that break down overtime (Andrady 2015)
- 5.25 trillion pieces of plastics in the ocean weigh 250,000 tonnes. 92% are microplastics (Erikson et al. 2014)
- Between 4.8 to 12.7 million metric tons of plastic waste enter the oceans each year (Jambeck et al. 2015)



Impacts

- Many marine animals can consume plastics, from zooplankton to fish and large marine mammals (Cole et al. 2013; Provencher et al. 2017)
- Microplastics can absorb other contaminants from the water which can be harmful to animals that consume plastics (Rochman et al. 2013)
- Humans can consume microplastics from sources like fish or drinking water (WHO 2019; Saturno et al. 2020)



Monitoring marine microplastics

- BabyLegs© and LADI© trawls for floating marine plastics. Ice Cream Scoop© option for children
- Microplastic sediment survey for plastics in sandy beaches



How to help

- Ensure you are following local waste sorting rules
- Follow the five R's when possible: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Rot, Recycle
- Audit your household waste to identify alternatives for waste reduction
- Support businesses that try to reduce waste
- Try to carry a reusable bag, mug and utensils
- Avoid washing clothes on 'Delicate' cycles (Kelly et al. 2019)
- Pack it in, pack it out when spending time outdoors
- Get involved with local shoreline cleanups



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