



OCEANS of GARBAGE

Why people are eating their own trash

Our oceans cover about **72% of Earth**

and absorb man-made carbon, regulate temperature and provide us with food



*Without our oceans, the Earth would have the same uninhabitable conditions as Mars

The average seafood consumed per person each year:

36 lbs



Despite our appetite for seafood, oceans have become increasingly:



Warmer



Acidic



Oxygen Deprived



Polluted

The Pacific Ocean Garbage Patch



Within it, an estimated

3.5 Million TONS OF TRASH



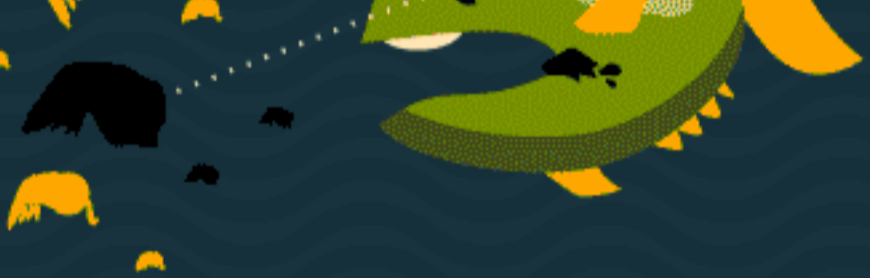
Plastic in the ocean comes from all over the world, and in the U.S. alone:

51 Billion BOTTLES ARE USED YEARLY



Only **1 in 5** are recycled

At least **260 species** of sea life are known to eat non-biodegradable plastic materials



When plastic breaks down, it looks an awful lot like plankton to some fish

In examining hundreds of lanternfish, scientists found as many as **83 plastic fragments** in their stomachs



These lanternfish just happen to be a major food source for tuna and mahi-mahi



Eep!

The entire food web is contaminated by trash and our garbage that goes in the ocean is also ending up in our diet

OVER THE PAST 26 YEARS, THE OCEAN CONSERVANCY HAS SPONSORED ANNUAL CLEANUPS

DURING THAT TIME, VOLUNTEERS HAVE COLLECTED:



18,288,809 GLASS/PLASTIC BOTTLES

More than enough to give every resident of Chile a drink



870,000 DIAPERS

Enough to put one on every child born in the UK last year



125,156 APPLIANCES

Enough to fill 37,434 dump trucks



IN THE 2011 CLEANUP ALONE:



940,277 pieces of food packaging:

About how many you would collect if you got take-out for breakfast, lunch and dinner every day for the next 858 years



24,384 lightbulbs:

Enough to replace every light on the Eiffel Tower.

Along with thousands of other items, most of which contained plastic



Plastic in the ocean won't break down for **600 years**

So at the rate we're going, we'll be eating our own garbage for a long, long time

80% of things thrown away in the U.S. are recyclable

(BUT ONLY 28% ARE ACTUALLY RECYCLED)

During the Ocean Conservancy's 2011 International Coastal Cleanup, in a single day, nearly 600,000 people picked up more than nine million pounds of trash along over 20,000 miles of coastlines

Even one day a year can make a huge difference



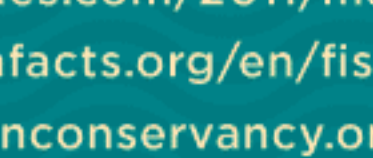
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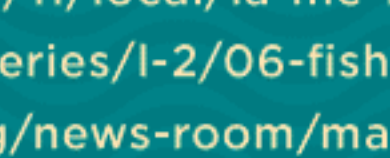
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