

# Impact of pollution on the marine environment

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Approximately **8 million tonnes**  
of plastic leak into the ocean  
every year

*The New Plastics Economy, 2016*



# Impacts: Overview

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- **Over 600 species are impacted – of which 15% are endangered**
- **Major economic losses**
- **Biodegradable plastic is not a solution**

# Wildlife Entanglement

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- Quick or slow death
- Injury that causes infection

**89 different  
species of fish &  
16 species of  
whales**

have documented records of  
marine debris entanglement.



© Missouri Department of Conservation



# Wildlife Ingestion

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**52% of all sea turtles**

worldwide have eaten plastic

By 2050,

**99% of seabirds**

are likely to have ingested plastic



© Photo: Wayne Sentman

# Economic loss: Vessel damage and navigational hazard

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Marine litter costs the European Union fishing fleet an estimated **USD 82 million** per year



© NABU/Holger Schulz

# Economic Loss: Marine Industry

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Asia-Pacific region:  
approximately  
**€1 billion/year**





# Economic Loss: Tourism

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**Annual loss** in tourism caused by marine litter is estimated to be **> USD 600 million**



© Susan White/USFWS





# The Clean Seas Campaign

**Turn the tide on plastics**

Join: [Cleanseas.org](https://cleanseas.org)  
[#CleanSeas](https://twitter.com/CleanSeas)



# The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

Inter-governmental programme

Established in **1995** by **108** governments and the EC

Reviewed every **5** years



# The initial mandate

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Nine source categories of marine pollution:



Sewage



Nutrients



Persistent organic pollutants



Sediment mobilization



Radioactive substances



Litter



Heavy metals



Physical alteration and destruction of habitat





Oils

# Current mandate



## Graduated:

-  Persistent organic pollutants
-  Heavy metals







## Manila

### Declaration:

-  Litter
-  Nutrients
-  Sewage

## Others:

-  Radioactive substances
-  Oils
-  Sediment mobilization
-  Physical alteration and destruction of habitat



# Over the Years...

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Capacity building

Development of norms, standards & guidelines

Contribution to marine pollution protocols of Regional Seas Programmes and to national plans of actions

Establishment of global partnerships:



**The Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)**



**The Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM)**



**The Global Wastewater Initiative (GW<sup>2</sup>I)**

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# Next Intergovernmental Review

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Bali, Indonesia 25-27 October 2017

Preceded by third Global Conference on  
Land-Ocean Connections 23-24 October

[www.unep.org/gpa/](http://www.unep.org/gpa/)

# The United Nations Environment Assembly

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**4-6 December 2017, Nairobi**



**Register and make a commitment @  
[www.unep.org/environmentassembly/](http://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/)**

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