



ALGALITA MARINE RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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Algalita Marine Research Foundation (Algalita) is dedicated to the protection of the marine environment and its watersheds through research, education and restoration. We focus on the issue of plastic pollution and its effects on the marine ecosystem and potential risks to human health. Our goal is to develop a clear understanding of the impacts of plastic debris. We seek to educate the public about the value and vulnerabilities of our oceans and how our individual actions influence the entire marine ecosystem and, ultimately, the health of our planet and ourselves. More information can be found on our website www.algalita.org



WHO WE SERVE

The health of the marine environment is an international issue that everyone should be concerned about. The oceans cover more than 70% of the earth's surface and its health is important to all of us whether we live on the coast or far inland. The oceans regulate our climate, provide us with food to eat, water to drink, and oxygen to breathe. The oceans also drive the financial well-being of almost all of the world's economies through transportation of goods, real estate, recreation, tourism and ocean-related occupations.

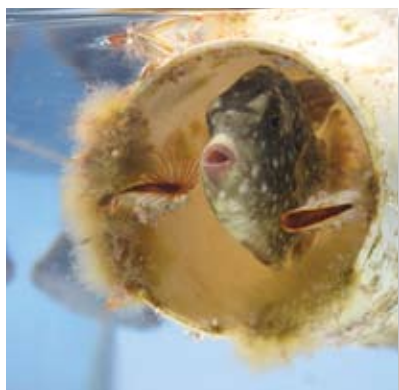
WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Contamination of the world's oceans by plastic marine debris is a growing problem. Plastic marine debris can injure coral reefs and bottom dwelling species and entangle or drown ocean wildlife. Some species ingest plastic, potentially causing choking or starvation. Plastic frequently tangles boat propellers and can clog seawater intakes.

OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Our scientific research objective is to understand the scope and impact of plastic debris in the global marine ecosystem and potential effects on human health by:

- Characterizing the distribution, degradation, and fate of plastic debris in coastal, benthic (surface of ocean floor) and pelagic (open ocean) marine environments;
- Understanding the impact of plastic debris ingestion on marine organisms (reproductive rates, growth, etc.) and any subsequent impact on populations;
- Understanding the absorption/adsorption of various types of plastics and the possible transference of toxic contaminants to marine life; and
- Determine if the transfer of toxic contaminants to marine life has short- and long-term implications for human health.



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OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Algalita's education objective is to provide information in a compelling manner that connects with students, teachers, and the public at large. We have developed a comprehensive science-based education program that includes formal classroom curricula as well as exciting and innovative hands-on programs for students such as *Ship-2-Shore* and the *Plastics Are Forever International Youth Summit*. We conduct in-school presentations and provide a variety of educational materials designed to engage students in activities that encourage them to learn more about the marine ecosystem and think about their impact on the environment. Curricula developed over the last five years by Algalita are in conformance with California Science Standards.



CHALLENGES AHEAD

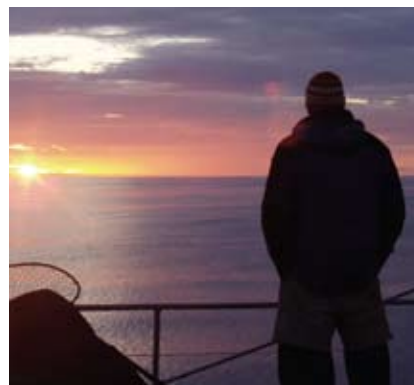
Creating awareness of the problem of plastic marine pollution and engendering a sense of responsibility are the first steps toward a long-term solution. The worldwide nature of plastic pollution demands a worldwide strategy to inform and motivate people to change behavior and make better decisions. Regional differences in culture, economic development, and technical capability add another extremely complex level to determining potential solutions. Teamwork and focus on the mission will lead to success.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Join with others who share your concern for our oceans by donating today and help support the work we do to restore the health of our oceans. Algalita does not receive government funding, so every dollar you donate makes a difference!

- Become a **Member** or renew your Membership!
- Make a tax-deductible **Donation**
- Give a **Memorial** or **Tribute Donation** in honor or in memory of someone or to commemorate a special occasion
- Become a **Research or Education Partner** with a monthly gift
- **Volunteer** (office or laboratory assistant)



DISCLAIMER: In keeping with its mission, Algalita does not take a position of advocacy for specific legislative efforts relating to the manufacture or use of products that are known, or revealed by our research, to affect the well being of the world's waterways, oceans and marine life. As a research foundation, however, we are dedicated to sharing our data with policymakers, the scientific community and the public, inviting them to work together in searching for solutions to ensure a healthy marine environment.