



# Ocean plastic pollution

**Earth Day 2018**

Dr. Anna Posacka  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
Ocean Pollution Research Program



**COASTAL OCEAN  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE**  
AN OCEAN WISE INITIATIVE

Our  
current  
practices  
result  
in large  
amount  
of **WASTE**

Ocean Wise Scientist  
Rhiannon Moore



**2.86 billion  
plastic bags  
used every  
year in  
Canada -  
that's 200  
per person!**



Source: [Plastic Oceans Canada](#)

Plastic  
waste reaches  
our oceans,  
rivers and  
lakes



Photo credit: Instagram / Justin Hofman

# LARGE PLASTICS



break apart into



Found on beach in  
Nome, Alaska  
Photo: Stephen Underhay

# MICROPLASTICS



Found in water in  
Coal Harbour, Vancouver, BC  
Photo: Stephen Chastain

# LARGE PLASTICS

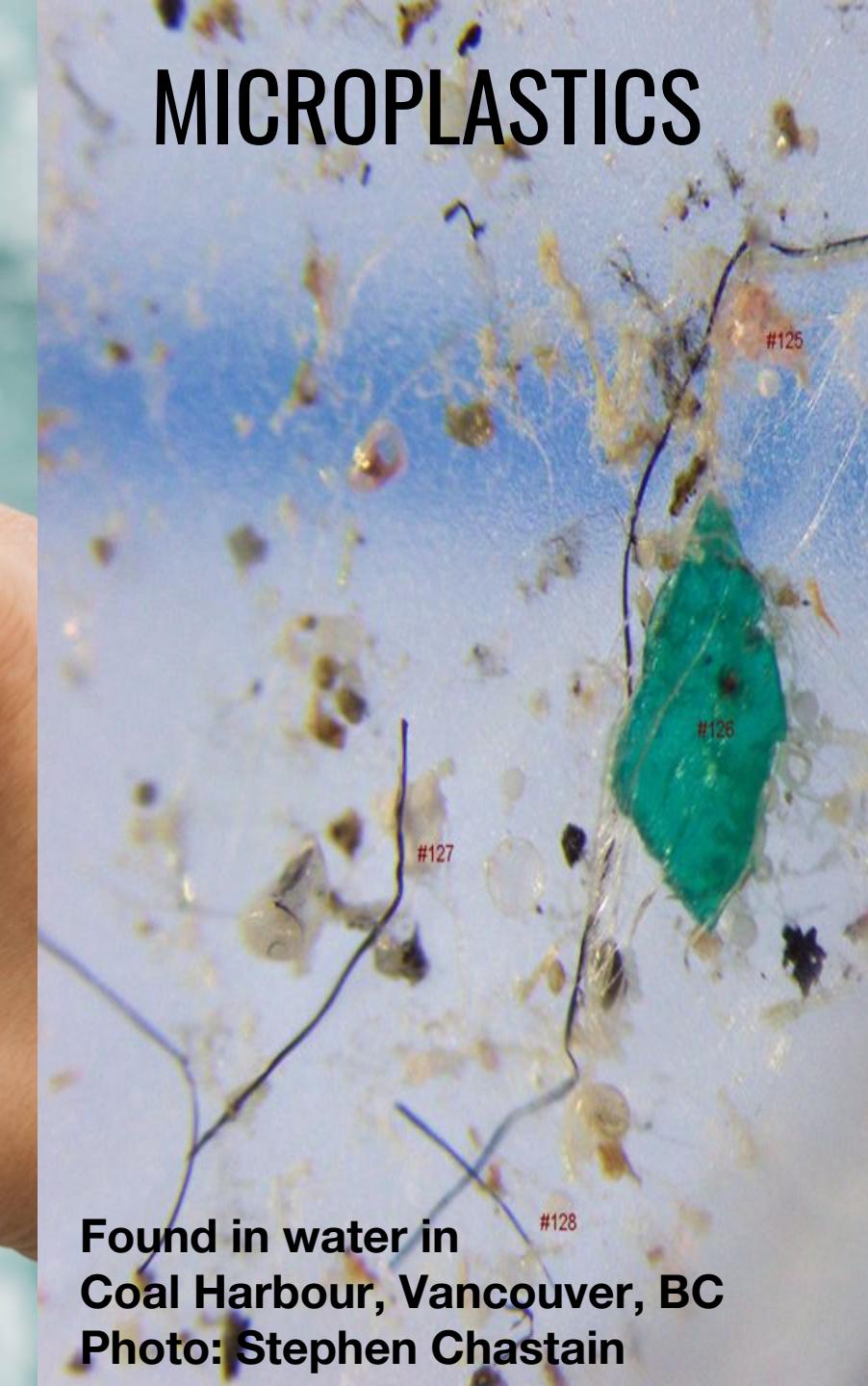


# MACROPLASTICS



Found on beach in  
Nome, Alaska  
Photo: Stephen Underhay

# MICROPLASTICS



Found in water in  
Coal Harbour, Vancouver, BC  
Photo: Stephen Chastain



# Microplastics are less than 5 mm

- some come from **break down of larger plastic**
- some **made this way** (e.g. microbeads in toothpaste)



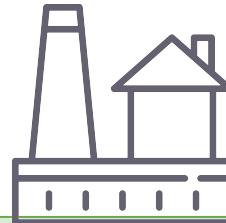
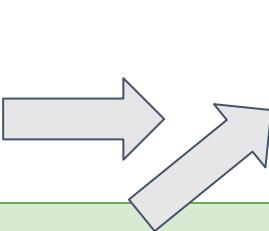
# Microplastics Ocean Pollution Research Program



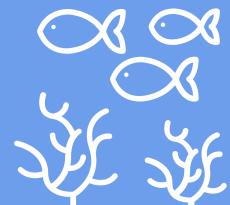
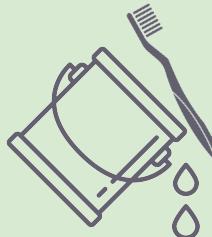
ocean wise.<sup>®</sup>



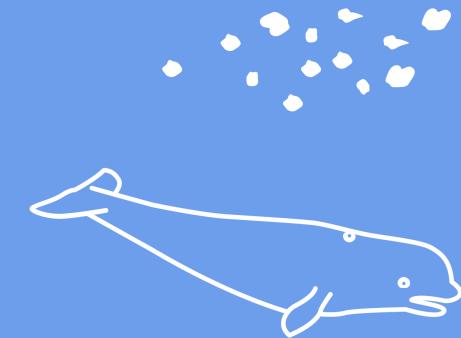
How many plastic  
fibers from our  
clothes?



How many pieces of  
plastic and fibers  
escape **wastewater**  
treatment in BC?



How many in BC  
sediments and  
mussels?



Can we find them in the  
Arctic food-web?

How many do  
we find in water within  
the **Pacific** and  
**Arctic Oceans**?

# What can YOU do?



ocean wise.<sup>®</sup>

**Reduce  
Reuse  
Recycle**



# Choose this



# Over this



Reuse items  
like this one



*instead of*

using this  
one only ONCE





Pick  
non-packaged



Over  
pre-packaged  
items

# Reuse



# Instead of single-use





Catch it before  
it breaks  
down  
into tiny  
pieces



ocean wise®



# Break Your Plastic Pattern. Protect Our Ocean.



Share

I pledge to **#BePlasticWise** to  
protect ocean life.

Email\*

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First Name

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Last Name

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Do not display my name on the pledge roll.

**Pledge Now**



Thank you