Dataset Sourcing

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**Topic:** Plastic Pollution and its Effects on Marine Life

1. **Plastic Wastes Emitted to the Oceans (Worldwide Data), updated 2022**

*Mismanaged wastes emitted to the oceans in metric tons and decomposition rates*

**Size:** 4kb

**Source:** [Our World in Data](https://ourworldindata.org/)

**Link:** [Plastic waste emitted to the ocean, 2019 (ourworldindata.org)](https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/plastic-waste-emitted-to-the-ocean?tab=chart&country=BGD~CMR~PHL~CHN~IND~NGA~BRA~LKA)

**How can this data help answer the project question?**

Dataset shows up-to-date information on both the quantities of plastic wastes being recorded in the oceans, as well as the decomposition times of those materials, allowing us to see projected long-term damage.

**Variables:** Entity (country/continent), mismanaged waste emitted to the ocean (metric tons/year)

1. **Ecological Impacts of Marine Debris, 2017**

*Ecological impacts of various types of marine debris on different marine life*

**Size:** 310kb

**Source:** [Our World in Data](https://ourworldindata.org/)

**Link:** [Ecological impacts of marine plastic debris - Our World in Data](https://ourworldindata.org/ecological-impacts-of-marine-plastic-debris)

**How can this data help answer the project question?**

Dataset shows the recorded ecological harm done by marine debris among various types of animals which would allow us to see what pollution ultimately results in.

**Variables:** Animal, impact type, debris type

**Concerns:**

Data is not set up as an excel document already. While last peer-reviewed in 2017, the last recorded study in the dataset is back in 2013. Dataset covers multiple varieties of marine debris in addition to plastics.

1. **Entanglement Data (Pacific Islands), updated 2021**

*Records of all entanglements of Hawaiian Monk Seals in marine debris*

**Size**: 1kb

**Source:** [data.gov](file:///C:\Users\savvy\OneDrive\Documents\Classes\+C1%20-%20Data%20Analytics+\Capstone%20Project\C1%20Documents\catalog.data.gov)

**Link:** [Entanglement data - CKAN](https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/entanglement-data)

**How can this data help answer the project question?**

Dataset adds detailed information regarding the quantity of a specific animal affected by marine debris. This allows us to see how the issue can be devastating even at a small scale, such as in one location.

**Concerns:**

Data is split across three separate tables. Data is only recorded at known monk seal hangout locations so any entanglements at sea or in uncharted areas is unrecorded in this dataset. Very small scope.

1. **Marine Debris Along US West Coast, updated 2021**

*Composition and abundance of man-made debris from 1,367 locations along the West Coast*

**Size:** 5kb

**Source:** [data.gov](file:///C:\Users\savvy\OneDrive\Documents\Classes\+C1%20-%20Data%20Analytics+\Capstone%20Project\C1%20Documents\catalog.data.gov)

**Link:** [Marine Debris Data Set (Benthic Marine Debris along the US West Coast) - CKAN](https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/marine-debris-data-set-benthic-marine-debris-along-the-us-west-coast-00a74)

**How can this data help answer the project question?**

This dataset scales down the scope from worldwide to one coast, allowing a more magnified look at the issue.

**Variables:** Type of marine debris

**Concerns:**

Implementation into a larger dataset since this one is only applicable to one US coast.

1. **Global Plastic Waste, 1980 – 2015**

*Global plastic waste by country and disposal method*

**Size:** 27kb

**Source:** [Our World in Data](https://ourworldindata.org/)

**Link:** [Global plastic waste by disposal, 1980 to 2015 (ourworldindata.org)](https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/global-plastic-fate)

**How can this data help answer the project question?**

This data shows the ways in which plastic has been discarded, giving a scale for amount recycled vs. amount improperly disposed of.

**Variables:** Entity (Discarded/Incinerated/Recycled), Estimated plastic fate in %

**Concerns:**

Dataset only records information from 1980-2015. Figures are all estimated.

1. **Surface Plastic Mass by Ocean Basin, 2013**

*Quantity of plastic waste floating at the ocean’s surface within each of the world’s oceans or marine basins.*

**Size:** 234b

**Source:** [Our World in Data](https://ourworldindata.org/)

**Link:** [Surface plastic mass by ocean basin, 2013 (ourworldindata.org)](https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/surface-plastic-mass-by-ocean)

**How can this data help answer the project question?**

Data shows worldwide plastic pollution in metric tons within all oceans and basins in a simple format.

**Variables:** Ocean, Total mass of plastic

**Concerns:**

Dataset on its own is very small, so there is not a lot of data to work with. We will likely combine this data with the data from Source 1.