

GREAT PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH

PATCH



SCOPE

Spans from waters of the West Coast of North America to Japan

Patch covers ~ 1.6 million square kilometers.



SEVERITY

Contains between 1.1-3.6 trillion pieces of plastic

Fishing nets account for 45% of the Garbage Patch

70% of plastic debris will sink to the bottom of the ocean

SOLUTIONS

Assist in local community beach/park clean-up efforts; use reusable alternatives (reusable water bottles; grocery bags)

- Encourage legislative reform to ban the use of single-use plastics in the United States

-New policy reform decreased from 2017-2018



1997



CAUSES

Circling currents within the ocean- plastics become enveloped in patches

Collection of marine debris bounded by North Pacific Subtropical Gyre

Accumulation of garbage disposed improperly by humans

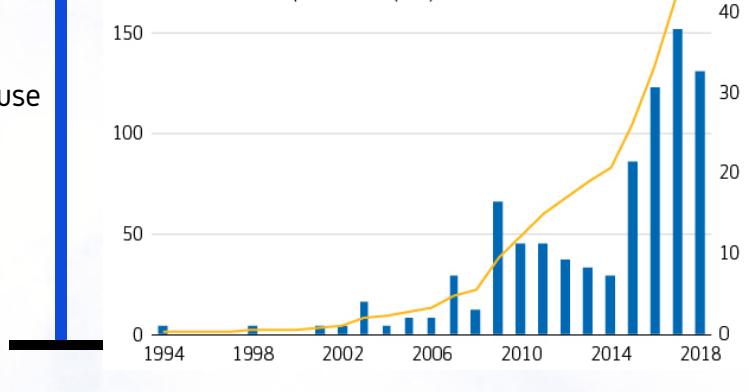
CLEAN-UP EFFORTS

"The Ocean Cleanup"- organization uses U-Shaped screens which traps microplastics

- Goal to reach 90% reduction of ocean plastic by 2040

"Seabin Project"-

- identifies chemicals and oils within ocean water and extracts them through filtration monitors



Sources:

<http://www.waterencyclopedia.com/>
<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia>

<https://theoceancleanup.com/great-pacific-garbage-patch/>

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