

THE CONSUMPTION OF MICRO PLASTICS



STAGE 1: POLLUTION

Of the 8.3 billion tons of plastic produced, most of the material has either been thrown away, incinerated, or recycled, with most of it ending up in landfills (Cox, Coverton, others et al. 2019)

STAGE 2: PLASTIC ENTERS THE WATERWAYS

With the help of rain, mismanagement of waste, and negligent boaters and individuals, plastics end up in rivers and waterways, and make their way out to the open ocean.

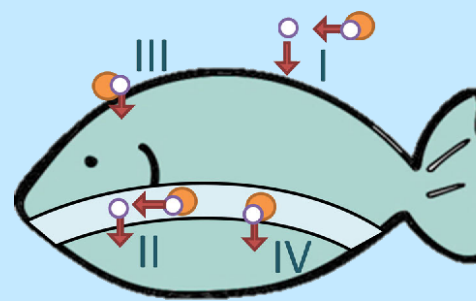


STAGE 3: BREAKDOWN

Since water is the universal solvent, BPA, also known as Bisphenol A, a plastic harder breaks down in the ocean waters. Plastics also end up breaking down into smaller pieces called microplastics.

STAGE 4: MICRO PLASTICS

After the plastics break down, the micro plastics are ingested by underwater wildlife. According to Cox, Coverton and others, seafood contains nearly 1.48 micro plastics per gram!



STAGE 5: THE FOOD CHAIN

Studies show that individuals ingest micro plastics from different sources on a daily basis. Seafood is a major source of food for many individuals in countries like Japan, where the average citizen could consume up to 154 micro plastics per day from solely seafood.

