

THE GREAT PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH

The oldest objects date back to 1977. The concentration of plastic increases exponentially every year.

The garbage patch has an area of **1.6 million km²**, almost three times the size of France.

700
species affected

± **80,000 tonnes**, equivalent to 500 Jumbo jets (Boeing 747).

46% of the total mass is made up of fishing nets.

1.8 billion
pieces of plastic

It is estimated that every year plastics injure, suffocate or drown **100,000** marine animals.

84% of these plastics contain substances which are toxic to marine animals.

94% of the objects are microplastics.

There are also:

- **56 billion** mesoplastics
- **821 million** macroplastics
- **3.2 million** megaplastics



Materials from:
Japan, Mexico, Taiwan, China, Philippines, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Italy, Korea and Venezuela.

Microplastics: **6,380 tonnes**

Mesoplastics: **9,971 tonnes**

Macroplastics: **20,195 tonnes**

Megaplastics: **42,362 tonnes**

Source: Nature, National Geographic.