

The Pacific Garbage Patch

Harm on Marine Animals

Who is affected by the Pacific Garbage Patch?

“Many of those affected by the enormous garbage swirl—like sea birds, turtles and beluga whales—can't speak for themselves.

Fabien Cousteau

[1]



Image courtesy of NOAA

How does it happen? [2]

- Marine animals mistake plastic debris for food and ingest it like when a sea turtle eats a plastic bag mistaking it for a jellyfish.
- Albatross frequently feed their chicks pieces of floating plastic mistaking it for fish eggs or food.



<http://www.britishblogs.co.uk/categories/environmental-degradation/>

How does it happen?[2]

Also, marine animals such as the Hawaiian monk seal get caught in fishing nets that people leave in the ocean.



NOAA Fisheries: John Henderson

Hawaiian monk seal entangled at Lisianski Island (Henderson 1984). This seal was released alive by NOAA personnel.

Retrieved 11/30/2010 from:
<http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/seagrant/marinedebris/GhostNetIdentification.pdf>

Endangered Species[3]



<http://www.allvoices.com/contributed-news/282685-endangered-species/image/5256308>

- These are all the turtles that are endangered species because of the Pacific Garbage Patch:
 - Green Turtle
 - Leatherback Turtle
 - Hawksbill Turtle
 - Kemp's Turtle
 - Olive Turtle

What about the Coral Reef? [4]

- The beautiful coral reefs are being damaged by all of the fishing nets that are left in the ocean.
- The nets snag the coral and break pieces off.



Coralline algae at Rose Atoll, located off the coast of American Samoa.

<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/images.html#67>

Protect Marine Animals from the Pacific Garbage Patch

Don't Pollute the Ocean!



Works Cited

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- [2] Allsopp, M., Walters, A., Santillo, D., Johnston, P., Plastic debris in the world's oceans. Greenpeace. Retrieved on November 25, 2010 from http://oceans.greenpeace.org/raw/content/en/documents-reports/plastic_ocean_report.pdf
- [3] NOAA (2005b). Marine Turtles. Retrieved on November 25, 2010 from <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/turtles/>
- [4] Donohue M.J., Boland R.C., Sramek C.M. and Antonelis G.A. (2001). Derelict fishing gear in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands: diving surveys and debris removal in 1999 confirm threat to coral reef ecosystems. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 42 (12): 1301-1312.