



Some 250 million people earn their living from fishing and up to 70% of humans rely on fish as their primary source of protein.

In the marine environment, plastic is capable of absorbing harmful toxins from the water and concentrating the toxic levels of chemicals such as PCBs, PAHs and DDT up the food chain leading ultimately to us. It is not just the plastic we can see which is the danger. Plastic is broken down by wave action and UV light into small microplastics. Microplastics are eaten by filter feeding plankton which are near the bottom of the food chain affecting the animals depending on that food chain.

Long exposure to these toxins have been linked to serious health conditions such as cancer, diabetes, low sperm count, altered immune systems and developmental problems in children.





ENTANGLED

Plastic affects marine animals by physically tangling them leading to injury, distress, ingestion and drowning. 1 in 3 species of marine mammals have been found entangled in marine litter. Scientists have found that over 650 species have been known to have adversely interacted with plastic, and 1 in 3 marine mammal species have been found entangled in marine litter.

80% of marine litter is plastic





INGESTED

A plastic bag can kill an animal which can survive eating a toxic Portuguese-man-of-war.

It is estimated that there are now 46,000 pieces of plastic per square kilometre of the world's oceans, with 5 trillion pieces of plastic floating on the oceans worldwide. Estimates by scientists repeatedly show that the concentrations of plastic are increasing with a recent paper stating an average density of 9.8kg/km².

This plastic can be mistaken for food. Approximately 500 species of marine animal have been known to have either eat or become entangled in plastic. This includes 1 in 3 seabirds many of whom feed their chicks plastic after mistaking them for food. Whales, dolphins, seals, turtles and fish have also been found containing ingested plastic.

