

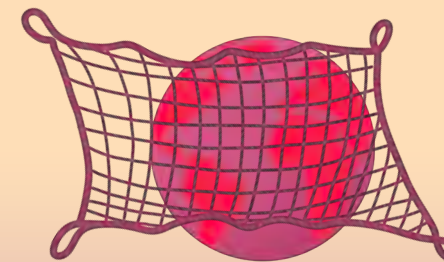
Coastal Crisis

A look at plastic pollution and human impacts on marine environments

ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY LIU

Did you know...

Plastic found in the ocean could cover our Earth, with a radius of 3925 miles, 400 times.



Going Deeper

Plastic at different depths of the ocean

0 m
269,000 tons of plastic float on the surface. That's about two particles per cubic meter.

300 m
At the highest concentration in the ocean, there are 12 plastic particles per cubic meter.

1,000 m
Despite pressures at over 110 times than at sea level, there are 2 plastic particles per cubic meter.

10,924 m
Crustaceans tested in the Mariana Trench have been shown to have ingested plastic.

Marine Misery

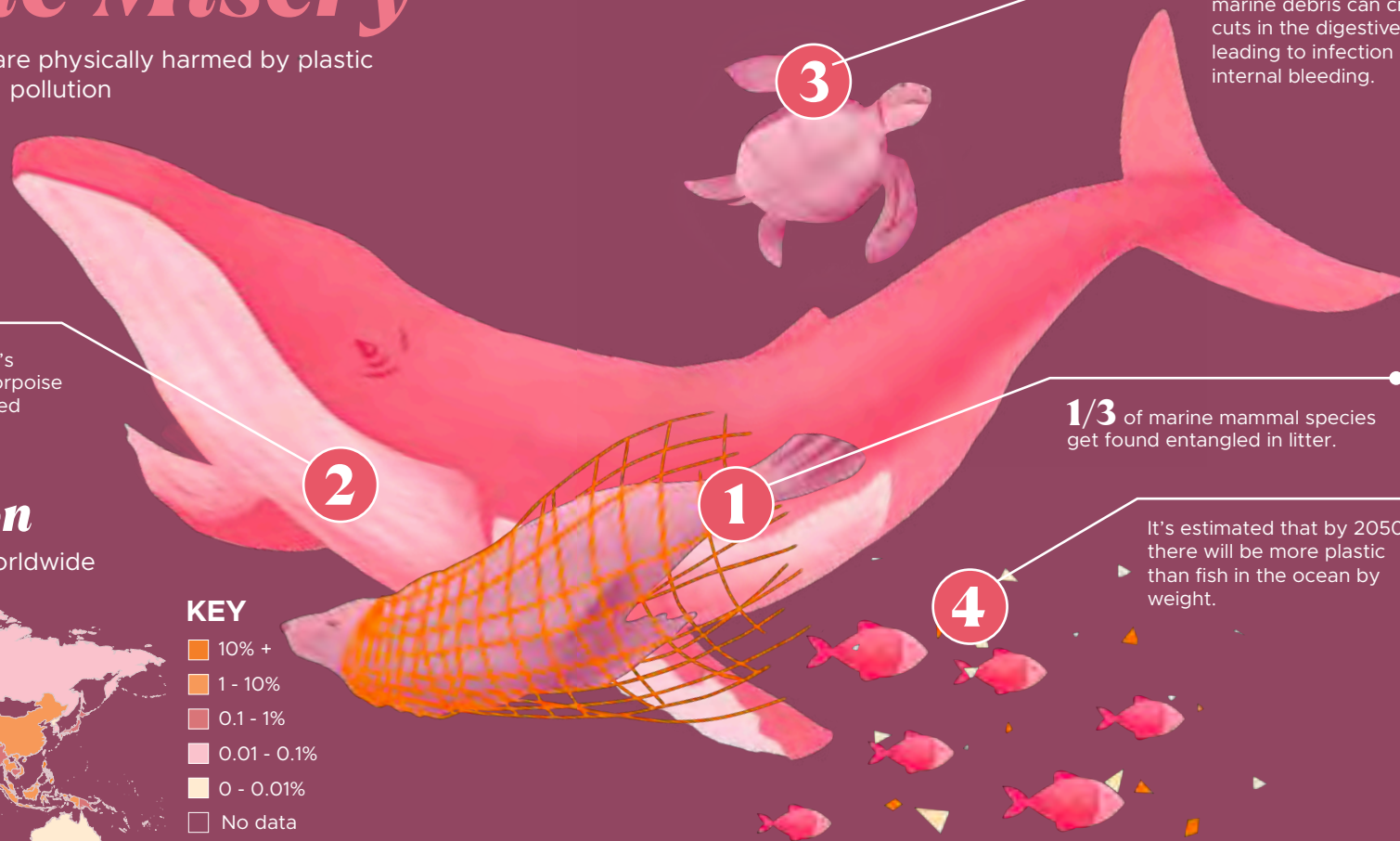
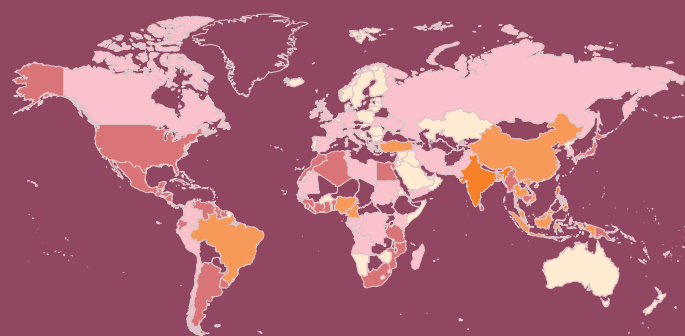
How marine animals are physically harmed by plastic pollution



56% of the planet's whale, dolphin and porpoise species have consumed plastic.

Mapping Pollution

Annual estimate of plastic emissions worldwide



Sharp or rough plastic or marine debris can create cuts in the digestive system, leading to infection and internal bleeding.

1/3 of marine mammal species get found entangled in litter.

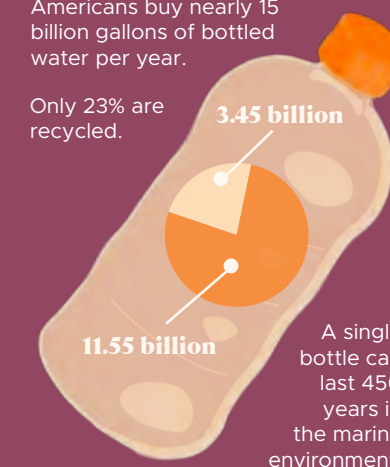
It's estimated that by 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean by weight.

Bottling it Up

The impact of plastic waterbottles on the ocean

Americans buy nearly 15 billion gallons of bottled water per year.

Only 23% are recycled.



Counting Plastic

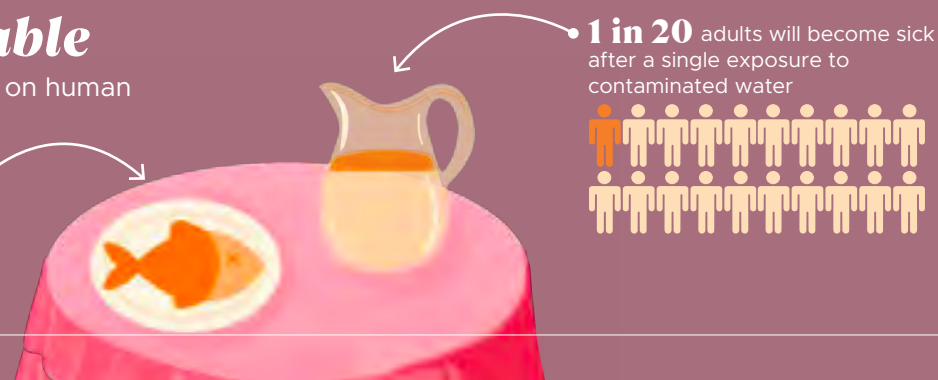
Most common items found in ocean clean-ups and their decomposition times



From Sea to Table

The impacts of ocean pollution on human health

55% of fish species commonly consumed by humans have been found with microplastics



1 in 20 adults will become sick after a single exposure to contaminated water



Looking Forward

Ways to reverse ocean pollution

1. Support legislation to curb plastic production and waste
2. Participate in a beach or river cleanup
3. Reduce plastic usage and recycle properly

Sources: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Our World in Data, Pew Research Center, UNESCO, Washington Post.

SCAN FOR

locations eligible for store drop-off recycling

