

# Great Pacific Garbage Patch



# What is it and why is it occurring?

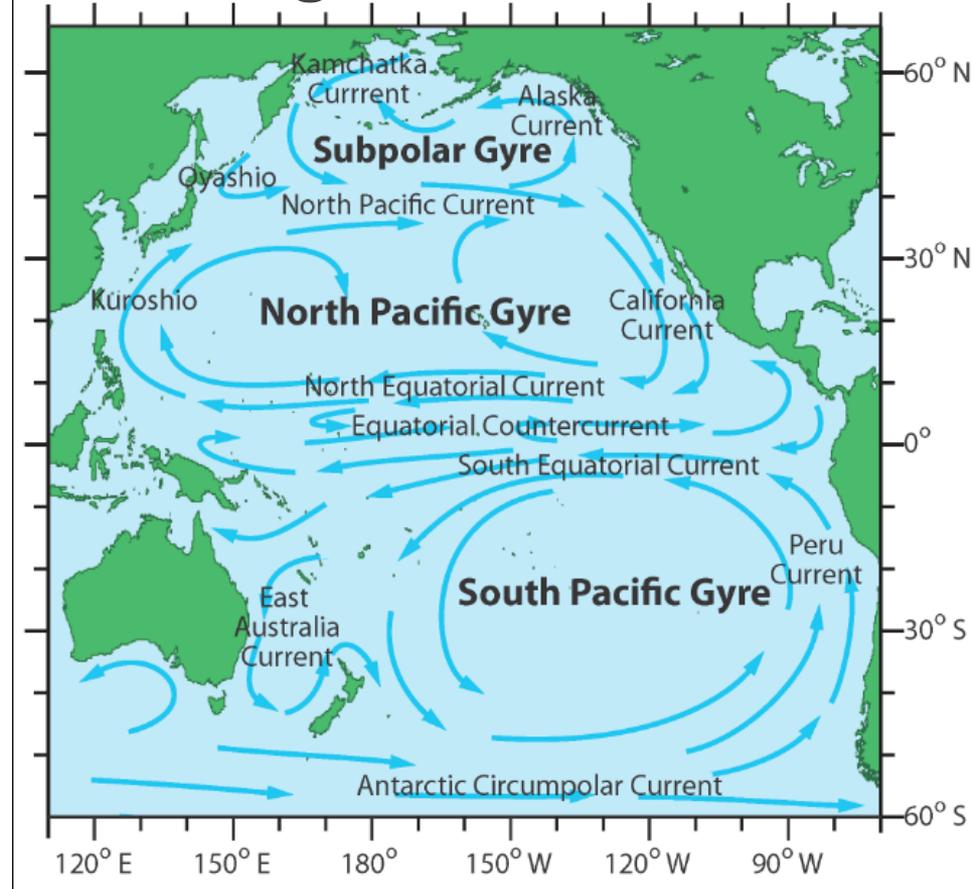
-600,000 Square Miles (twice the size of Texas)

-1.8 Trillion pieces of microplastic (not biodegradable)

-88,000 Tons

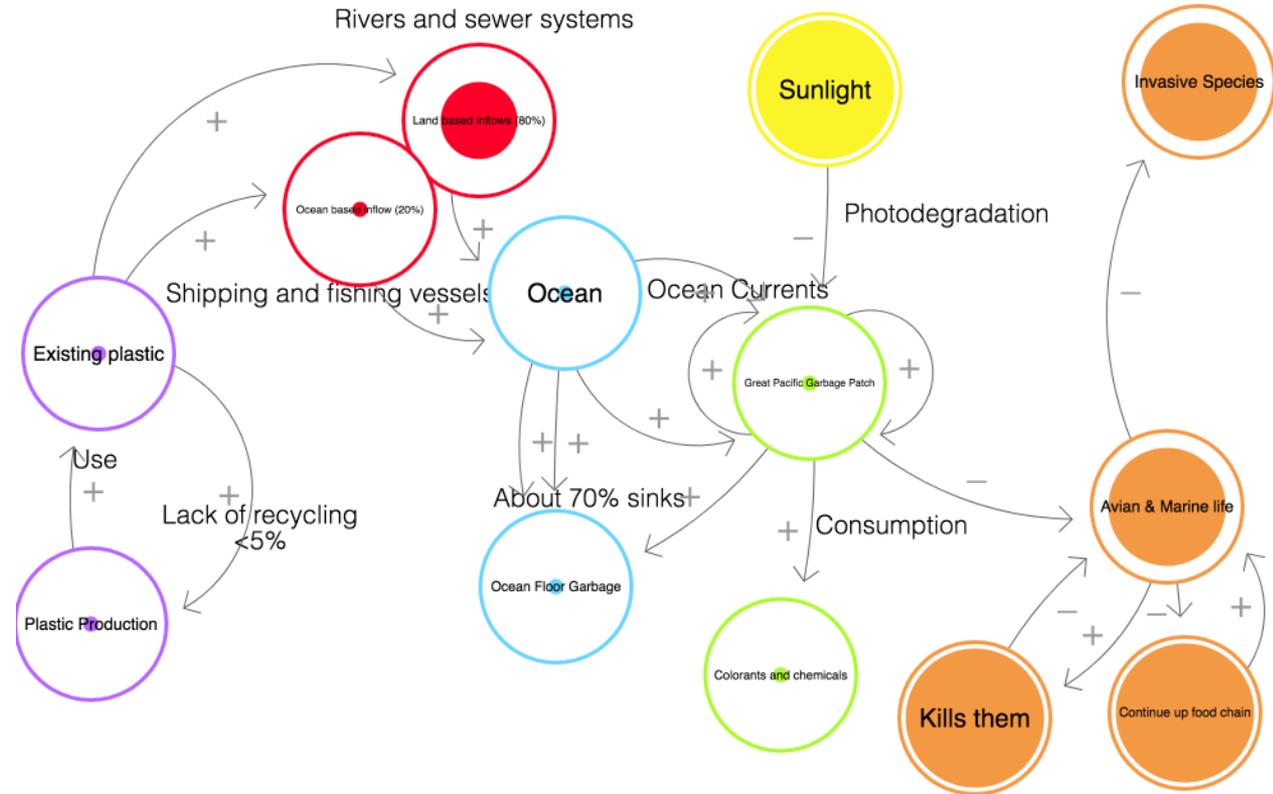
-Comprised of the Western Garbage Patch (near Japan) and Eastern Garbage Patch (between Hawaii and California)

-Ocean Currents: North Pacific Subtropical Convergence Zone



# The System

<https://bit.ly/2Q6NJfi>



# Boundaries

## -Origins of the garbage

- Fishing gear
- Landfills (North America & Asia)
- Dropped shipping containers
- 1.15-2.41 million metric tonnes of plastic enter the ocean each year

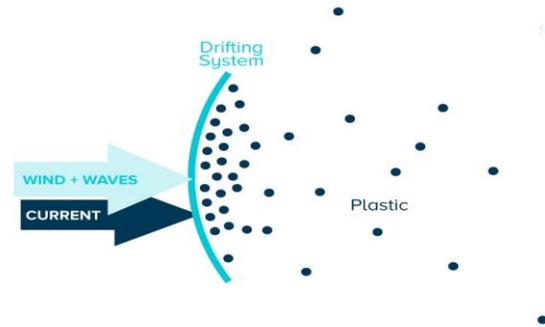
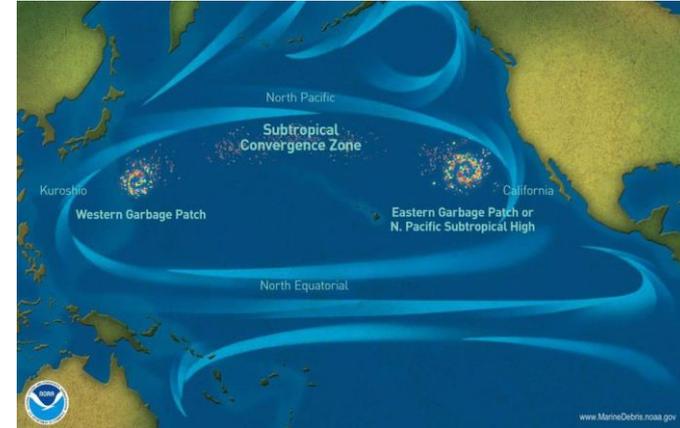
## -Direct effects of the garbage

- Entanglement of avian and marine life
- Marine food webs
- Bioaccumulation
- Coral reefs
- Human food chain



# Limitations and what now?

- Economic benefit and cost (funding)
- Social change
- Educate the public
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Government interference, subsidies, incentives? (International waters)
- The Ocean Cleanup





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