

Plastics action vote



There are a lot of things that scientists know about plastics in the ocean and the harm it can cause and there are a number of issues that still need to be researched in more depth.

Your job is to decide whether action should be taken based on the amount of information we have available or whether we should wait until we know more.

What we do and do not know.

Plastic has been found in every part of the ocean where scientists have sampled for it.	Scientists have not been able to find nanoplastics in the ocean and don't know how they behave.
Large pieces of plastics can block the intestines of marine animals.	Humans eat more plastic from their home environment than from seafood.
Scientists are not sure what harm microplastics cause plankton in the open ocean.	There is some evidence that microfibres can cause cuts in marine worm guts in laboratory settings.
Plastic can entangle and lacerate large marine species such as turtles and whales.	As plastic breaks into smaller pieces (microplastics), it can be eaten by more species.
Nanoplastics are very small particles that can travel through the gut into the tissue.	Chemical toxins stick to plastic particles in the ocean.
Plastic has been found in the intestines of about 700 marine species.	Scientists do not know whether toxins absorbed by plastics cause more harm.

Your choices...

take drastic action	take some action	wait until we know more
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