



FAO LIBRARY FOR WORLD OCEAN DAY

JUNE 2018

On the 8th of June the UN celebrates World Oceans Day to:

"Raise global awareness of the benefits humankind derives from the ocean and our individual and collective duty to use its resources sustainably." [UN world oceans portal](#)



The theme this year is "[Preventing plastic pollution and encouraging solutions for a healthy ocean](#)". To contribute to this important event, please find below some pertinent literature on the topic of sea pollution and plastics.



FROM THE FAO LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

THE FAO LIBRARY COLLECTION CONTAINS [32 PUBLICATIONS SPECIFICALLY ON SEA POLLUTION & PLASTIC](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

E-BOOKS



FAO.
[Microplastics in fisheries and aquaculture](#)
(FAO, 2017)



[Proceedings of the International Conference on Microplastic Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea](#)
(Springer, 2018)



[Microplastic contamination in aquatic environments](#)
(Elsevier, 2018)



[Fate and impact of microplastics in marine ecosystems](#)
(Elsevier, 2017)

JOURNAL

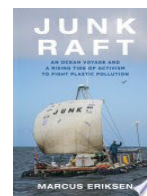


New Scientist.
[Fixing planet plastic - Why the problem got so big and what to do about it](#)
(19 May 2018)

PRINTS



[Les déchets ça suffit! L'état des lieux](#)
(L'Harmattan, 2017)



[Junk raft: an ocean voyage and a rising tide of activism to fight plastic pollution](#)
(Beacon press, 2017)

FROM THE WEB OF SCIENCE

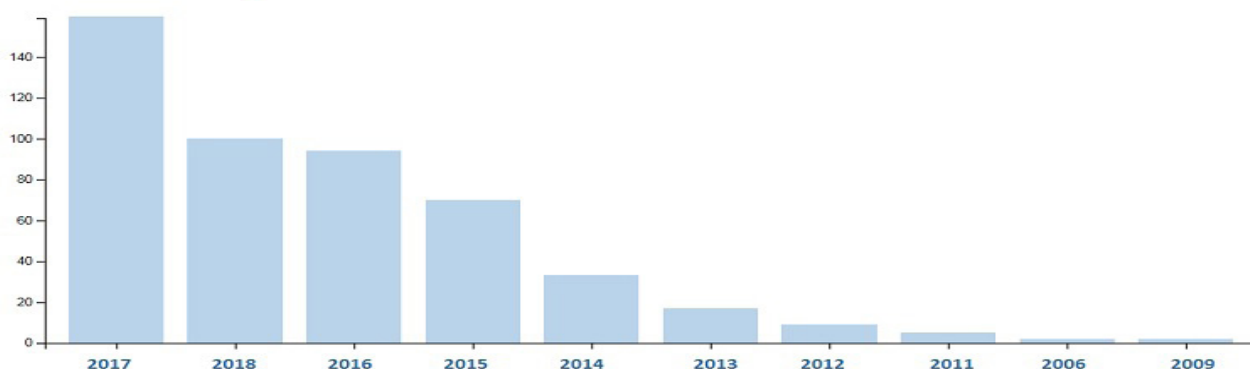


WEB OF SCIENCE™

From 2000 until today [482 articles](#) have been published on microplastics & the marine environment in high impact peer-reviewed scientific journals.

To obtain the full text of any of these articles, please write a mail to fao-library-loans@fao.org and we will send you the full-text within 1-2 days.

Visualization **Bar graph** Number of results **10**



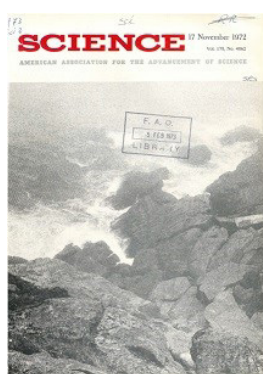
The graph below displays the top ten years of publication.

Following alarming reports at the beginning of the 2000s about the widespread presence of microplastic particles and their potential impacts on marine ecosystems, the number of studies regarding microplastics grew exponentially as is shown in the graph.

FROM THE HISTORIC SERIALS COLLECTION

The impact of the "Plastic Age" on the Ocean

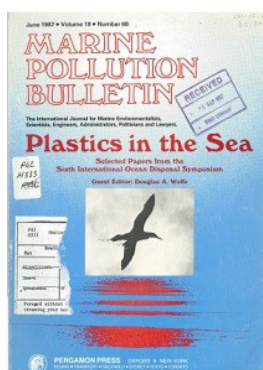
The first research in the field of sea pollution started off in the 1950/60s when the production of plastic started increasing exponentially and plastic showed up in the most remote parts of the world. The Historic Serials Collection of the FAO Library contains many of the scientific articles that made an important contribution to this relatively new area of research. Please find a selection below (**click on the covers to access the articles online**)¹



1970s - Many of the earliest records of seabirds ingesting plastics date back to the 1960s, but they only come to light after Carpenter et al. publish in 1972 two articles about plastic pollution in the leading journal *Science*. These two papers also stimulated a broader interest in marine litter and its impact.

Carpenter, E. J., & Smith, K. L. Jr. 1972. [Plastic on the Sargasso Sea surface](#). *Science*, 175: 1240–1241

Carpenter, E. J., Anderson, S. J., Harvey, G. R., Miklas, H. P., & Peck, B. B. 1972. [Polystyrene spherules in coastal waters](#). *Science*, 178: 749–750002E.



1990s - By the early 1990s concern about the potential impacts of marine litter leads to a series of meetings on marine debris. The 'Sixth International Ocean Disposal Symposium' in 1986 is the first symposium to address the dumping of plastic wastes. It results in a special issue of the *Marine Pollution Bulletin* which among others contains one of the first papers that qualifies plastic wastes as hazardous wastes.

Bean, M. J. 1987. [Legal strategies for reducing persistent plastics in marine environments](#). *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 18: 357–360.



2000s - In 2004 Thompson et al. show in an article in *Science* that microscopic plastic fragments and fibres are omnipresent marine pollutants. This research together with the discovery of the mid-ocean garbage patches is largely responsible for the renewal of interest in the marine litter problem.

Thompson, R. C., Olsen, Y., Mitchell, R. P., Davis, A., Rowland, S. J., John, A. W. G., et al. 2004. [Lost at sea: Where is all the plastic?](#) *Science*, 304: 838.

The original prints of some of these historic articles are on display inside the FAO library during the month of June.

[1] Information in this section obtained from: Ryan, P. 2015. Chapter 1: A brief history of marine litter research. In Bergmann, M., Gutow, L. & Klages, M., eds. 2015. [Marine anthropogenic litter](#). Cham, Switzerland, Springer.