

Mother Earth is asking us for help!

OCEAN GYRE

What's the Issue?

- Our use of convenient plastic is now an ecological disaster.
- An **ocean gyre**--a circular ocean current formed by the Earth's wind patterns--and forces created by the rotation of the planet, draws in marine debris.
- The Great Pacific Garbage Patch (between Hawaii and California) as well as the North Atlantic Gyre is formed by such an ocean anomaly that prevents non-biodegradable marine debris such as plastic from escaping.
- Marine debris disturbs ocean food generation as it blocks sunlight from reaching plankton and algae below.
- The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is 7 million square miles and so far from any country's coastline that no nation takes responsibility for it.



- In 2019 Pacific migration of Gray whales from Mexico to Baja California to the Puget Sound and the Arctic Ocean has resulted in three times as many deaths. There are visible signs of malnourishment and sightings of mother-calf pairs are down sharply. Dr. Padraig Duignan's necropsy has proven emaciation as the cause of death of several of these migratory Gray whales.
- "We are concerned because whales are an indicator species for the health of the ocean," Duignan said. "We use them to tell us what's happening out there."
- Is our overuse of plastic contributing to the death of these beautiful large mammals?

Acting on Our Corporate Stand, what can you do to help?

Let us not become lazy and take the easy convenient ways but rather:

- ❖ Take canvas bags to stores for your purchases.
- ❖ Cut the plastic rings that are removed from around beverages.
- ❖ Buy loose items instead of plastic pre-packaged items.
- ❖ Ask your favorite stores when they are returning to paper bags.
- ❖ Exercise your care for creation by picking up non-biodegradable trash, especially on our roads, parks, and beaches.
- ❖ "Lug a Mug."

- <http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/encyclopedia/great-pacific-garbage-patch/>
- https://www.huffpost.com/entry/plastic-waste-oceans_n_58fed37be4b0c46f0781d426