

Marine Debris in Circular Blue Economy

1a. Introduction to Marine Debris and Circular Economy

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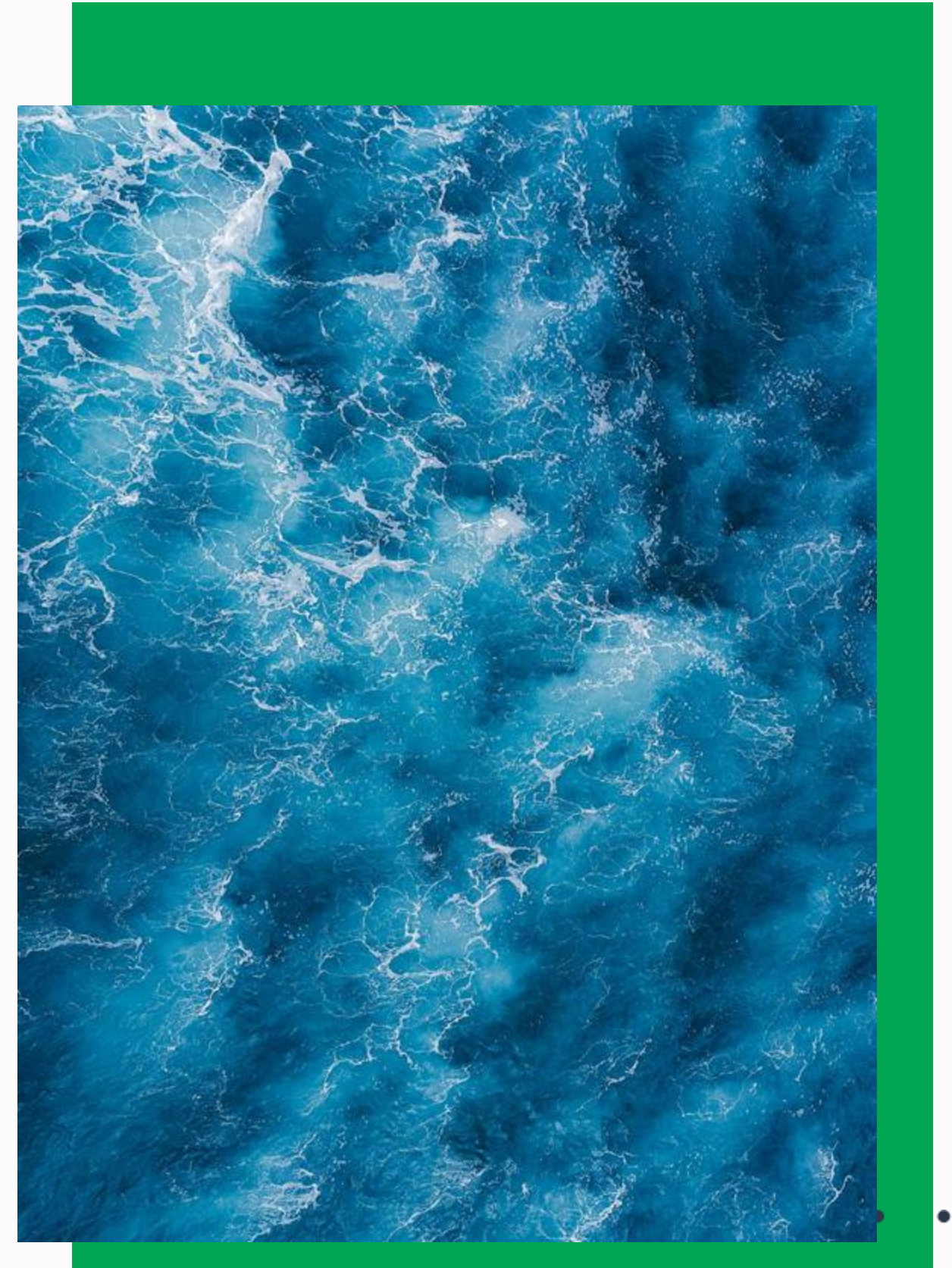
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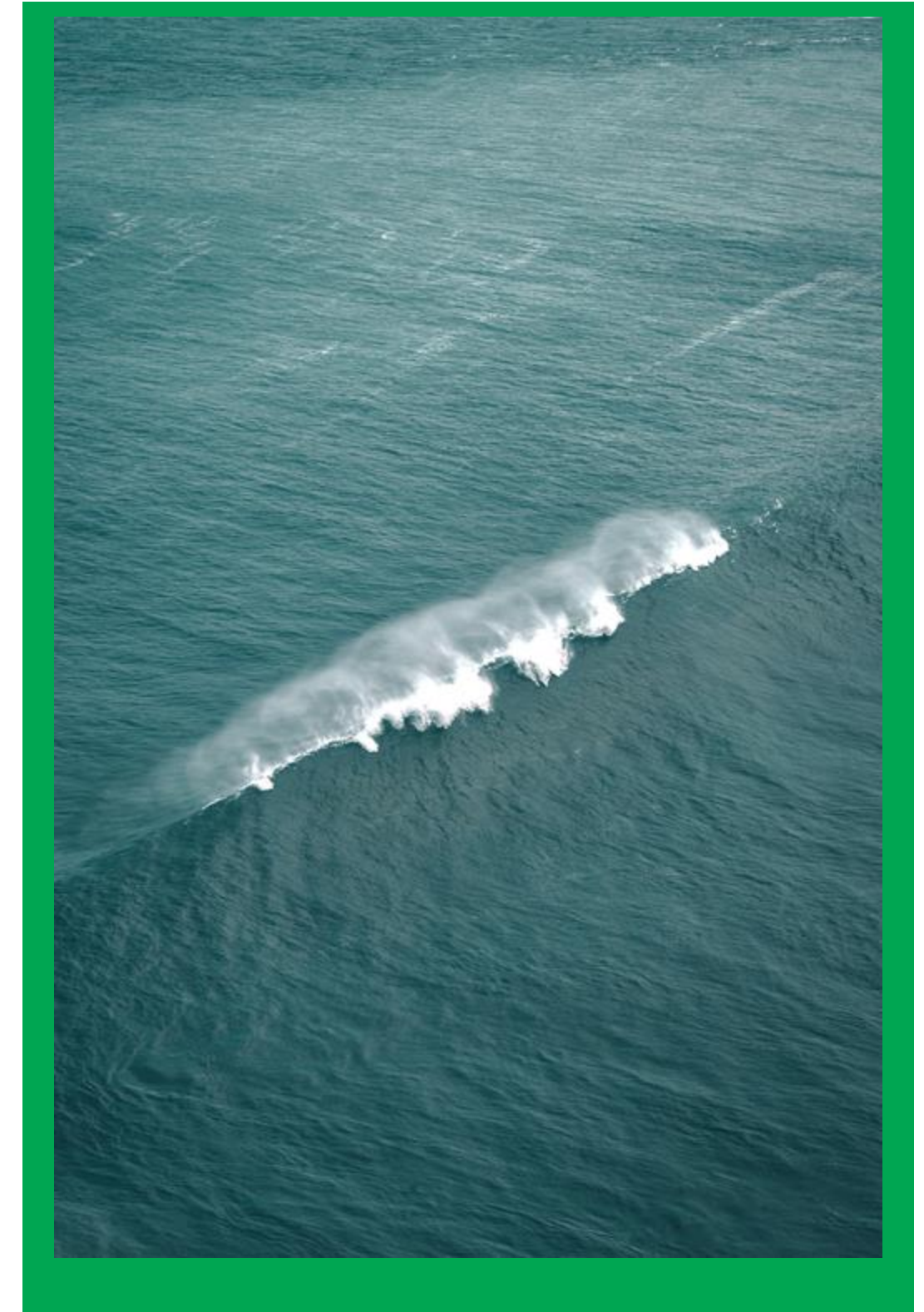
Introduction

Objective:

- To understand the sources and impacts of marine debris by blue economy industries.

Learning Outcomes:

- **Overview of marine litter, its sources, distribution, and impacts on marine ecosystems.**
- Introduction to the concept of the circular economy and its relevance to addressing plastic pollution in the ocean.



Marine Litter

- = marine debris
- Any persistent, manufactured or processed solid materials that is discarded, disposed of, or abandoned in the marine or coastal environment.



Plastics are the most common form of marine debris. They can come from a variety of land- and ocean-based **SOURCES**, **ENTER THE WATER** in many ways, and **IMPACT** the ocean and Great Lakes. Once in the water, plastic debris never fully biodegrades.

COMMONLY FOUND PLASTICS



Cigarettes Butts



Food Wrappers



Beverage Bottles



Straws



Cups & Plates



Bottle Caps



Single Use Bags

HOW TO HELP?



Reduce



Reuse



Recycle



DISPOSE OF
WASTE PROPERLY
no matter where you are.



GET INVOLVED
and participate in local
cleanups in your area.



REMEMBER
that our land and sea are
connected.

PLASTICS IN THE OCEAN



MICROPLASTICS

Microplastics are small plastics less than 5mm. They can come from large plastics breaking down, or can be produced as small plastics such as microbeads, which can be found in products such as toothpaste and face wash.



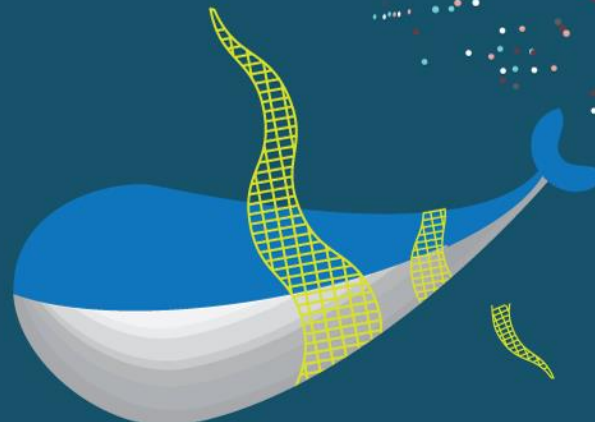
BOATS/NETS

Fishing gear can become marine debris when it is lost or abandoned.



INGESTION

Animals can easily mistake plastic debris for food.



ENTANGLEMENT

Marine life can get caught and killed in derelict fishing nets and other plastic debris.



<https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/>

RAIN & WINDS

Rain and wind can sweep debris into nearby waterbodies.

LITTERING

Intentional littering or improper disposal of trash can cause marine debris.

STREAMS & STORM DRAINS

Streams and storm drains can carry debris directly into the ocean or Great Lakes.



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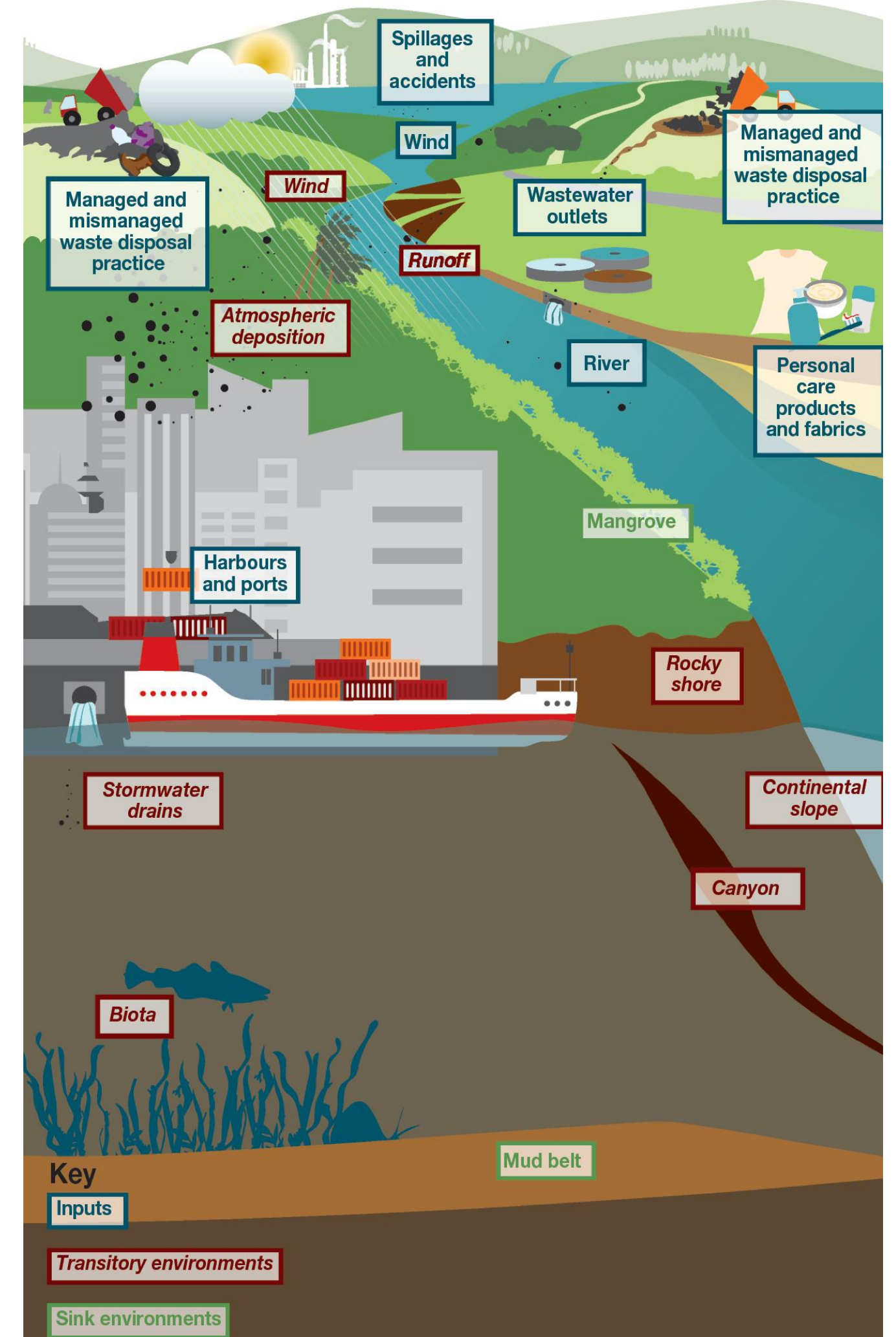
Plastics are the most common form of marine debris. They can come from a variety of land and ocean-based sources, enter the water in many ways, and impact the ocean and Great Lakes. Once in the water, plastic debris never fully biodegrades (Credit: NOAA).

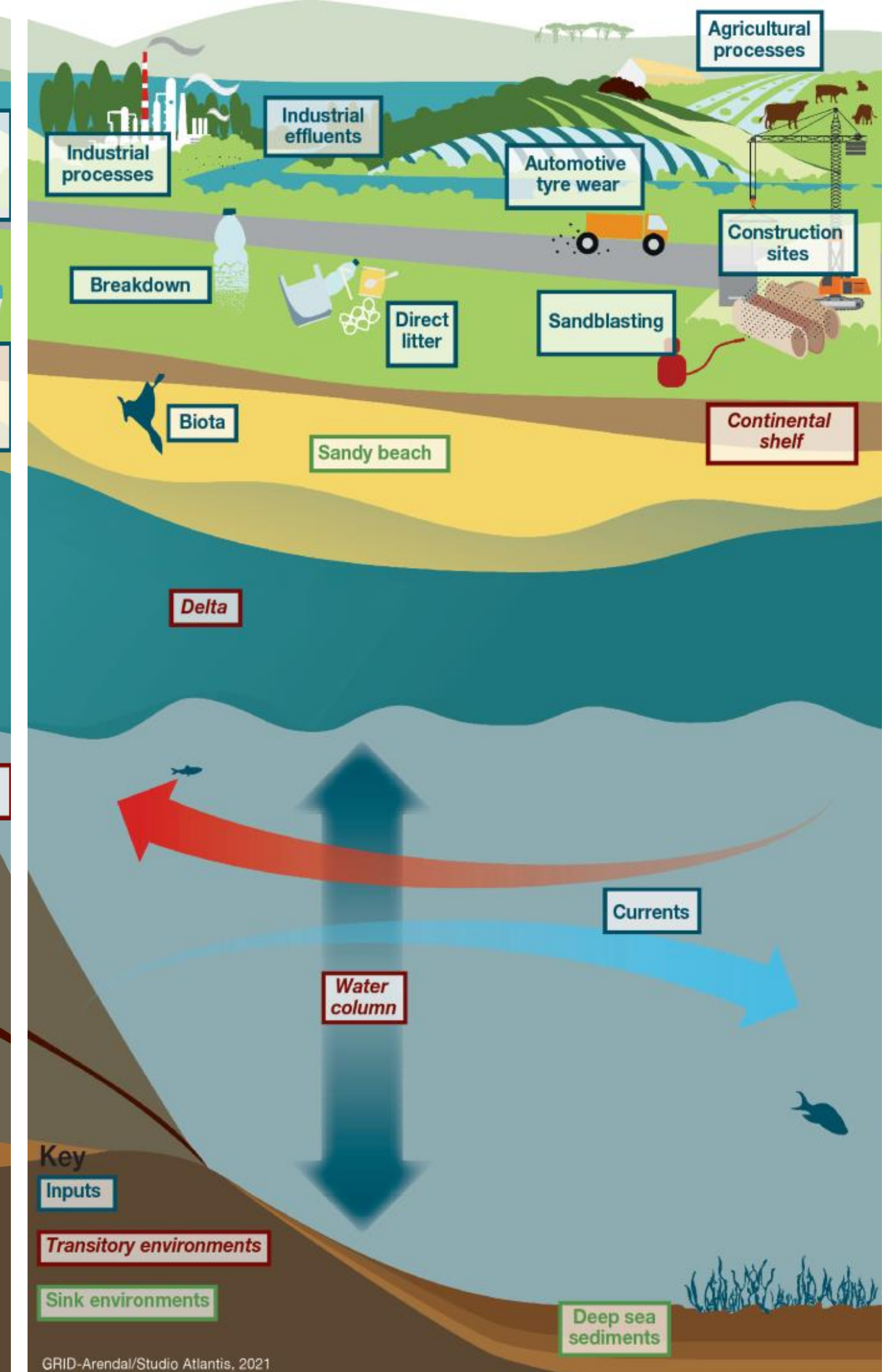
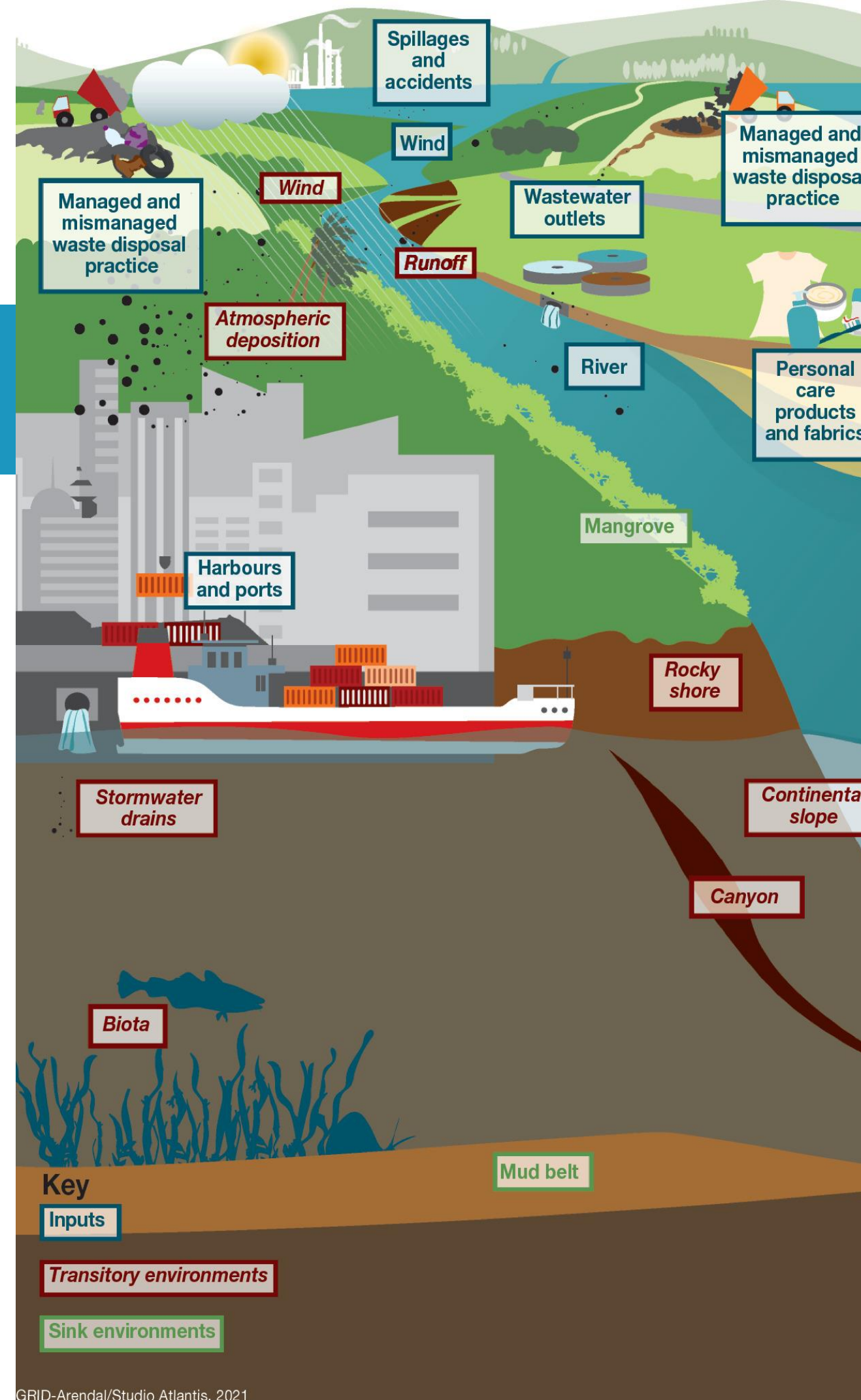
Source of Marine Litter

A. Land-based sources:

- Littering
- Runoff from rivers
- Sewage and wastewater discharge
- Agriculture runoff
- Coastal tourism and recreation

= Inadequate waste management





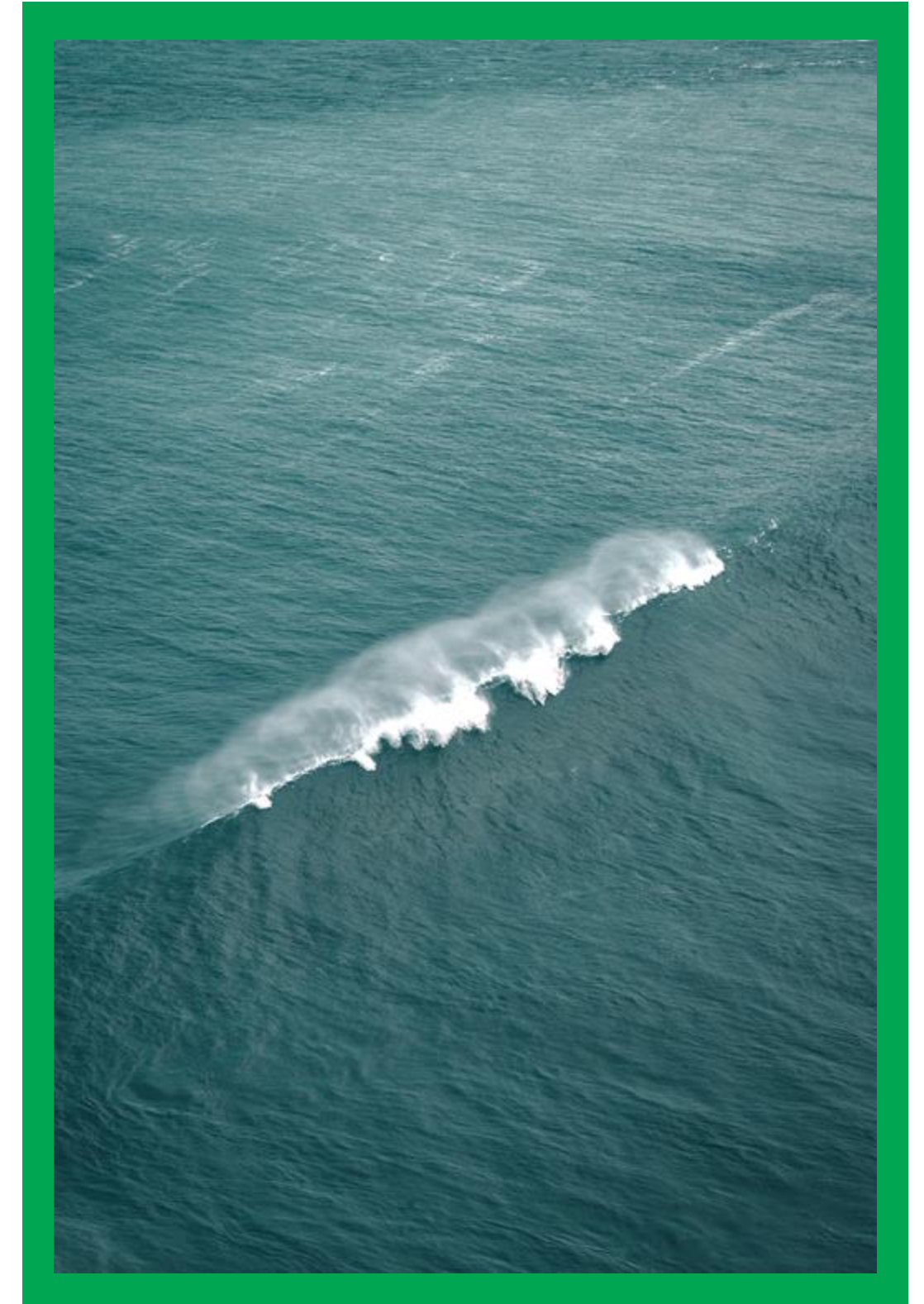
Marine litter has been a global concern for many decades. It is important to understand marine litter sources and distribution pathways for the development of targeted and effective interventions and strategies. This figure displays the sources, pathways, and sinks of marine litter from macro-to micro-sized items from a case study in the African continent.

Source of Marine Litter

B. Sea-based sources:

- Fishing industry
- Cargo residues
- Aquaculture activities
- Off-shore platforms residues
- OR any accidental discharge

= Inadequate waste management



The pathway by which plastic enters the world's oceans

Estimates of global plastics entering the oceans from land-based sources in 2010 based on the pathway from primary production through to marine plastic inputs.

Global primary plastic production:
270 million tonnes per year

Global plastic waste:
275 million tonnes per year

It can exceed primary production in a given year since it can incorporate production from previous years.

Coastal plastic waste:
99.5 million tonnes per year

This is the total of plastic waste generated by all populations within 50 kilometres of a coastline (therefore at risk of entering the ocean).

Mismanaged coastal plastic waste:
31.9 million tonnes per year

This is the annual sum of inadequately managed and littered plastic waste from coastal populations. Inadequately managed waste is that which is stored in open or insecure landfills (and therefore at risk of leakage or loss).

Plastic inputs to the oceans:
8 million tonnes per year

Plastic in surface waters:
10,000s to 100,000s tonnes

There is a wide range of estimates of the quantity of plastics in surface waters. It remains unclear where the majority of plastic inputs end up — a large quantity might accumulate at greater depths or on the seafloor.



Source: based on Jambeck et al. (2015) and Eriksen et al. (2014). Icon graphics from Noun Project.

Data is based on global estimates from Jambeck et al. (2015) based on plastic waste generation rates, coastal population sizes, and waste management practices by country.

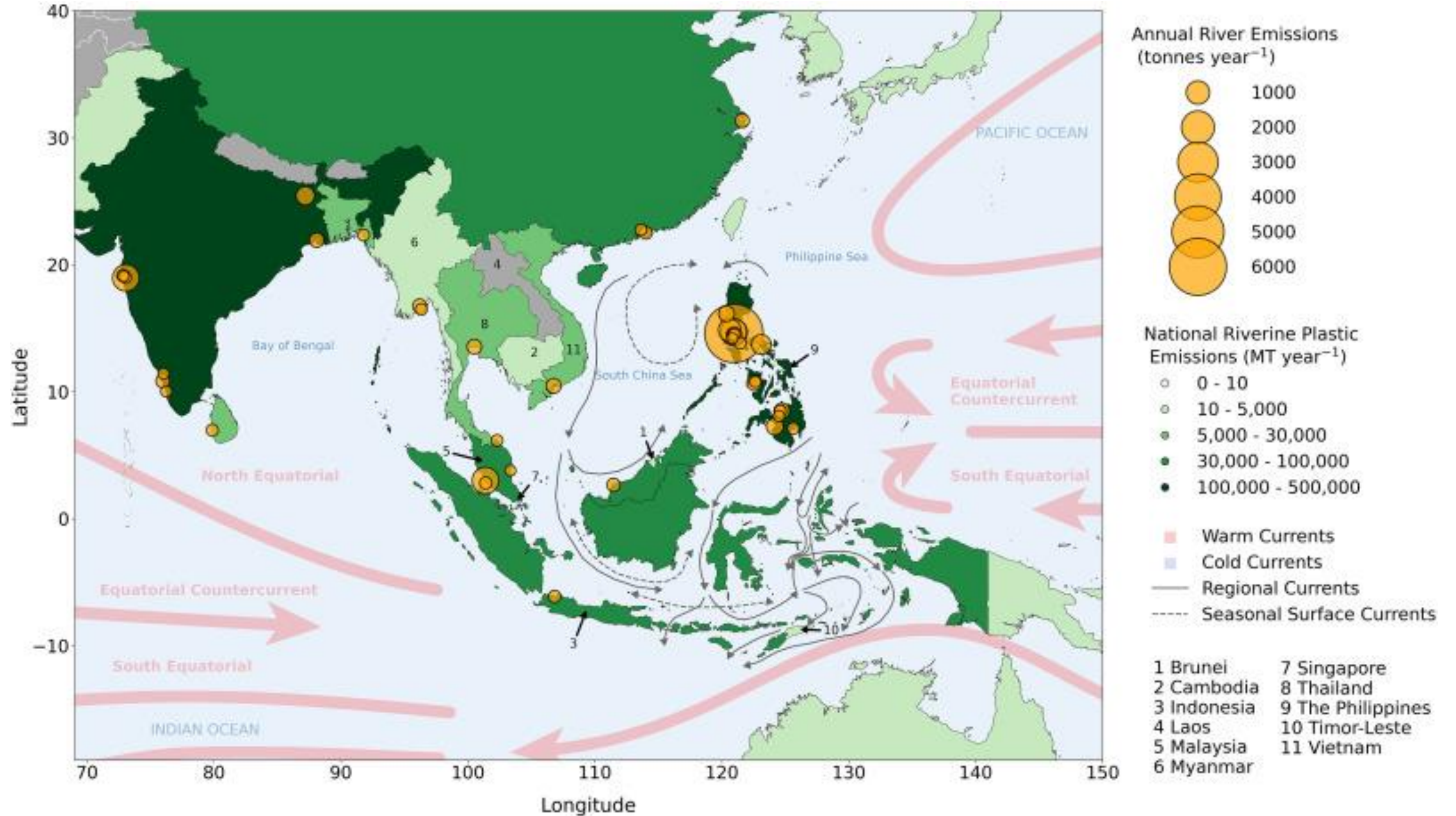
This is a visualization from OurWorldinData.org, where you will find data and research on how the world is changing.

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Examples of plastic pollution in Southeast Asia:

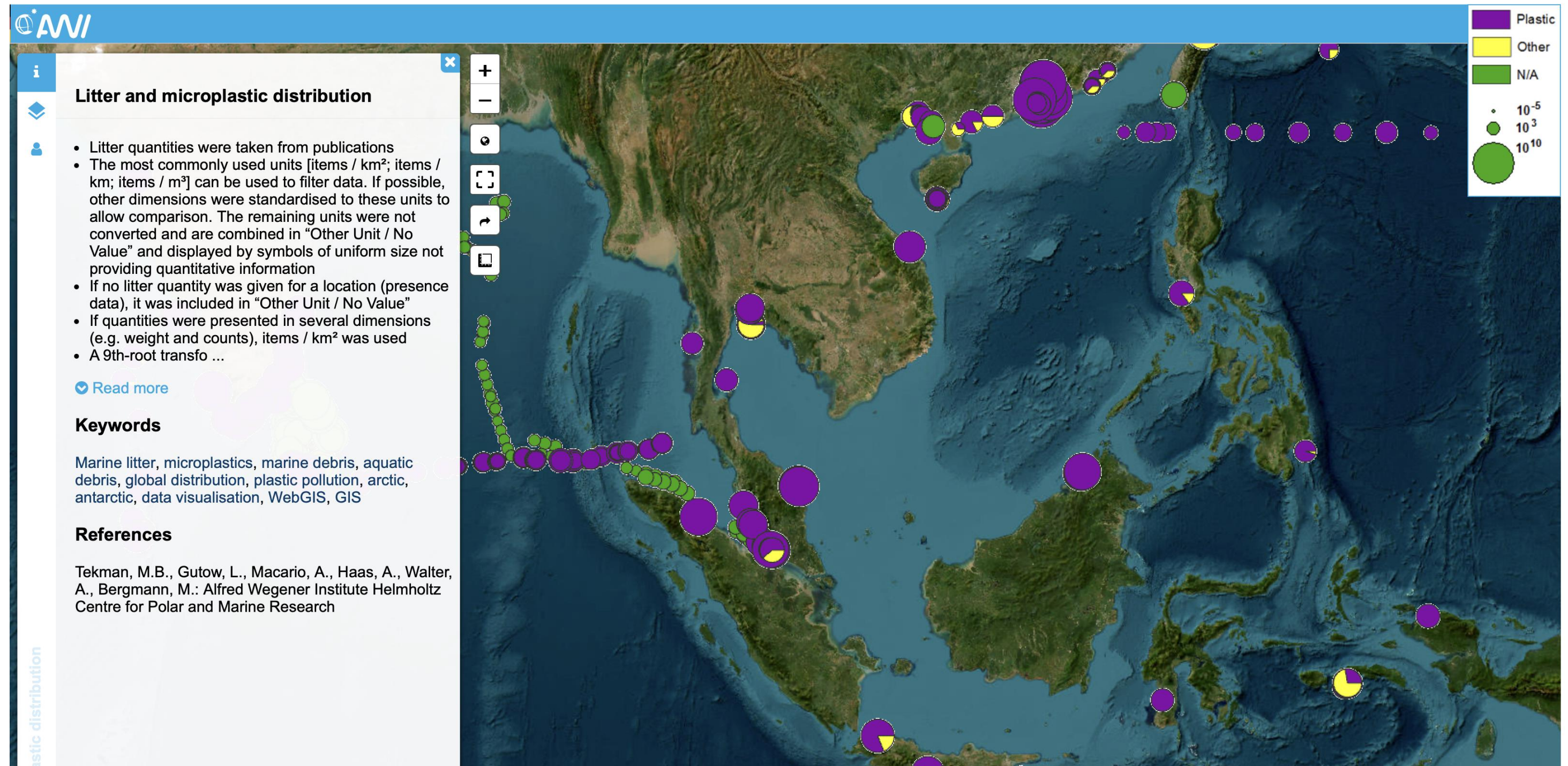
- a) after rainfall under the bridge of Sungai Ciluar, Bogor, Indonesia (photo credit: Muhammad Reza Cordova);
- b) in a mangrove forest in Carmen, Cebu, Philippines (photo credit: University of San Carlos, SEAMaP team);
- c) in Rambut Island Wildlife Reserve, Jakarta Bay, Indonesia (photo credit: Muhammad Reza Cordova);
- d) on a beach in Tanah Merah, Singapore (photo credit: Tai Chong Toh);
- e) on a coral reef in Paiton, East Java, Indonesia during a coastal cleanup (photo credit: Ruly Istaful Khasana); and
- f) plastic bottles on the seafloor at Lazarus Island, Singapore (photo credit: Our Singapore Reef).



Map of Southeast Asia showing the principal ocean currents of the region and plastic emissions per country and river. The chloropleth map represents total plastic emitted into the ocean (millions of tonnes per year), while the scatter plot (orange) shows the geospatial distribution of the relative individual river emissions (tonnes per year). Global surface warm ocean currents are represented by the thick red arrows. Regional surface currents of the Indonesia Through Flow affecting the dispersal of marine plastic litter are represented with thin grey arrows. Data on plastic emissions from Meijer et al. (2021). Omeyer et al. (2022)

Distribution of Marine Litter

Distribution of litter types in different realms (1,426 publications)

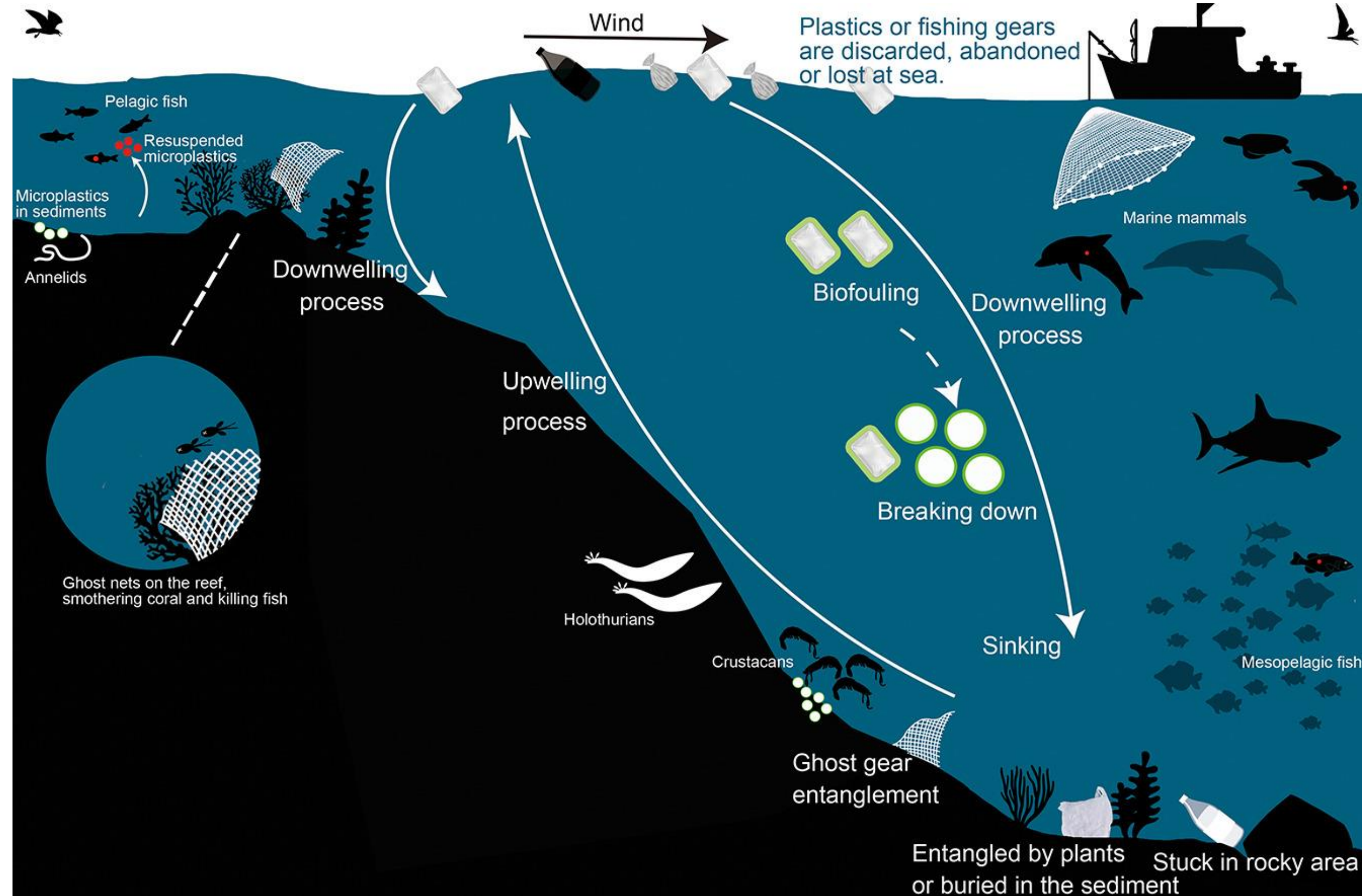


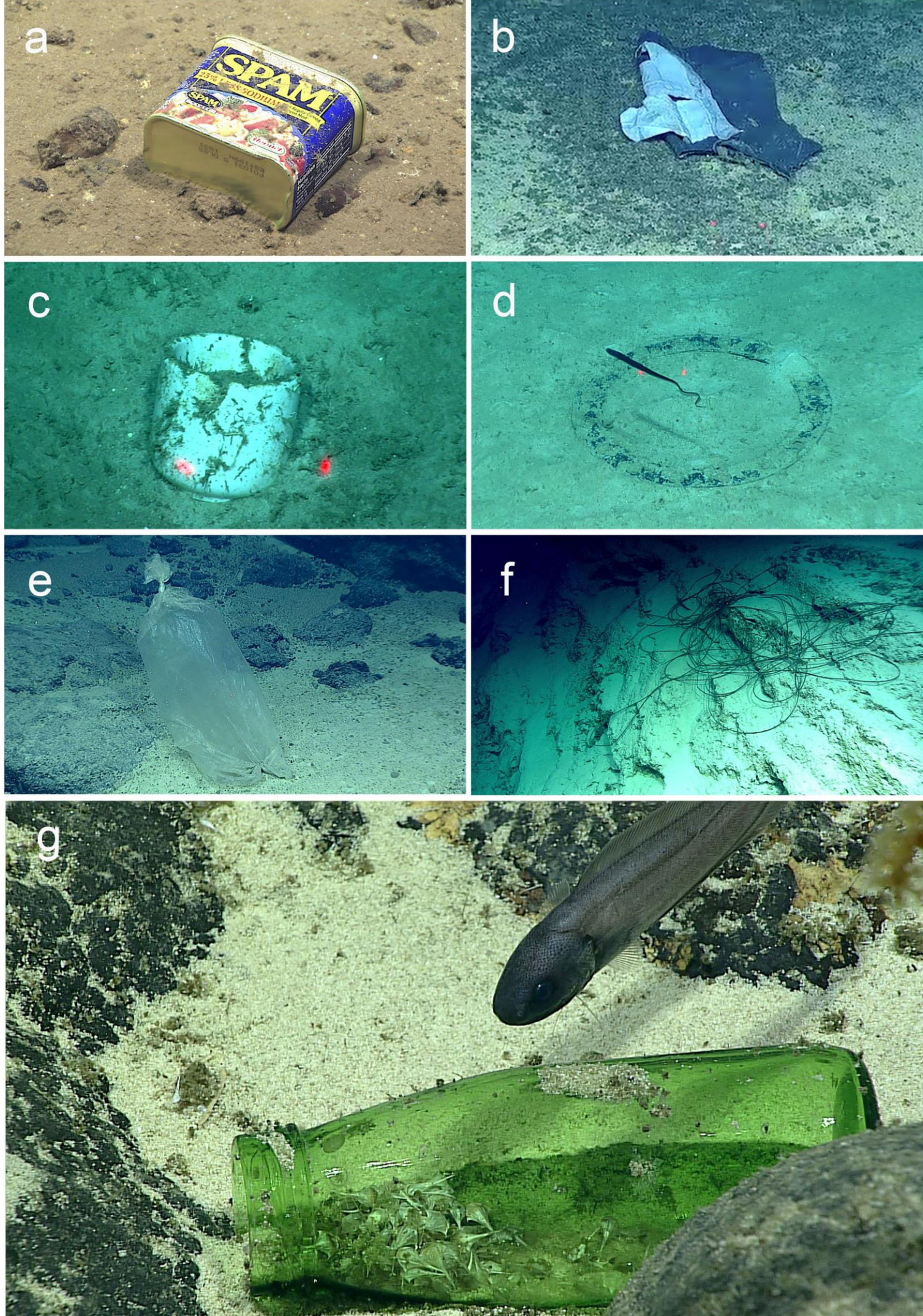
Video:

<https://www.dw.com/en/online-maps-fight-environmental-destruction/video-51081278>



The plastic items found on the coastal sea bed were probably transported and moved during upwelling and downwelling processes and finally deposited on the seafloor due to the effect of biofouling. The accumulation of macro- and mesoplastics could have detrimental impacts on seafloor ecosystems.





Types of deep-sea debris observed.

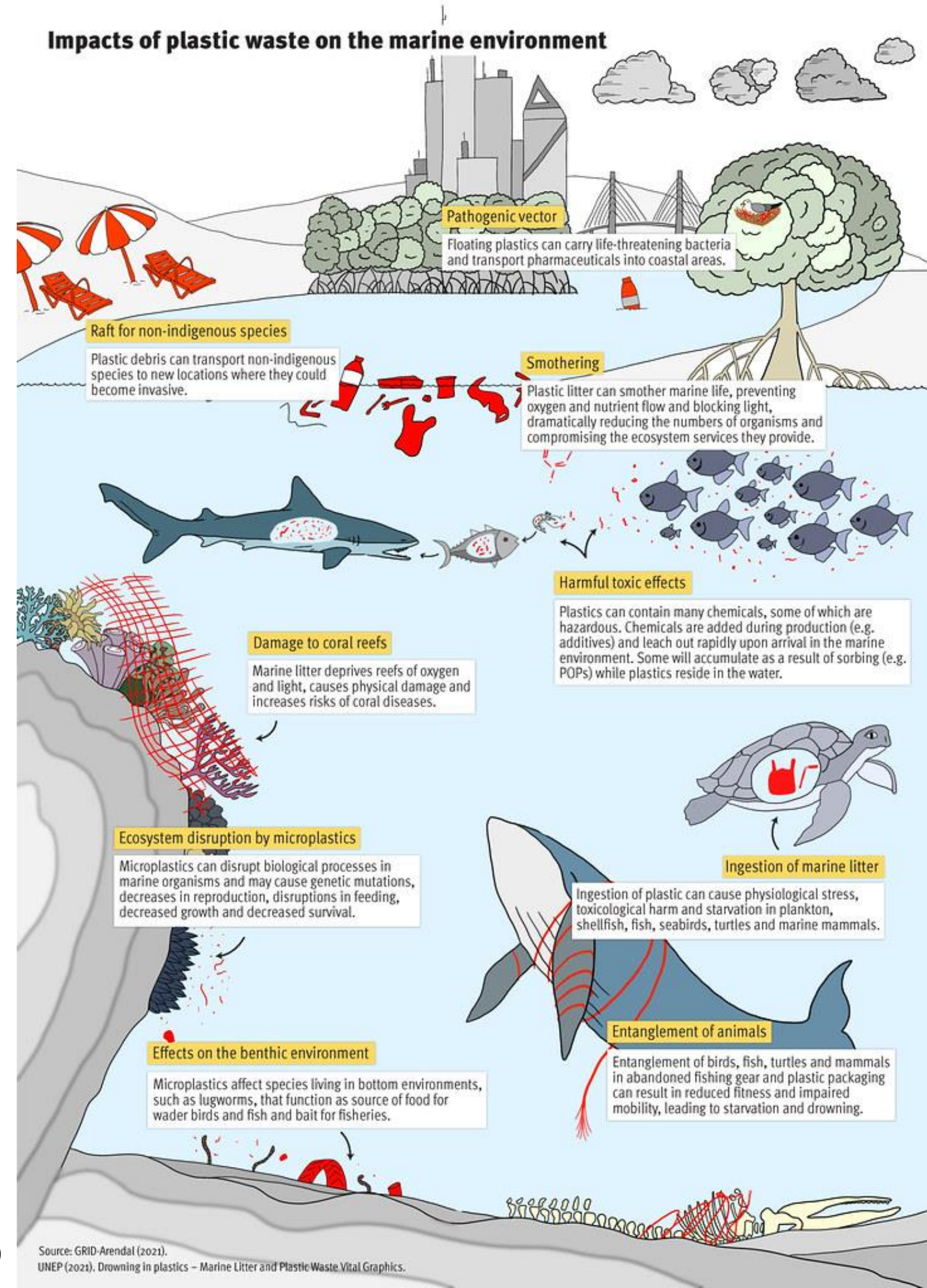
- (a) Metal debris – a food tin at 4,947 m in Sirena Canyon off the Mariana Islands.
- (b) Cloth debris – a piece of canvas at 3,780 m on Enigma Seamount off the Mariana Islands.
- (c) Other debris – a ceramic cup at 838 m at CAIMAN/I-203 off the main Hawaiian Islands.
- (d) Rubber debris – a gasket at 839 m at CAIMAN/I-203 off the main Hawaiian Islands.
- (e) Plastic debris – a plastic bag at 3,767 m on Enigma Seamount off the Mariana Islands.
- (f) Fishing debris – fishing line at 453 m on South Palmyra Slope in PRIMNM Kingman Reef and Palmyra Atoll.
- (g) Glass debris – a glass bottle at 1,152 m at Titov 2 in PRIMNM Howland and Baker Unit.

The central red lasers points indicate 10 cm scale in b, c, d, and e.

Amon et al. (2020)

Impact of Marine Litter

- A. Marine Life (eg: ingestion, entanglement, and habitat degradation)
- B. Economic (eg: fisheries, aquaculture, shipping, and tourism)
- C. Human Health (eg: enter the food chain through seafood consumption)
- D. Others (eg: disrupt ecosystem services and hinder sustainable development goals).



Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lh6loYOoeNk&t=6s>



Self-Reflection



–Understand the sources and impacts of marine litter.



Evaluation

- 1. What is the primary source of marine litter globally?**
 - A. Offshore oil drilling
 - B. Shipping accidents
 - C. Land-based activities
 - D. Deep-sea mining
- 2. Which of the following best describes how marine litter is distributed in the ocean?**
 - A. Evenly across all ocean areas
 - B. Concentrated only in coastal regions
 - C. Influenced by ocean currents and wind patterns
 - D. Found only near river mouths
- 3. What is one major ecological impact of plastic marine litter on marine organisms?**
 - A. Increased biodiversity
 - B. Enhancement of coral reef growth
 - C. Entanglement and ingestion leading to injury or death
 - D. Providing nutrients to the food web



Evaluation

1. Which of the following is NOT a common type of marine litter?

- A. Plastic bottles
- B. Fishing gear
- C. Aluminum cans
- D. Lava rocks

2. How does microplastic pollution impact the marine food web?

- A. It promotes fish growth
- B. It increases water oxygen levels
- C. It is ingested by marine organisms, potentially accumulating up the food chain
- D. It dissolves harmlessly in seawater



Further Reading

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THANK YOU

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