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“ 40% of plastic production is dedicated to food packaging, for an average use of only a few minutes. ”

Our actions have an impact

For the past 8 years Arnaud Huvet, researcher at Ifremer, has taken a real interest in the issue of micro plastics and their effects on marine organisms.

« It presents an ecological interest, but also raises questions of food security and quality of the final product that is consumed. »

Being a scientist entails asking the right questions, answering them well, and disseminating the information to society and decision-makers: « I am not here to tell people they need to stop using plastic, the use of plastics in hospitals or in automobile construction is crucial. However, there are

many solutions, because we are all plastic waste producers. Some behaviours will have to change. »

In 2016, the French government banned single-use plastic bags. Other European countries, such as Ireland, the United Kingdom or Norway started charging for plastic bags. Since then, there has been a 30 % drop in the number of plastic bags reaching the seabed of the maritime area between these countries.

« Every citizen can participate in waste reduction, but there needs to be a general will to change the way we produce and use plastic and move towards a circular economy. »

Plastic's fantastic!
Durable, malleable, cheap,
plastic is now found everywhere.

BECOME
RESPONSEABLE!
WITH US

We are all part of the solution

In 2014, UNEP* estimated that marine **plastic pollution costs us \$ 13 billion per year**: plastics need to be picked up, treated, and they can even harm tourism activity in a coastal area.

In France, the government **banned single-use plastic bags** (2016 at check out counters, 2017 for others).

NGOs put **pressure on decision-makers and raise public awareness.**

Consumers are pushing businesses and the industry to adopt less harmful methods or ingredients.



Blown away by the wind, transported by drainpipes, sewers, rivers and watersheds, **80 % of rubbish in the sea was littered on land, and 75 % of the waste found at sea is made of plastic.**

Marine flora and fauna are strongly affected: plastic impacts their diet, can trap animals, or carry a harmful species across the ocean. **94% of North Sea birds have plastic in their stomachs.**

* UNEP United Nations Environment Program

« I have been convinced for a very long time that we must try to reduce our footprint. Only the actions of each individual and the will of all will reduce the production of plastics. »

Northern Gannet nesting in plastic.



Microplastics and marine organisms

- Some species cross oceans by remaining attached to plastic: after the Fukushima Tsunami, Japanese plastic waste was found in California!
- Plastic fixes certain pollutants and toxins that can then be released in the individual who eats them.
- Ingesting plastic disrupts digestion, which can affect the individual's growth and reproduction, or even its defenses and survival.

