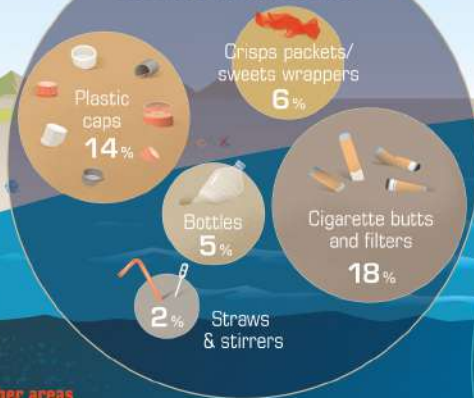


MARINE LITTER OF THE BLACK SEA

A THREAT TO BIODIVERSITY

...found on the beach



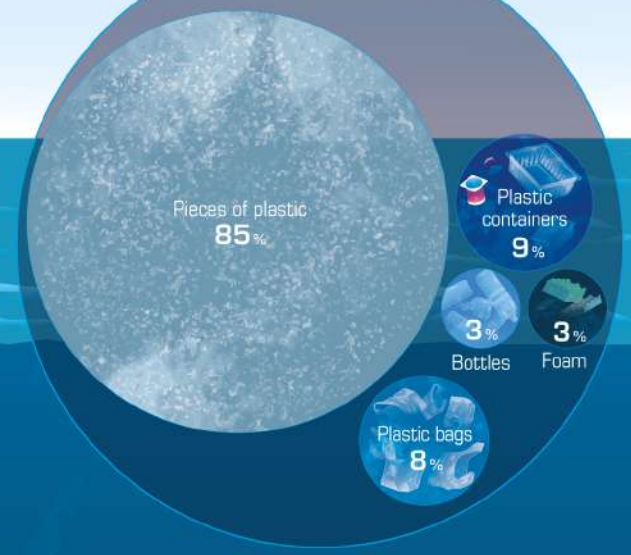
83% of the marine litter found in the Black Sea is plastic.

Top 5 Types of litter...

...flowing from rivers

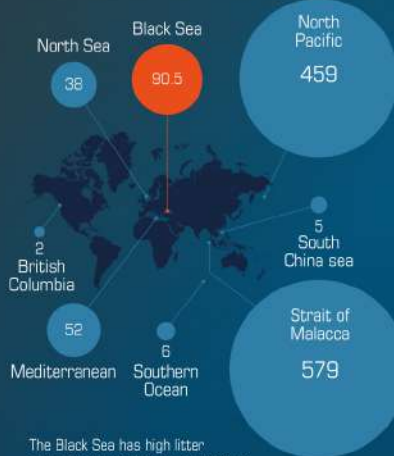


...found in the Sea



Comparison with other areas

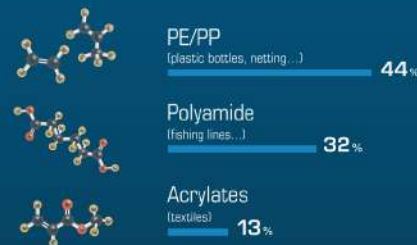
Mean litter densities on the sea surface from worldwide data (Litter Items/km²).



The Black Sea has high litter densities due to limited exchange of water with the open oceans and the intensive loads of pollutants carried on by large European rivers run off, such as Danube, Dniester, Don, Bug and Kubani.

Relative abundance of Microplastics in the sediments of the Black Sea

Microplastics are very small pieces of plastic (less than 5 mm) that pollute the environment.



These numbers are in logical correlation with the global plastic production.

Danger of plastic and microplastics

Plastic
Its period of decomposition goes from 100 years for a plastic bottle to more than 1000 years for polystyrene. By 2050, there will be more plastic items in the seas than fish!

Microplastics
Dramatic consequences, especially while ingested by living organisms, such as plankton, shellfish, fish and dolphins.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

We can all act to make things better!

As a citizen: stop using single use plastic items - prefer their reusable versions such as cotton bags, glass bottle, wooden cutlery, etc. Sort your trash in order to recycle as much plastic as possible. Never dispose of your waste in the wild.

As a political decision maker: Prohibit the use of all single-use plastic bags and the addition of micro-plastics to products. Aim for 100% waste collection.

As an industrial decision maker: Increase the share of recycled plastic use in the industry.

More information at emblasproject.org

