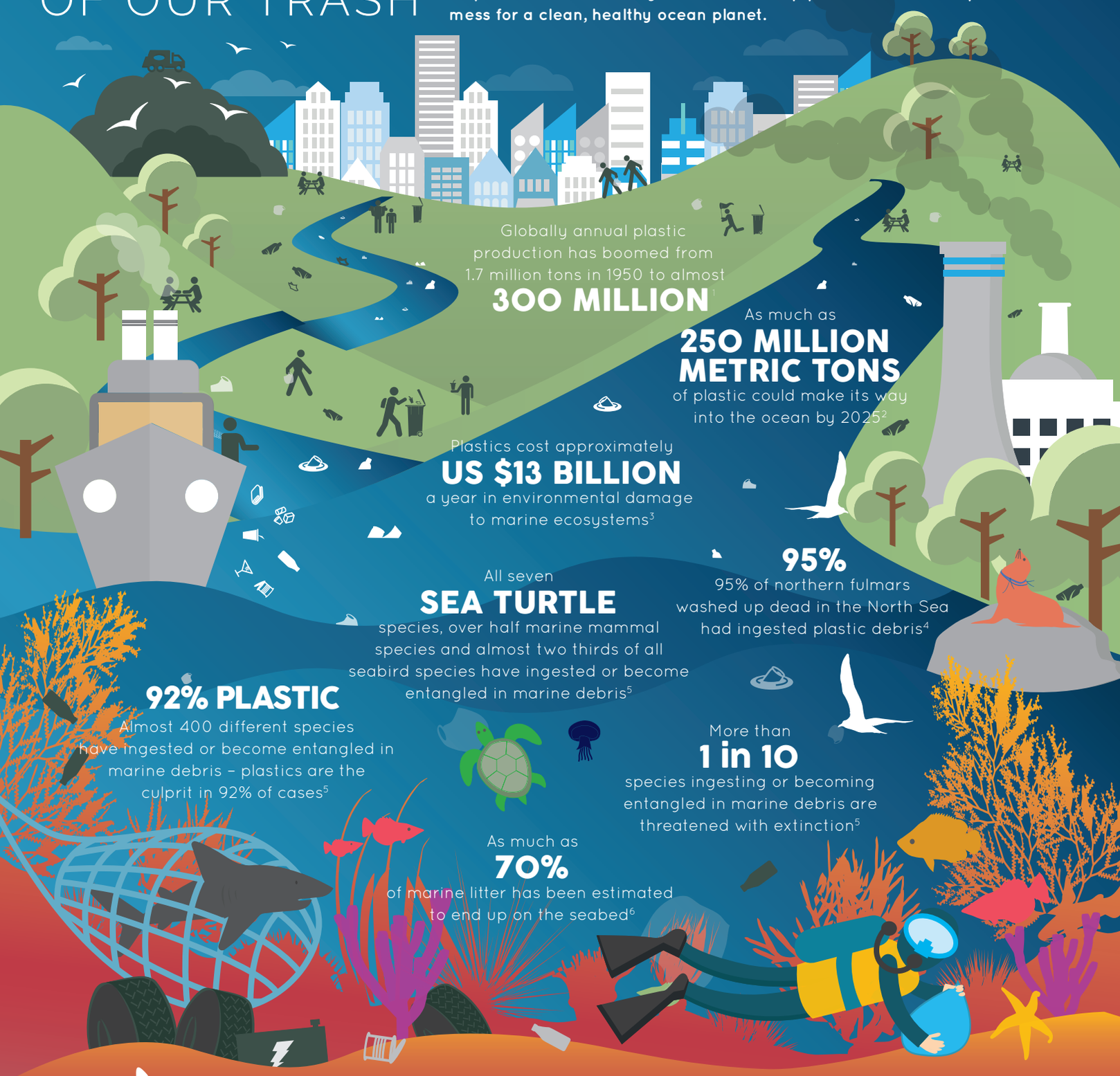
THE UGLY JOURNEY OF OUR TRASH

Marine debris is the rubbish of our everyday lives, it travels over land, down streams, rivers and storm drains to the ocean. It can drift thousands of miles leaving a wake of destruction in its path. Every year, debris kills thousands of marine animals and sea birds, chokes coral reefs, smothers critical environments and contaminates our beaches and recreation sites. Better information about sources and impacts is extremely important to drive changes in infrastructure and waste management policies. Who is responsible? All of us. Together we can help prevent and clear up this mess for a clean, healthy ocean planet.



Globally annual plastic production has boomed from 1.7 million tons in 1950 to almost

300 MILLION[1]

As much as

250 MILLION METRIC TONS

of plastic could make its way into the ocean by 2025[2]

Plastics cost approximately

US $13 BILLION

a year in environmental damage to marine ecosystems[3]

95%

95% of northern fulmars washed up dead in the North Sea had ingested plastic debris[4]

All seven

SEA TURTLE

species, over half marine mammal species and almost two thirds of all seabird species have ingested or become entangled in marine debris[5]

92% PLASTIC

Almost 400 different species have ingested or become entangled in marine debris – plastics are the culprit in 92% of cases[5]

More than

1 in 10

species ingesting or becoming entangled in marine debris are threatened with extinction[5]

As much as

70%

of marine litter has been estimated to end up on the seabed[6]

PROJECT AWARE®

Scuba divers everywhere are standing up to the onslaught of debris – fins on and off. We're removing debris underwater and logging the data to influence change at all levels. On land, we can work together to stop rubbish from entering the ocean. We can help inform community action and identify local solutions.

DON'T LET YOUR DIVES GO TO WASTE. TAKE A GIANT STRIDE AND DIVE AGAINST DEBRIS. WWW.PROJECTAWARE.ORG

Sources: [1]PlasticsEurope (2014). Plastics – The Facts 2014: An Analysis of European Plastics Production, Demand and Waste Data; [2]J. Jambeck, *et al.*, (2015). Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean, Science, 3 47 (6223), 768-771; [3]UNEP (2014). Valuing Plastics: The Business Case for Measuring, Managing and Disclosing Plastic Use in the Consumer Goods Industry; [4]J. A. van Franeker, *et al.*, (2011). Monitoring plastic ingestion by the northern fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* in the North Sea, Environmental Pollution, 159 (10), 2609-2615; [5]S. Gall, R. Thompson, (2015). The impact of debris on marine life, Marine Pollution Bulletin, 92 (1-2), 170-179; [6]UNEP (2005). Marine Litter, an analytical overview