



PLASTIC POLLUTION: Coming To A Shore Near You

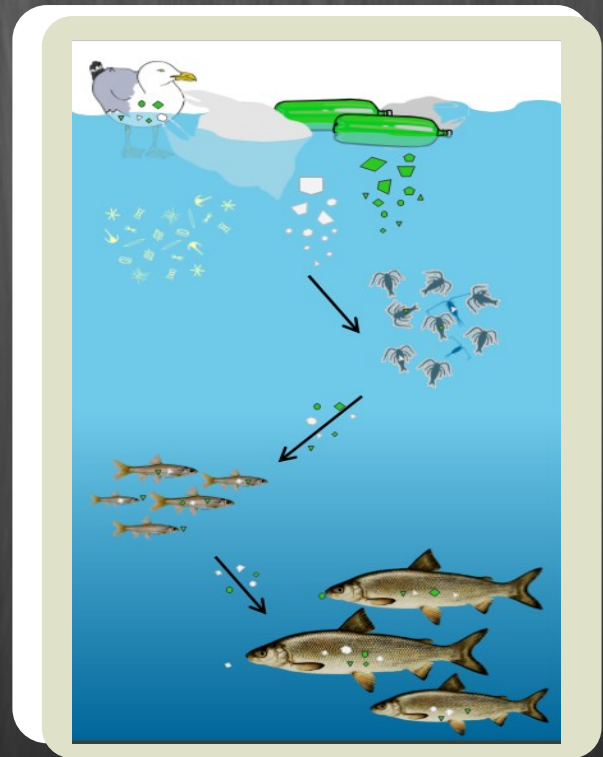


What is plastic pollution?

Plastic is a non-biodegradable material, meaning that if not properly disposed of, or recycled, it will remain in the environment forever. Rather than decomposing, plastic breaks down into tiny pieces, sometimes small enough that they can only be seen with a microscope! Plastic has special properties that allow it to absorb harmful pollutants such as DDT, PCB's, and flame retardants, which are hazardous to human health. Unfortunately, tiny pieces of plastic can be consumed by fish and wildlife, which are then consumed by us, leading to a transfer of these harmful chemicals into our bodies. Not only is plastic pollution an eye sore on our beaches and waterways, but it is also a threat to human health.

Did you know?

- 30 million tons/yr plastic produced, only 8% recycled
- By the year 2050, the weight of plastic present in our oceans will outweigh the biomass of ALL fish within our oceans.
- The most common forms of plastic litter found on Bay Mills beaches are plastic bottles/caps, food packaging, plastic straws, and bags.



Take Action

- Properly dispose of plastics & pick up litter
- Reduce the amount of plastic used in your household: food packaging, clothing, bottles.



Bay Mills Indian Community
Biological Services
www.baymills.org

12140 Lakeshore Dr
Brimley, MI 49715
906-248-3241

This publication made possible by
the Great Lakes Restoration
Initiative.