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Biology of Plastic

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Biology of Plastic

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Abstract

How water contaminates the waters and affects marine life biology.

Biology of Plastic

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Water Contamination

Water, the basis of all life, is quickly becoming contaminated by plastics. Scientists have been trying to better understand the implications plastic pollution is having on our environment and its potentially detrimental effects. One of the most recent developments has been the discovery of plastic ingestion by aquatic life.

Over 100 species have been negatively impacted by consuming plastic including:
- Plankton
- Sea turtles
- Fish
- Whales
- Birds
- Bivalves
- Crustaceans

Beyond Marine Life

Plastics can block the digestive tract, alter feeding behaviors, reduce reproduction and with stomachs full of plastic many species starve and die. It's not just marine life that is affected: plastics can go straight from the ocean or lakes to your dinner table.

Small organisms such as shrimp, anchovies and plankton mistake plastics as food, which are then consumed by larger fish that humans rely on for consumption. Before long, plastic particles are being passed along the food chain to humans.