

Impact of pollution on the marine environment

Mette Wilkie / 18 September 2017 / Nairobi

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Approximately 8 million tonnes of plastic leak into the ocean every year

The New Plastics Economy, 2016



Impacts: Overview

- Over 600 species are impacted of which 15% are endangered
- Major economic losses
- Biodegradable plastic is <u>not</u> a solution

Wildlife Entanglement

- Quick or slow death
- Injury that causes infection

89 different species of fish & 16 species of whales

have documented records of marine debris entanglement.



Wildlife Ingestion

52% of all sea turtles

worldwide have eaten plastic

By 2050, **99% of seabirds**

are likely to have ingested plastic



Economic loss: Vessel damage and navigational hazard

Marine litter costs the European Union fishing fleet an estimated **USD 82 million** per year

Economic Loss: Marine Industry

Asia-Pacific region: approximately €1 billion/year



Economic Loss: Tourism

Annual loss in

tourism caused by marine litter is estimated to be **> USD 600 million**





https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_15682

