

Plastics are the most common form of marine debris. They can come from a variety of land- and ocean-based

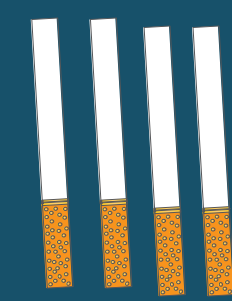
SOURCES,

ENTER THE WATER

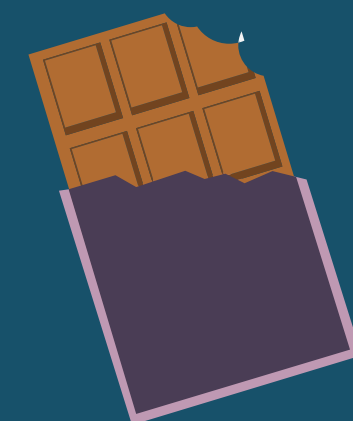
in many ways, and **IMPACT** the ocean and Great Lakes.

Once in the water, plastic debris never fully biodegrades.

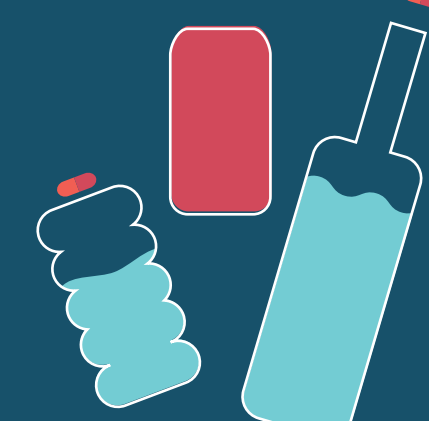
COMMONLY FOUND PLASTICS



Cigarettes Butts



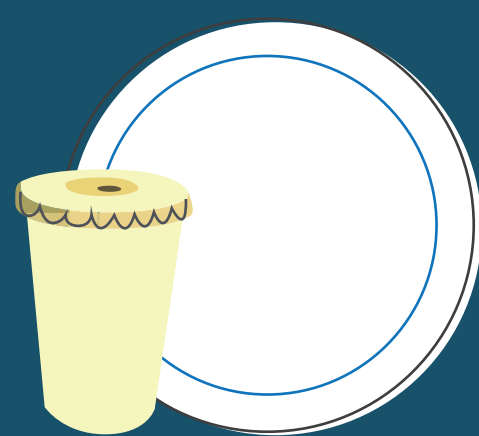
Food Wrappers



Beverage Bottles



Straws



Cups & Plates

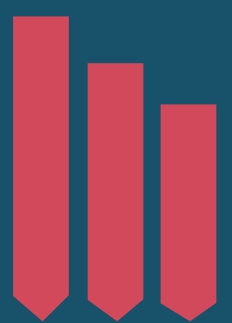


Bottle Caps



Single Use Bags

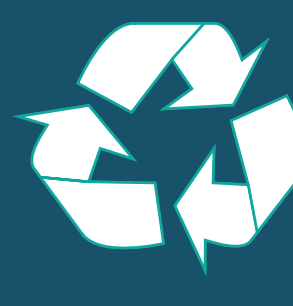
HOW TO HELP?



Reduce



Reuse



Recycle



DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY no matter where you are.

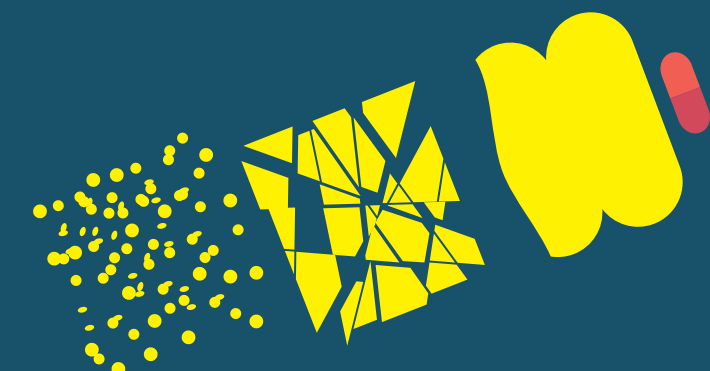


GET INVOLVED and participate in local cleanups in your area.



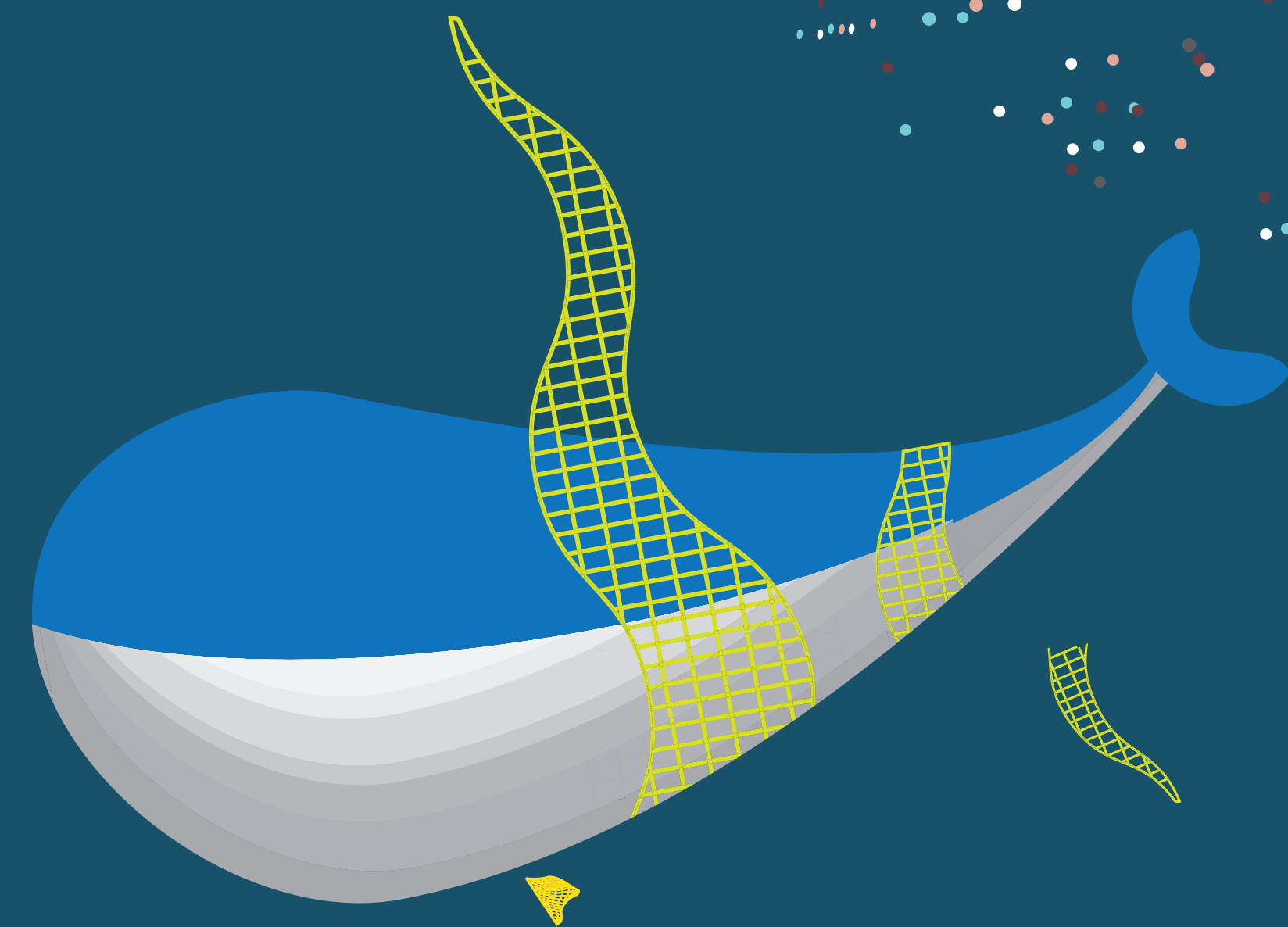
REMEMBER that our land and sea are connected.

PLASTICS IN THE OCEAN



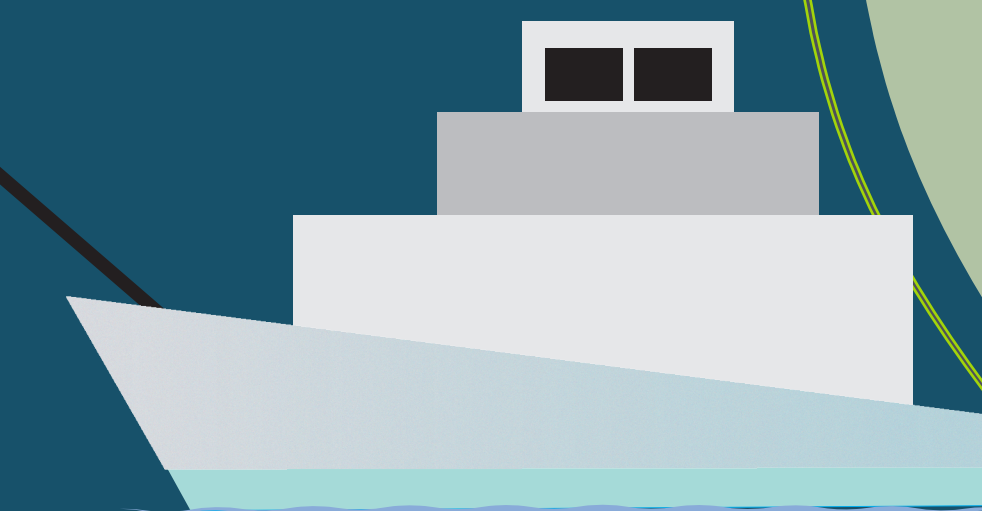
MICROPLASTICS

Microplastics are small plastics less than 5mm. They can come from large plastics breaking down, or can be produced as small plastics such as microbeads, which can be found in products such as toothpaste and face wash.



ENTANGLEMENT

Marine life can get caught and killed in derelict fishing nets and other plastic debris.



BOATS/NETS

Fishing gear can become marine debris when it is lost or abandoned.



INGESTION

Animals can easily mistake plastic debris for food.

RAIN & WINDS

Rain and wind can sweep debris into nearby waterbodies.

LITTERING

Intentional littering or improper disposal of trash can cause marine debris.

STREAMS & STORM DRAINS

Streams and storm drains can carry debris directly into the ocean or Great Lakes.



<https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/>