

Plastic waste dumped in UK seas 'carried to Arctic within two years'

Analysis shows most UK plastic ends up in the Arctic, where it does 'extreme harm' to the fragile polar environment

Damian Carrington

@dpcarrington

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Plastic waste found on the beach at Sarstangen on Prince Carls Forland, on the west coast of Svalbard, Norway. Photograph: Christian Åslund/Greenpeace

Plastic dumped into the seas around the UK is carried to the Arctic within two years, scientists have revealed, where it does “extreme harm” to the fragile polar environment.

Marine plastic pollution is a huge problem, with 5tn pieces of plastic now floating in the world’s oceans. The plastic is frequently mistaken for food by fish and birds, causing damage to life throughout the seas.

But the fate of plastic pollution from the UK was little understood until Erik van Sebille, an oceanographer at Imperial College London, analysed the issue. “What we found, quite shockingly and unexpectedly, is that most UK plastic ends up in the Arctic. It does extreme harm there we think,” he told the Guardian.

“The ocean currents are like conveyor belts moving UK plastic very fast up north, which is the probably the worst place for plastic to be at this moment,” van Sebille

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/jul/05/plastic-waste-dumped-in-uk-seas-carried-to-arctic-within-two-years?CMP=share_btn_link

SPUTNIK



Plastic Waste From UK Waters Causes 'Extreme' Damage to the Arctic

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Plastic pollution from UK shores is moving toward the Arctic, where it greatly harms the environment, new research, cited by media outlets on Tuesday, revealed.

MOSCOW (Sputnik) — Erik van Sebille, an oceanographer at Imperial College London, told [The Guardian](#) on Tuesday about the new research presented at the July 4-10 Royal Society's summer science exhibition, which is devoted to the issue of marine plastic pollution, particularly in the Arctic.

"What we found, quite shockingly and unexpectedly, is that most UK plastic ends up in the Arctic. It does extreme harm there we think... The ocean currents are like conveyor belts moving UK plastic very fast up north, which is probably the worst place for plastic to be at this

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By Jennifer McDowall | 5 July 2016 | [Add a Comment](#)

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Within just two years of being deposited, a 'large fraction' of plastic waste that reaches the ocean from the UK's coasts ends up in the Arctic, where it can cause 'extreme harm' to wildlife, according to researchers studying ocean currents at Imperial College London.



Using 'Plastic Adrift', a tool the team of scientists from the university's Grantham Institute developed to track waste carried by the ocean's currents, they discovered that much of the plastic waste washed into the sea from the UK coastline sinks to the ocean floor and drifts over two years towards the Barents Sea, north of Norway, before circulating in the Arctic Ocean.

In doing so, it contributes to the growing amount of plastic already present in the Arctic, which can harm or even kill marine organisms when they get tangled up or consume it.

A study published last month suggests that fish that have grown up around plastic prefer to eat fragments

<http://resource.co/article/harmful-plastic-waste-uk-s-coast-damaging-fragile-arctic-circle-11219>

UK's plastic waste accumulating in the Arctic



UK's plastic waste accumulating in the Arctic

5 Jul 2016



2 comments

Plastic rubbish from the UK is accumulating in the Arctic and damaging one of the most fragile and remote ecosystems on Earth, say scientists.

Researchers tracked the waste trail as the plastic was flushed into the sea from British coastlines.

They found that rather than washing back up on beaches or sinking to the ocean floor, much of it spent two years drifting towards the Barents Sea north of Norway before ending up in the Arctic.

Lead researcher Dr Erik van Sebille, from Imperial College London, said: "We're only just beginning to understand the effect that plastic waste has on the fragile Arctic ecosystem, but we know enough about the damage done by oceanic plastic pollution to act and reduce its impact on our oceans and coastlines.

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/environment/14599906.UK_s_plastic_waste_accumulating_in_the_Arctic/



If Arctic birds and fish had their own version of the Brexit referendum, they'd probably choose to part ways with plastic trash that's drifting northward from the UK and killing them.

A new analysis from researchers at the Grantham Institute at Imperial College London shows that a large fraction of the plastic waste from the UK that gets into the ocean drifts northward and accumulates in the Arctic Ocean.

The UK isn't one of the world's top sources of plastic pollution, but it does discard more than 2.5 million tons of plastic packaging waste each year, according to a 2015 government [report](#). Less than a quarter of that is recycled.

RELATED: [Ocean Plastic Gets New Life as Sunglasses](#)

The Imperial College researchers used an [online tool](#) to track ocean currents and determine the path of plastic waste northward.

According to a [press release](#), the researchers found that after being flushed into the sea from the coastlines of the UK, much of the plastic that doesn't wash back onto the beach or sink to the ocean floor drifts over two years towards the Barents Sea, north of Norway, before circulating in the Arctic.

Once the plastic gets to the Arctic Ocean, some birds, fish and other marine organisms mistakenly eat it, while others are poisoned by it. Some also become entangled in the trash.

<http://www.seeker.com/plastic-waste-from-uk-ends-up-in-arctic-1920150812.html>

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UK's plastic rubbish ends up in fragile Arctic ecosystems



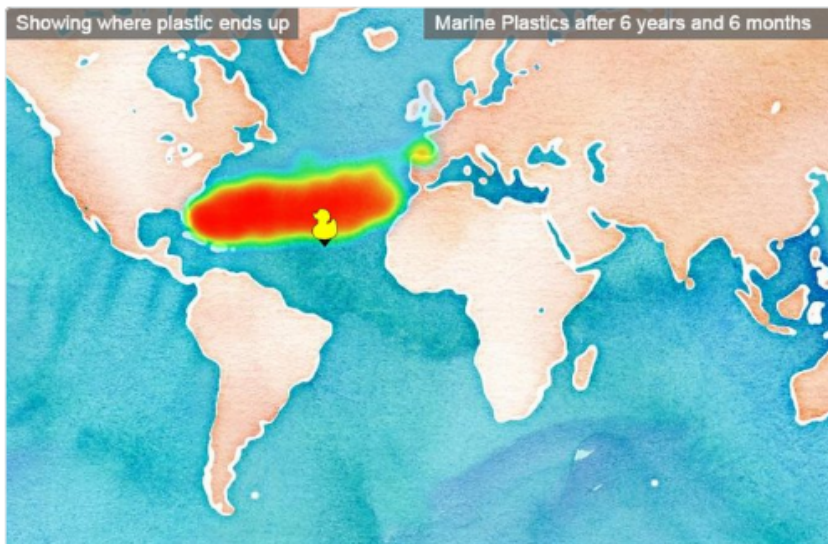
<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2096269-uks-plastic-rubbish-ends-up-in-fragile-arctic-ecosystems/>

New concerns about plastic waste in the oceans

BY TIM SANDLE JUL 10, 2016 IN ENVIRONMENT

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New concerns have been raised about the impact of plastic waste dumped into the world's oceans. A new report indicates that waste from Northern Europe, for example, will reach the Arctic within two years.



Great Nurdle Hunter
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Where might plastic go once it lands in the ocean? Use the Plastic Adrift map to find out! plasticadrift.org

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<http://www.digitaljournal.com/news/environment/global-plastic-waste-impacts-on-the-arctic/article/469669>

Plastic waste thrown into UK seas finds its way into the Arctic Ocean within just TWO YEARS

- UK researchers used an online tool to track ocean currents
- They found plastics are carried from the UK's coastlines northward
- The waste enters the Barents Sea north of Norway within two years, before being carried into the Arctic Ocean

By [RYAN O'HARE FOR MAILONLINE](#)

PUBLISHED: 17:08, 5 July 2016 | **UPDATED:** 17:13, 5 July 2016



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Plastic that finds itself into the UK's waters can find its way to the Arctic within just two years.

UK researchers have used a current-tracking tool to follow the waste after as it was carried by the waters of the northern hemisphere.

The team at Imperial College London used [PlasticAdrift.org](#) to track ocean currents and follow the trail of plastic north to the frigid Arctic waters.



<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3675422/Plastic-waste-thrown-UK-seas-finds-way-Arctic-just-TWO-YEARS.html>



Where does plastic dumped off Plymouth end up?

By [WMNAGreenwood](#) | Posted: July 05, 2016

By WMN Reporter

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Plastic pollution on the Plym Estuary

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Plastic dumped into the sea off Plymouth is swept to a "shocking" destination within two years where it is damaging the [environment](#), scientists have shown.

Devon and [Cornwall beaches](#) are regularly strewn with [plastic waste](#) – some local, some from hundreds of miles away – which poses a threat to local marine life.

It has heightened fears about the legacy of plastic waste in the marine environment with much

<http://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/where-does-plastic-dumped-off-plymouth-end-up/story-29477884-detail/story.html>



Marine plastics threaten the future of our oceans

Erik van Sebille

中文版本



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04.07.2016

By 2050 our seas and oceans could contain more plastic than fish. Stopping pollution at the source is what is needed, says Erik van Sebille



Only 1% of all plastic that enters the ocean floats on the surface; the remaining 99% ends up on beaches, the sea floor or inside animals. (Image by [Loranchet](#))

As the name suggests, Plastic Not Fantastic is a new exhibition highlighting the problem of marine plastic pollution and some of the high- and low-tech approaches to tackling it. Opening at the [Royal Society](#) in London this week one of its curators, oceanographer and climate scientist Professor Erik van Sebille, talks about why

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UK: PLASTIC THROWN INTO THE SEA WILL REACH THE ARCTIC IN TWO YEARS

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PLASTIC THROWN INTO THE SEA

All the plastic that is thrown – or will stop – the oceans and seas around the UK take just two years to reach the Arctic, according to Erick van Sebille, an oceanographer at Imperial College London.

“We found, shockingly and unexpectedly, almost all UK plastic will stop the Arctic,” said Sebille the Guardian.


<http://blueclimat.com/uk-plastic-thrown-sea-will-reach-arctic/>

Science

Plastic From The UK Is Choking The Arctic

06.07.2016



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Polluted rivers filled with plastic bring that plastic into the ocean. overcrew/shutterstock

No man is an island, and when it comes to pollution, not even an island is an island. Plastic from the UK has been found floating all the way in the Arctic, worsening the environmental disaster currently happening in the region.

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A team of scientists from Imperial College has worked out how the oceanic currents move plastic

<http://trueviralnews.com/?p=240163>