

# Educational Video Series

## Ocean Education: High School Years

**Title:** Microplastics

**URL:** <https://canadac3.ca/en/video/microplastics/>

**Overview:** This 3-minute video explores microplastics in Canada's waters. Discuss with your students the causes and effects of marine plastics litter on aquatic life, and broader ocean health, and what we can do as consumers and citizens to tackle this growing problem.

### Discussion Questions:

- In the video, Rhiannon discusses the causes and effects of microplastics. Were you aware of this issue? What were you thinking about while you watched this video?
- How can microplastics affect marine life? How can they affect people? How might they affect you? How do microplastics differ from other plastic pollutants?
- What role do (1) manufacturers, (2) corporations, (3) waste management systems, and (4) consumers play in contributing to this issue and in solving it? What motivations and barriers need to be addressed to solve this issue? Are better policies, industry practices, and/or system(s) possible?
- What is still unknown about microplastics? Why is it important to keep learning?
- Have you personally contributed to this problem? What could you do differently and what behaviour(s) would be hard to change? Even with raised awareness, why is behaviour change so hard at the individual, community and societal levels?
- For the behaviour(s) that you identify as 'hard to change', what would you do to overcome this behaviour? Are there any organizations in your community working on this issue? What could you do to shift your habits and those of your peers?

### Read Bios and Learn More:

**Rhiannon Moore** is an artist and a scientist who joined Leg 12 of the Canada C3 Expedition to continue her research on microplastics under the direction of Dr. Peter Ross (see below). To learn more about microplastics from Rhiannon, check out her C3 [Google Hangout](#) on September 21, 2017 with Canadian classrooms.

**Dr. Peter Ross** is a toxicologist and a research scientist at the Vancouver Aquarium and Marine Science Centre. He is an expert on marine pollutants, and part of his work concerns plastic waste in the ocean. During the C3 voyage his team assembled bottom sediments from the intertidal zone to be analyzed for microplastics and to provide an important, pan-Canadian account.

### Extended Learning Resources:

1. Check out the UN Environment [Clean Seas Pledge](#).
2. Check out [#PassOnPlastic](#) – a citizen-led campaign to eliminate plastics.
3. Check out the travelling [Ocean Plastics Lab](#), created in Germany, that was on display

at Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa in August 2018.