

Educational Video Series

Ocean Education: Middle 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, ocean health, and our own health, and what choices and actions we can take 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?
- What other forms of marine plastics pollution are there? What about non-plastic marine pollution? How is microplastics litter different?
- What is still unknown about microplastics? Why is it important to keep learning?
- Do you think that you are connected to the microplastics problem? If yes, in what ways? If no, why? What changes could be made in society to decrease the amount of microplastics in the ocean? What could you do as an individual? How might you be able to motivate your peers, your school and/or your community to make changes / take action too?

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.

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 August 2018.