

Marine Litter and People

Approximately 10 million tonnes of litter end up in the world's oceans and seas each year. From tiny plastics to large fishing nets, these pieces of litter can cause harm to marine life. Humans have a close relationship with the oceans. Marine life, such as seaweeds and phytoplankton, produce half of the oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere. This means that every second breath you take comes from the ocean! We rely on marine plants and animals for many things in our lives, such as food, medicine, materials and even as an ingredient in ice cream! In Ireland, over 18,000 jobs are in the marine sector. It is important that we do not pollute the oceans, as they are vital for a happy and healthy world.



Carry out a research project on **Marine Litter and People**.

Some ideas you could investigate:

- Types of food that come from the ocean.
- Products and services that the oceans provide.
- How marine litter can affect people.
- What can be done to ensure clean, healthy oceans.

Resources:

<http://www.protectplanetocean.org/introduction/introduction.html>

<http://www.marine.usf.edu/pjocean/packets/f98/f98u1le1.pdf>

http://www.earthskids.com/ek_science-marine.htm

http://oceanoday.noaa.gov/trashtalk_whatcanwedo/welcome.html