

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- **Dispose of litter** in bins provided, or take it home with you.
- **Choose to buy** products wrapped in environmentally friendly packaging (minimal plastic).
- **Make an effort to recycle** aluminium cans, paper, glass etc.
- **Cut all plastic loops** (e.g. six-pack loop rings) before disposal, to prevent wildlife becoming entangled.
- **Help with beach cleaning projects** whenever possible.
- **Make your voice heard!** Support the "greenest" politicians.
- **Tell your friends** about the hazards of "small garbage" on the sea and coastal environment.
- **Help and support** local conservation organisations to protect wildlife and nature.

To produce one million plastic bottles, 732,000 tons of greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere! **DRINK TAP WATER, USING A FILTER IF NECESSARY.**

Sea turtles emerge from the sea to nest with partially ingested plastic bag hanging from her mouth.



Photo Library Melbourne Zoo, Australia

Founded in 1988, **MEDASSET** is an international charity working for the study and conservation of sea turtles and their habitats throughout the Mediterranean, through scientific research, environmental education, political lobbying and raising public awareness. It has received several international and national awards and distinctions.

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GREEK ANIMAL WELFARE FUND

I wish to become a "Friend of MEDASSET"!

Please complete, cut and post this form or e-mail your details to us

NAME: SURNAME:
OCCUPATION:
ADDRESS:
POST CODE: COUNTRY:
Tel.: E-mail:
Signature: Date:

International: Annual contribution £UK 10 (where applicable please allow for exchange commission and bank expenses). Please send completed form with a cheque made out to MEDASSET. Online payments and donations can be made by credit or debit card via our secure website: www.medasset.org.

Greece: Annual contribution €15 (€9 for students). Please deposit your contribution to Alpha Bank (account number: 124-00-2786-006396, Merlin branch, Athens, providing your name).

Additional donations are more than welcome! "Friends" receive all our publications free.

Thank you for your support!

"SMALL GARBAGE"



M. A. Dunais

CAN KILL...



MEDASSET

Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles

The impact of 'Small Garbage'

The term "marine and coastal garbage" refers to any discarded items that are found on beaches or in the sea as a result of human activities: This includes those deposited directly on the beach and into the sea, and those that end up there from inland. "Small Garbage" can have a destructive impact on the marine environment.

The wind may carry light "small garbage" from landfills and the coast, into the sea.

Litter is also carried into the sea from towns and villages by streams, rivers and floodwaters.

Litter may enter the marine environment by direct littering on the coast: hotels, beach-side restaurants, visitors etc.

Sewage discharges and overflow can carry "small garbage" into the sea.

No fly-tipping!

Sea animals like turtles, birds, seals, dolphins, whales and others are threatened by fishing nets and lines discarded in the sea.

"Small garbage" is discarded by the merchant fleet, the navy, fishing boats, cruise-ships, recreational boats etc.

Plastic garbage:

- Can contain air bubbles that prevent turtles that consume them from diving for their food.
- Accumulates in the animal's gut and although the animal feels full, in reality it is dying of starvation.
- Many plastics contain harmful compounds that once ingested, can damage reproduction and the animal's ability to resist disease.



When an animal gets entangled in a fishing net, its ability to move freely is reduced. It becomes vulnerable to predation by other animals, and is more likely to be injured, die of starvation, drowning, or from infection of its wounds.

Years required to degrade "small garbage" in the sea.



10-20



1.000.000



600



Wool
1



80-100



450



1-5



50