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Our Polluted Oceans

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Author

Message

XSlayerALE

Post subject: Re: Our Polluted Oceans

Posted: Sat Oct 17, 2009 7:19 pm

[offline](#)

2012 Apologist



Joined: Tue Aug 26, 2008 3:42 am
Posts: 4504
Location: LA LA Land

Jok wrote:

Someday... the humans will understand it! everything must be part of a cycle.

Yes! Humans must realize that there are beginnings and there is an end. Yes, humans in the past are responsible for the death of certain species due to sheer lack of foresight. We almost lost the buffalo, the whale, the redwood tree and we killed off the Dodo bird. As much as we are not masters of nature, we cannot save every species of bird, animal and plant on this planet. Some of them will die, maybe because of us. Some of them need to die because they cannot adapt fast enuf with us. Something will take their place and it may or may not be for our benefit.

Look, we may lose the polar bear because arctic ice is melting too early and not staying frozen for as long as before. They are starving because they have to swim farther and for longer periods of time to find food (seals). Thats bad for them. On the flip side, there will be more seals because fewer polar bears kill them and different whale species like the Beluga, Narwhal and the Bull whale (the second largest whale in the world) are flourishing because the sea is now teaming with their food because its not frozen. Nature corrects itself and human beings only mess that up by trying to save animals that cant adapt to the changes.

*Meddle not in the affairs of Dragons,
for you are crunchy and taste good with Ketchup*

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Mordae

Post subject: Re: Our Polluted Oceans

Posted: Wed Nov 11, 2009 4:07 am

[offline](#)

2012 Elder



Joined: Mon Jul 06, 2009 7:07 am
Posts: 2277
Location: Paeroa, New Zealand

Quote:

Yes, humans in the past are responsible for the death of certain species due to sheer lack of foresight.

Yes, but in this case it is sheer laziness.

Quote:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/10/science/10patch.html>
[size=150][Afloat in the Ocean, Expanding Islands of Trash/size]

ABOARD THE ALGUITA, 1,000 miles northeast of Hawaii — In this remote patch of the Pacific Ocean, hundreds of miles from any national boundary, the detritus of human life is collecting in a swirling current so large that it defies precise measurement.

Light bulbs, bottle caps, toothbrushes, Popsicle sticks and tiny pieces of plastic, each the size of a grain of rice, inhabit the Pacific garbage patch, an area of widely dispersed trash that doubles in size every decade and is now believed to be roughly twice the size of Texas. But one research organization estimates that the garbage now actually pervades the Pacific, though most of it is caught in what oceanographers call a gyre like this one — an area of heavy currents and slack winds that keep the trash swirling in a giant whirlpool.

Scientists say the garbage patch is just one of five that may be caught in giant gyres scattered around the world's oceans. Abandoned fishing gear like buoys, fishing line and nets account for some of the waste, but other items come from land after washing into storm drains and out to sea.

Plastic is the most common refuse in the patch because it is lightweight, durable and an omnipresent, disposable product in both advanced and developing societies. It can float along for hundreds of miles before being caught in a gyre and then, over time, breaking down.

But once it does split into pieces, the fragments look like confetti in the water. Millions, billions, trillions and more of these particles are floating in the world's trash-filled gyres.

PCBs, DDT and other toxic chemicals cannot dissolve in water, but the plastic absorbs them like a sponge. Fish that feed on plankton ingest the tiny plastic particles. Scientists from the Algalita Marine Research Foundation say that fish tissues contain some of the same chemicals as the plastic. The scientists speculate that toxic chemicals are leaching into fish tissue from the plastic they eat.

The researchers say that when a predator — a larger fish or a person — eats the fish that eats the plastic, that predator may be transferring toxins to its own tissues, and in greater concentrations since toxins from multiple food sources can accumulate in the body.

Charles Moore found the Pacific garbage patch by accident 12 years ago, when he came upon it on his way back from a sailing race in Hawaii. As captain, Mr. Moore ferried three researchers, his first mate and a journalist here this summer in his 10th scientific trip to the site. He is convinced that several similar garbage patches remain to be discovered.

"Anywhere you really look for it, you're going to see it," he said.

Many scientists believe there is a garbage patch off the coast of Japan and another in the Sargasso Sea, in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

Bonnie Monteleone, a University of North Carolina, Wilmington, graduate student researching a master's thesis on plastic accumulation in the ocean, visited the Sargasso Sea in late spring and the Pacific garbage patch with Mr. Moore this summer.

"I saw much higher concentrations of trash in the Pacific garbage patch than in the Sargasso," Ms. Monteleone said, while acknowledging that she might not have found the Atlantic gyre.

Ms. Monteleone, a volunteer crew member on Mr. Moore's ship, kept hoping she would see at least one sample taken from the Pacific garbage patch without any trash in it. "Just one area — just one," she said. "That's all I wanted to see. But everywhere had plastic."

The Pacific garbage patch gained prominence after three independent marine research organizations visited it this summer. One of them, Project Kaisei, based in San Francisco, is trying to devise ways to clean up the patch by turning plastic into diesel fuel.

Environmentalists and celebrities are using the patch to promote their own causes. The actor Ted Danson's nonprofit group Oceana designated Mr. Moore a hero for his work on the patch. Another Hollywood figure, Edward Norton, narrated a public-service announcement about plastic bags, which make their way out to the patch.

Mr. Moore, however, is the first person to have pursued serious scientific research by sampling the garbage patch. In 1999, he dedicated the Algalita foundation to studying it. Now the foundation examines plastic debris and takes samples of polluted water off the California coast and across the Pacific Ocean. By dragging a fine mesh net behind his research vessel Alguita, a 50-foot aluminum catamaran, Mr. Moore is able to collect small plastic fragments.

Researchers measure the amount of plastic in each sample and calculate the weight of each fragment. They also test the tissues of any fish caught in the nets to measure for toxic chemicals. One rainbow runner from a previous voyage had 84 pieces of plastic in its stomach.

The research team has not tested the most recent catch for toxic chemicals, but the water samples show that the amount of plastic in the gyre and the larger Pacific is increasing. Water samples from February contained twice as much plastic as samples from a decade ago.

"This is not the garbage patch I knew in 1999," Mr. Moore said. "This is a totally different animal."

For the captain's first mate, Jeffery Ernst, the patch was "just a reminder that there's nowhere that isn't affected by humanity."

Paranoia is a state of mind.....or is it??

From Chaos comes Order.....From to much Order comes Chaos

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Mordae

Post subject: Re: Our Polluted Oceans

Posted: Mon Dec 21, 2009 9:03 pm

offline

2012 Elder



Joined: Mon Jul 06, 2009 7:07 am
Posts: 2277
Location: Paeroa, New Zealand

Quote:

http://msn.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=10616902

Film-maker to swim against tide of filth

An Australian film-maker is training to swim from Japan to California, a trip that will take him through the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a huge floating rubbish dump believed to cover an area of ocean equivalent to Texas or Queensland.

Richard Pain's plan is to swim inside a giant plastic bottle, made up of thousands of small water bottles, in order to highlight the devastating marine pollution and raise money for research into the North Pacific Gyre, as the garbage patch is also known.

The "plastic soup", held in place by four competing clockwise currents, consists of garbage thrown off ships or blown off land bordering the northern Pacific.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme, it causes the deaths of more than a million seabirds every year, as well as more than 100,000 mammals including whales, dolphins, turtles and seals.

No one has ever swum across the Pacific, and Pain said he realised that attempting the 9000km trip was "completely mad".

But he hopes to "combat green fatigue", he said.

"If I can do something this crazy, everybody else can do something. Whether it's recycle, reuse, rethink, stop using single-use plastics ... just change their behaviour in some simple way."

Pain - who is also making a documentary about his attempt - plans to embark on his record-breaking swim in 2011. The giant plastic bottle will act as a shark cage, while symbolising the cause to which he wants to draw attention.

He hopes to cover 40km a day, swimming for 10 hours, five days a week, which would enable him to complete the trip in 45 weeks.

The garbage patch, estimated to be about 6m deep, is "choked" with plastic items that include kayaks, soccer balls, laundry baskets, Lego blocks, carrier bags, syringes, cigarette lighters and toothbrushes.

Paranoia is a state of mind.....or is it??

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Mordae

Post subject: Re: Our Polluted Oceans

Posted: Sun Jan 17, 2010 11:41 pm

offline

2012 Elder



Joined: Mon Jul 06, 2009 7:07 am
Posts: 2277
Location: Paeroa, New Zealand

Quote:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKTRE60G1QJ20100117>

Beaches trapping some oil from Exxon Valdez spill

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A lack of oxygen and nutrients below the surface of beaches in Alaska's Prince William Sound is slowing the dissipation of oil remaining from the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill, U.S. researchers said on Sunday.

The team conducted field studies over the past three summers using geologic information and hydraulics to try to determine why patches of oil linger on the beaches 20 years after the worst oil spill in U.S. history.....

Paranoia is a state of mind.....or is it??

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Mordae

Post subject: Re: Our Polluted Oceans

Posted: Tue Jan 26, 2010 12:08 am

offline

2012 Elder



Joined: Mon Jul 06, 2009 7:07 am
Posts: 2277
Location: Paeroa, New Zealand

Quote:

http://msn.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=10622333

Race to save wildlife zones after crude oil spill

DALLAS – Crews worked yesterday to protect two sensitive wildlife areas after a crude oil spill shut down parts of a major southeast Texas port, state Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson said.

Plastic walls known as booms and oil-sucking skimmer boats were used to safeguard a lake that is a crucial breeding ground and a wildlife management area that lost its protective gates when Hurricane Ike roared ashore a year and a half ago, Patterson said.

The United States Coast Guard said about 1.75 million litres – or 11,000 barrels – of oil spilled into the water on Sunday when a 245m Malaysian-flagged tanker headed for an Exxon Mobil Corp refinery in Beaumont collided with a towing vessel pushing two barges near Port Arthur, about 145km east of Houston.....

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