



## Plastic in the Ocean – Why we should all be concerned

May is Gard Insight's marine litter awareness month with the focus on plastic waste. Our first article and video highlight the problem. We will follow with articles on the regulations imposed by MARPOL on vessel disposal of plastic and an innovative clean-up solution.

Published 19 May 2017

The information provided in this article is intended for general information only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information at the time of publication, no warranty or representation is made regarding its completeness or timeliness. The content in this article does not constitute professional advice, and any reliance on such information is strictly at your own risk. Gard AS, including its affiliated companies, agents and employees, shall not be held liable for any loss, expense, or damage of any kind whatsoever arising from reliance on the information provided, irrespective of whether it is sourced from Gard AS, its shareholders, correspondents, or other contributors.

Plastics have been mass produced for about sixty years. Versatile, durable and light weight, plastic products have transformed the way we live. These same characteristics, however, mean that plastic items that find their way into the sea are easily dispersed by wind and currents and persist in the global marine environment for hundreds if not thousands of years.

As part of our “Gard our Oceans” initiative, we turned to Joan Fabres, GRID-Arendal’s expert on marine litter, to share with us his knowledge about the causes and consequences of plastic pollution in the oceans. GRID-Arendal supports environmentally sustainable development by working with UN Environment and other partners. One of GRID-Arendal’s primary functions is to share science-based environmental data in an understandable way. Joan is one of the editors and contributors of the [Marine Litter Vital Graphics report](#) that formed the background for his talk. Please learn with us about the challenges to the marine environment posed by the growing volume of plastics in our oceans. Here is a short video of his key comments.

[Our terrible legacy: Plastics in the ocean](#)

The information provided in this article is intended for general information only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information at the time of publication, no warranty or representation is made regarding its completeness or timeliness. The content in this article does not constitute professional advice, and any reliance on such information is strictly at your own risk. Gard AS, including its affiliated companies, agents and employees, shall not be held liable for any loss, expense, or damage of any kind whatsoever arising from reliance on the information provided, irrespective of whether it is sourced from Gard AS, its shareholders, correspondents, or other contributors.