

# Fishing For Litter



# Isle of Man



# School Activity Pack



Produced by the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture, for more links and useful resources visit [www.gov.im/plastics](http://www.gov.im/plastics) or email [plastics@gov.im](mailto:plastics@gov.im)

Please only print the pages with activities on to avoid excess paper usage

# Fishing For Litter



## Isle of Man

Fishing for Litter is a project that works with fishers to remove litter from our seas, to help make our seas healthier for future generations. Fishers are given reusable bags to collect marine litter that is caught in their nets when they are fishing. Full bags are brought to shore and emptied into the harbour side bins so that they can be used again and again.



We need a healthy ocean to have a healthy planet.  
Did you know?



- ☀️ 71% of the earth's surface is covered by the ocean
- ☀️ Between 50-80% of all life on earth is found in the ocean
- ☀️ Our oceans make half the oxygen we breath, a lot of the food we eat and create the global climate we live in.



## Activity 1: The sea to me

What does the sea mean to you? Share why the sea is important to you, what you love about it and what makes it special...

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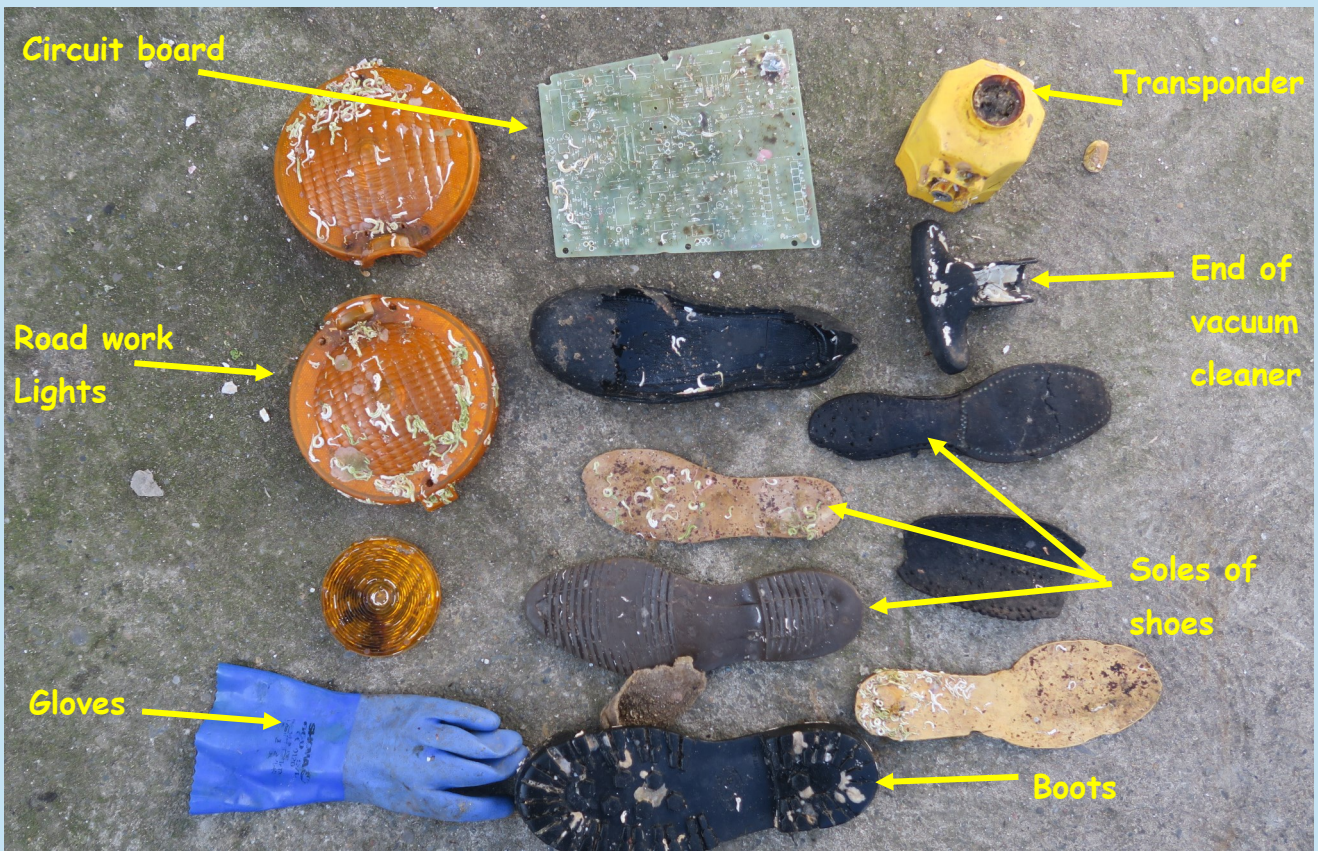
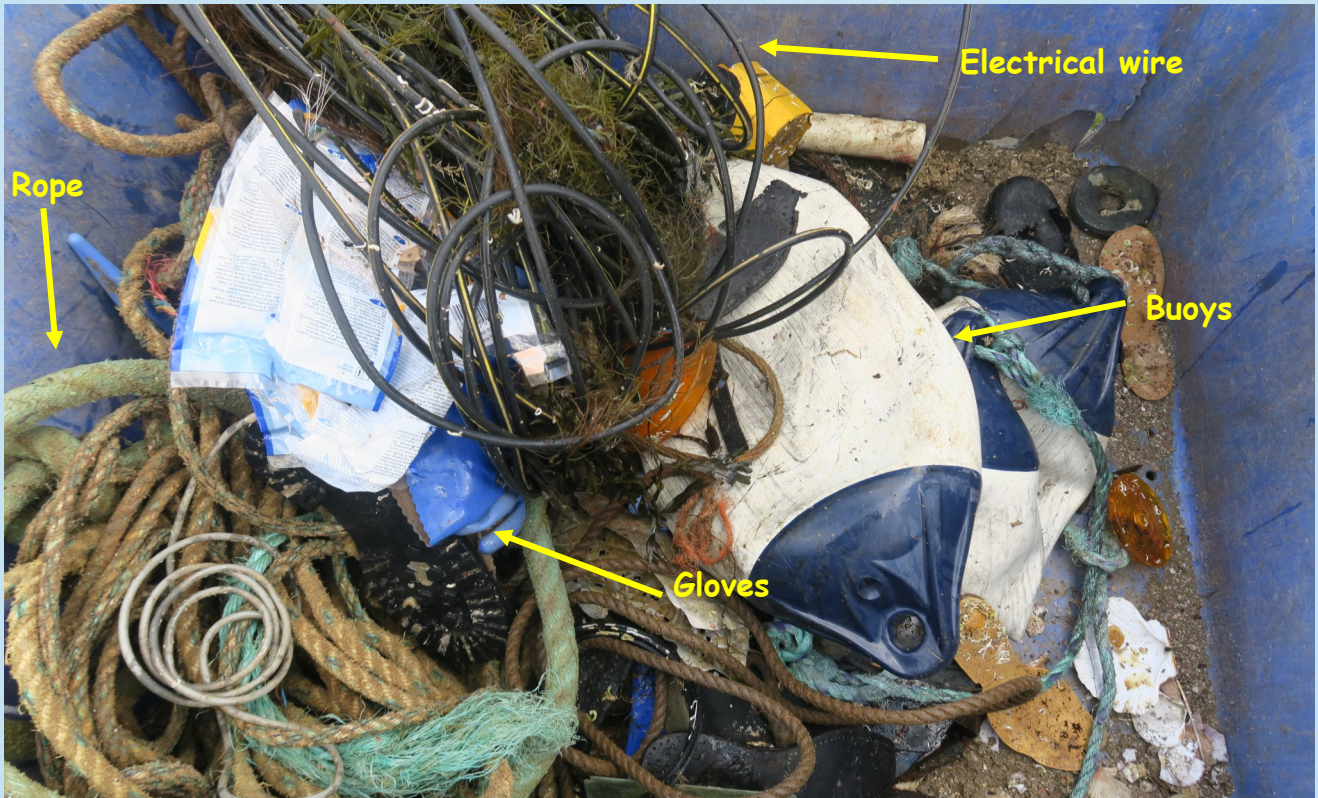
Draw a picture to go with your words...



Take a picture of your words and picture, send it to [plastics@gov.im](mailto:plastics@gov.im) and we will share your poster on our social media channels—see last page for parental content agreement.



# What sort of litter is collected in the fishers nets?



\*This is from one bag of litter





## Let's talk about plastic!

Most of the litter that comes up in fishers nets is made out of plastic, but there are also items made from wood, metal and glass.

Why is plastic litter bad?



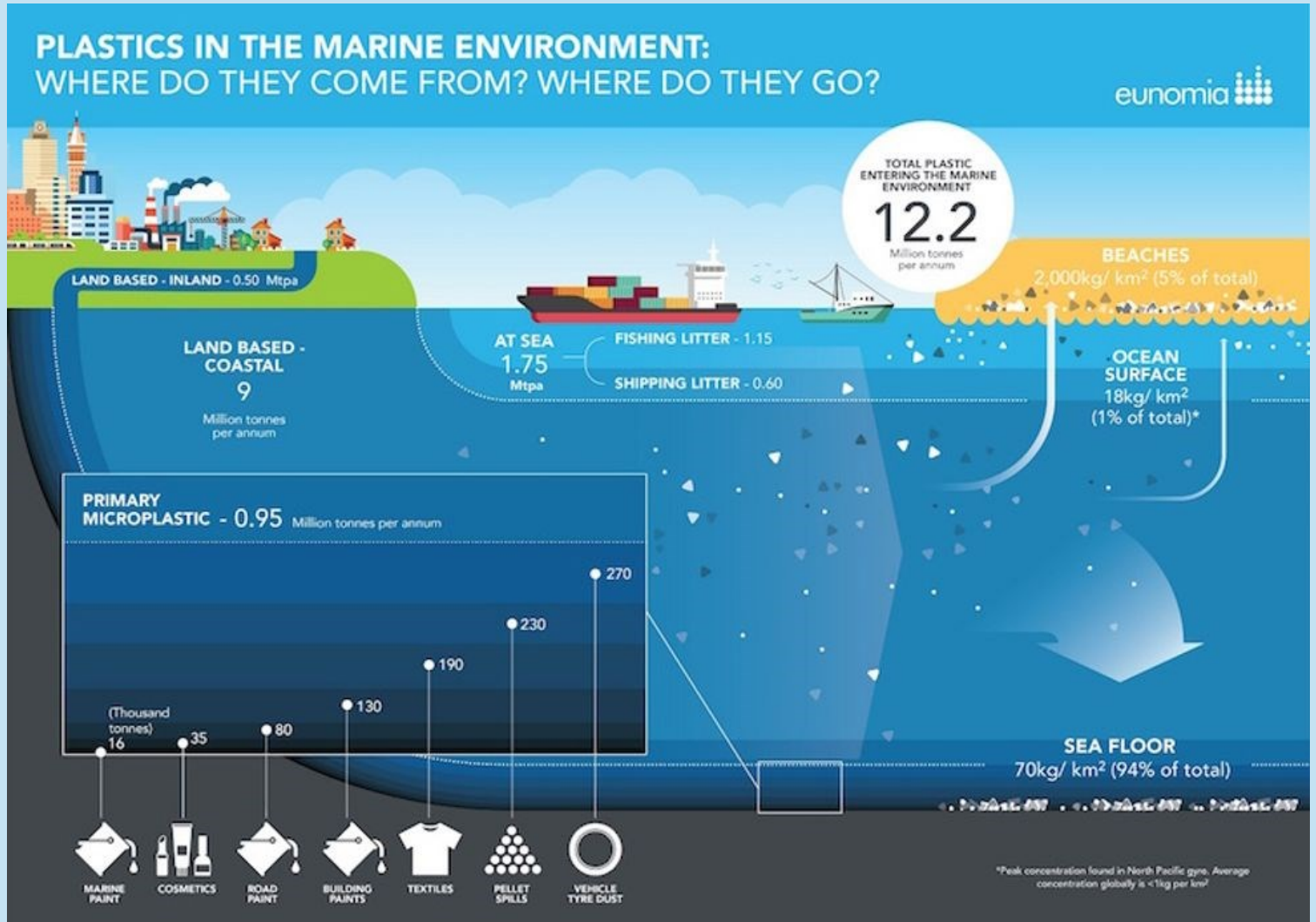
Plastic litter is particularly bad because it never breaks down, and stays in the ocean forever. Marine animals and seabirds often mistake plastic litter for food and eat it, which can cause them to choke or starve because their bellies are full of plastic instead of food. Plastic litter can also harm animals by entangling them.



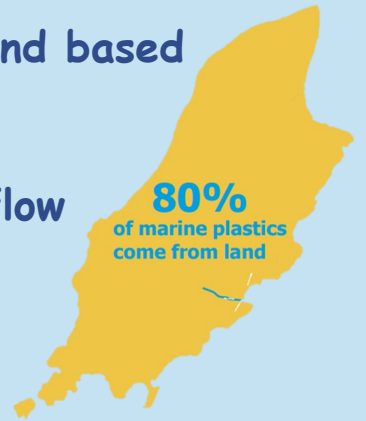
Plastic litter can also harm humans, because the harmful chemicals on plastics get eaten by fish and other seafood which are then caught and eaten by humans.



# How does plastic get in the sea?



- 80% of global plastic pollution comes from the land based sources
- Plastic litter blows into rivers and drains which flow into the sea
- Its been estimated that 1 truck load of plastic enters the seas globally every minute!
- Once in the sea, wind, waves and sunshine break plastic litter into smaller and smaller pieces of plastic called 'MICRO PLASTIC'
- Lots of plastic floats at the sea's surface, but most plastic pollution sinks to the seafloor



### Activity 3: Does it float or sink? *\*Ask a parent's permission to do this activity*

There are many different types of plastics, some are heavy and dense and some are light and filled with air, this means they behave differently in the sea.

1. Gather a few plastic items from around the house e.g. bottle top, plastic bottle, food packaging etc.
2. Make a note of which items you think will float and which ones will sink.
3. Fill a container or sink with water.
4. Drop each item in, take note of which float and which sink:
  - ⇒ Do bottle tops float on one side and sink on the other?
  - ⇒ What happens to a bottle with the cap on?
  - ⇒ What happens to a bottle with the cap off and filled with water?
  - ⇒ What would happen to the plastic if marine animals like barnacles or tube worms grew on the plastic? Would it get heavier?

Bottle caps



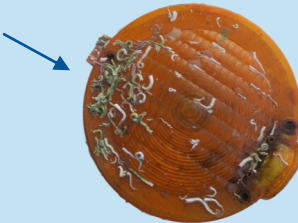
Plastic twine



Plastic packaging



Worm casts



Item	Guess Sink or Float?	Did it Sink or Float?

As you have hopefully seen from your experiment, some plastics sink and some plastics float. This means we need to find different ways to take plastics out of the marine environment. Beach cleaning is a great way of removing plastic that floats at the sea's surface and onto our beaches, and Fishing for Litter is a great way to pick up plastic that sinks to the seafloor!



# How can we stop plastic getting into the sea in the first place?



We can stop plastic pollution from getting into the sea by following these easy steps:

- REFUSE** to buy unnecessary plastics: single use water bottles, take away cups, plastic straws, plastic bags.
- REDUCE** the amount of plastics you use. Think carefully about the plastic you use - do you "need" it or "want" it?
- REUSE** items that can be used over and over such as refillable water bottles. \*If just one in 10 people in the UK refilled their water bottle just once a week, 340 million plastic bottles a year would be saved.
- RE-PURPOSE** items and turn them into something new and really useful which will have a long term use.
- RE-DESIGN** - designers are responsible for creating products using recyclable materials.
- RECYCLE** - by recycling plastics we reduce the need for using virgin materials. We need to recycle more and do it better.
- RECOVER** - plastic waste is a valuable feed stock for energy recovery and turning into fuel.

**YOU** can help reduce plastic pollution in our oceans by removing single-use plastics from your every day activities...

**How you can make a difference**

- Use reusable items 
- Avoid flushing down plastics 
- Say no to single use plastics 
- Join Beach Buddies or 3 Pieces Of Plastic 



## Activity 4 – Waste Audit—look at single use plastic use in your home

**\*Ask a parents permission to do this activity**

In order to reduce your plastic waste, you have to know what you're throwing away, a waste audit is the perfect way to find out!

Step 1: With the help of a parent or guardian, write down all the items that get put in the bin over 2 days (before they go in), like this:

Item	Amount
Plastic bottle	III
Cardboard box	III
Crisp packet	I
Glass	IIII
Yoghurt pot	IIII

**Warning**  
Be careful handling  
any rubbish, log  
items before they  
go into the bin and  
wear gloves, wash  
hands afterwards

Step 2: Did you find any items that could have been recycled, or reused instead of thrown away? (on the Isle of Man we can recycle plastic bottles, cardboard, paper, glass, cans, clothing, batteries and garden waste)

Step 3: Can you figure out ways to reduce the amount of unrecyclable plastic items e.g. swap plastic wrapped snacks for plastic free alternatives, buy vegetables without plastic packaging. Be creative!

Step 4: Make a poster to encourage people to reduce plastic around the house, take a picture and send it to [plastics@gov.im](mailto:plastics@gov.im) and we will share your poster on our social media channels.





MY  
PLASTIC  
PLEDGE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I will REFUSE to buy/use \_\_\_\_\_.

I will REDUCE the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ that I use.

I will REUSE these items \_\_\_\_\_.

I will RE-PURPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ and turn them into something new.

I will RECYCLE \_\_\_\_\_.

I will send \_\_\_\_\_ for energy RECOVERY at the Islands 'Energy from Waste' facility.

Draw a picture of an easy change you can make:



Thank-you for caring!

The future of the ocean is in our hands.  
Are YOU inspired to be a part of the solution?

If you want to share any of your work with us, ask your parent or guardian to sign below and send to [plastics@gov.im](mailto:plastics@gov.im)

## Parental consent for image sharing

I agree to [please tick]:

My child's photograph being used on DEFA and UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man's social media pages

My child's photograph being used within other printed publications (e.g. press release)

\*Please note electronic images will be stored in a protected folder with restricted access. Images will be stored for a period of 1 year.

Signed

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