

Duck odyssey aids study of ocean currents

Scientists and beachcombers alike are anticipating the arrival on British shores of an armada of Chinese-made bath toys swept overboard from a cargo ship 15 years ago. So valuable are the toys to researchers charting the world's ocean currents that a reward of \$100 is offered for finding one

1 1992: 29,000 ducks and other bath toys fall off **Chinese** ship in **Pacific** storm

4 1995: Some enter **Arctic** waters and move slowly eastwards, frozen in polar ice

5 2000: Ducks reach **North Atlantic** and begin to thaw

2 About 10,000 head north to **Alaska**

3 The other 19,000 go south, ending up in **Australia, Indonesia** and **South America**

7 2007 Riding **Gulf Stream**, flotilla heads for **British** beaches after 27,000km voyage

6 2003: Sighted along **U.S.** and **Canadian** coastlines

