

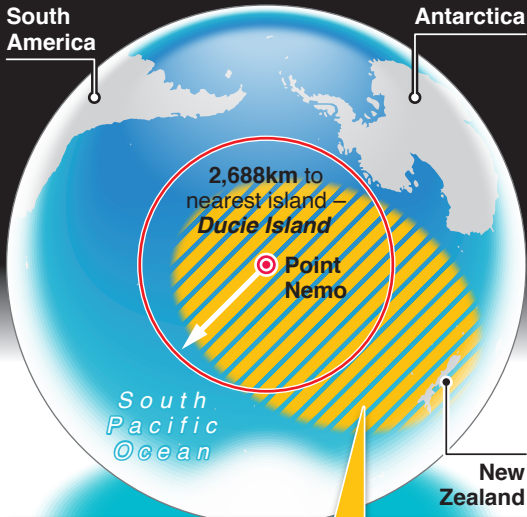
Point Nemo – Earth's space cemetery

China's out-of-control rocket core draws attention to how agencies can safely dispose of unwanted spacecraft using Earth's "Point Nemo"

Point Nemo: Named after submariner from Jules Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*. Single point on Earth that is furthest away from any land mass

South America

Antarctica



2,688km to
nearest island –
Ducie Island

Point
Nemo

South
Pacific
Ocean

New
Zealand

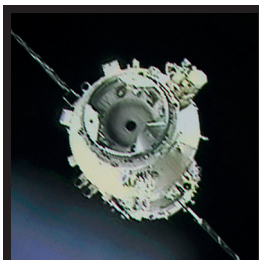
In reality, bulk of deorbited space debris scatters across wide swathe of ocean. There are more than **260** spacecraft here, with **Russia** responsible for about **75%** of them

International Space Station is closer to Point Nemo than anyone on Earth, being **360km** above it

Famous spacecraft dumped here:



Mar 2001: *Mir*, Russia's 10-year-old, 130-tonne space station deorbits into South Pacific



Apr 2018: Having lost control of *Tiangong-1* space station, China deorbits it