

# Ocean trash providing home for marine life

Scientists have found dozens of coastal marine species thriving and reproducing on floating plastic debris far out in the Pacific Ocean

*Ocean cleanup system capturing plastic debris in GPGP*



## ■ Floating debris

Researchers gathered 105 plastic items from **Great Pacific Garbage Patch (GPGP)** in 2018 and 2019

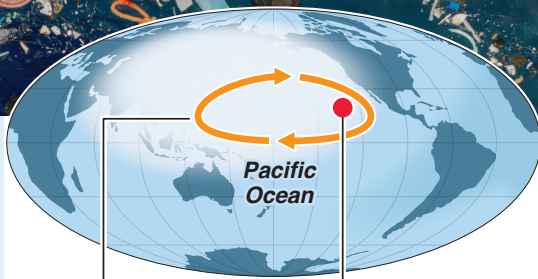
## ■ Coastal marine animals:

Discovered on 70 percent of debris analysed, including anemones, crabs and crustaceans

## ■ Invertebrate specimens:

Some 484 organisms identified – from 46 species – 80 percent of which are typically found in coastal habitats

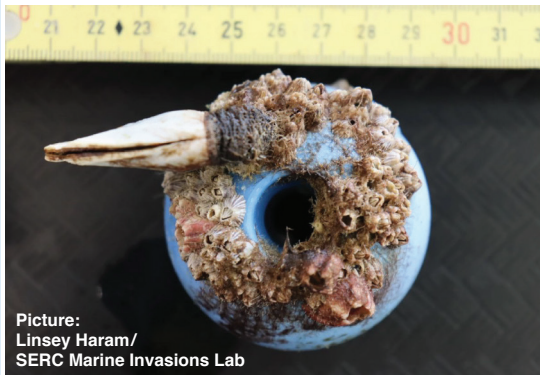
*Right: Plastic debris colonised by both coastal barnacles (pink and striped) and gooseneck barnacle from open ocean*



## North Pacific Subtropical Gyre

Ocean current most heavily impacted by plastic pollution

**GPGP:** Spans estimated 1.6 million sq km – area about twice as big as Texas or three times as big as France



Picture:  
Linsey Haram/  
SERC Marine Invasions Lab