

SCCWRP #0738

Oceanic pollution

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ABSTRACT

Human civilizations have long used the world's oceans as receptacles for waste. The phrase "the solution to pollution is dilution" epitomizes the common pollution management strategy use over past centuries, based on the assumption that human actions could not significantly impact such a large diluents as the ocean. In the last several decades, though, increases in scientific understanding of oceanic processes and capacity limits for pollution assimilation have led to recognition that land-based activities can profoundly affect the oceans. Dramatic increases in the size of human populations and associated waste are exerting more pressure on oceans than ever before. As scientific understanding of ocean systems has evolved, environmental strategies and programs to address pollutants are also becoming more sophisticated.

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