



Plastic Oceans



INTRODUCTION

Plastic production has surged since 1964 and plastic has been dubbed as the “miracle material” – light, strong, durable and cheap to produce. Today, plastics are used for almost everything – packaging, car industry, aeroplane industry, consumer based-products, electronics and so on. With 311 million tons of it produced in 2014 alone, plastics have become an enormous environmental threat to human health and wildlife survival. A toxic pollutant that can be found anywhere around the world, at the bottom of the oceans or frozen in arctic ice, plastics are in need for economic re-evaluation and increased international attention.



Plastic production uses about **6%** of global oil consumption



which is **equivalent** to the oil consumption of the entire **global aviation sector**



and **half** of all plastics produced go into **single-use applications** which are discarded and thrown away.

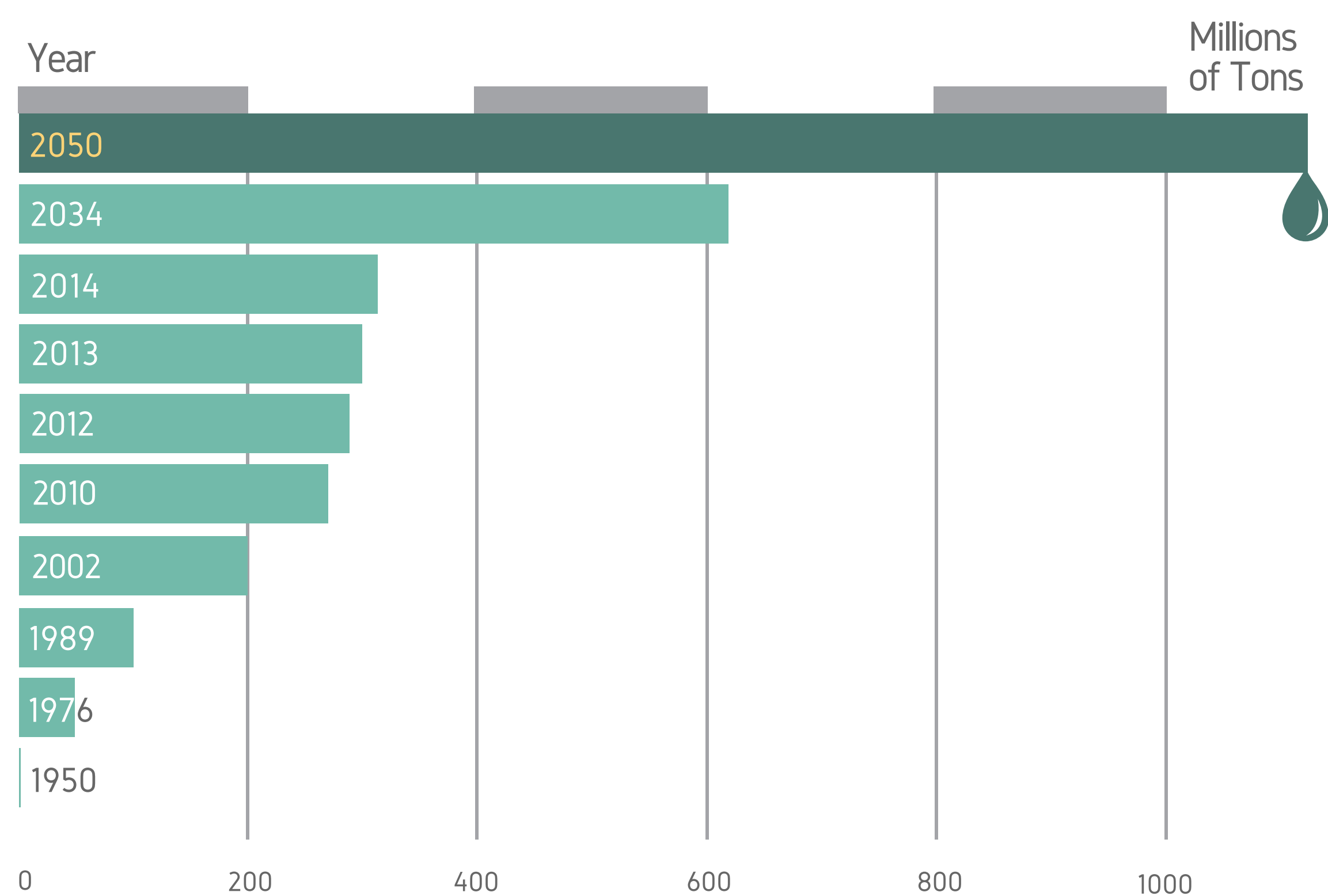


Americans use nearly **3,000,000** plastic bottles an **hour**.

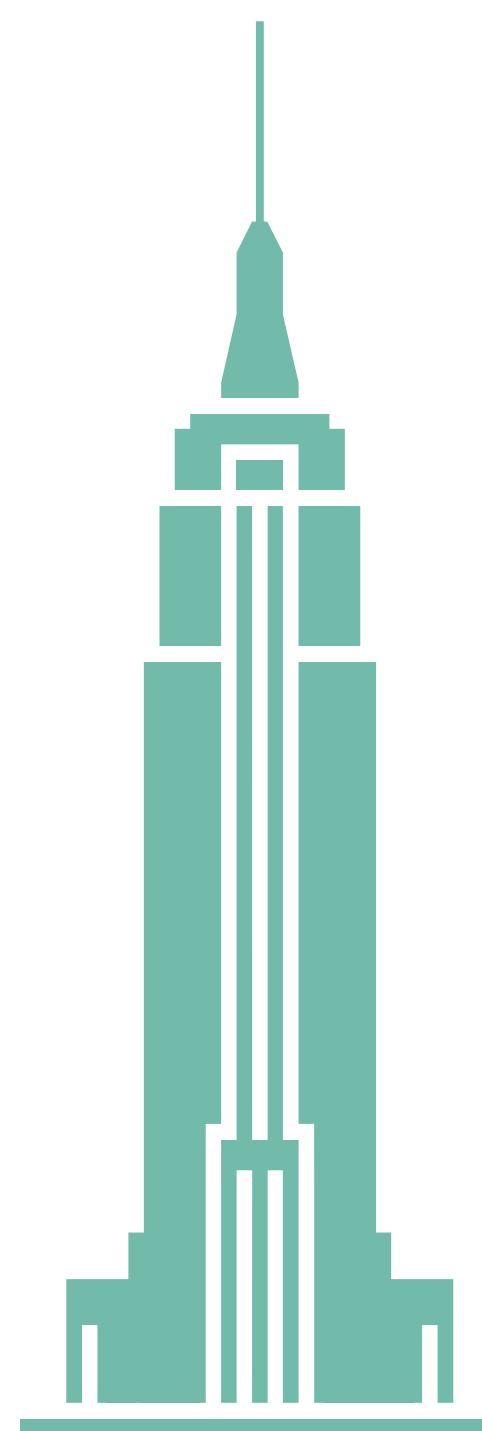


Only **14%** of plastic packaging is collected for **recycling**.

Production Forecast

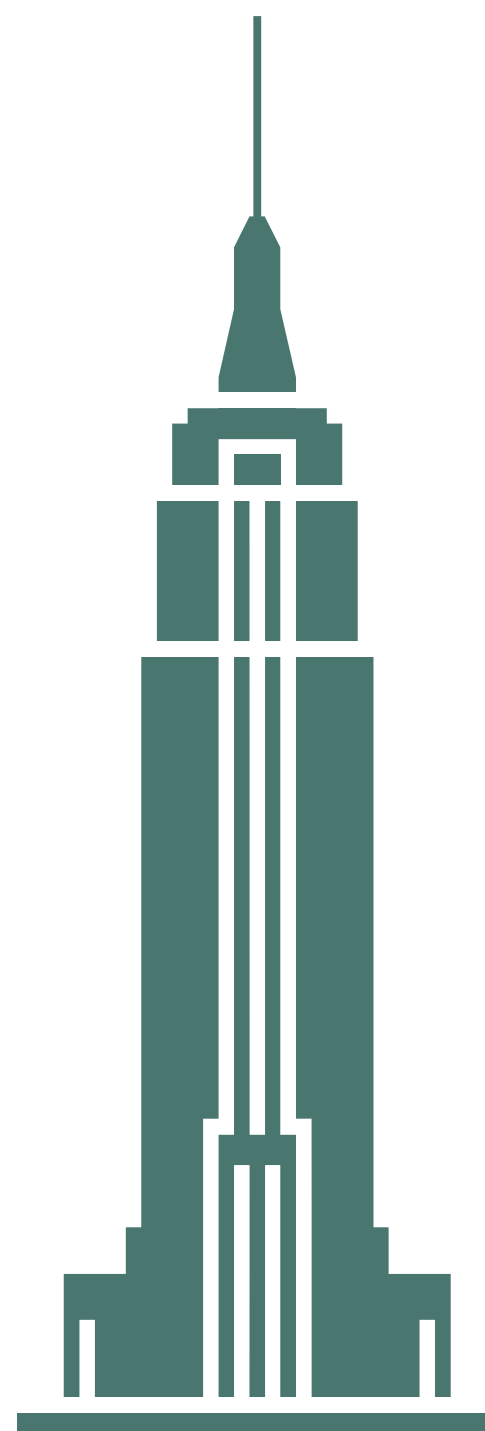


2014



+900 each year

2050



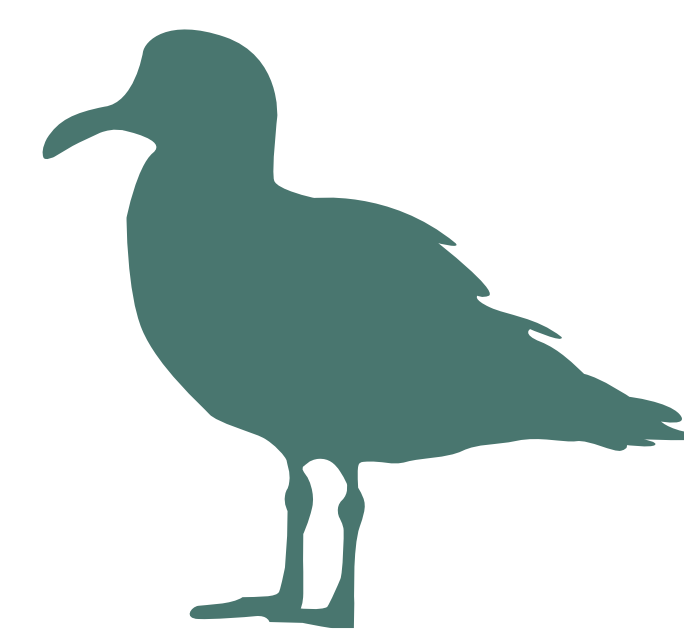
+3600 each year

2014 =  /minute

2050 =  /minute

One garbage truck is being **dumped into the ocean every minute** and if no action is taken, that is expected to increase to **four per minute** by 2050.

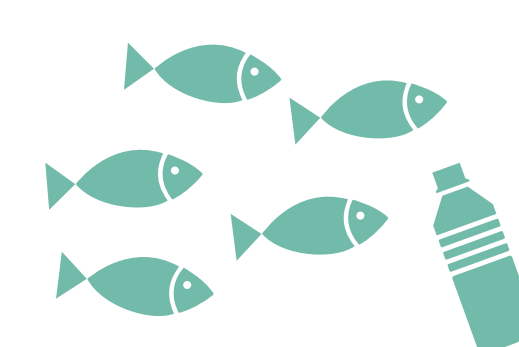
Global demand and production of plastic materials will only continue to rise in the future. 311 million tons of plastic that was produced in 2014 is equivalent to more than **900 Empire State Buildings** and by 2050 we can expect to produce around **3600 Empire State buildings** of plastic a year.



All seabird populations between 1950 and 2010 have seen a

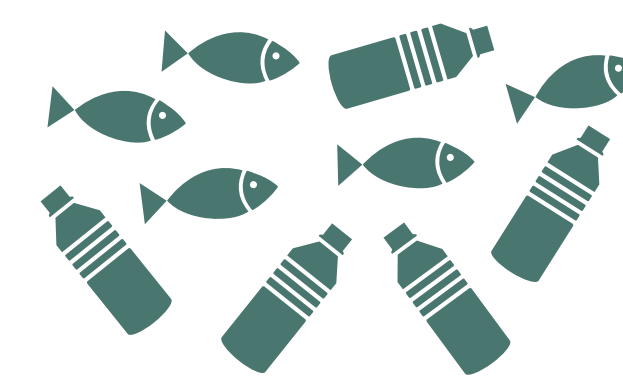
67% Decline

2014



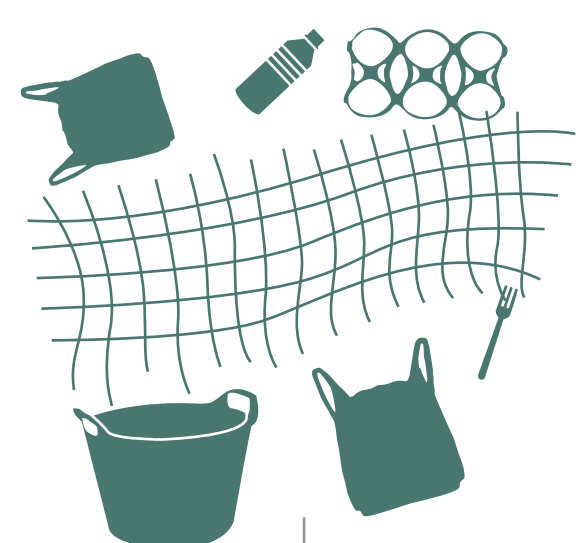
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2050

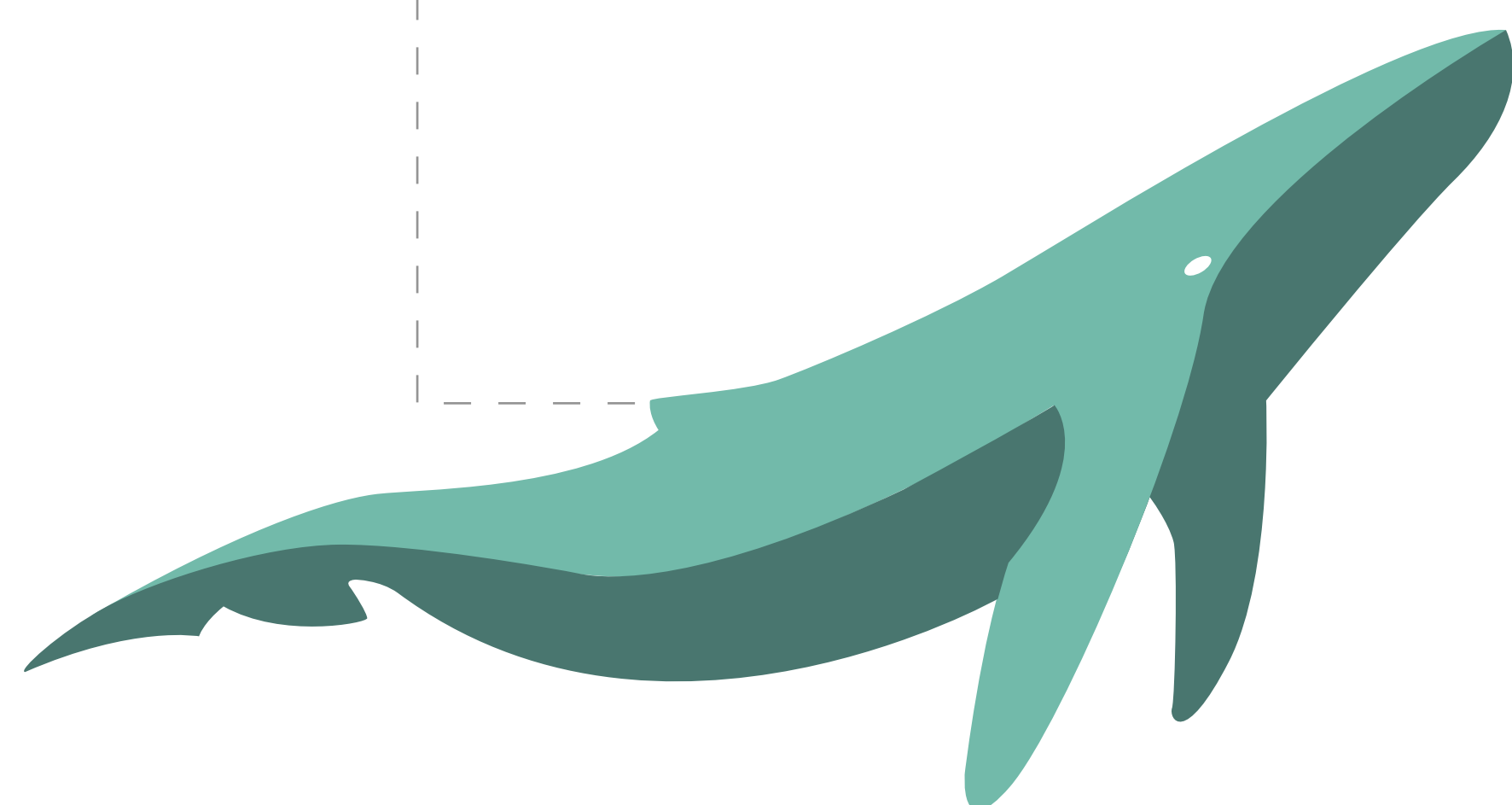


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The oceans are expected to contain 1 tons of plastic for every 3 tons of fish by 2025, and by **2050, more plastics than fish** by weight.



In March 2016, two whales washed ashore in Germany, disoriented from warm waters and full of plastic - **fishing nets, buckets, car parts** and other plastic debris were found **inside of whale stomachs**.



Oceans & Wildlife



Current estimates suggest that there are over **150 million tons** of plastics floating in the **oceans today**. Plastics are collecting in five **giant whirlpools** called **gyres**, where plastic sinks to the bottom or gets dispersed around the world, **polluting coastal environments and wildlife**.



Resources:
nationalgeographic.com
ellenmacarthurfoundation.org
5gyres.org
parleytv

Gratas Sparnauskas - Fall 2016
Infographic - Pino Trogu