

# A message to all those who go to sea...

# THINK DON'T THROW

## Why should I care?

- Sea turtles, seabirds, and other marine animals may mistake plastic for food, and eating it can cause injury and even death
- Marine animals are curious and can get tangled in plastic strapping and other derelict fishing gear, such as nets
- Water cooling intakes on boats can be blocked by plastic bags and other debris
- Propellers and underwater equipment can be fouled by discarded plastic bags, fishing line and nets
- Under an international law, the disposal of all plastics at sea is prohibited
- Oil is a hazardous substance that is toxic to marine life, and can cover and kill seagrass beds, mangroves, corals, and other marine organisms
- Seabirds can die when they try to clean themselves of oil, which interferes with the natural insulation system provided by their feathers
- Oil and marine debris (e.g. garbage) spoil the appearance of beaches, mangroves and reef flats for everyone

## What can I do?

- Don't throw plastics and other garbage overboard
- Remove unnecessary packaging from items before going to sea
- Ensure you have adequate storage for garbage on board
- Provide a separate bin or bag for storing plastics and other debris—recycle what you can!
- Display notices on board explaining where garbage is stored
- Dispose of all garbage on shore in the proper receptacles (e.g. recycling bins, trash cans) at the end of each trip
- Remind others not to pollute or discard garbage into the ocean
- Fix oil leaks before they drop into the bilge
- Fix a drip pan under the engine to catch any leaking oil
- Use oil absorption materials in the bilge
- Transfer old engine oil and oily bilge water into a container and dispose of it on shore in the proper place



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