



Ocean Plastics: The Children's Voice

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The recent past has seen an explosion of public interest in the significant impact of plastic pollution on the oceans and marine life. This interest is already driving response from policymakers, agencies and industry alike. However, many members of the public confess to not understanding the responses they should be making as individuals, highlighting the need for significant educational drive throughout wider society. Educating through children can be an effective dissemination mechanism and a vector for societal change.

This presentation will detail a study on children's views and opinions on plastics in the oceans exploring the knowledge of the issues and concerns they presently have. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states in articles 12 and 29 that children have a right to participate and be educated on environmental matters. The children's voice can be a powerful force for change, and this presentation will highlight the ways in which this voice can be best harnessed to advance the issues of plastic pollution in the oceans.