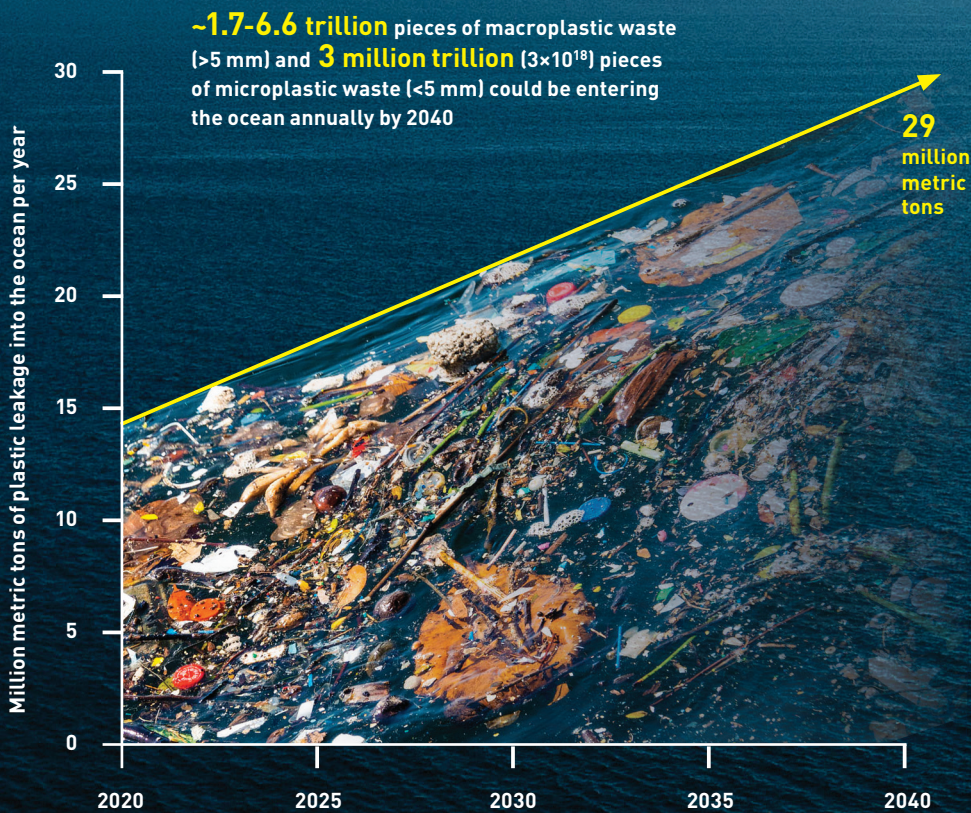


# Plastic in the Oceans

According to a recent report by the Pew Charitable Trusts and SYSTEMIQ, without action, the annual flow of plastic into the world's oceans will nearly triple by 2040, to 29 million metric tons per year—negatively impacting ocean habitats, wildlife and the global ecosystem. For more on how optics can be used to detect microplastic waste, see this month's cover story (p. 24).



85% of all plastic leaking into the ocean comes from **5 sources**—films, bags, bottles, sachets and household goods



11% of plastic flow into the ocean comes from just **4 sources** of microplastics—tire abrasion, production pellets, textiles and personal-care products



Ocean habitats, like coral reefs, and more than **800 species**, including **100%** of sea turtles, **40%** of cetaceans and **44%** of marine birds, are affected by marine plastic pollution

For steps that can be taken to cut the annual flow of plastic into the oceans, visit [www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/assets/2020/07/breakingtheplasticwave\\_report.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/assets/2020/07/breakingtheplasticwave_report.pdf)

Source: "Breaking the Plastic Wave," the Pew Charitable Trusts and SYSTEMIQ, 2020 / Images: Getty Images / Infographic: Alessia Kirkland