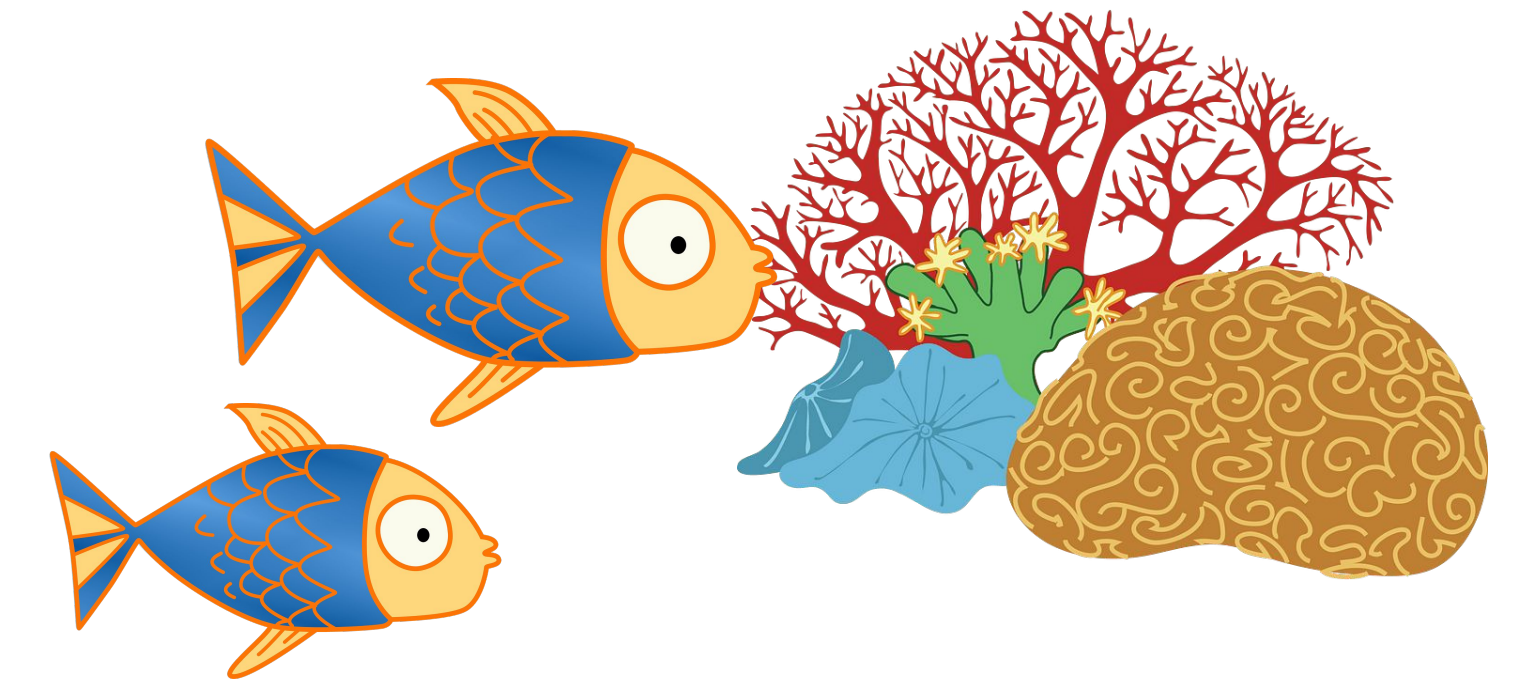


# Microplastic Ingestion on Corals

## How do Microplastics get into our oceans?

Larger plastics in ocean break apart from the sun and other natural causes producing tiny plastic particles which are known as microplastics (NOAA, 2023).



## How do corals ingest microplastics?

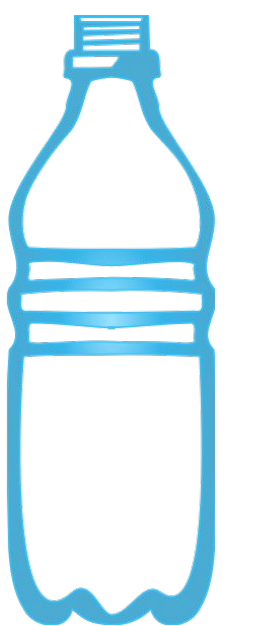
Corals do not have eyes so they can physically not see what they are ingesting. Some corals mistake these microplastics for prey and will ingest them unknowingly (Hall, 2015).

## What are the effects of coral ingestion of microplastics?

The effects of microplastics in corals is still very unknown and being heavily researched but 2 confirmed impacts are:

- **Coral fertilization** (Berry et al.).
- **Coral bleaching**

Plastic water bottle in the ocean takes 500 years to completely break down into microplastics



## Timeline of a plastic water bottle decomposing in the ocean

1503 Da Vinci begins painting the Mona Lisa

1861 American Civil War

1939 World War 2

2001 First Ipod was invented