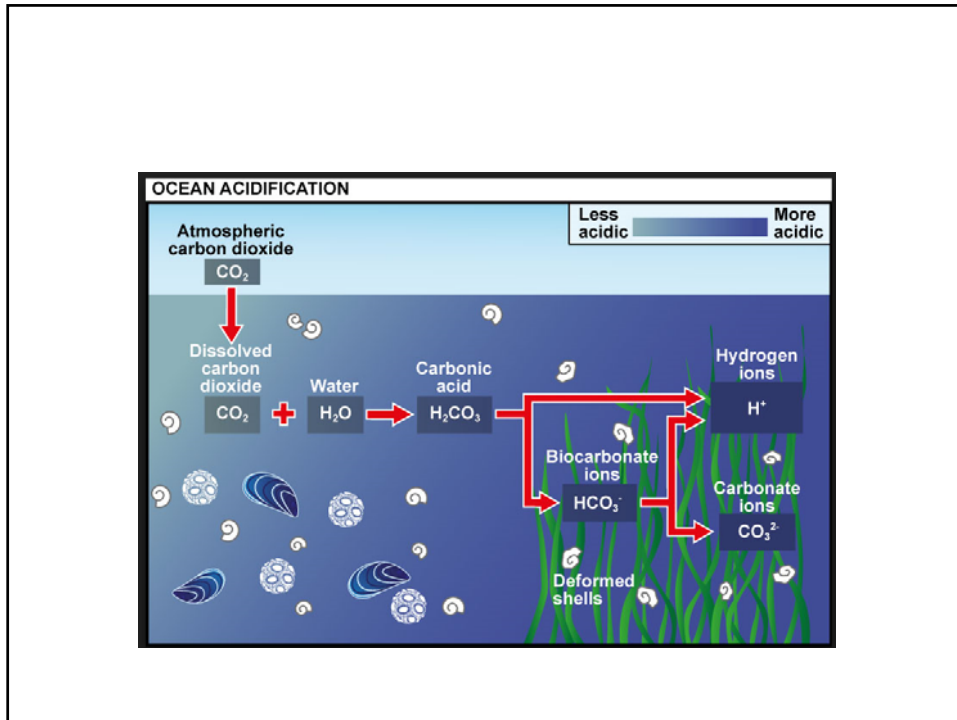


Law of the Sea Environmental Protection

Prof. Dr. Christina Voigt
University of Oslo

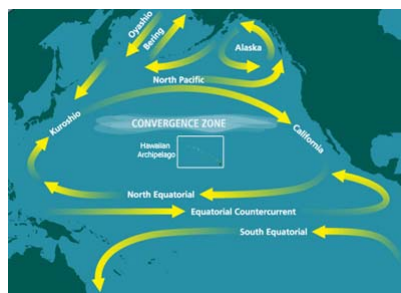
Marine Pollution





Garbage Patch





The Great Pacific garbage patch, also described as the Pacific trash vortex, is a gyre of marine debris particles in the central North Pacific Ocean located roughly between 135°W to 155°W and 35°N and 42°N. The patch extends over an indeterminate area, with estimates ranging very widely depending on the degree of plastic concentration used to define the affected area.

The patch is characterized by exceptionally high concentrations of pelagic plastics, chemical sludge and other debris that have been trapped by the currents of the North Pacific Gyre. Despite its size and density (4 particles per cubic meter), the patch is not visible from satellite photography, nor even necessarily to a casual boater or diver in the area, since it consists primarily of a small increase in suspended, often-microscopic particles in the upper water column.

ICJ: WHALING IN THE ANTARCTIC
(AUSTRALIA v. JAPAN: NEW ZEALAND intervening)
JUDGMENT OF 31 MARCH 2014

