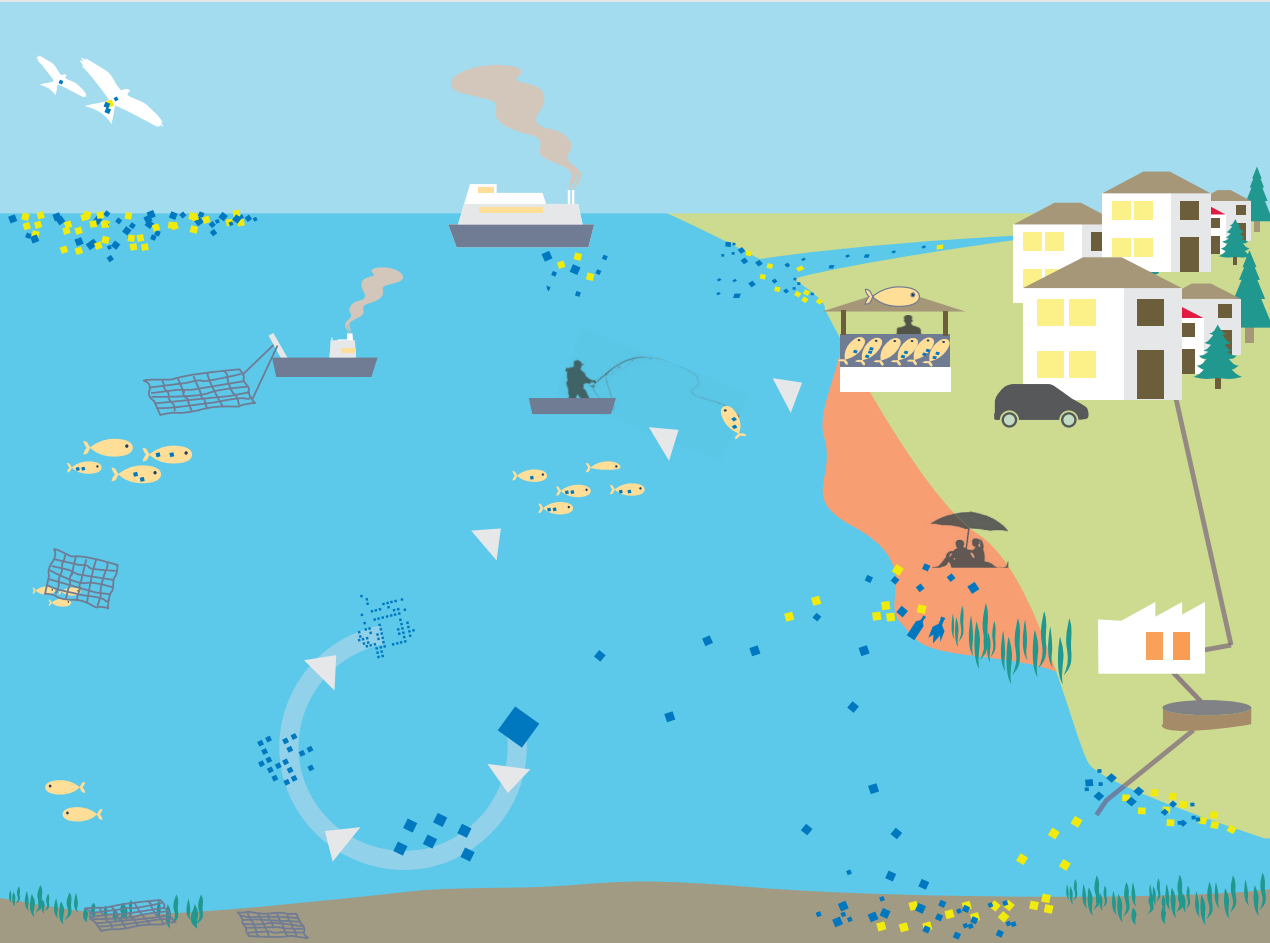




Marine litter

Increasing amounts of marine litter are ending up in the world's oceans and harming the health of ecosystems, killing animals as they get trapped or swallow the litter. Human health is also at risk as most of this waste is plastic, which breaks down into smaller pieces that may subsequently end up in human food. These are just a few of the problems emerging from the waste collecting in our seas.



Marine litter ends up in the sea via rivers and sewage pipes or with rain water and wind. Litter from ships and boats often also ends up in the ocean.



Vast patches of litter and small plastic particles are funnelled together by ocean currents. Litter also accumulates on the sea bottom and on beaches.



About **10 %** of the litter in the world's oceans is discarded fishing gear, which often continues to kill wildlife.



Many plastics break into ever smaller pieces that can end up in the food chain.



Around **36%** of the world's seabird species and many species of fish have been reported to ingest marine litter.