

**WPI**

# The Effects of Plastic Pollution on Sea Turtles

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## The Problem

Sea turtle mortality rates are rising due to the increase of plastic materials spilling into the oceans



## Methodology



- Analyze reports and necropsy results about sea turtles and plastic pollution



- Collect data from a local beach and compare it to other trash reports



- To further our understanding about our topic and to get input from experts

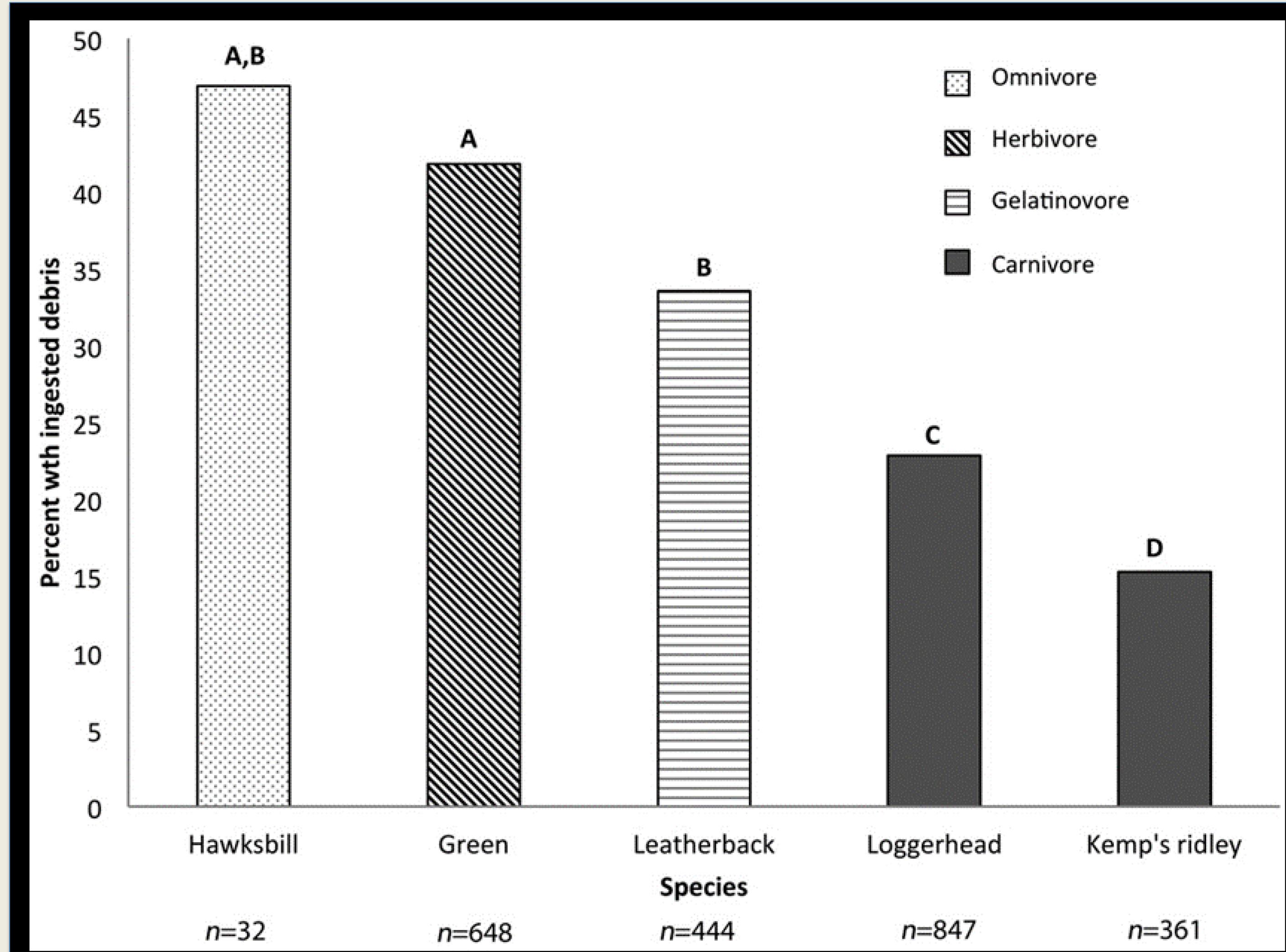


- Educate the younger generation about our problem to hopefully raise awareness

## Acknowledgements

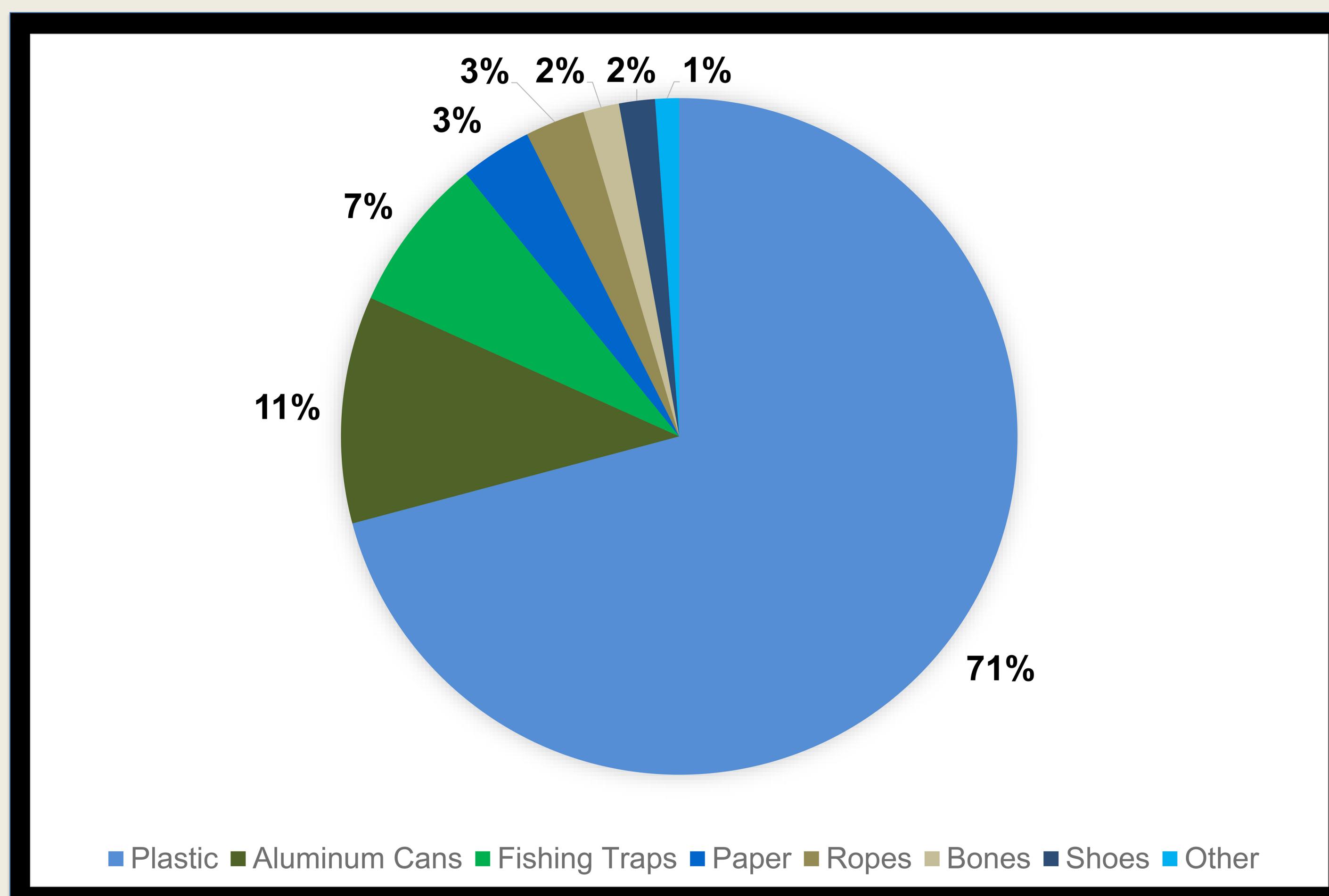
We would like to thank Ashley Stokes from the Seacoast Science Center and Polaris Charter School for helping us with our project

## An Alarming Amount of Plastic



Percent of sea turtles, by species and diet, that ingested plastic debris (Schuyler et al., 2013)

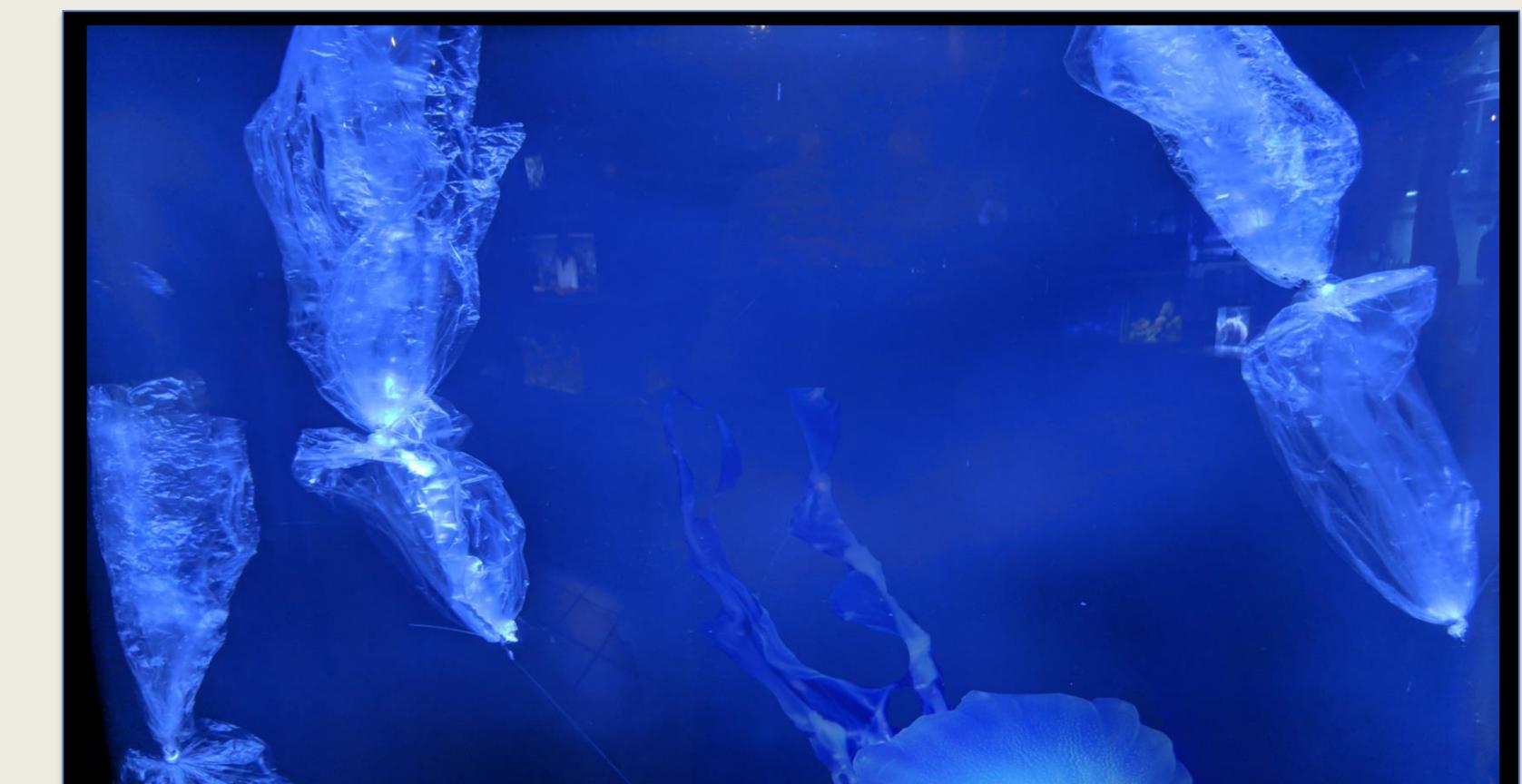
## Data We Collected at Hampton Beach



Within a quarter mile radius, 175 pieces of material were found and 71% was plastic

## Conservation Efforts

Blue Ocean Society – Educates the public about microplastics  
Ocean Conservancy – Performs worldwide trash cleanups annually



Jellyfish look very similar to plastic in sea turtles' eyes

## Our Solution

- Teach a science-based curriculum about plastic pollution and sea turtles at Polaris Charter School to 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Through our curriculum we hope to encourage the reduction of unnecessary use of plastic in daily lives

## References

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