

Earth Day

2018

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# PLASTIC POLLUTION IN THE OCEAN

- Decades of **poor waste management policies**

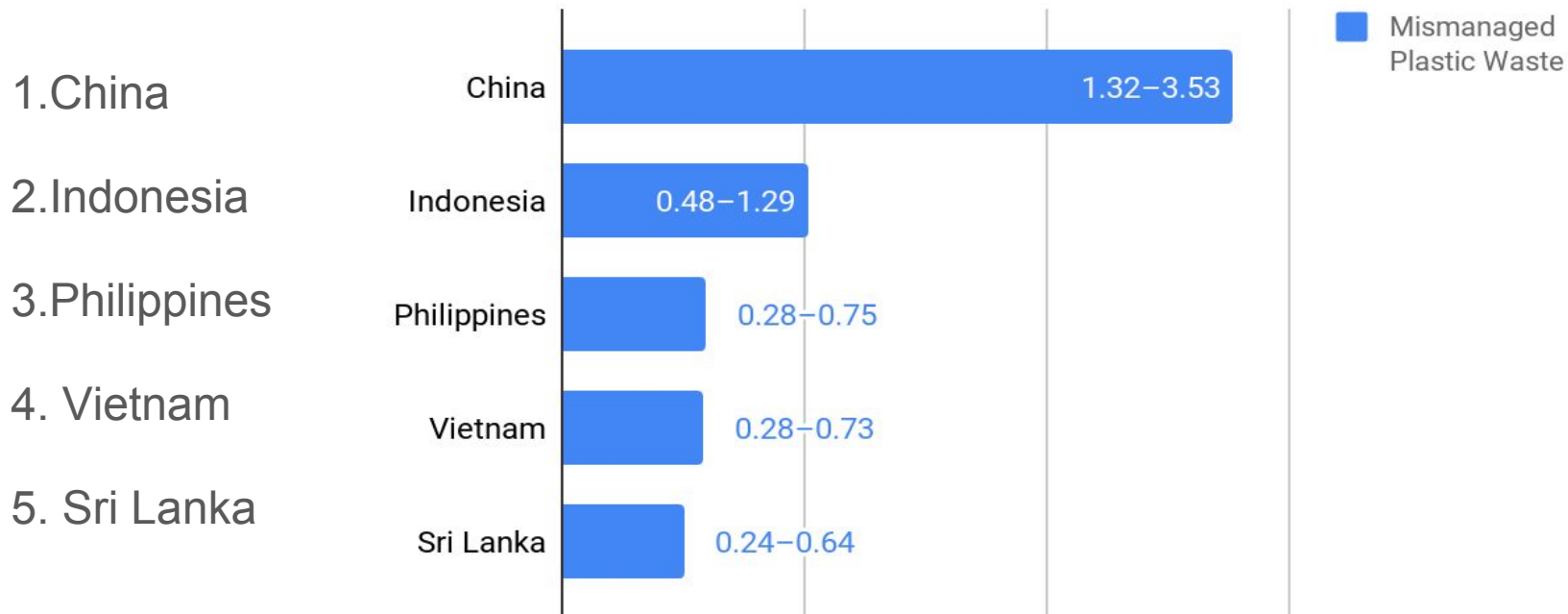
➔ led to an international pollution crisis that threatens each of the world's oceans.

- These huge concentrations of plastic debris cover large swaths of the ocean  
( the one between California and Hawaii is the size of the state of Texas)

➔ 2050 there will be more plastic in the oceans than there are fish (by weight).



# TOP 20 COUNTRIES RANKED BY MASS OF MISMANAGED PLASTIC WASTE

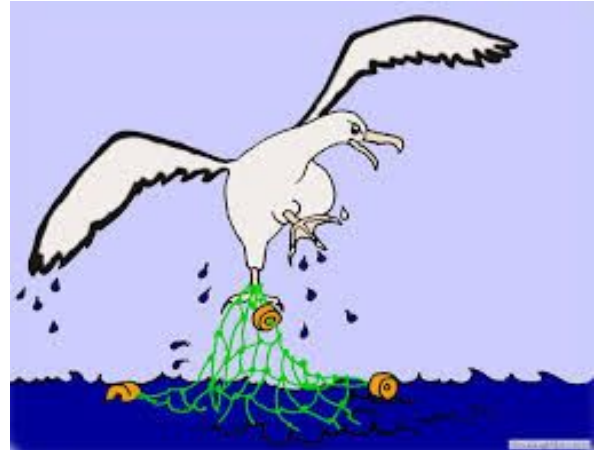


# WHY IS PLASTIC SO HARMFUL TO MARINE LIFE?

- It can cause harm to them in so many different ways.

➡ Sea creatures eat or get ensnared in **plastic debris** and can be killed or maimed

➡ Consumed by marine organisms, as well as the **toxins** they absorb from the water, accumulate up **the food chain**



➡ Larger animals often **become trapped or ensnared in plastic bags, fishing line, and other debris.** **Sea turtles** specifically are highly susceptible

➡ **Can't distinguish** Animals who eat plastic often starve because they can't digest the plastic and it fills their stomachs, preventing them from eating real food.



# LIST OF REFERENCES

<http://www.earthday.org/wp-content/uploads/Plastic-Pollution-Primer-and-Action-Toolkit.pdf>