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The impact of marine debris on cetaceans with consideration of plastics generated by the COVID-19 pandemic[☆]

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ABSTRACT

The accumulation of human-derived debris in the oceans is a global concern and a serious threat to marine wildlife. There is a volume of evidence that points to deleterious effects of marine debris (MD) on cetaceans in terms of both entanglement and ingestion. This review suggests that about 68% of cetacean species are affected by interacting with MD with an increase in the number of species reported to have interacted with it over the past decades. Despite the growing body of evidence, there is an ongoing debate on the actual effects of plastics on cetaceans and, in particular, with reference to the ingestion of microplastics and their potential toxicological and

Key questions:

Global:

Where are the main hot spots for cetacean marine debris interactions (strandings investigations key)?

How do you distinguish entanglement in active fishing gear from lost gear (marine debris)?

What are the full effects of microdebris?

Local:

How can ASCOBANS best contribute to this issue?



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Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme

Fifth session

Nairobi (hybrid), 22 and 23 February 2021
and 28 February–2 March 2022

**Resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment
Assembly on 2 March 2022**

5/14. End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Noting with concern that the high and rapidly increasing levels of plastic pollution represent a serious environmental problem at a global scale, negatively impacting the environmental, social and