

**99% of seabirds will
have consumed
plastic by 2050**

Entanglement

Over 16% (56 species) of seabirds have been recorded to become snared in plastic, either after mistaking it for food or accidentally swimming into it. Entanglement can lead to injury, infection or drowning of the seabird. Discarded fishing gear and six-pack yokes are the most common causes of entanglement. Some seabirds also become tangled in plastic debris after using it to build their nests.



Ingestion

A recent study showed that 90% of seabirds have consumed plastic, with models predicting this to rise to 99% by 2050. Seabirds are highly susceptible to ingestion of plastic as they mistake floating debris for food. Even worse, many seabirds regurgitate the plastic matter directly into the mouths of their chicks. Plastics reported to be ingested range from large plastic items, nurdles, which are used as a feedstock material in the plastics industry, plastic bags and fishing lines.

Mechanical

Plastic can become lodged in the digestive passages of birds leading to a false sense of fullness and starvation, or sharp pieces can damage the gut resulting in infection or death.

Chemical

Hazardous chemicals such as DE and PCBs from the surrounding sea water concentrate on the surface of plastic particles adding to toxins already present in the plastic from their production process. These build up in the body tissues and have serious detrimental health effects.