

Spécialité Négociation et Relation Clients

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Dramatic rise in plastic seabed litter around UK

There has been a dramatic rise in the amount of litter¹ found on the seabed around Britain, according to new government data. An average of 358 litter items were found per square kilometre of seabed in 2016, a 158% rise on the previous year, and 222% higher than the 5 average for 1992-94.

Almost 78% of the litter is plastic, 6.3% rubber² and 2.7% metal, according to the data published by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.(...)

Tim Farron, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on the environment, said: “It is particularly worrying to see such a sharp rise in plastic litter polluting our seas. Unless we take action, 10 in a few years Blue Planet will have to be renamed Plastic Planet. The government needs to get its act together and take urgent action to clean up our seas and countryside.”(...)

Hugo Tagholm, the chief executive of Surfers Against Sewage³, called for taxes and policy changes to increase recycling and reduce business and supermarket use of single-use plastics. (...)

15 “Natalie Fee, the founder of the City to Sea campaign group, said: “Joining the Refill movement and carrying a reusable water bottle or coffee cup in public, carrying a metal straw in your bag, switching to reusable menstrual products – these things spread a powerful message, we can choose to reuse.

“We don’t have to rely on supermarkets or government to make these simple choices for 20 us, although it would help if they were more proactive in tackling this environmental disaster.”

The production of plastics is forecast to double in the next 20 years. A million plastic bottles are bought around the world every minute, and 38.5 million are used every day in the UK. Only half are recycled.

25 Sewage plants⁴ also contribute to plastic pollution in the oceans, because they use plastic pellets known as Bio-Beads in wastewater treatment that spill into the UK’s coastal waters.

Patrick Barkham (323 mots)

¹ litter : rubbish, waste

² rubber :latex material

³ Surfers Against Sewage : Environmental charity tackling plastic pollution

⁴ sewage plant : company that treats used waters