The 192 countries with a coast bordering Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans, Mediterranean and Black seas produced a total of 2.5 billion metric tons of solid waste. Of that, 275 million metric tons was plastic, and an estimated 8 million metric tons of mismanaged plastic waste entered the ocean in 2010.

Mitigation options:
- Reduce plastic in waste stream
- Improve solid waste management infrastructure
- Increase capture

Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean in 2010

Global plastic production* = 270 million metric tons
Total plastic waste = 275 million metric tons
Coastal plastic waste = 99.5 million metric tons
Coastal mismanaged plastic waste = 31.9 million metric tons
Generated by 2 billion people within 50 km (30 miles) of the coast
8 Million metric tons of plastic waste goes into the ocean
6,350-245,000 metric tons**

Estimated mass of plastic waste floating at the ocean surface

Graphic by Lindsay Robinson/University of Georgia

*Plastics Europe, "Plastics—the Facts 2013" (2010 data)
**Cózar et al., 2014; Eriksen et al., 2014

Jambeck et al., Science 2015