

The fate of floating plastic debris in the ocean

Invited Seminar by **Dr. Matthias Egger** (The Ocean Cleanup, NL)



12:30-13:30, Monday December 20th, 2021

Room 16b.1.1, Campus Leonardo

Politecnico di Milano, Via Ampère, 10 - or online at
<http://politecnicomilano.webex.com/meet/renato.casagrandi>

Abstract: Plastic waste accumulating in the global ocean is an increasingly threatening environmental issue. A large mass of plastics is currently floating and accumulating in subtropical oceanic gyres. These so-called ocean garbage patches became a symbol of the impact of the widescale use of plastics and its discarding in the global ocean. In this presentation, I will summarize the current state of knowledge concerning the sources, transport, and fate of positively buoyant plastic debris in the ocean, ranging from micro- to macroplastics. Such information is of paramount importance to assess the long-term risks of ocean plastic pollution for marine ecosystems and to advance optimized mitigation strategies. Lastly, I will also discuss The Ocean Cleanup's approach to ridding the world's oceans of plastic.