

# Sources and fate of floating plastic debris in the ocean and implications for optimal cleanup strategies

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



14:30-15:30, Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Room 7.0.1, Campus Leonardo  
Politecnico di Milano - or online at  
<http://politecnicomilano.webex.com/meet/renato.casagranti>

**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.