

Term	Definition	Source
Anthropogenic	"Scientists use the word "anthropogenic" in referring to environmental change caused or influenced by people, either directly or indirectly."	USGS
Biodegradable	"Biodegradability is the capacity for biological degradation of organic materials by living organisms down to the base substances such as water, carbon dioxide, methane, basic elements and biomass."	ScienceDirect
Derelict Vessels	"vessels that are no longer taken care of and pose a threat to people and the environment. Though the legal definition of abandoned and derelict vessels varies, "derelict" often refers to vessels that are neglected with an identifiable owner, while "abandoned" vessels are those where the owner is unknown or has surrendered rights of ownership."	NOAA
Garbage Patch	"A collection of marine debris in the ocean... areas of spinning debris in the ocean."	National Geographic
Ghost Fishing	"A major effect of derelict traps is 'ghost fishing' or continued capture of crabs and fish without fishers maintaining or baiting of traps. Ghost fishing can be a long-term problem because crab traps take years to degrade. Fish and crabs that are caught in the derelict traps die and continue to "re-bait" the traps, attracting more animals. Millions of dollars in crab harvest are likely lost to abandoned traps every year. Blue crab mortality might be as high as 25 crabs per trap per year left in the environment."	Pontchartrain Conservancy
Gyre	" A large system of swirling ocean currents."	National Geographic
Ingestion	"Animals may mistakenly eat plastic and other debris. We know that this can be harmful to the health of fish, seabirds, and other marine animals. These items can take up room in their stomachs, making the animals feel full and stopping them from eating real food."	NOAA
Litter	"Littering is defined by when waste or discarded materials are disposed of in an improper manner, in unwanted locations. It is even classed as a type of pollution."	UNISAN
Landfill	"Modern landfills are well-engineered and managed facilities for the disposal of solid waste. Landfills are located, designed, operated and monitored to ensure compliance with federal regulations. They are also designed to protect the environment from contaminants, which may be present in the waste stream."	EPA
Marine Debris	"Persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or the Great Lakes."	NOAA

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Microplastics	"If plastic pollution is not removed from the environment, it can be weathered or broken into smaller pieces of plastic, called microplastics. Microplastics can also be manufactured (e.g., small plastic pellets in face wash and toothpaste). No matter the source, microplastics are defined as any plastic that is smaller than 5 millimeters."	<u>Mississippi State University</u>
Non-Native Species	" Marine debris can transport species from one place to another. Algae, barnacles, crabs, or other species can attach themselves to debris and be transported across the ocean. If the species is invasive, and can settle and establish in a new environment, it can outcompete or overcrowd native species, disrupting the ecosystem."	<u>NOAA</u>
Ocean-Dumping	"Any deliberate disposal of wastes or other matter from vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea"	<u>Science Direct</u>
Photodegrade	"To decompose as a result of exposure to light, especially that of the sun."	<u>Your Dictionary</u>
Single-Use Plastics	"Single-use plastics are goods that are made primarily from fossil fuel-based chemicals (petrochemicals) and are meant to be disposed of right after use—often, in mere minutes. Single-use plastics are most commonly used for packaging and serviceware, such as bottles, wrappers, straws, and bags."	<u>NRDC</u>
Storm Drains	"A storm drain is a channel or pipe used to carry off rainwater. The term could be used for drains at a home or businesses as well as for the pipes that are part of a city's drainage system."	<u>Trenchlesspedia</u>
Urban Runoff	"Urban runoff means stormwater runoff from an urbanized area including streets and adjacent domestic and commercial properties that carries pollutants of various types into the storm drainage system and receiving waters."	<u>Law Insider</u>