

PLASTIC OCEANS!

By: Dominika Nastarowicz, Mika Howard and Salma Abdelattiff

Once in the ocean, plastic litter affects the safety of sea transport, fisheries, tourism and recreation. When broken up into tiny pieces, plastic attracts toxic chemicals released over decades from industry and agriculture, and concentration of which increases as they move up the food chain. Exposures to these chemicals have been suggested to contribute to some cancers, infertility, as well as immune, metabolic, cognitive and behavioural disorders. The entry of plastic pieces into our food chain is of great concern to human health.

Philip Hammond is a British conservative politician who is proposing a plastic tax. Manufacturers could be encouraged to use recycled plastic in products by changes to the tax system, the chancellor signalled yesterday. These taxes could be introduced in the autumn budget.

