

# How are the United States and the rest of the world dealing with this plastic pollution problem?

Chance Ouellette  
The University of North Carolina at Wilmington

## Introduction

- There are about 5.25 Trillion macro and microplastics in our oceans
- There are around 8 million new pieces daily that contribute to the pollution in our oceans.



## Findings

### The World

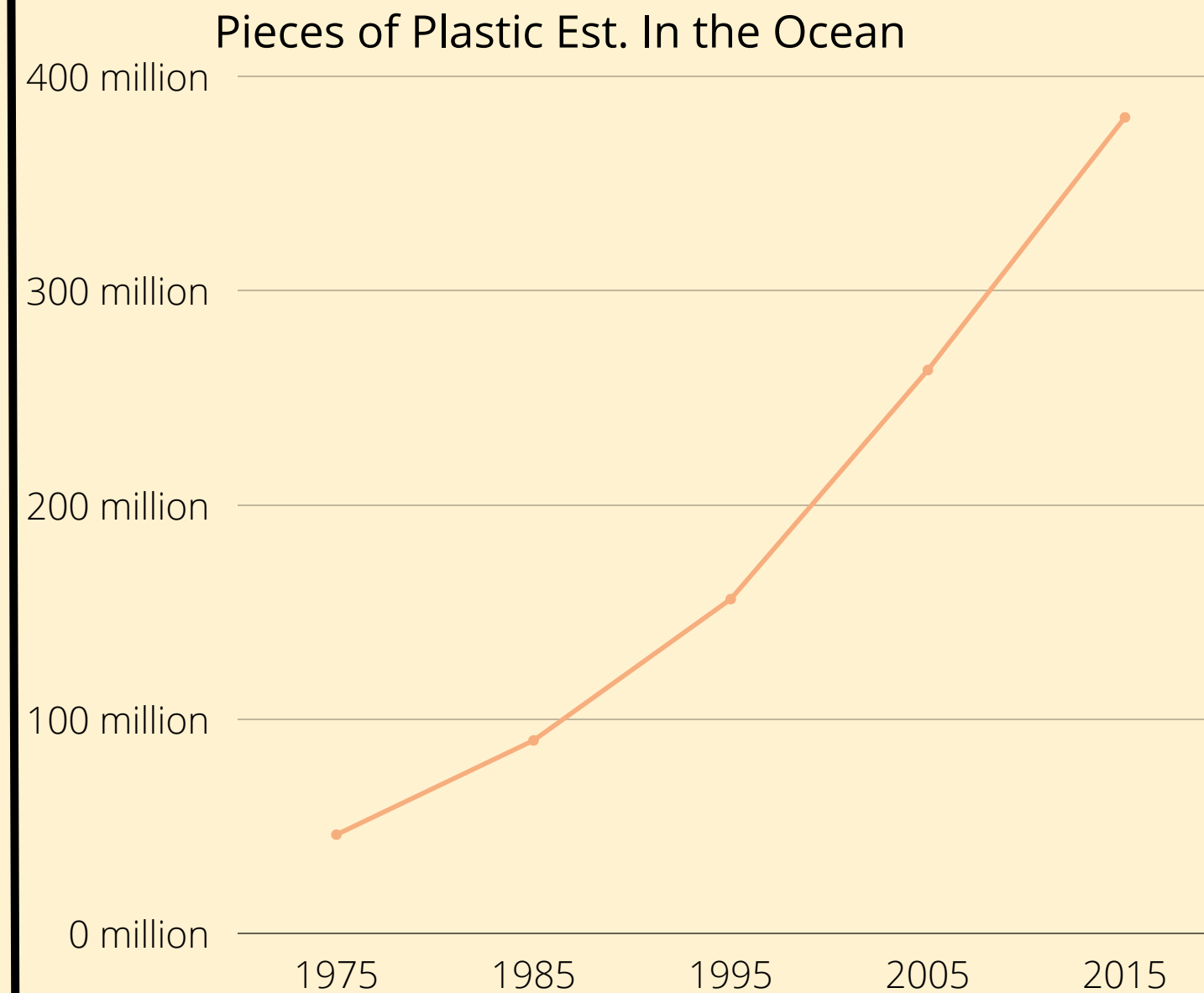
- Many countries in the world are restricting the use of single-use plastic.
- Around 60 countries have made a pact with UNEP to help with the reduction of plastic in the ocean

### The United States

- The Fish and Wildlife services under the United States government have taken action to supply volunteers to help with the global cleanup
- The United States has started to try and push acts that would reduce the amount of single-use plastic but it hasn't gone anywhere since March 2021.(2)

### Locally

- Many local governments are taking action and with more options for recycling plastic. it becoming easier to recycle.
- New Hanover shippes plastics around to find places that can use them by partnering with Sonoco Recycling.(1)



## Solutions

- Lessen the amount of single-use plastic that you are using.
- Responsibly recycle the plastics that you are using.
- Checking what plastics are able to be recycled in your county so that you can know what to recycle and what to outsource

## Conclusion

In Conclusion, the things that we are doing are working but as a collective world, we could be doing more. Some things that we can do include.

- Communicating with your local government on how you can properly recycle your plastic
- Find out what you can do in your area to make sure that your city or town stays clean.

## References

1. <https://www.wect.com/2019/11/29/conservate-cape-fear-what-can-cannot-be-recycled-new-hanover-countys-facility/>
2. <https://www.urthpact.com/plastics-bans-in-the-us-where-they-are-and-how-to-comply-with-them/#:~:text=This%20variance%20has%20a%20lot,with%20the%20Senate%20for%20review.>
3. <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/how-countries-are-turning-tide-marine-plastic-pollution>