

Plastic: How to predict threats to animals in oceans and rivers

By Helen Briggs, *BBC News*
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Researchers went through records of plastic eaten by aquatic creatures to find out more about the risks.

They say the length of an animal can be used to estimate how big a piece of plastic it might accidentally consume.

This amounts to about a 20th of the size of the animal.

To predict – predvideti

Research – istraživanje

Researcher – istraživač

Aquatic creatures – vodene životinje

To consume – pojesti

To estimate – proceniti

Threat – pretnja

To amount to - činiti

Size – veličina

Length - dužina

Width – širina

20th – 20. deo

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They hope the data can be used to find out more about the risks. More than 700 species of marine and freshwater animals are known to ingest plastic, but study researcher Dr Ifan Jâms of Cardiff University said it was difficult to figure out how much plastic they could be eating.

Data – podaci

Species – vrsta

Marine/freshwater – morske/slatkovodne

To ingest – progutati

To figure out – utvrditi

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"This information gives us a way to start measuring the extent of the plastic pollution problem," he said. "We hope this study lays a foundation for including the 'ingestibility' of plastics into global risk assessments."

To measure – meriti

The extent – obim, veličina

Pollution – zagađenje

To pollute – zagađivati

Polluter – zagađivač

To lay a foundation – postaviti temelj

Ingestibility – mogućnost gutanja

Assessment - procena

To assess – proceniti

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Dr Jâms and colleagues at Cardiff trawled through published data to examine records of plastic found inside more than 2,000 marine and freshwater species, including mammals, reptiles, fish and invertebrates, from tiny fish larvae to 10-metre-long whales.

To trawl through – pretraživati

Published data – objavljeni/publikovani podaci

To examine – pregledati

Records – evidencija

Tiny – sićušan

Invertebrate - beskičmenjak

Larvae – larve

Mammal – sisar

Whale - kit

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They created an equation to predict the maximum size of plastic item an animal can swallow, based on the length of its body.

The new equation could help determine the risk of plastics to any species - and the amount of plastic that may be moving into oceans and rivers, and entering food chains.

Equation – jednačina

To predict – predvideti

Item – predmet

To swallow – gutati

Food chain – lanac ishrane

To determine - utvrditi

Amount – količina

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Project leader Prof Isabelle Durance said: "All of us will have seen distressing, often heart-breaking, images of animals affected by plastic, but a great many more interactions between animals and plastic are never witnessed. This study gives us a new way of visualising those many, many unseen events."

The research is published in [Nature Communications](#). (naziv naučnog časopisa – ne prevodi se)

Project leader – vođa projekta

Distressing – uznemirujući

Affected – pogođen

To witness – videti, biti svedok

To visualize – videti

Event - događaj

To publish research – objaviti istraživanje