

PLASTIC FISHES (II)

Plastic bags and mixed technique on canvas; 80 x 100 cm; 2011



*Amount of plastic material found inside a Cuvier's beaked whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*), which was found dead on a beach in the south of Galicia. Most probably, the plastic was the reason for its death.
(Acuario de O Grove, Galicia, Spain)*

Plastics on the menu

A large number of marine species has been reported to ingest plastic debris. Among them are: Sea turtles, sea birds, marine mammals (e.g. cetaceans, seals, sea lions), fish and squid. The main reason for plastic ingestions may be that the plastic debris is confused for food. Plastic bags and sheets may be mistaken for jellyfish or squid, small fragments (microplastics) for plankton.



Skeleton of the Cuvier's beaked whale (See photo on the left!)

References:

- [1] C. M. Boerger, G. L. Lattin, S. L. Moore, C. J. Moore; Marine Pollution Bulletin 60 (2010) 2275–2278; Plastic ingestion by planktivorous fishes in the North Pacific Central Gyre
- [2] P. Denuncio, R. Bastida, M. Dassis, G. Giardino, M. Gerpe, D. Rodríguez; Marine Pollution Bulletin 62 (2011) 1836–1841; Plastic ingestion in Franciscana dolphins, *Pontoporia blainvillei* (Gervais and d'Orbigny, 1844), from Argentina
- [3] Greenpeace (2006): Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans