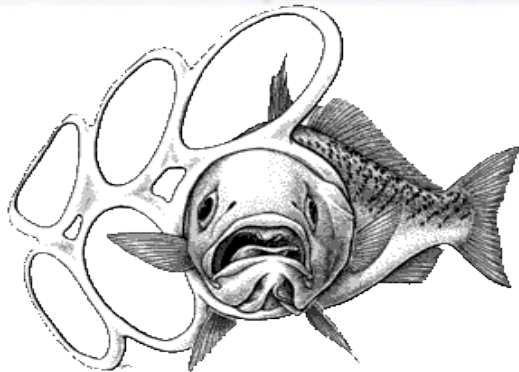




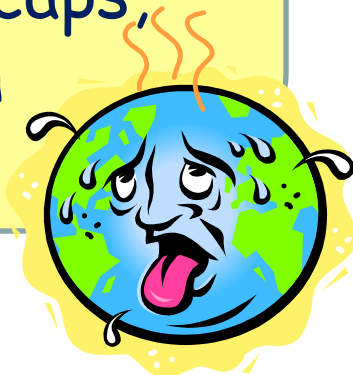
The Human Impact on Coasts





Global Warming and Rising Sea Levels

World average temperatures are rising because of global warming. The ice caps around the North and South Poles are starting to melt. Sea levels across the world have risen over the last century. This is due to melting ice caps, and the increase in temperatures.



What Causes Global Warming?

The amount of carbon dioxide gas in the air has risen because of the burning of coal, oil, gas and forests.

Dumping Waste in the Sea



When the population of the British Isles was small, the sea could break down the waste materials and convert them to harmless substances. Today the population is very high, and we are producing huge amounts of waste.



Sewage Pollution

Human sewage from towns and cities is carried to a sewage works, where it is usually treated. In many places on the coast, sewage is pumped straight into the sea.

Some of the untreated sewage is later washed up on the shores. It spreads germs and also poisons shellfish, which are then eaten by people.



Oil Pollution

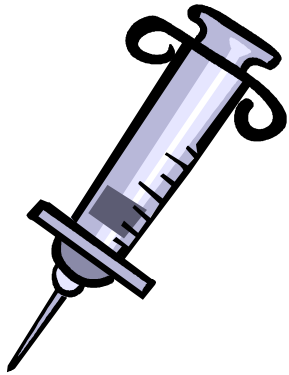


Half of the world's oil is transported at sea by supertankers and there have been a number of accidents. Millions of sea and coast wildlife have died.

Sometimes detergents and other chemicals are used to clean the oil from rocks, beaches and the sea. Many of these chemicals are poisonous and can be more harmful than the oil itself.

Litter

Some people don't think about the consequences when they drop litter on beaches. Litter can be extremely dangerous. Sometimes birds, fish and seals mistake pieces of plastic for food, swallow them and either choke to death or die of starvation. *Click on each image to see the consequences.*



Broken glass and old medical syringes can cut people and spread infection.



A discarded fishing net can trap and suffocate a seal or dolphin.



A plastic canned-drink holder can strangle a bird or fish.

Crowded Coasts



The demand for second homes, holiday camps, hotels, caravan sites amusement parks and marinas is increasing. Many elderly people retire to coastal towns, which increases the demand for new houses. Industry near estuaries and ports continues to expand. It seems that everyone wants to be near the coasts.



Protecting the Coast



Kynance Cove is owned and protected by the National Trust.



Lulworth Cove is part of the World Heritage Jurassic Coastline.

A number of organisations are working hard to protect the unspoiled parts of the coastline of the British Isles. The National Trust are funded by members. They have bought long stretches of attractive coastline. Also the government has made more land Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.