



PLASTICS IN THE OCEAN

A joint workshop from ScotCHEM & MASTS - open to all

Online via HopIn on Friday 9th October 10.00-12:00

REGISTER TO ATTEND [HERE](#)

Every year, it is estimated that up to 12.7 million metric tons of mismanaged waste plastics enter our ocean, with up to approximately 180 million metric tons that currently circulate in the global marine environment. Since plastics degrade very slowly, they can persist in the oceans and rivers for decades or longer and possess a significant growing threat that endangers marine life either through physical entanglement or by ingestion. In addition to these harmful effects, billions are being spent globally to keep beaches and waterways free from litter not only because of the impact this has on social wellbeing and tourism but also the significant negative economic impact it has on marine productivity. Plastics in the ocean are a major problem and only getting worse!

This joint workshop jointly hosted by MASTS and ScotCHEM will bring together the marine science community and the materials chemistry community in Scotland together with representatives from the socio-economic sector to hear about some of the latest research and discuss the global challenges associated with marine plastics.

The aim of the Workshop is to:

- To network and create new partnerships
- To identify areas where the marine scientists and the chemistry community can work together on this issue with the aim of creating proposals for funded programmes
- To define plans for tackling the issues to influence the policy makers

The first 45 minutes of the workshop will be a number of short talks:

1. Plastics in the World's Ocean Gyres by Prof Nico Bruns, University of Strathclyde



2. Recent Developments in Sustainable Polymer Research by Dr Jennifer Garden, University of Edinburgh
3. An Overview of MASTS Plastics Research by Dr Mark Hartl, Heriot Watt University and Co-Convenor of the MASTS Marine Stressors Forum
4. Marine Plastics: the Policy Context and Implications by Karen Leckie, Scottish Government

Following a short comfort break (10 mins), Prof David Bucknall (Heriot Watt University) will provide a short summary of the talks to set the scene for a discussion that will focus on the following:

- What are the gaps?
- What is our capability?
- What needs to be developed and how can we work together to achieve this?

Prof William MacDonald (CEO of ScotChem) will close with a summary of the workshop and a roadmap for the route forward.

Any queries can be addressed to masts@st-andrews.ac.uk

This joint workshop from ScotCHEM & MASTS is open to all – all you need to do is register to attend the MASTS Annual Science Meeting [here](#) and join the SESSION on Friday.

If you would like more details on the MASTS Annual Science Meeting, visit our webpage [here](#) or follow us on [twitter](#)

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