



Hard sailing as Volvo Ocean Race teams collect key ocean pollution data (Credit: Ugo Fonolla/Volvo Ocean Race)

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Bluewater describes new evidence of higher microplastic concentrations nearer cities as worrying

Stockholm, March 26, 2018 – The Volvo Ocean Race is providing an exceptional opportunity to test oceans for micro-plastics in remote and coastal areas and shed light on the scale and global distribution of micro-plastics marine pollution. The Race's [latest scientific data](#), collected by team 'Turn the Tide on Plastic', identified 75 particles of micro-plastics per cubic metre in waters near Hong Kong and 87 particles of micro-plastics per cubic metre along the coast near Melbourne.

The highest levels of micro-plastic so far have been found in European waters where the Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean meet with a peak of 307 particles of micro-plastics per cubic metre.

The new findings reveal the concentrations of micro-plastics increase when the samples are taken closer to higher density populations such as Hong Kong and in areas where ocean surface currents tend to converge and concentrate marine debris.

“Regardless of where the data is taken, from remote parts of the ocean, such as the Antarctic, to areas close to major urban conurbations, we are consistently finding levels of micro-plastics, which clearly illustrates how pervasive they have become,” said Dr. Sören Gutekunst, of GEOMAR Institute for Ocean Research Kiel, funded by the Cluster of Excellence Future Ocean, analysed the preliminary micro-plastics data at their laboratory in Kiel, Germany.

According to Volvo Ocean Race a total of 28 drifter buoys from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration drifter program are being deployed by the vessels during four of the Volvo Ocean Race legs, at crucial oceanic regions to measure sea surface temperature and ocean current velocities. This will also help scientists understand how ocean currents could influence the movement of micro-plastic particles.

“The latest result are worrying when it comes to the potential consequences the micro-plastics pollution may pose to human and planetary health,” said Anders Jacobson, [Bluewater](#) President and co-founder and CEO of Blue, the holding company that owns Bluewater.

Anders said Bluewater, as Official Water Provider and a Sustainability Partner for the Volvo Ocean Race, is fast-tracking its own sustainability initiatives to provide water purification solutions that are able to deliver clean drinking water to people everywhere.

For more information, please contact David Noble, head of Bluewater PR and Communications, at david.noble@bluewatergroup.com or +44 7785 302 694.

Founded 2013 in Stockholm, Sweden, Bluewater has set its sights on being

the world's most planet-friendly water purification and beverage company by innovating and marketing disruptive hydration solutions for home, work, and play. Bluewater products are available globally to consumers, hotel and catering operations, event and venue organizations, and educational institutions. www.bluewatergroup.com[IG1]

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