Plastic pollution harms our communities and industries

**He aha te mate?**
**What's the problem?**
Plastics are useful because they are strong and lightweight. Unfortunately, these properties also mean plastic waste stays in the environment for a long time and is easily transported around the globe.

**Kei whea rā?**
**Where is the plastic pollution?**
Plastics are everywhere, from mountain tops to waters surrounding Antarctica, to remote beaches and the deepest part of the ocean.

**He parakino kirihou?**
**How do we get plastic pollution?**
Poor waste management, deliberate littering, illegal dumping, and accidental loss of plastics during use and transportation are the main contributors to plastic debris.

**Ki roto i te moana?**
**How much plastic is in the ocean?**
Every day millions of pieces of plastic find their way to the ocean. The equivalent of one garbage truck of plastics is dumped into the ocean every 38 seconds.

**Look at the diagram on the next page that shows the sources and movement of plastic pollution. How can you stop plastic from getting into the environment?**

**Take Action!**
**Kia kaha te mahi**

From the source to the mouth of the sea, all things are joined together as one.
Plastic pollution sources and pathways

Land Sources
Plastics can enter the environment at any stage of product manufacturing, use and disposal, and may eventually reach the ocean.

How does plastic travel?
- Wind blows plastic and plastic particles into the environment
- Rain sweeps plastics into the waste and stormwater system or directly into rivers and streams
- Plastics are directly discharged illegally or legally into rivers and streams
- Waste and stormwater systems can overflow during storms and high tides

Approximately 640,000 tonnes of fishing equipment is discarded into the marine environment each year.

Four out of five pieces of plastic in the ocean actually originate from land-based use.

Marine Sources
Waste may be dumped overboard intentionally or due to negligent behaviour, a lack or waste storage facilities, or lost into the ocean during periods of bad weather.