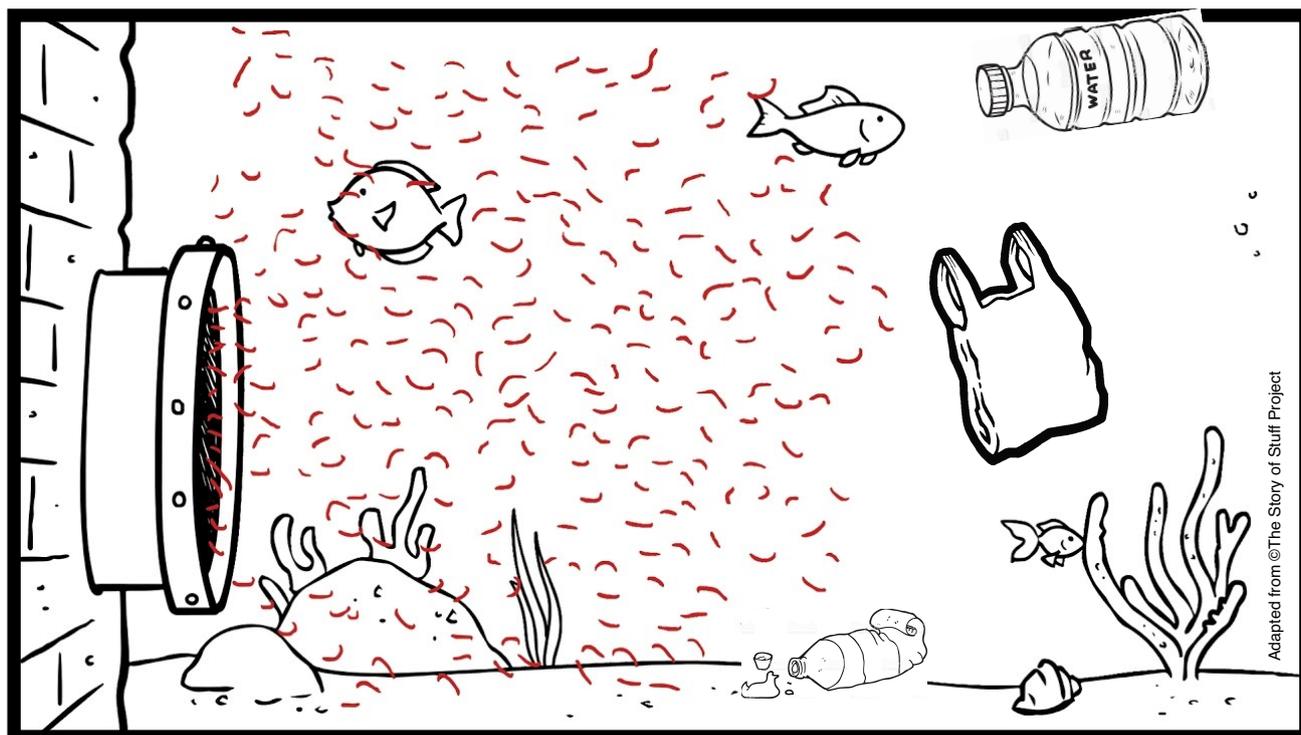


## Microplastic Pollution: Everyone's problem - but what can be done about it?

- knowledge gaps, plans and policy needs



### AIMS

Pollution of the aquatic environment by plastic waste, and the environmental and ecological consequences, is an extremely hot topic at the moment, both from a research focus and public concern. Microplastics in particular are demanding of serious attention, based on evidence that they are ingested by aquatic organisms. While focus has initially been on marine pollution by plastics, increasing attention is now also being given to pollution of freshwaters, which makes this an issue of wider concern. There are moves by manufacturers to remove microplastics from personal care products, but the more significant quantities result from abrasion of larger pieces of polymer. This includes microfibres generated during the domestic laundering of manmade (notably acrylic) fabrics. There is also concern that microplastics are capable of concentrating persistent organic pollutants, thereby enhancing their toxicity to aquatic species, with possible implications for human health (although there is a dearth of published research in this area). The workshop will bring together experts from marine and freshwater backgrounds to share the latest information and review our current understanding of the risks and knowledge gaps. There will be discussion on how best to address plastic pollution of the aquatic environment and respond to the identified evidence gaps and policy needs.

## AGENDA

**10:00 Registration and coffee (Fish Room)**

### **Morning Session 10.30 - 13.00 (Science Room)**

**10:30 Welcome and information for the day.**

*Adrian Clark, WSF Committee*

**Opening address (video) - Dr Thérèse Coffey MP,**

*Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment and Rural Life, Defra.*

**10:40 Microplastics: a brief introduction.**

*Professor Richard Thompson, Professor of Marine Biology, Plymouth University.*

**11:10 Environmental impacts of plastic debris in marine ecosystems**

*Dr Dannielle Green, Anglia Ruskin University.*

**11:30 Microplastics: Understanding sources and potential impacts in the freshwater environment.**

*Dr Katie J Whitlock, Research Scientist (Fisheries) at the Environment Agency.*

**12:00 Wastewater treatment and microplastics - Sink, Source or Solution?**

*Dr Matt Hill MCIWM, Environmental Lead Advisor,  
Environmental Regulation and Modelling, Yorkshire Water.*

**14:00 Microplastics in freshwater systems: Current and future research priorities.**

*Alice Horton, Ecotoxicologist, Centre for Ecology & The Hydrology, Wallingford.*

**13:00 - 14:00 Buffet Lunch (Fish Room)**

### **Afternoon Session 14:00 - 15.30 (Science Room)**

**14:00 RSC's activities in addressing microplastics**

*Dr Camilla Alexander-White, Programme Manager Environment & Regulation, RSC.*

**14:10 The ubiquity of microplastics in the marine environment, and the challenges of accurate reporting.**

*Dr Lucy Woodall, University of Oxford.*

**14:40 Micro & macro plastics, where do we go from here?**

*Dr Thomas Maes, National & International Monitoring Programmes Co-ordinator,  
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Lowestoft.*

**15:10 The human dimension: how social and behavioural research can help address plastics in the environment**

*Dr Sabine Pahl, School of Psychology, Plymouth University.*

**15:30 Open discussion: Responding to evidence gaps: fulfilling policy needs.**

*Professor Richard Thompson (Moderator).*

**Closing remarks - Outcome of Workshop.**

*Adrian Clark, WSF Committee.*

**16:00 Tea/Coffee available (Fish Room)**

**16:30 Close of Workshop.**

## Objectives

The proposed event will:

- Review the sources, distribution and impact of microplastics on marine and freshwater ecosystems.
- Consider wider environmental risks and socioeconomic impacts associated with plastic pollution.
- Present the current regulatory picture in U.K. and EU and identify evidence needs.
- Highlight research progress and current activities/plans.
- Identify and prioritise knowledge gaps and research requirements.
- Bring stakeholders from marine and freshwater backgrounds together to discuss how to address these gaps to meet policy needs.

## Who should attend

- Water industry personnel – operations staff and wastewater services - CIWM
- Marine and freshwater ecologists and ecotoxicologists
- Water engineers and consultants working for the water industry - CIWEM, UKWIR
- Regulators and environmental agencies - Defra, EA, CEH, CEFAS, SEPA, ECHA
- Advisory bodies - UKCSF, HSAC
- Plastics and recycling industries, trade associations, publications
- Consumer bodies - e.g. CHEM Trust

For further information please visit RSC Conference and Events website:

<http://www.rsc.org/events?MemberNetwork=73&PageTitle=73>

**For further information on the Water Science Forum membership and activities please see:**

<http://www.rsc.org/Membership/Networking/InterestGroups/WaterScience/index.asp>

Or write to:

Hon. Secretary  
Water Science Forum  
c/o The Royal Society of Chemistry  
Burlington House, Piccadilly  
London W1V 0BN

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**Registered Charity Number 20789**

## REGISTRATION FORM

(Please complete a separate form for each delegate)

Registration includes attendance at the speaker presentations during the morning and afternoon sessions, refreshments throughout the meeting and exhibitor display. Free WiFi access is also available to delegates on the day.

Registration fees are as follows:

	Early bird (by 15 September 2017)	Standard (by 7 October 2017)
Members of RSC, IChemE or SCI	£95	£135
Non-members	£150	£175
Student/retired RSC members	£55	£75
Student non-members	£75	£90

**Exhibitors: A limited number of posters and display stands can be accommodated by arrangement (please contact Adrian J Clark [adrian.clark@btinternet.com](mailto:adrian.clark@btinternet.com)).**

**\*\*Sponsorship opportunities are also available.**

**Online Registration: Eventbrite [<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/microplastic-pollution-everyones-problem-but-what-can-be-done-about-it-by-the-royal-society-of-tickets-36273104833>]**

**Final booking deadline, unless paying by cheque, is 7th October.**

A £10 booking charge will apply if payment is not received with registration.

If you prefer to pay by cheque, or for late payments, please complete the form below (cheques payable to "RSC Water Science Forum"):

**Title (Dr, Mr, Mrs etc) .....First Name(s) .....**

**Surname ..... Job Title .....**

**Organisation/Affiliation .....**

**Address .....**

**.....Post Code .....**

**Telephone .....Mobile.....**

**Email .....**

**Do you have any special dietary or other needs? If so, please specify below:**

.....

**RSC/SCI Membership Number (if applicable) .....**

*The completed form should be returned to the Treasurer:*

**Mr Jonathan Mace, Quality Manager  
ALS Life Sciences Division,  
Environmental Unit 11,  
Silkwood Park, Janes Hill  
Wakefield WF5 9TG, email: [jonathan.mace@ymail.com](mailto:jonathan.mace@ymail.com).**

**For all enquiries regarding the event please contact:**

**Adrian J Clark Telephone: 01326 240194, email: [adrian.clark@btinternet.com](mailto:adrian.clark@btinternet.com).**