

# Teacher at Sea

## PLASTICS IN THE NORTH PACIFIC GYRE

Join Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) graduate students as they research an important environmental issue the occurrence and food web consequences of plastic debris in the ocean environment.



### Educators Opportunity

Work alongside a research team of doctoral students and assistants from Scripps Institution of Oceanography when they embark on an expedition to explore [Plastics in the North Pacific Gyre](#) . Their research focuses on one of the oldest and largest ecosystems on earth. Recently referenced as the "Great Pacific Trash Heap" the debris caught in the center of the North Pacific has the potential to damage marine life and alter the biological environment. This opportunity is aimed to enrich your professional science teaching background and surrounds a relevant environmental issue. Investigations aboard the R/V New Horizon will focus on plastics as transport mechanisms for invasive species, the impacts of plastics on mesopelagic fishes and zooplankton, analysis of bacterial community structure on pelagic plastics and documentation of the vertical distribution of debris in the water column.

### Important :

Dates : August 9th - 21st, 2009  
Time Commitment = ~ 13+ days  
Departure: San Diego, CA  
Ending in: Newport, Oregon  
Contribution(s):  
\* high intensity 8 hour shift  
\* photographic journal  
\* blog site text/daily upload  
\* creation of educational materials  
Point of Contact: Alison Cawood  
[acawood@ucsd.edu](mailto:acawood@ucsd.edu)

Those interested in being considered should fill out the teacher at sea application found online at <http://cce.lternet.edu/outreach/teachers/teachersatsea/>. Email applications and letters of interest to Alison Cawood ([acawood@ucsd.edu](mailto:acawood@ucsd.edu))

The cruise begins in San Diego, California with a final destination in Newport, Oregon. Educators will fulfill several program requirements during and upon completion of their experience:

- \* Submit all required paperwork and forms in a timely manner.
- \* Fully participate in all prescribed program training and research activities aboard the R/V New Horizon.
- \* Submit a post-cruise evaluation.
- \* Post photographs and journal text to cruise blog during the cruise.
- \* Create and share 1 - 2 online instructional activities as a result of the experience.

