



## Microplastic Monday

For Plastic Free July, the The Cape Lab's [#microscopicmonday](#) will turn into [#microPLASTICmonday](#)! Stick with us to learn more about this microscopic plastic scourge each Monday this month.

Did you know that plastics in the ocean never disappear? Instead of decomposing like organic materials, **plastics simply break down into smaller pieces of plastic.** Microplastics can be anywhere from 5mm (smaller than a grain of rice) to as small as 1  $\mu\text{m}$  in length (invisible to the naked eye). They pollute the marine environment, where marine animals can accidentally consume them, either directly or up through the food chain.

At our marine laboratory, the Center for Coastal Studies has identified microplastics in zooplankton samples taken in the path of feeding right whales, and in the scat of grey seals who prey on fish and squid. Learn more about our work on microplastics here: <https://coastalstudies.org/marine-debris/microplastics/>

Photo: The Right Whale Team at the Center for Coastal Studies frequently finds microplastics during the analysis of zooplankton samples collected in Cape Cod Bay.