

# Atlas of Ocean Microplastics; AOMI 青海 (blue ocean)

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<https://aomi.env.go.jp/>



#### Background

To combat marine plastic pollution, collecting monitoring data on ocean surface microplastics and sharing microplastic distribution globally.



## To do list for ocean sciences

**(1) Standardization/Harmonization** of field surveys

→ **Guideline** (standardized protocols)

**(2) Field surveys** to accumulate the observed data

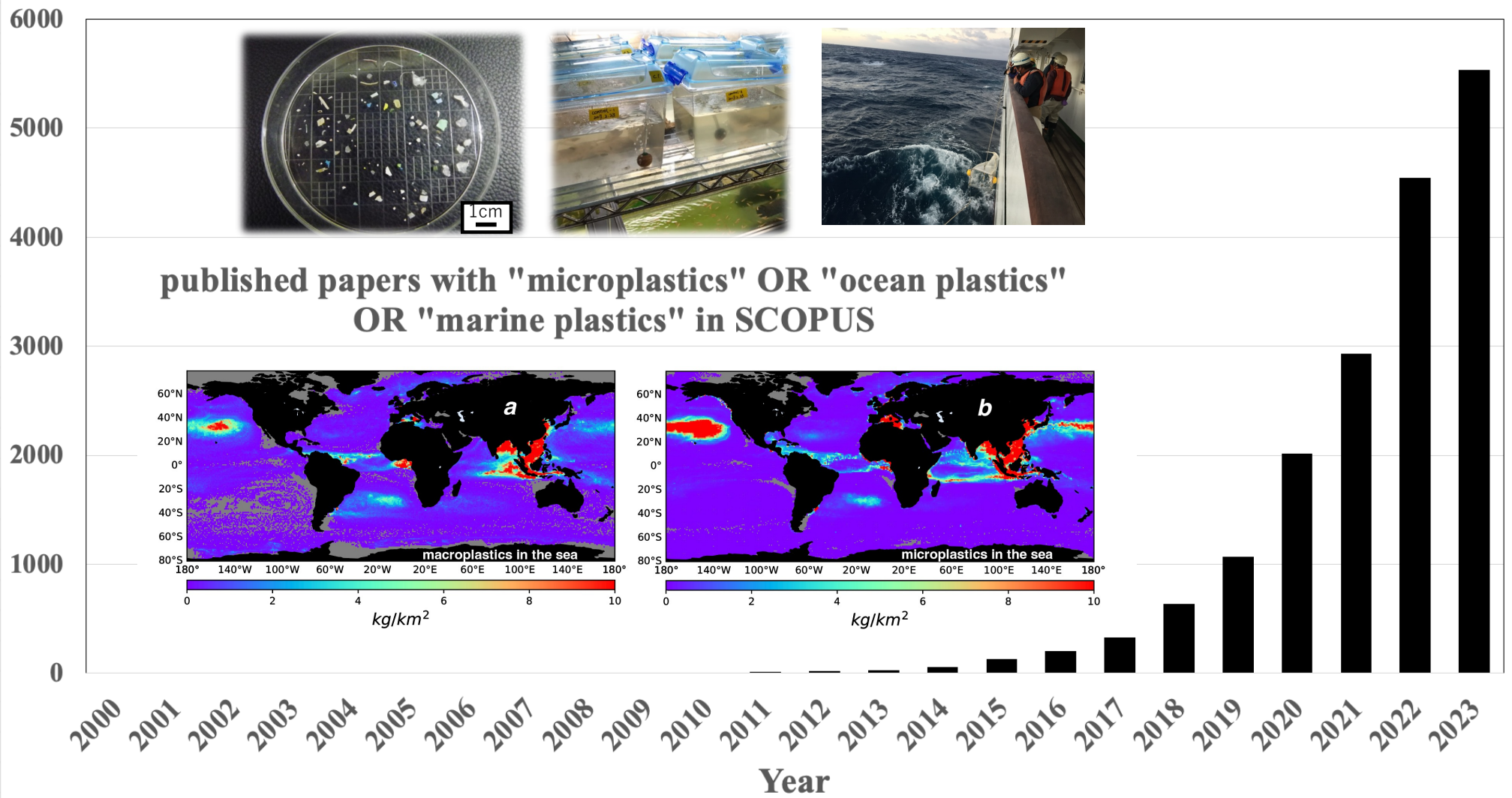
→ **Survey platforms** such as R/Vs, Moorings, Satellites...

**(3) Mapping of items**

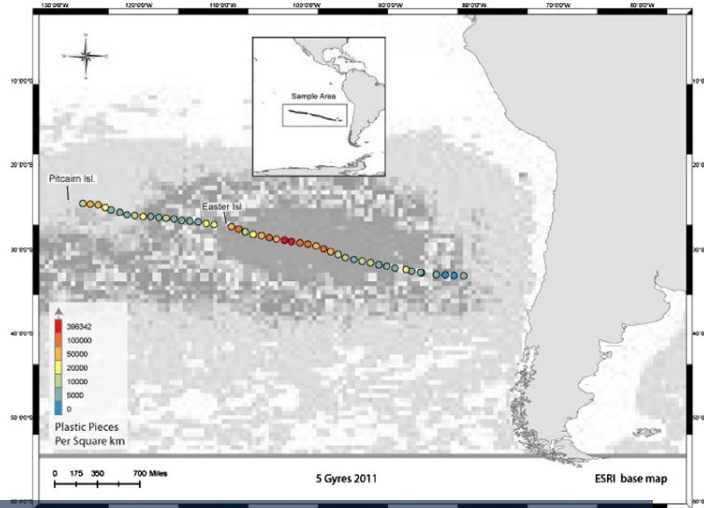
→ **Database** smoothly accessible for stakeholders

**(4) Numerical modeling** validated using the database.

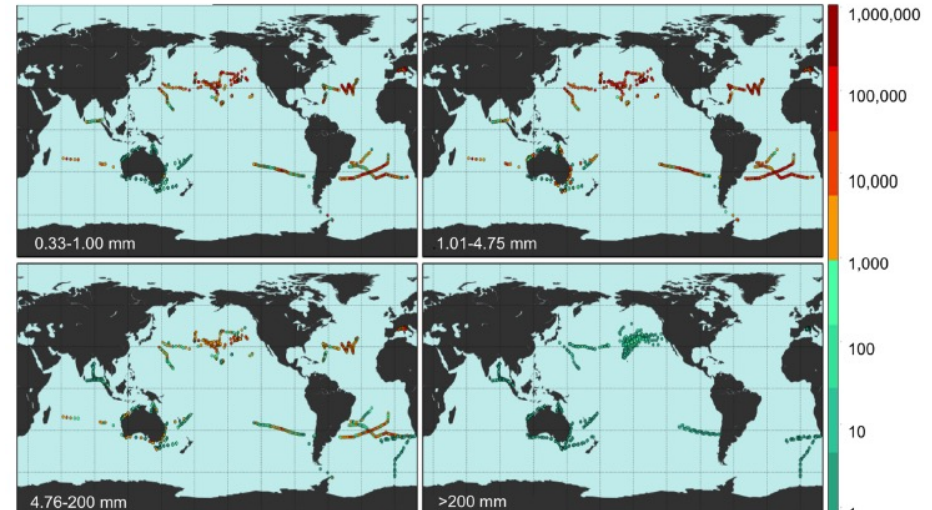
**(5) Reanalysis products, Forecasts**



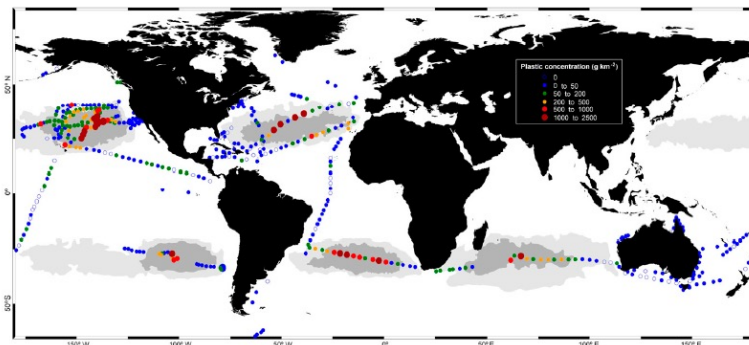
# It was not well harmonized/standardized even in “metrics”



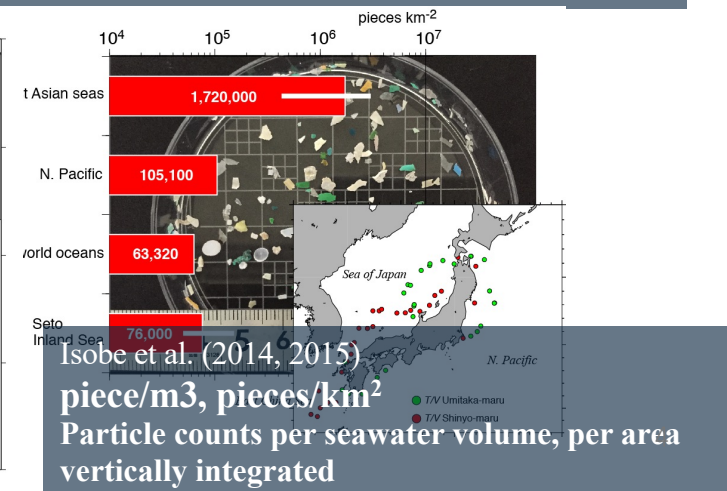
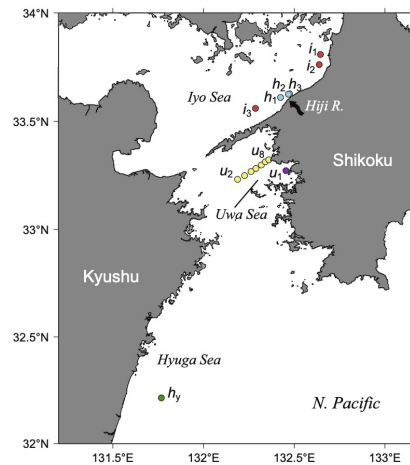
Eriksen et al. (2013)  
pieces/km<sup>2</sup> Particle counts per study area



Eriksen et al. (2014)  
pieces/km<sup>2</sup>; Particle counts per seawater volume time net height



Cozar et al. (2014)  
weight/km<sup>2</sup>  
Weight per seawater volume time net height



Isobe et al. (2014, 2015)  
piece/m<sup>3</sup>, pieces/km<sup>2</sup>  
Particle counts per seawater volume, per area  
vertically integrated

# Background to establish the AOMI database by MOEJ

## Harmonization/ Standardization of monitoring methods of ocean microplastics

### Guidelines for Harmonizing Ocean Surface Microplastic Monitoring Methods

Guidelines for Harmonizing Ocean Surface Microplastic  
Monitoring Methods

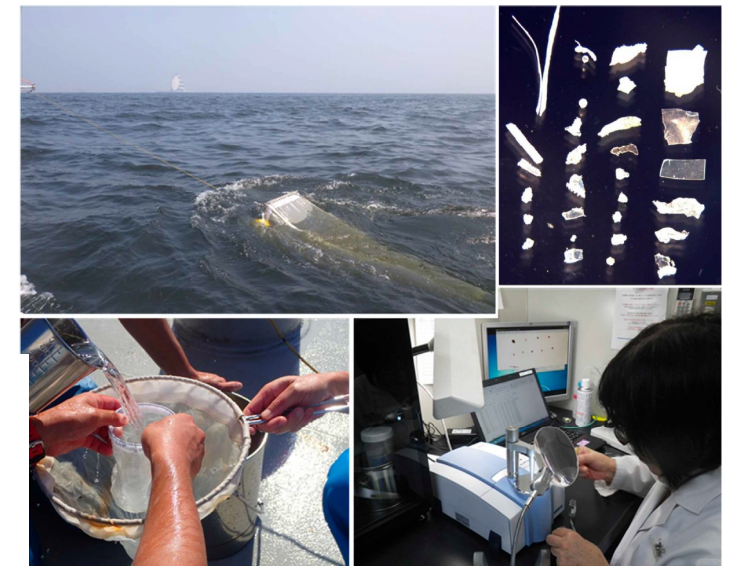
Version 1.0, May 2019

Yutaka Michida<sup>1</sup>, Suchana Chavanich<sup>2</sup>, Andrés Cózar Cabañas<sup>3</sup>, Pascal Hagmann<sup>4</sup>, Hirofumi Hinata<sup>5</sup>, Atsuhiko Isobe<sup>6</sup>, Peter Kershaw<sup>7</sup>, Nikolai Kozlovskii<sup>8</sup>, Daoji Li<sup>9</sup>, Amy L. Lusher<sup>10</sup>, Elisa Martí<sup>3</sup>, Sherri A. Mason<sup>11</sup>, Jingli Mu<sup>12</sup>, Hiroaki Saito<sup>1</sup>, Won Joon Shim<sup>13</sup>, Agung Dhamar Syakti<sup>14</sup>, Hideshige Takada<sup>15</sup>, Richard Thompson<sup>16</sup>, Tadashi Tokai<sup>17</sup>, Keiichi Uchida<sup>17</sup>, Katerina Vasilenko<sup>18</sup>, Juying Wang<sup>12</sup>



guideline is available from MOEJ

1. Planning
2. Equipment
3. Sampling
4. On-board processing
5. Lab analysis



Ministry of the Environment, JAPAN  
May, 2019

**Michida et al., (2019)**

# A prototype of the AOMI database

~2D mapping project of surface microplastic abundance in the world's ocean ~

Isobe et al. *Microplastics and Nanoplastics* (2021) 1:16  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s43591-021-00013-z>

Microplastics and  
Nanoplastics

(Isobe et al., 2021, *Micropla. & Nanopla.*)

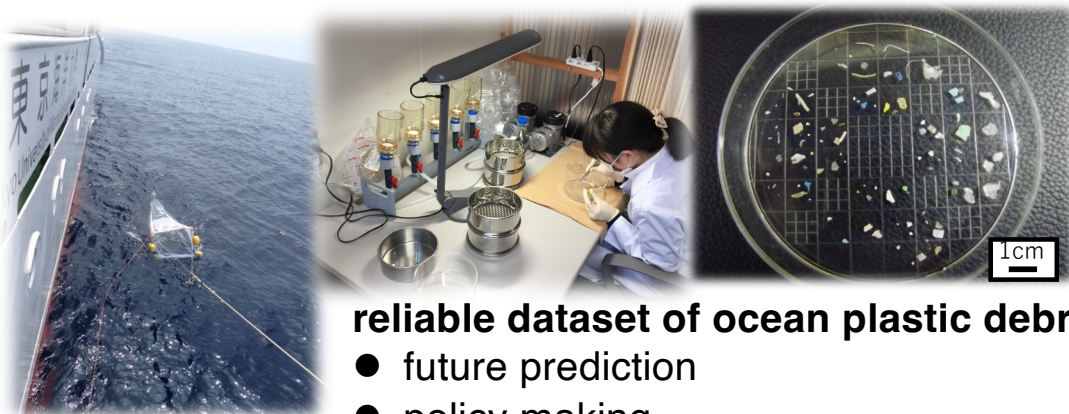
RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

## A multilevel dataset of microplastic abundance in the world's upper ocean and the Laurentian Great Lakes

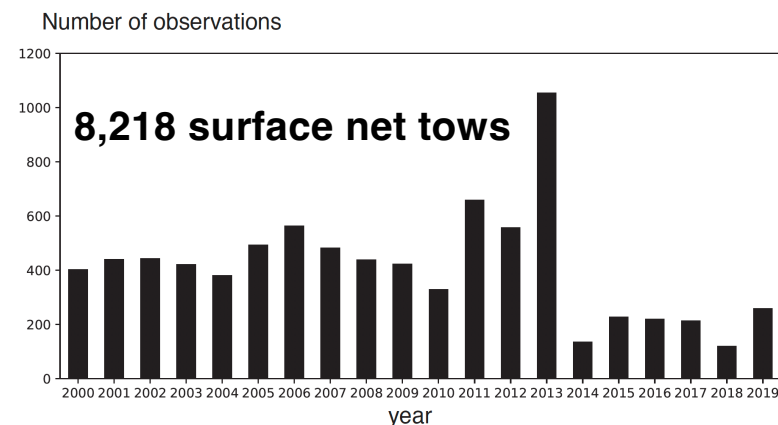


Atsuhiko Isobe<sup>1\*</sup>, Takafumi Azuma<sup>2</sup>, Muhammad Reza Cordova<sup>3</sup>, Andrés Cózar<sup>4</sup>, Francois Galgani<sup>5</sup>, Ryuichi Hagita<sup>6</sup>, La Daana Kanhai<sup>7</sup>, Keiri Imai<sup>8</sup>, Shinsuke Iwasaki<sup>9</sup>, Shin'ichiro Kako<sup>10</sup>, Nikolai Kozlovskii<sup>11</sup>, Amy L. Lusher<sup>12,13</sup>, Sherri A. Mason<sup>14</sup>, Yutaka Michida<sup>15</sup>, Takahisa Mituhasi<sup>2</sup>, Yasuhiro Morii<sup>16</sup>, Tohru Mukai<sup>17</sup>, Anna Popova<sup>11</sup>, Kenichi Shimizu<sup>18</sup>, Tadashi Tokai<sup>19</sup>, Keiichi Uchida<sup>19</sup>, Mitsuharu Yagi<sup>18</sup> and Weiwei Zhang<sup>20</sup>



**reliable dataset of ocean plastic debris**

- future prediction
- policy making
- public awareness



**2000~2019**

Microplastics > ~0.3 mm, but filaments were discarded in analyses.

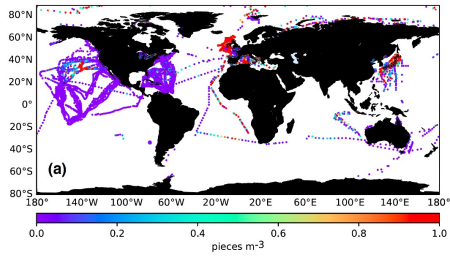
sponsored by Ministry of  
the Environment, Japan



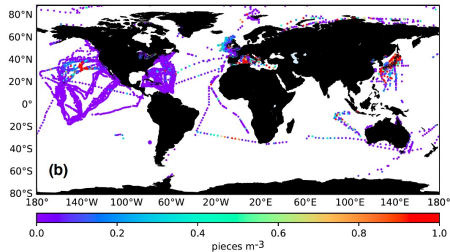
**Coauthors:**

Japan, China, Indonesia  
Spain, France, Russia, Norway  
USA, Trinidad & Tobago,

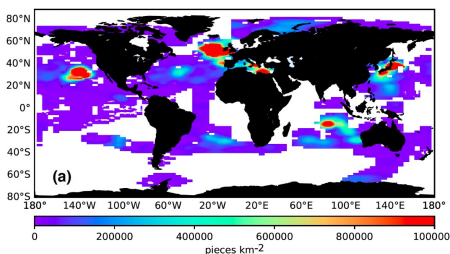
# What is the multi-level dataset?



particle count per unit volume  
**LEVEL 0**



without fibrous microplastics  
**LEVEL 1**



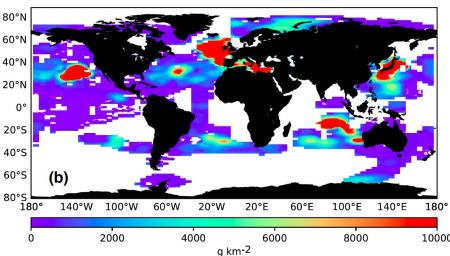
particle count per unit area **LEVEL 3p**

Optimum Interpolation Method (Kako et al., 2011)

$$A_g = B_g + \sum_{i=1}^N (O_i - B_i) W_i,$$

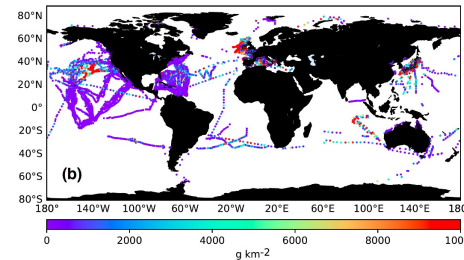
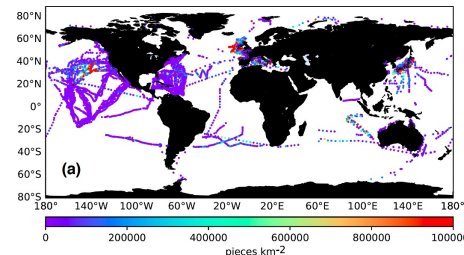
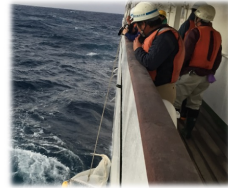
$$\sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{i=1}^N (\mu_{ij}^B + \mu_{ij}^O) W_i = \mu_{ig}^B,$$

$$\mu^B = e^{-\left( \frac{r_m^2}{L_m^2} + \frac{r_g^2}{L_g^2} \right)},$$

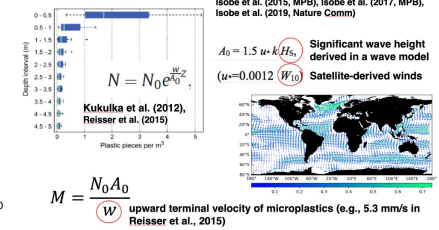


weight per unit area **LEVEL 3w**

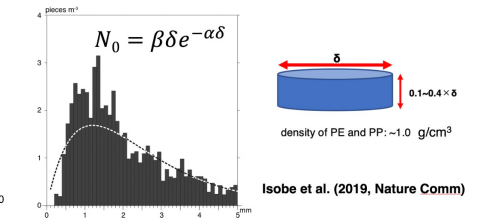
1000 km × 500 km



particle count per unit area **LEVEL 2p**



weight per unit area **LEVEL 2w**

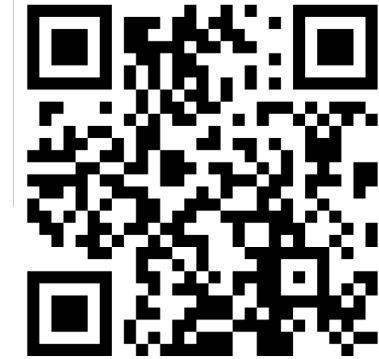


- ✓ **Ecotoxicologists and/or environmental chemists** who set up laboratory-based studies regarding "toxicity" of microplastics in realistic situations.
- ✓ **Physical Oceanographers** who set up numerical modeling approaches to reproduce and/or forecast the ocean microplastic abundance
- ✓ **Oceanographers and/or NPOs** who set up field surveys to collect microplastics efficiently
- ✓ .....

# Atlas of Ocean Microplastics;

**AOMI** 青海 (blue ocean)

was opened publicly from the website  
from **9 May 2024**

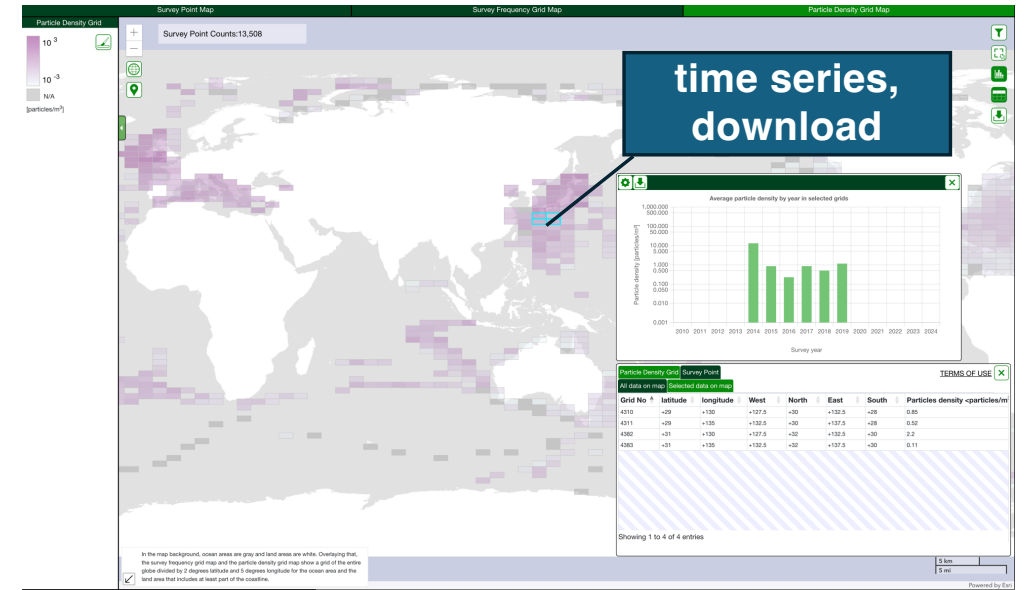
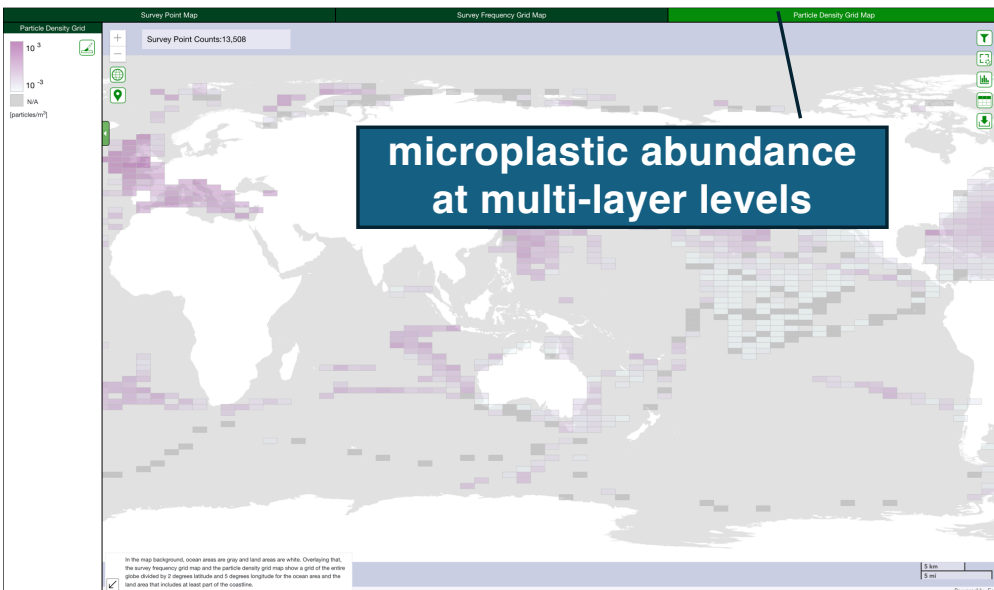
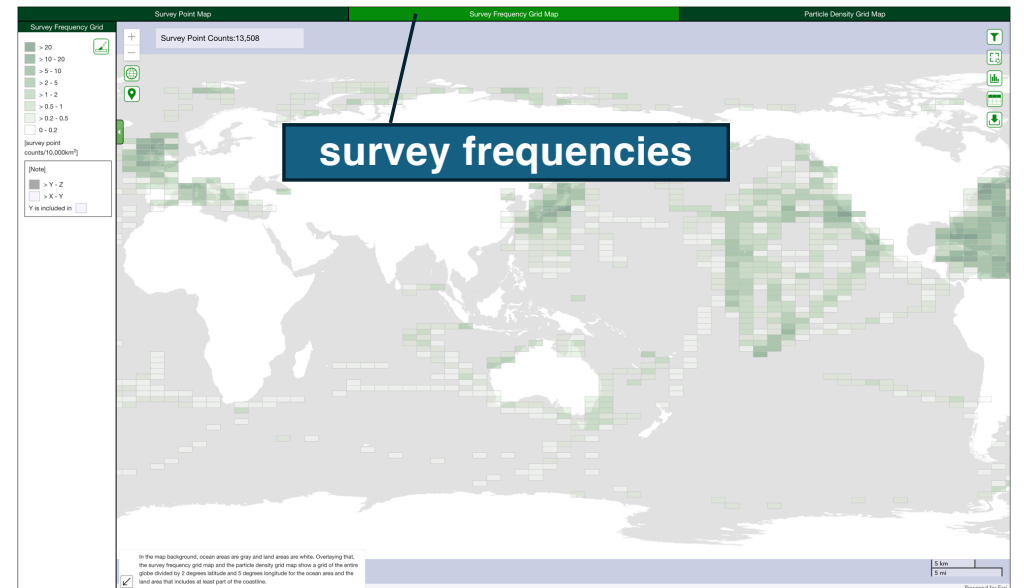
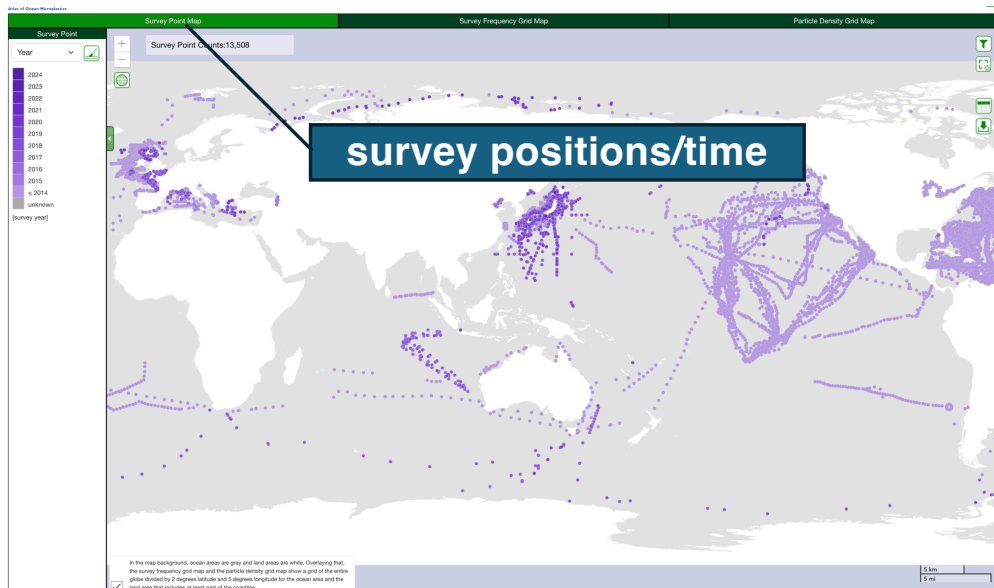


<https://aomi.env.go.jp/>

## What is AOMI?


- Multi-level dataset of microplastic (MP) abundance in the world's upper ocean
- It is available for everyone freely
- Anyone can upload/download the MP data through the AOMI website
- This is a MP data sharing project sponsored by Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ)





# Uploading to AOMI database

## How to contribute to AOMI?



You can **download an excel file** to provide your information

**UPLOAD FORM** [Excel file](#)

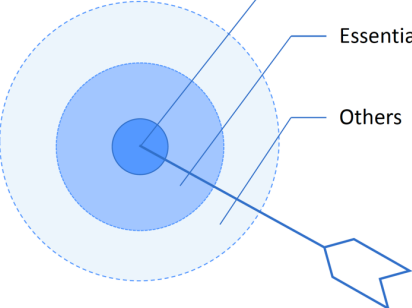
Form File.xlsx

(Please find "Data Entry Form Sheet & Data List Sheet")

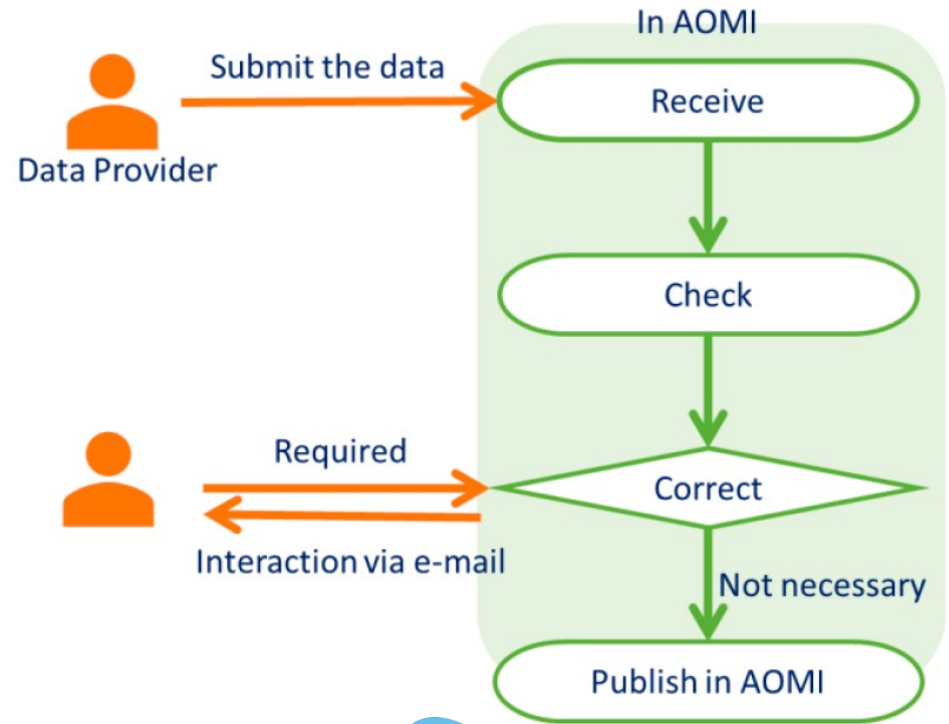
Please create your data files using the templates provided (.xlsx and .xlsm), and submit them using the upload area below.  
Our administrators will review the data, if there is any question, we may contact you via email to request data revisions and resubmission.

- Terms of data submission  
Individual data records will be provided to those who have agreed to use them within the scope permitted by their respective Creative Commons licenses.  
We will use the data you provide to create charts and graphics in this database. The charts and graphics created will be distributed under a Creative Commons license (CC-BY-SA), with the condition that proper attribution to this database is given.

## Data items categories



Fundamental	Necessary to display the number of particles per volume/area
Essential	Necessary for the harmonization of monitoring methods
Others	Might be necessary in future surveys and research data accumulation



# We have to fill in the data gaps!

