

Press Release



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Plastic in the deep sea: Virtually unaltered after a quarter of a century **First long-term study on plastic degradation in a water depth of more than 4000 meter**

11 June 2020 / Kiel. Even in the most remote regions of the oceans plastic debris **20 years. As** **online journal *Scientific Reports*, they could not find** **degradation.**

Plastic products are durable. On one hand this is a great advantage, but on the other hand, once plastic enters the environment, this advantage turns into a disadvantage. Due to the lack of knowledge, natural degradation, as with organic matter, is not well understood. It is only estimated, how long plastic debris actually remains in the environment, as laboratory experiments are lacking.

This applies particularly to the deep sea that is only poorly explored. Plastic debris is only found by chance with the help of deep-sea robots or other methods.



“Since the DISCOL area is far away from important shipping routes, the plastic bag and the curd box could be attributed to the DISCOL expeditions in 1989 and 1992 or 1996,” says Dr Haeckel. After all, this offered the extremely rare opportunity to examine in detail datable plastic objects from