



Plastic litter killing sea turtles: study

BALLOONS, plastic bags, nylon rope, styro-foam, even thongs are causing long, painful deaths for Australia's critically endangered sea turtle population, a new study shows.

It's World Oceans Day, but research by the Earthwatch program Turtles in Trouble has shown 36 per cent of Australian sea turtles are affected by marine litter, with some 18,000 bits of plastic litter floating on every square kilometre of the world's oceans.

University of Queensland marine biologist Dr Kathy Townsend said the problem had to be tackled before the already low population of sea turtles became even more depleted. "This thing is everyone's fault, and because it's everyone's fault no-one takes responsibility," Dr Townsend said.

"We need to stop generating so much waste. We are doing the inconceivable, we are starting to fill up ...[the world's] oceans."