



# THIS IS HOW FAR PLASTIC FLOATS IN THE SEA

**Where does plastic dumped in the North Sea end up? A capsule equipped with GPS will provide answers in the near future.**

The capsule, itself made of plastic, was thrown overboard some 25 kilometres west of the coast of the Dutch island of Texel. It is currently floating like a buoy in the North Sea, and its exact location can be tracked online. The capsule plays a key role in the Plastic in a Bottle project, a collaboration between the Arctic Council and the Arctic Marine Litter

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## **The project shows how far plastic can travel**

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Project run by WUR researcher Wouter Jan Strietman. The idea behind the floating capsule is to draw attention to the global problem of plastic waste in the seas. This is really the modern equivalent of a message in a bottle. The capsule contains equipment that emits a GPS signal once a day. A small solar panel provides the required energy. It also contains instructions for the finders, should the capsule get stranded somewhere. The main aim of the project is to show how far plastic can travel in the sea before it ends up on the coast. And that can take a very long time. A capsule launched off the Icelandic coast in September 2019 travelled 7000 kilometres before it made landfall 207 days later on the coast of northern Scotland. RK

*The capsule's route can be tracked on the website of PAME.  
[gps.verkis.is/pame](https://gps.verkis.is/pame)*