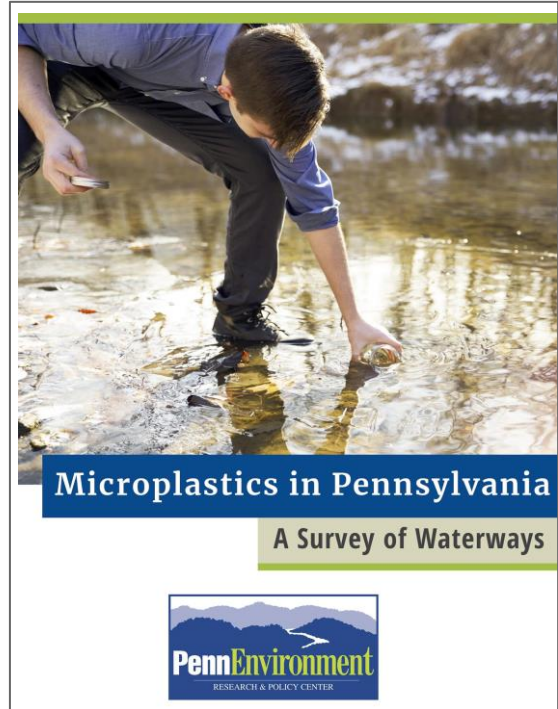


Microplastics in Pennsylvania

A Survey of Waterways



What are microplastics?

Plastics doesn't biodegrade, but break into smaller & smaller pieces

Microplastics: Less than 5 millimeters



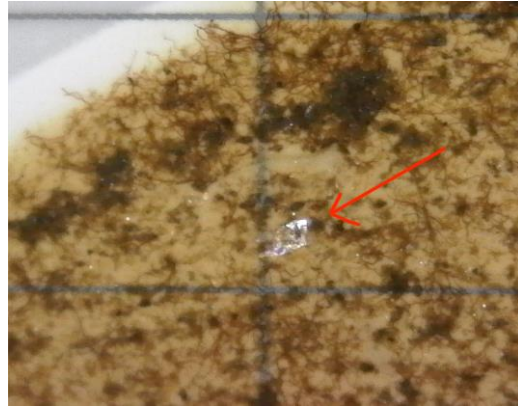
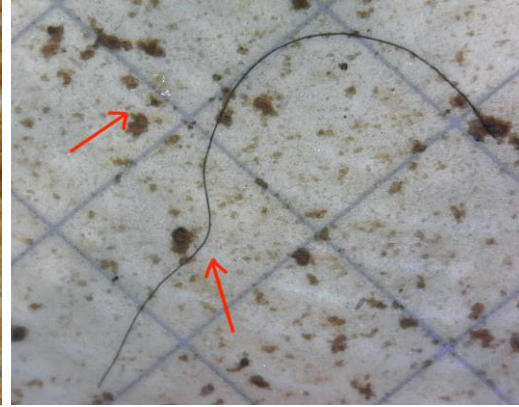
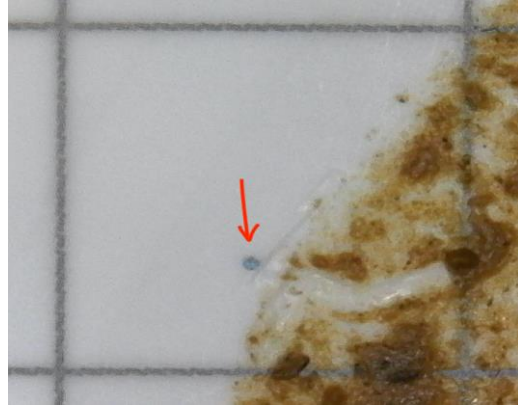
Methodology

A citizen science protocol developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Mississippi State University Extension, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, and Sea Grant

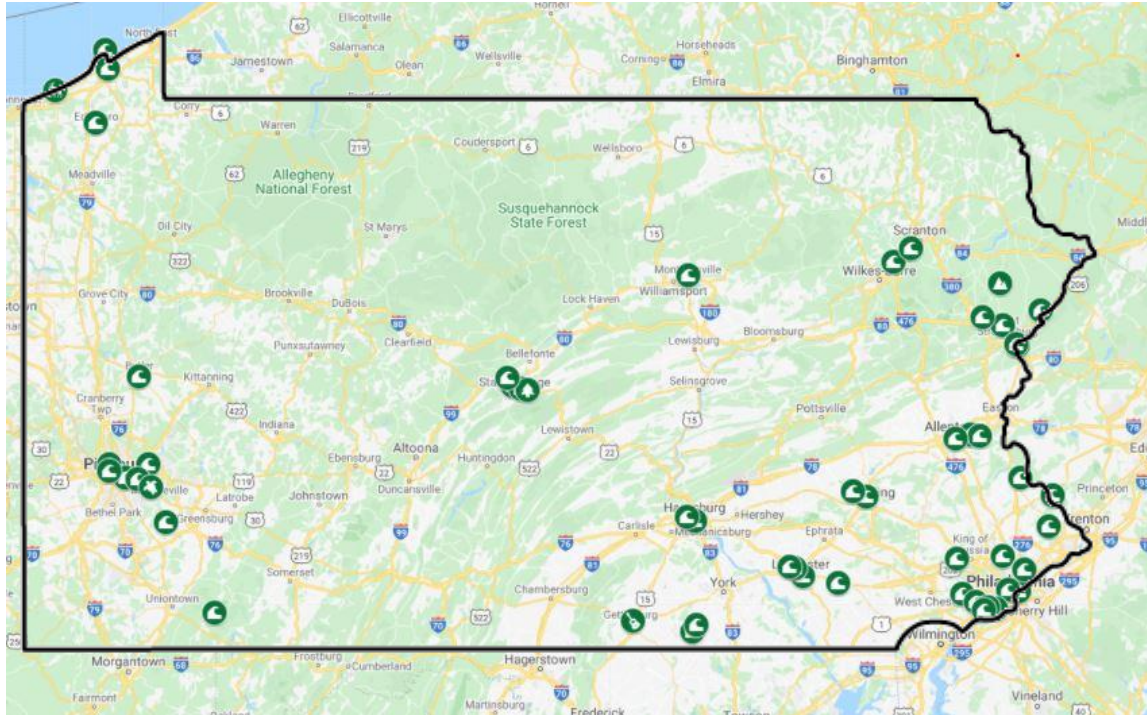


What we tested for

- Fibers
 - Textiles
- Film
 - Flexible packaging
- Fragments
 - Piece of larger plastic
- Microbeads
 - Older cosmetics



Where we sampled



53 of Pennsylvania's most popular rivers, lakes and streams, 3 from Bucks County

315 samples taken in total

Microplastics found in every waterway

What we found

Plastic Type	Percentage of Waterways	Percentage of Waterways in the Delaware Watershed
Fibers	100%	100%
Film	94%	100%
Fragments	87%	92%
Microbeads	1%	4%

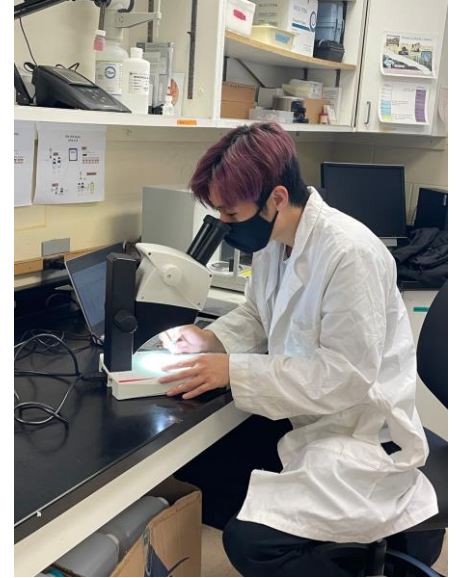


Recommendations

- Congress should pass the federal Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act, which includes producer responsibility requirements
- Stop Pollution at the Source at the state level
 - Repeal the preemption on municipal plastic ordinances
 - Implement the Zero Waste for PA package of bills
- Cities and towns should take steps to pass ordinances.



Upcoming Work



A new report is being released next week! *"Pennsylvania's Pristine Waterways and Microplastics: A Survey of Exceptional Value, High Quality, and Class A Trout rivers and streams"*

Questions?

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Get in Touch!

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Our Report:

<https://environmentamerica.org/pennsylvania/resources/microplastics-in-pennsylvania/>

Interactive Map: bit.ly/PAMicroplastics

