



Introduction

Video:

[See how it feels like to be an ocean animal stuck in a plastic bag]

Over *one million* marine creatures, and other birds and animals die each year from plastic trash. There are *5.25 trillion* pieces of plastic debris in the ocean.

Target:

Ocean animals
Local community
Government

Place and Occasion:

Kamakura and Yuigahama Beach

Test Interview at Waseda University:

We interviewed 8 people in total, 7 Japanese people and 1 foreign student.

Question or Methods

1. Do you know how much plastic garbage is being thrown out to the ocean every year?
2. How much sea creatures die from plastic garbage every year?
3. Which do you think is better to protect these marine creatures?
4. What do you do to protect marine animals?
5. What would you like to do in the future?



Results

1. 23 people for 8,000,000 ton/year
2 for 8,000 ton/year
2. 1 for 100,00
24 for 1,000,000
3. 13 for eco bags
12 for biodegradable bags
4. Use tumblers instead of using plastic bottles.
Drink all of the ramen soup.
Refuse getting plastic bags.
5. Encourage government to invest in biodegradable research.
Restrict the use of plastic bags legally.
Know the importance of each life.

Conclusions

Judging from the results, it seems as though while people are aware of the gravity of the situation (as seen in the results for question 1), they are not aware of the specifics of the situation (as seen in the greater number of wrong answers compared to the number of right answers in the results to question 2). However, this result may be because the people were more psychologically inclined to choose the larger number as the correct answer is usually the larger number, or they “followed the rest of the herd” and chose the answer with the larger amount of people choosing it.

There was little to no difference in the results between the surveys taken in Waseda University, the surveys taken at the Kamakura Rock festival, and the surveys taken at Yuigahama beach. As such, overall, it is probably safe to conclude that there must be more education for each person on a deeper level so that people are more aware of the specifics. Videos such as the “See how it feels to be an ocean animal stuck in a plastic bag” are quite good at spreading the specifics such as data and how waste affects the marine animals.

When taking the survey, people seemed to be genuinely concerned about waste and climate change but not marine animals specifically.

The subject left Suggestion

1. **Inter-governmental**
 - Create policies that drastically calls for decrease in plastic usage
 - Reasoning: it is estimated that human civilization as we know it will end by 2050 unless no multi-national level action is not taken
 - source: The Independent <https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/climate-change/global-warming-end-human-civilisation-research-88943531.html>
2. **National level (Government)**
 - Invest in garbage system that prevents waste from going into the ocean
 - Reasoning: Once waste is in the ocean, it is quite difficult to take it out
 - Invest in research of biodegradable plastic for future eco-friendly usage
 - Reasoning: Should waste get into the ocean, it will not hurt marine life as badly as non-biodegradables
3. **Community level**
 - Have programs involved in deeply educating young and old members of the community about waste and its impacts on the ocean
 - Reasoning: Education and awareness is key for effective action
4. **Individual level**
 - Volunteer to pick up trash or to educate locals
 - Get involved in NGOs as much as possible

