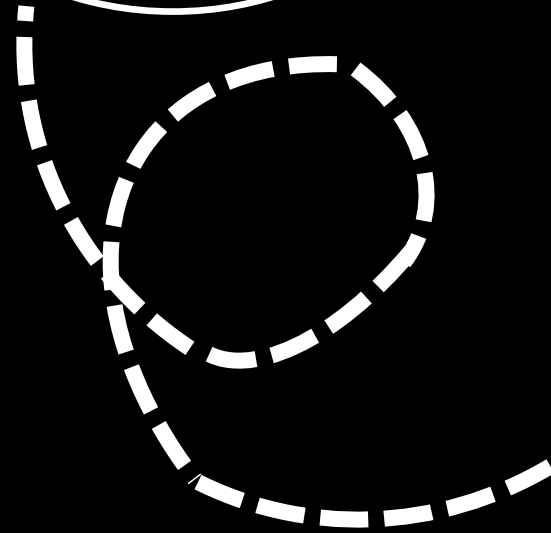


# From Papers



# to Policy

**Dr. Sherri A. "Sam" Mason**  
Director, Project NePTWNE  
Gannon University



# MICROBEAD-FREE WATERS ACT OF 2015

President Obama signed the Microbead-Free Waters Act into law in December 2015. The Act will prohibit the sale of personal care products containing plastic microbeads by July 1, 2018.





# The Great Lakes



## Great Lakes





5GYRES



THE BURNING RIVER  
FOUNDATION

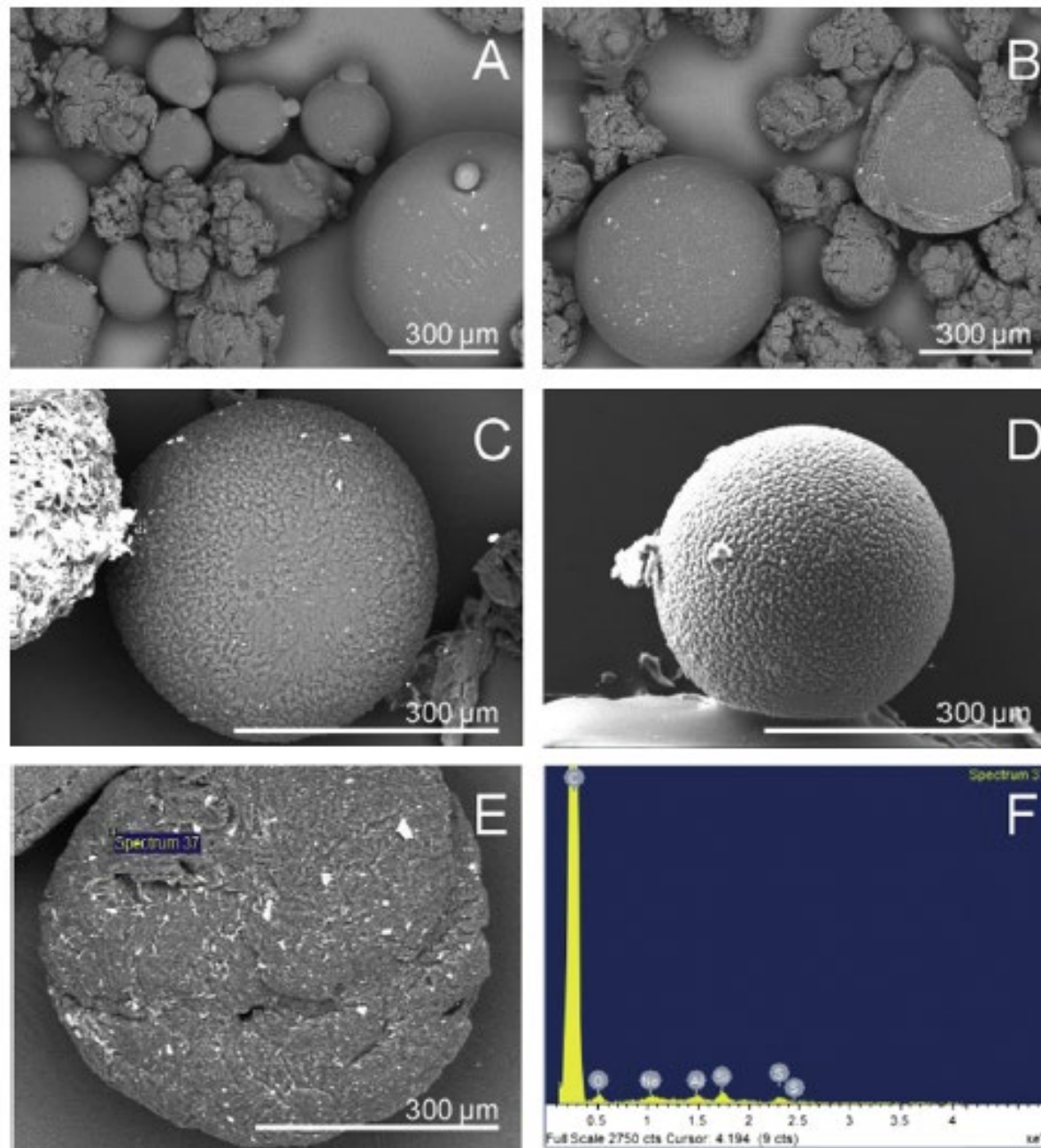
<b>Sampling area</b>	<b>Highest concentration (pieces per sq. km)</b>	<b>Average concentration (pieces per sq. km)</b>	<b>Percent microplastic &lt;4.75mm</b>	<b>Percent microplastic &lt;1mm</b>
South Pacific Gyre <sup>10</sup>	396,342	26,898	91%	35%
Great Lakes <sup>11</sup>	466,305	43,157	98%	81%
North Atlantic Gyre <sup>12</sup>	580,000	20,328	n/a	n/a
North Pacific Gyre <sup>13</sup>	969,777	334,271	93%	53%

MANTA #20 LAKE ERIE  
- 355-1mm









**Fig. 4.** (A) SEM image of product 1 containing polyethylene microbeads. (B) Polyethylene microbeads in product 2. (C & D) SEM image of spherical fragment from GL 21 after HCl wash. (E) SEM image of blue spherical fragment from GL 21. (F) Elemental analysis of fragment E showing it to be polymeric material.

The New York Times

# Scientists Turn Their Gaze Toward Tiny Threats to Great Lakes



Share full article



Tiny Bits of Plastic Pose Big Environmental Threats





- **8 States**
- **Several NY counties**
- **Different:**
  - **timelines**
  - **definitions**

## MICROBEAD-FREE WATERS ACT OF 2015

President Obama signed the Microbead-Free Waters Act into law in December 2015. The Act will prohibit the sale of personal care products containing plastic microbeads by July 1, 2018.

# Take Aways

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## ➤ COMMUNICATE !!!!

### ❖ Talk to Reporters

- Reporters Work on Deadlines
- You Must Respond Promptly

### ❖ Use “Normal” Language \*

### ❖ Work to Convey Research to the Public

- Give Public Presentations
- Write Op-Eds for the Local Paper

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PROJECT

# Plastics Policy Inventory

Oregon State University

# Take Aways

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- COMMUNICATE !!!!
- Keep Solutions Practical
- Don't Recreate the Wheel

Don't let  
**PERFECT**  
be the enemy of  
**GOOD**

Voltaire

Alexandra Snowdon

THANK  
you!

