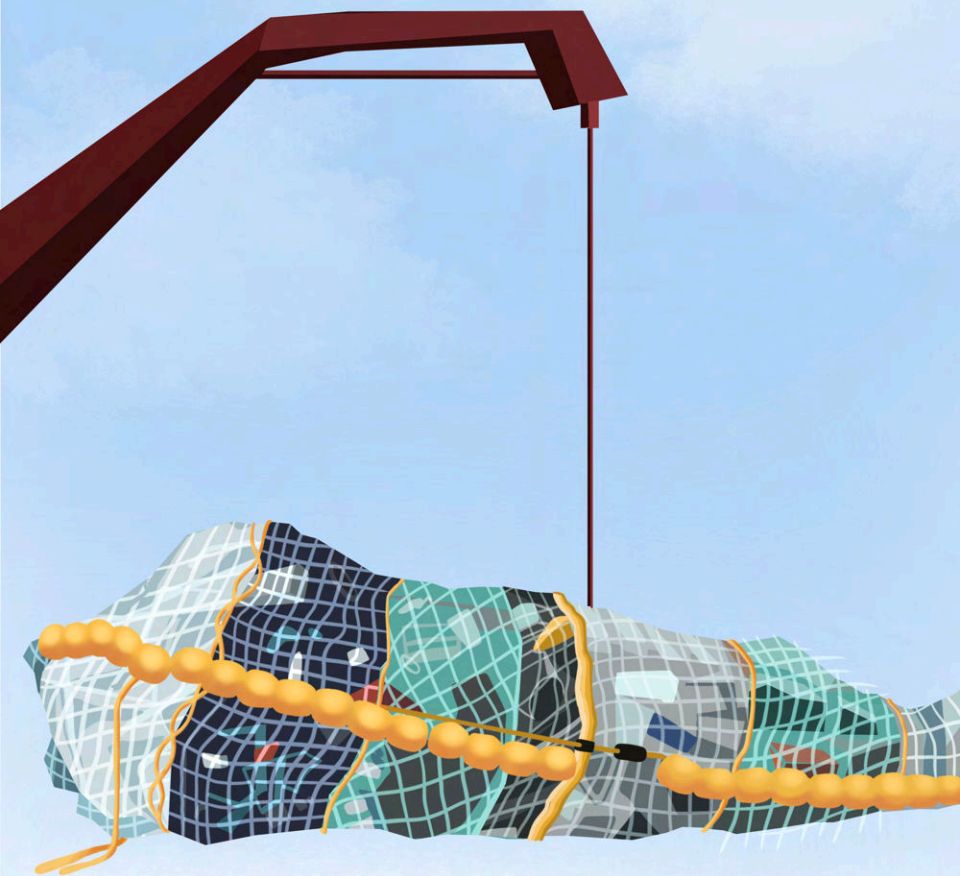


I Am
Boyan Slat



VICTORIA LIN



Who would have known that scuba diving could lead to the start of one of the world's largest ocean cleanups in history?





At 16, my parents and I went to Greece for vacation. With 10,000 miles of coastline in Greece, I knew that scuba diving was an experience I could not miss.



When scuba diving, I noticed more plastic bags than fish in the sea.

I wondered, "Why can't we just clean this up?"



After vacation, I returned to school, and that question was still on my mind. When my high school teacher assigned me a project, I wanted it to be about ocean plastic pollution. Specifically, I wanted to research why there is so much trash in the ocean and how I can help clean it up.



I had a brilliant idea. Instead of going after the plastic, the plastic can come to us. I created a rudimentary catchment system where circulating ocean currents would allow the plastic to concentrate.



I presented my project at a TEDx Conference in 2012, and a recording of my presentation went viral. I knew then that I wanted to make this idea a reality.

So, I took a leap of faith, dropped out of my Aerospace Engineering degree, and officially founded The Ocean Cleanup.



The Ocean Cleanup group develops advanced technologies to eliminate oceanic plastic. Ever since the Ocean Cleanup started, the organization has raised millions of dollars in donations from entrepreneurs worldwide.



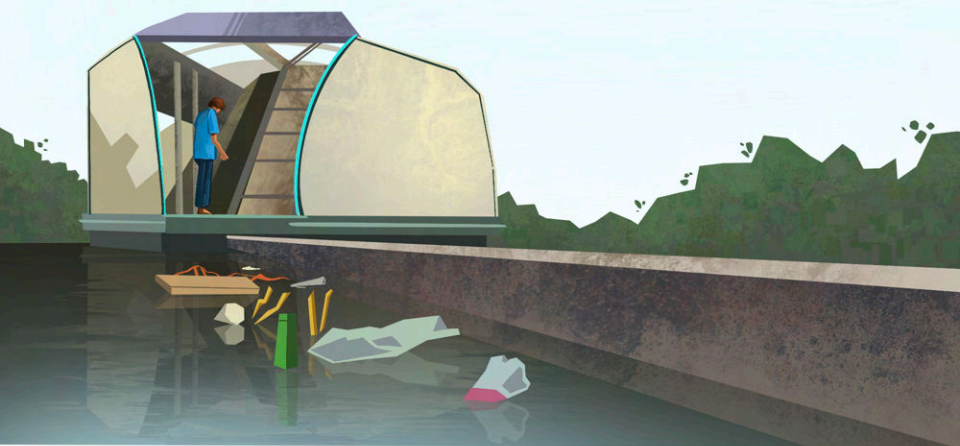
With generous funding, my team came up with multiple prototypes. The main problem we face is that ocean garbage patches span millions of square kilometers. To clean an area of this size, a strategic and energy-efficient solution is required.



So, in areas with no coastlines, we created artificial coastlines to concentrate the plastic. The system is a long U-shaped barrier that guides the plastic into a retention zone at its far end. We then effectively collect and remove more significant quantities of waste. The retention zone is also emptied every two weeks, and the entire system may be removed from the water every four weeks so fish often attracted to floating structures do not get caught in our system.



The first and second prototypes, called Systems 001 and 001/B, had technical failures. System 001 could not retain plastic and was easily damaged. System 001/B, a redesign of System 001, successfully captured plastic but only returned 60 bags of garbage. Then, in July 2021, System 002, an updated version, gathered 9,000 kilograms (20,000 pounds) of trash.



I knew there had to be a more efficient way of collecting trash. Through research, The Ocean Cleanup discovered that 1,000 of the world's most polluted rivers were responsible for roughly 80% of the world's plastic pollution. So, my team created "The Interceptor." This new system was a completely solar-powered barge-like system, and we deployed it around rivers in places like Indonesia, Malaysia, the Dominican Republic, and Vietnam.



Currently, the Interceptor has collected more than 110,000 pounds of trash. But we are not stopping just yet. We plan on deploying more of these systems in Thailand and California.



I want to remove 90% of floating ocean plastic. With the help and support of individuals, corporations, and governments worldwide, I work towards a future where plastic no longer pollutes our oceans. I am a climate hero with a passion for addressing planetary problems.

I am Boyan Slat.

WORD SEARCH

E A P C S N K O Q T A Q S K X
G P L O L C P Z W B O B Y B G
C L M L L I U L G A G O K T G
L A S O G L M B A A S L F Z Q
E N A Z B R U A A S R T W Y I
A E V Y W O E T T D T B E F F
N T V C M F B E I E I I A Y U
U Y B Z S Y O E C O Y V C G W
P I N L A O Y R N E N H I R E
R O H F C E A I C I G E R N X
I C D G E D N V B M I R W W G
K E L F E V S E Q G C O D O D
W A U Y H N L R U P X M O Y Q
P N M Z W C A T R A S H B R G
R Z Y Q L G T C B U J E P N A

scuba diving

climate

greece

ocean

boyan slat

garbage

planet

trash

pollution

plastic

cleanup

waste

hero

river

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G P L O L C P Z W B O B Y B G
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L A S O G L M B A A S L F Z Q
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I C D G E D N V B M I R W W G
K E L F E V S E Q G C O D O D
W A U Y H N L R U P X M O Y Q
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