

# 'Trash islands' off Central America indicate ocean pollution problem

November 24 2017, by Noe Leiva

---



This island of plastic waste, which includes bags, spoons and bottles, floats off the coast of Roatan, Honduras

Floating masses of garbage off some of the Caribbean's pristine beaches offer grim evidence of a vast and growing problem of plastic waste heedlessly dumped in the ocean, local residents, activists and experts say.

These "trash islands" have been captured in images by photographer Caroline Power, who lives on Honduran island of Roatan.

The problem shows that trash "continues to enter our oceans that leads to the formation of these trash patches," she told AFP by email.

Some of the detritus clumped together in the waves that she documented was being deposited on beaches around Omoa, a seaside town in northern Honduras.

It included hospital waste and plastic containers of all types.

## **Honduras blames Guatemala**

"It's an environmental disaster," Omoa's deputy mayor, Leonardo Serrano, told AFP.

Serrano blamed the garbage on neighboring Guatemala, claiming that communities dumped their refuse into a river and that it had gathered at sea to form floating islands.

Power, though, disputed that.

"We also do not know where the garbage comes from," she said.

"One of the main sources are rivers on the mainland of Honduras and Guatemala," she said. "But the rest could come from anywhere. It could come on currents from anywhere in Central America or the Caribbean.

"Some of micro plastics have probably floating around for years."

Citation: 'Trash islands' off Central America indicate ocean pollution problem (2017, November 24) retrieved 18 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2017-11-trash-islands-central-america-ocean.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.